



वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड

Western Coalfields Limited

(मिनीरत्न कंपनी) (A Miniratna Company)

(कोल इंडिया लि. की अनुषंगी कंपनी)

(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)



पर्यावरण एवं वन विभाग

Environment & Forest Department

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संदर्भ संख्या / Ref. No.: वेकोलि/ मुख्यालय/ पर्यावरण एवं वन 19-F/520 दिनांक / Date: 26/4/2024

सेवा मे,

सदस्य सचिव

निर्देशक, IA-II (कोल माइनिंग) डिविजन,

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय,

इन्दिरा पर्यावरण भवन, जोरबाग रोड,

नई दिल्ली - 110 003

Subject : Submission of ADS reply - Expansion of Dinesh (Makardhokra-III) OC Mine

Ref: Online proposal No. IA/MH/CMIN/412454/2022; File No. J-11015/537/2008-IA-II(M)

Sir,

This has reference to our proposal in respect of "Expansion of Dinesh (Makardhokra -III) Opencast Coal mining project for increase in production capacity from 4.2 MTPA to 4.5 MTPA (increase of 10% w.r.t 3 MTPA) in land area of 919.63 Ha, located in the Village Hevti, Tehsil Umrer, District Nagpur (Maharashtra) – Reconsideration for Environmental Clearance dated 26.05.2022 issued under OM vide F. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III 07.05.2022- [Availing total 50% relaxation of OM dealing with exemption of public hearing under clause 7 (ii) of EIA notification]" which was re-considered in the 46th EAC of MoEF & CC held on 26th & 27th June, 2023

Now, in compliance to the directives of 46th EAC of MoEF & CC, detailed pointwise reply has been prepared and enclosed herewith for kind consideration, please.

In view of the above, it is requested to kindly consider our application for grant of confirmation of EC (issued under OM vide F. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III dated 07.05.2022) for "Expansion of Dinesh (Makardhokra -III) Opencast Coal mining project for increase in production capacity from 4.2 MTPA to 4.5 MTPA (increase of 10% w.r.t 3.0 MTPA) in land area of 919.63 Ha" based on EIA notification, 2006.

Thanking You

Encl. as Above

भवदीय,

25.04.2024

महाप्रबंधक / विभागाध्यक्ष (पर्यावरण एवं वन)

अभि

WESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED

Dinesh (Makardhokra III) OC Mine

Compliance of 46th EAC meeting (Coal Mining) Directives held on 26th & 27th June, 2023

Proposal:

Expansion of Dinesh (Makardhokra -III) Opencast Coal mining project for increase in production capacity from 4.2 MTPA to 4.5 MTPA (increase of 10% w.r.t 3.0 MTPA) in land area of 919.63 Ha by M/s Western Coalfields Ltd, located in the Village Hevti, Tehsil Umrer, District Nagpur (Maharashtra) – Reconsideration for Environmental Clearance dated 26.05.2022 issued under OM vide F. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III 07.05.2022- [Availing total 50% relaxation of OM dealing with exemption of public hearing under clause 7 (ii) of EIA notification]

[Online proposal No. IA/MH/CMIN/412454/2022; File No. J-11015/537/2008-IA-II(M)]

Proposal Background:

The proposal is for reconsideration of EC for Dinesh (Makardhokra-III) OC Mine of 4.50 MTPA capacity in mine lease area of 919.63 ha of M/s Western Coalfields Limited located in village Hevti, Tehsil Umrer, District – Nagpur (Maharashtra).

EC has been accorded by MoEF & CC vide its letter no. J-11015/537/2008-IA.II(M) dated 26.05.2022 pertaining to Expansion of Dinesh (Makardhokra -III) Opencast Coal mining project for increase in production capacity from 4.2 MTPA to 4.5 MTPA (increase of 10% w.r.t 3.0 MTPA) in land area of 919.63 Ha, located in the in the Village Hevti, Tehsil Umrer, District Nagpur (Maharashtra) under MoEF & CC O.M no. F. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III dated 07.05.2022. [Availing total 50% relaxation of O.M. dealing with exemption of public hearing under clause 7 (ii) of EIA notification]

The EIA-EMP report was prepared in compliance of the MoEF&CC OM dated 07.05.2022 and submitted on PARIVESH Portal on 30.12.2022.

Based on submission, the proposal was considered in the 39th EAC meeting held on 12-13 January, 2023.

