

F. No.J-11015/224/2015-IA.II
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(IA-II Section)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, N Delhi - 3
Dated: 15th September, 2017

Office Memorandum

**Sub: Environmental Clearance for expansion of Coal Mining Projects -
Exemption from Public hearing - reg.**

In order to facilitate grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) to the expansion projects of coal mines, Office Memorandums have been issued by this Ministry from time to time providing exemption from public hearing.

2. Ministry of Coal in order to allow rapid expansion in coal production has made request for further dispensation in public hearing to expedite Environmental Clearances.

3. The request of Ministry of Coal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in the Ministry constituted for appraisal of projects relating to Thermal and Coal sectors. The Committee has recommended for exemption from public hearing while considering grant of environmental clearances to the expansion projects of coal mines, involving increase in production capacity up to 40% in 2-3 phases after the due diligence and subject to fulfilment of certain requirements as under:-

- (i) Predicted air quality parameters are within the prescribed norms.
- (ii) Coal transportation is through conveyor system up to the silo and then loading to railway wagons, involving no transportation through roads.
- (iii) Coal mining is done through deployment of surface miners, replacing three dust generating operations of the conventional mining system namely drilling, blasting and crushing in one go.
- (iv) Public hearing already conducted for the total mine lease area involved and no more area is required for the proposed expansion.
- (v) Compliance status of EC conditions monitored by the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry is found to be satisfactory.
- (vi) Other statutory requirements like Consent to Establish/Operate, Clearance from CGWA, approval of Mining Plan and the Mine Closure Plan, Mine Closure Status Report as applicable, Forest Clearance, etc are satisfactorily fulfilled.




4. In view of the aforesaid recommendations by EAC, the Ministry has decided to consider the proposals for grant of EC to the expansion of coal mining projects providing exemption from public hearing, in the manner and/or subject to the conditions as under:-

- (a) The proposed expansion can go up to a maximum of 40% of capacity, wherein the last public hearing was conducted.
- (b) There is no increase in area for the proposed expansion vis-a-vis the area in EC, wherein last public hearing was conducted.
- (c) Coal transport is through conveyor system up to the silo and loading to railway wagons, and not by road.
- (d) The EAC shall carry out the due diligence on all the parameters mentioned in para 3 above, and make its recommendations accordingly.
- (e) EAC may consider the need for a third party study through an expert agency in a time bound manner, after grant of EC.

5. This OM shall be in supersession of the earlier OMs issued by the Ministry as under:

- (i) OM No. J-11015/30/2004-IA.II (M) dated 19th December, 2012
- (ii) OM No. J-11015/30/2004-IA.II (M) dated 7th January, 2014
- (iii) OM No. J-11015/30/2004-IA.II (M) dated 30th May, 2014
- (iv) OM No. J-11015/30/2004-IA.II (M) dated 28th July, 2014
- (v) OM No. J-11015/30/2004-IA.II (M) dated 2nd September, 2014

6. This issues with approval of the competent authority.


15/9/2017
(S.K. Srivastava)
Scientist E