

**No. J-11015/280/2013-IA-II(M)pt**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change**  
**(Impact Assessment Division)**

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**Dated: 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2022**

To,

The Chief General Manager (CP&P)  
M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited  
PO - Jagruti Vihar, Burla,  
Sambalpur-768 020 (Odisha)  
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**Sub: Bhubaneswari Opencast Expansion Project of 28 MTPA in existing ML area of 638.341 ha of M/s Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd, Tehsil Talcher, District Angul (Odisha) - For Amendment in Environmental Clearance – reg.**

Sir,

This has reference to your online proposal No. IA/OR/CMIN/255383/2022 dated 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 for grant of Amendment in Environmental Condition

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, vide letter dated 16th February, 2018, has granted environmental clearance to the expansion of Bhubaneswari Opencast Coal Mining Project from 28 MTPA in mine lease area of 638.341 ha, subject to compliance of certain terms and conditions, which inter-alia included the following

*Generic Conditions No (i) "No change in mining technology and scope of work shall be made without prior approval of the ministry of Forest and Climate Change No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of coal and waste should be made".*

3. Project Proponent has requested for amendment in EC due to increase in excavation area within same Mining Lease area. As per existing EC, the quarry excavation area is 442.258 Ha however in proposal total excavation area is 583.752 Ha. The proposed change in excavation area is due to amalgamation of external dump area and blasting zone area into excavation area to enhance mineable reserve and life of the mine. Also, due to non-evacuation of some villages namely Hensmul Talasahi and Saharsahi Basti Areas the working zone area is being reduced in the absence of any other land and to maintain continuity in production, the external dump area is proposed to be re handled, which is already within the approved mine lease area. Availability of Coal deposit below External OB Dump is about 41.97 MTPA and OB to be handled shall be about 62.15 MCUM. Further, PP submitted that amendment is being sought due to proposed change in following mining parameters:

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- Excavation area will increase and external dump area will reduce.
- Change in mineable reserve, life and stripping ratio.
- Change in production built up and schedule.

4. Project Proponent further submitted that Mining Plan was approved by MCL Board in its meeting held on 20.01.2022 & by vide letter no. MCL/SBP/CS/BD/243/Exct/2022/12291 dt: 01.02.2022. PP vide its letter refer no. MCL/GM/BBSRI/ENV.T./EC/2022-23/2094 dated 2nd April, 2022 clarified that existing EC is for total mine lease area of 638.321 ha involving 112.521 ha of forest land for which Stage II FC is available vide letter no. 8-18/2002/89-FC dated 6-12-2004. Further, additional control measures with budget estimate of Rs. 7.02 Crore have been proposed to mitigate the additional air pollution (mobile fog cannon, mobile water tanker, mechanical road sweeper, state fog cannon, wheel washing system, vertical greenery system & bamboo plantation and plantation) due to rehandling.

5. The sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in its 28<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022 through Video Conferencing has recommended the project for grant of amendment in Environmental Clearance for extraction of coal under external OB dump (rehandling of OB dump). Based on recommendations of the EAC, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords approval of amendment in Environmental Clearance to Bhubaneshwari Opencast Expansion Project of 28 MTPA in existing ML area of 638.341 ha of M/s Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd, Tehsil Talcher, District Angul (Odisha) without any increase in production capacity and change in mine lease area, under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments/circulars thereto subject to the compliance of the following terms & conditions / specific conditions for environmental safeguards:


- (i) PP to install 1 continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations at suitable locations in consultation of SPCB. The real time data so generated shall be uploaded on company website. In addition, data should also be displayed digitally at entry and exit gate of mine lease area for public display. Data shall be linked to website of SPCB/CPCB. Monitoring station shall be installed within 1-year period and action taken report shall be submitted to IRO with photographs.
- (ii) PP shall make use of advanced computer simulation techniques for design and execution of blasting operation in the mine. PP shall make use of Electronic Delay Detonators for optimal blasting in coal and OB rock to minimize the environmental impacts of blasting such as ground vibration, fly rocks and excessive dust generation.
- (iii) No village road shall be used for transportation of coal and no road transport route shall be adopted, which is passing through any sensitive location such as schools, hospitals etc. PP shall take legal undertaking from its consumers accordingly
- (iv) PP shall conduct tree plantation along the villages namely Anandipur, Kandhal, Natedi, Near Joragadia, sahasahi basti and deploy additional atleast 10 number fog canon to reduce air emission.
- (v) PP shall furnish the proof of an expenditure as per its letter refer no. MCL/GM/BBSRI/ENV.T./EC/2022-23/2094 dated 2nd April, 2022 of about 7.02 Crores on air pollution control measures within one year to Ministry's IRO.

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- (vi) PP shall plant additional 150,000 nos. of native trees with broad leaves along the transportation route in three years to prevent the effect of air pollution. After completion of tree plantation, number of trees shall be duly endorsed from District Forest Officer
- (vii) PP shall deploy only 40-50 tonnes covered trucks/dumper to reduce fleet size
- (viii) PP shall implement Peripheral tree plantation along the mine lease area with miyawaki method of 50 mts width within 2 years through independent expert
- (ix) PP shall pay to farmers of agricultural land if there is any loss due to pollution found by concerned District Commissioner as per extent rules or norms.
- (x) Hon'ble Supreme Court in an Writ Petition(s) Civil No. 114/2014, Common Cause vs Union of India & Ors vide its judgement dated 8th January, 2020 has directed the Union of India to impose a condition in the mining lease and a similar condition in the environmental clearance and the mining plan to the effect that the mining lease holders shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc. Compliance of this condition after the mining activity is over at the cost of the mining lease holders/Project Proponent". The implementation report of the above said condition shall be sent to the Regional Office of the MoEF&CC.

5. All other conditions stipulated in EC dated 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, shall remain unchanged.

This issues with the approval of the competent Authority.

  
(Lalit Bokolia)  
Director

**Copy to: -**

1. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional office (EZ), Ministry of Environment & Forests, A-31, Chandershekharpur, Bhubaneswar- 751023 (Odisha).
2. The Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests, Government of Orissa, Secretariat, Bhubaneswar (Odisha).
3. The Chairman, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Jamnagar House, 18/11, Man Singh Road Area, New Delhi, Delhi 110001
4. The Chairman, Orissa State Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilkanthanagar, Unit VIII, Bhubaneshwar - 751012 (Odisha).
5. District Collector, Angul, Government of Odisha.
6. Office of the Project Officer, Bhubaneswari OCP, Jagannath Area, P. O: Dera Colliery, Dist.: Angul - 759103 (Odisha)
7. Monitoring File /Record File
8. PARIVESH Portal

  
(Lalit Bokolia)  
Director