The observations of the 39th EAC meeting are re-produced below for ready reference:

Quote:

“In view of the above, EAC observed that PP has to submit the compliance of below mentioned observation for further consideration of the project so that the compliance of EC issued under OM dated 07.05.2022 to be monitored:

- (i) PP shall submit the vetted ATR of certified compliance report of the EC letter dated J-11015/537/2008-IA.II (M) dated 29.11.2018 granted for total 40 % expansion
 - (ii) After achieving the production capacity and complying all specific condition mentioned in the EC letter, PP shall re-collect Baseline data after achieving the production capacity granted for total 40 % expansion along with revised EIA-EMP report incorporating the major changes and their implications.
 - (iii) PP shall submit the status of ETP along with the plan for addition of recycling setup.
 - (iv) PP shall submit the mine photographs including the dump, 3-tier plantation, ETP and other major mine component certified by the technical department head.
 - (v) PP shall submit the valid NOC from CGWA for the withdrawal of Ground water.
 - (vi) PP shall submit the status of expenditure plan for the already allocated in Public Hearing Budget including the amount that has been spent already or going to spend in future.
 - (vii) Proposal should be resubmit the proposal for review by May 2023.
- In view of above, the proposal was deferred.”

:unquote

In compliance of the EAC directives, the ADS reply was submitted vide letter no वेकोलि/ मुख्यालय/ पर्यावरण/ 9-F/ 677 dated 31.05.2023.

Based on submission, the subject proposal was re-considered in 46th EAC meeting (Coal Mining) Directives held on 26th & 27th June, 2023.

The observations of the 46th EAC meeting are re-produced below for ready reference:

Quote:

“In view of the above, EAC observed that PP has to submit the compliance of below mentioned observation for further consideration of the project:

- i. PP must achieve the production capacity of 4.5 MTPA for availing the recommendation of already issued EC dated 26.05.2023 under OM dated 07.05.2022.
- ii. PP shall initiate the plantation all along the periphery, and slope of OB dump as well construct retaining wall with proper garland drain.
- iii. PP shall submit the status of plantation i.e. 30% of total project area through proper drone video along with budgetary provision.
- iv. PP shall submit the NoC from CGWA for extracting ground water.
- v. PP shall submit the progress report for the construction work of railway siding with silo and belt arrangement. The PP shall commission the mechanized system before December 2023.

The proposal is deferred on above lines and can be submitted only after fluffing above points.”

:unquote

SUBMISSION BY THE PROJECT PROPONENT

The detailed point wise compliance report in respect of observations of 46th EAC meeting is placed below for kind consideration:

Query 1 - PP must achieve the production capacity of 4.5 MTPA for availing the recommendation of already issued EC dated 26.05.2023 under OM dated 07.05.2022

Status of compliance – EC has been accorded by MoEF & CC vide its letter no. J-11015/537/2008-IA.II(M) dated 26.05.2022 pertaining to Expansion of Dinesh (Makardhokra -III) Opencast Coal mining project for increase in production capacity from 4.2 MTPA to 4.5 MTPA in land area of 919.63 Ha. The project achieved 4.43 Mt of coal production during 2023-24.

Year	EC sanctioned capacity (MTPA)	Actual production (MTPA)	Excess production beyond the EC sanctioned capacity
2023-24	4.50	4.43	Nil

Query 2 - PP shall initiate the plantation all along the periphery, and slope of OB dump as well construct retaining wall with proper garland drain.

