



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS, GOI

No.J-15012/30/2004-IA.II(M)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi-110003.

Dated: 15th April 2010

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Guidelines for Expansion of Coal Mining Sector Projects –regarding

Expansion projects for Coal Sector fall in two categories – (i) projects that have obtained an environmental clearance under the EIA Notification 1994 and (ii) projects that have obtained EC under the EIA Notification 2006. Projects falling under (i) above, require to have a Public Hearing conducted as and when they expand their production under the provisions of EIA Notification 2006. MOEF Circular dated 24.08.2009 has been issued clarifying the above position. For expansion of projects that have obtained EC under EIA Notification 2006 is concerned, Section 7.2 provides for exemption from conduct of Public Hearing after due diligence.

2. The following aspects will be considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (Thermal & Coal) for exemption from conduct of Public Hearing for expansion projects under Section 7(ii), which have obtained prior environmental clearance under EIA Notification 2006:

- (a) Exemption from conduct of Public Hearing could be for an expansion project which has obtained prior EC under EIA Notification 2006 at least once and has undergone Public Hearing at least once.
- (b) Exemption may be granted once in five years for an expansion project, sub-para (a) above.
- (c) An expansion project (with prior EC and having conducted a Public Hearing at least once) could be considered for exemption of conduct of Public Hearing, provided it meets the following criteria:
 - i. There is no additional lease/project area involved
 - ii. There is no change in mining method (underground to opencast)
 - iii. Increase in production is by better housekeeping/efficiency/better technologies
 - iv. There is no additional manpower involved*
 - v. There is no additional equipment involved*
 - vi. There is no additional water requirement involved or additional water requirement is met by recycling or by rainwater harvesting*

- vii. There is no additional road transportation involved* or involving dedicated conveyor-cum-rail mode of transport)
- viii. Levels of environmental quality parameters are within prescribed limits
- ix. There is no additional R&R is involved and earlier R&R has been completed
- x. Compliance of earlier EC (no violations)
- xi. Compliance of issues raised in earlier Public Hearing
- xii. Involving underground mining method without involving additional surface rights.

* Either by the concerned company or by outsourcing or by both

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.



(Dr.T.Chandini)
Director

To

1. All the Officers of IA Division
2. PMO
3. Ministry of Coal/Coal India Ltd, New Delhi
4. Chairpersons/Member Secretaries of SEIAAs/SEACs
5. Chairman, CPCB
6. Member-Secretaries of all SPCBs/UTPCCs.
7. Website of MOEF.

Copy to

1. PS to MEF
2. PPs to Secretary (E&F)
3. PPS to AS (JMM)
4. Advisor (NB)
5. Website, MOEF
6. Guard File