Status of compliance –

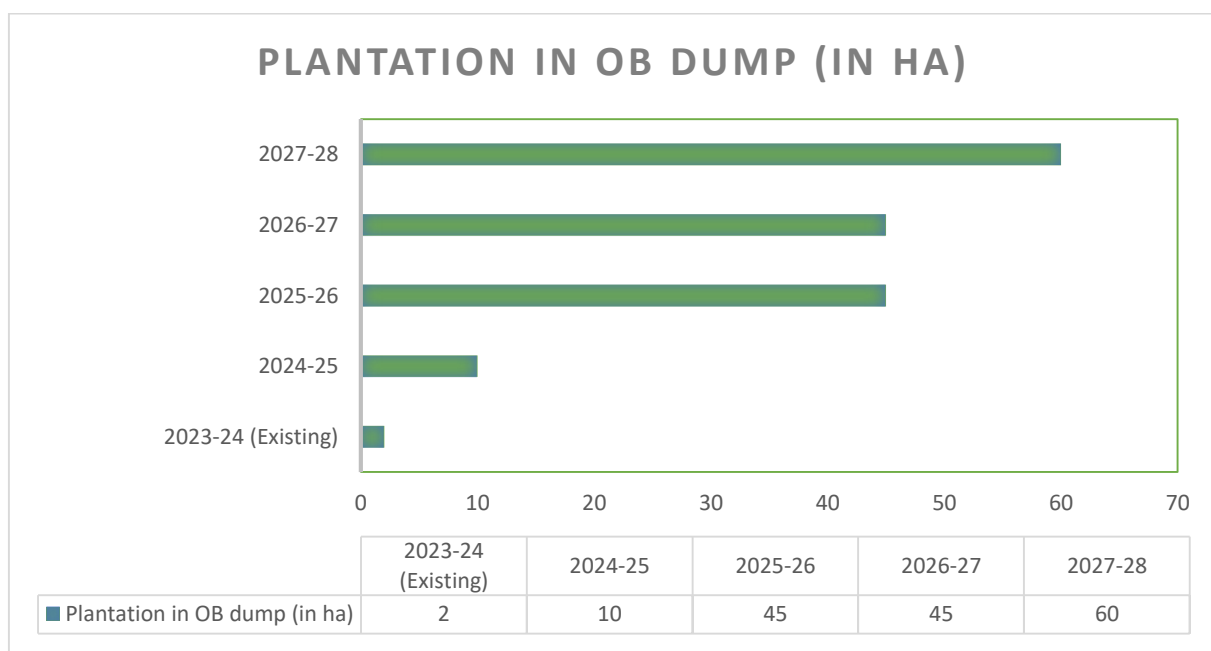
The plantation activities have been taken up in the mine from FY 2022-23. Till 2023-24, the plantation of 45,000 saplings has been completed in 18 ha of land area. This includes 16.0 ha land periphery and 2.0 ha over the slope of OB dump. Expenditure of Rs 58.31 Lakhs has been made on the plantation activities till 2023-24. In next 4 years, total 4,10,000 saplings in 164 ha of project area are proposed for plantation. Budgetary provision of Rs 12.77 crore has been kept for the plantation activities.

The biological reclamation of OB dump and slope of OB dump will be completed in by 2027-28 in 150 ha.

Status of plantation along periphery and slope of the OB dump is placed below for kind perusal:

Sl. No	Year of plantation	No of plants	Area in Ha	Budgetary provision (Amount in Rs Lakhs)	Expenditure in Rs Lakhs	Location	Remarks
1	2022-23	15,000	6.0	46.33	29.59	Periphery	
2	2023-24	25,000	10.0	85.81	43.30	Periphery	

Sl. No	Year of plantation	No of plants	Area in Ha	Budgetary provision (Amount in Rs Lakhs)	Expenditure in Rs Lakhs	Location	Remarks
		5,000	2.0			OB Dump	
	Sub- Total (1+2)	45,000	18.0	132.14	58.31		
3	2024-25	25,000	10.0	65.81	-	OB Dump	Agreement completed. Preparatory activities in progress.
	Sub-Total (1+2+3)	70,000	28.0	197.95	-		
4	2025-26	75,000	30.0	296.14	-	OB Dump no. 4	MoU underway. (Budgetary provisions may vary as per MoU).
		37,500	15.0		-	OB Dump no. 3	
		10,000	4.0	26.32	-	Plain land	
5	2026-27	75,000	30.0	296.14	-	OB Dump no. 4	
		37,500	15.0			OB Dump no. 3	
		10,000	04.0	26.32		Plain land	
6	2027-28	1,00,000	40.0	394.86		OB Dump no. 4	
		50,000	20.0			OB Dump no. 3	
		15,000	06.0	39.48		Plain land	
	Sub Total (4+5+6)	4,10,000	164.0	1,079.26			
	Total (1 to 6)	4,80,000	192.0	1,277.21			



It can be observed from the above graph, that the most of the plantation activities will be carried out from 2025-26 to 2027-28 after completion of OB dumping as envisaged in the Mining Plan.



Figure 1 Plantation on top of OB Dump



Figure 2 Plantation on OB Dump



Figure 3 Plantation on Slope of OB



Figure 4 Plantation in Periphery of the Mine (Plantation done in 2022-23)

Retaining Wall –

Gabion wall has been constructed along the toe of OB dump. The work of “Making gabion structure along toe of the OB dump” was awarded vide work order no. वेकोलि / उ.श्रे / अ. आधि. (सिविल) / वर्क अवार्ड / 1927 / 50 / 2023 / 451 दिनांक 24 /25 .08.2023 for the total value of Rs 34,12,560.00 (Rupees Thirty four lakhs twelve thousand five hundred and sixty only).



Figure 5 Gabion Wall Along OB Dump

The garland has been constructed for length of 7.6 Kms with depth of 1.8 km. The top width is 2.5 m and bottom width is 1.50 m of garland drain constructed in the project.



Figure 6 Garland Drain

Query 3 - PP shall submit the status of plantation i.e. 30% of total project area through proper drone video along with budgetary provision.

Status of compliance –

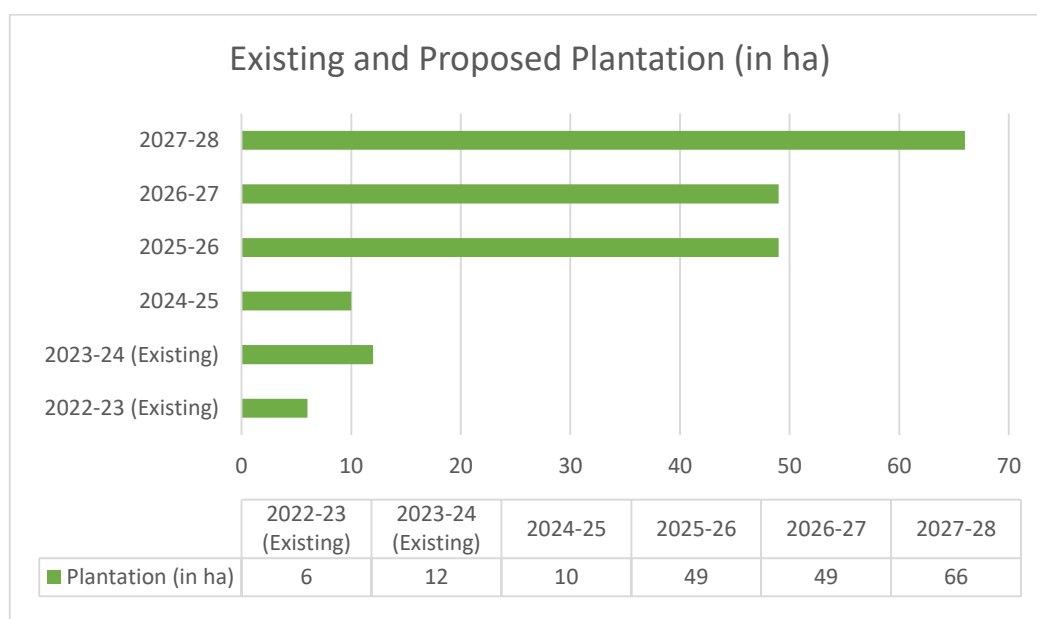
The existing EC has been granted for the land area involved in Phase-I of the Project i.e. 919.63 ha. The mine will continue to operate in Phase-II. Most of the backfilling activities and reclamation of OB dump is proposed in Phase-II. Thus plantation in the land area of 192.0 ha is proposed in the Phase-I. This is approx. 20% of the project area of Phase-I. As per the approved Project Report that includes Phase-II, 1098.0 ha land area out of total land area of 1923.33 ha will be planted till completion of mine closure activities of the project. This will be approx. 57% of the project area much higher than the proposed 30% area under plantation.

During initial phase of the mine the plantation activities are mostly limited to vacant land available. After completion of dumping activities over the designated OB dumps, the technical reclamation is carried out. On completion of technical reclamation, the plantation activities are proposed. In the combined project report of Phase-I and Phase-II, all the external dumps and internal dumps are proposed to be planted after technical reclamation.

At present due to limited availability of completed OB dumps, only 2.00 ha land area has been planted over. As mining activities proceed and OB dumps are complete with overburden quantity as envisaged in the mining plan, plantation will be carried out. In next 4 years' plantation will be carried out in 174 ha land within the project area with 4.35 Lakhs saplings. The drone video showing the area under plantation has been prepared. Budgetary provision of Rs 12.77 crore has been kept for the plantation activities.

Sl. No.	Year of plantation	No of plants	Area in Ha	Budgetary provision (Amount in Rs Lakhs)	Expenditure in Rs Lakhs	Location	Remarks
1	2022-23	15,000	6.0	46.33	29.59	Periphery	
2	2023-24	25,000	10.0	85.81	43.30	Periphery	
		5,000	2.0			OB Dump	
	Sub- Total (1+2)	45,000	18.0	132.14	58.31		
3	2024-25	25,000	10.0	65.81	-	OB Dump	Agreement completed. Preparatory activities in progress.
	Sub-Total (1+2+3)	70,000	28.0	197.95	-		
4	2025-26	75,000	30.0	296.14	-	OB Dump no. 4	MoU underway.

Sl. No.	Year of plantation	No of plants	Area in Ha	Budgetary provision (Amount in Rs Lakhs)	Expenditure in Rs Lakhs	Location	Remarks
		37,500	15.0		-	OB Dump no. 3	(Budgetary provisions may vary as per MoU).
		10,000	4.0	26.32	-	Plain land	
5	2026-27	75,000	30.0	296.14	-	OB Dump no. 4	
		37,500	15.0			OB Dump no. 3	
		10,000	04.0	26.32		Plain land	
6	2027-28	1,00,000	40.0	394.86		OB Dump no. 4	
		50,000	20.0		OB Dump no. 3		
		15,000	06.0	39.48	Plain land		
	Sub Total – (4+5+6)	4,10,000	164.0	1,079.26			
	Total (1 to 6)	4,80,000	192.0	1,277.21			



Query 4 - PP shall submit the NoC from CGWA for extracting ground water.

Status of compliance – NOC from CGWA for groundwater dewatering / abstraction has been secured vide NOC no. CGWA/NOC/MIN/ORIG/2019/5548 with a validity from 10/06/2019 upto 09.06.2021. CGWA NOC (1st) renewal application (no. 21-4/1023/MH/MIN/2017) was submitted on 07.06.2021, the application is under consideration for grant of renewal at CGWA. The CGWA NOC 1st renewal is approved however the formal NOC letter is awaited.

The status of 1st renewal application is as follows:

Current Status							
Application Verification							
Receive Date	From User Name	To User Name	Forwarded User Name	Action Date	Action Internal Status	Action Comment	Copy of Application Received On
07/06/2021		(Evaluation Officer) Central Ground Water Board Central Region	(Evaluation Officer) Central Ground Water Board Central Region	29/10/2021	Approved	APPLICATION WILL BE PROCESSED AND APPROVED PROVIDED REVISED DOCUMENTS ARE SUBMITTED BY PP 1. Self Inspection	25/09/2021
08/03/2024	(Approval Officer) Central Ground Water Authority	(Evaluation Officer) Central Ground Water Authority	(Evaluation Officer) Central Ground Water Authority	22/03/2024	Approved	Approved and forwarded for processing	

The CGWA NOC 2nd renewal application for the period of 10.06.2023 to 09.06.2025 has also been submitted through email mode. The application is also under consideration for grant of NOC renewal.

Query 5 - PP shall submit the progress report for the construction work of railway siding with silo and belt arrangement. The PP shall commission the mechanized system before December 2023.

Status of compliance –

The first project for construction of railway siding with silo and belt arrangement (first mile connectivity) of Western Coalfields Limited was proposed in this project. The work was awarded for construction of Silo with belt conveyor with total cost of 441.98 crore on 10.03.2021. The 91% work of Coal Handling Plant including silo and belt conveyor has been completed till 12.04.2024. The 58% work of railway siding has been completed till 12.04.2024.

The mechanize system of coal transportation is likely to be commissioned by 30.06.2024.

The progress report for the construction work of railway siding with silo and belt arrangement is placed below for kind consideration:

Coal Handling Plant / Silo

Sl. No	Particulars	Status as on 12.04.2024
1	Value of work in Rs.Crore	441.97
2	Progressive Expenditure in Rs. Crore	318.48
3	Overall Progress	91 %
4	Date of completion	30 th June 2024

Railway Siding

Sl. No	Particulars	Status as on 12.04.2024
1	Total Track length in Km	6.44
2	Value of work in Rs. Crore	120.52
3	Overall Progress	58%
4	Date of Completion	30 th June 2024

The photograph of site showing the physical progress of the construction of railway siding with silo and belt are shown below:



Figure 7 Transfer Point and Closed conveyor Belt System



Figure 8 Closed Conveyor Belt Arrangement



Figure 9 Closed conveyor belt arrangement with solar panel on top



Figure 10 Silo under Construction



Figure 11 Truck Receiving Station

Submission:

In view of above, it is requested to kindly consider our application for confirmation of EC in respect of Expansion of Dinesh (Makardhokra -III) Opencast Coal mining project for increase in production capacity from 4.2 MTPA to 4.5 MTPA (increase of 10% w.r.t 3 MTPA) in land area of 919.63 Ha by M/s Western Coalfields Ltd, located in the Village Hevti, Tehsil Umrer, District Nagpur (Maharashtra) – Environmental Clearance dated 26.05.2022 issued under OM vide F. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III 07.05.2022- [Availing total 50% relaxation of OM dealing with exemption of public hearing under clause 7 (ii) of EIA notification]
