



सत्यमेव जयते

File No.: J-11015/10/1995-IA-II(M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
IA Division



Dated 05/01/2024



To,

Shri Raj Kumar
KULDA EXPANSION OCP MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED
Project Office, Kulda Expansion OC Project, P. O.: Basundhara, Dist.: Sundergarh State: Orissa ,
Balinga Tumulia Siarmal Kulda and Bankibahal, SUNDARGARH, ODISHA, , 770076
pokuldaexpansionmcl@gmail.com

Subject: Kulda Opencast Coal Mine Project with production capacity from 19.6 MTPA to 21 MTPA in Mine Lease area of 634.205 ha of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited located at village Balinga, Tumulia, Siarmal, Kulda & Bankibahal, Tehsil Hemgir, District Sundargarh (Odisha) –For Amendment in Environmental Clearance dated 14.02.2022 & 24.05.2022 – reg.

Sir/Madam,

This is in reference to your application submitted to MoEF&CC vide proposal number IA/OR/CMIN/442462/2023 dated 01/11/2023 for grant of an amendment in prior Environmental Clearance (EC) to the project under the provision of the EIA Notification 2006-and as amended thereof.

2. The particulars of the proposal are as below :

(i) EC Identification No.	EC23A0101OR5212446A
(ii) File No.	J-11015/10/1995-IA-II(M)
(iii) Clearance Type	Amendment in EC
(iv) Category	A
(v) Schedule No./ Project Activity	1(a) Mining of minerals
(vi) Sector	Coal Mining
(vii) Name of Project	KULDA EXPANSION OPENCAST PROJECT (21 Mty)
(viii) Location of Project (District, State)	SUNDARGARH, ODISHA
(ix) Issuing Authority	MoEF&CC
(x) EC Date	
(xii) Applicability of General Conditions	NO
(xiii) Status of implementation of the project	

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has granted Environmental Clearance vide letter dated 24.12.2002 for 10 MTPA in an ML area of 878.29 ha. Expansion in EC was granted by Ministry vide its letter dated 22nd March, 2018 from 10 to 14 MTPA with Public Hearing. Extension in validity of EC was granted on 28th March, 2019, 10th January, 2020. Expansion in EC capacity vide letter dated 02.03.2021 from 14 MTPA to 16.80 MTPA, from 16.8 MTPA to 19.6 MTPA vide letter dated 14.02.2022 and from 19.6 MTPA to 21 MTPA vide letter dated 24.05.2022 under different OMs time to time with exemption in Public Hearing and no change mine lease area. Further, amendment in EC has been granted by Ministry vide its letter dated 9th January, 2023. The stipulated conditions is *inter-alia* mentioned as :

“Point no: 4(ii) PP shall implement in-pit conveyor system with silo loading facility till railway siding and no road transportation shall be allowed after October 2023 and accordingly SPCB shall not grant CTO for road transportation after October 2023.

Point no: 4(iii) PP shall deploy only 40-50 tonnes covered trucks/dumpers to reduce fleet size till rapid loading system and conveyor belt system is commenced. (i.e. Till October, 2023)”.

3. Now, project proponent has again requested for extension in timeline for the amended EC conditions. With regarding point no. 4(ii), it was submitted that all the coal has been planned to be dispatched through belt and further loading through SILO. For implementation of the same the dispatch arrangement is divided into three phases. The details of the same along with time line is given below:

- Phase I: Commissioning of Sardega RLS (20.0 Mty with 2km Conveyor Belt) by Dec 2023.
- Phase II: Commissioning of additional 5.42 Km belt to above RLS by Mar 2025. (As per directive of EAC)
- Phase III: Commissioning of Barpalli Bulb loop (90.0 Mty with conveyors arrangement) by Dec 2025.
- And, no road transportation shall be allowed after Dec 2025.”

With regarding point no. 4(iii), as on 16th Sept '23 the deployment of 40-50 tonnes covered trucks/dumpers have not yet been fully achieved but there was reduction in the lower capacity trucks/dumpers by 181 nos. (i.e 394-213). Therefore, it was being requested for phasing out lower capacity trucks for coal transportation by Dec'25.

4. The Expert Appraisal Committee in its 3rd EAC meeting held during 16-17 November, 2023 through Video Conferencing/Hybrid has recommended the project for amendment in Environment Clearance (EC) for extension in timeline. Based on recommendations of the EAC, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords approval for Amendment in Environment Clearance (EC) dated 14.02.2022 & 24.05.2022 w.r.t. extension of timeline for belt conveyor system of 5.42 km upto December 2024 and for 2 km conveyor till Sardega railway siding with silo loading facility upto December 2023 respectively and 100% transportation by conveyor still with silo loading system at Barpalli loop till December, 2025 for Kulda Opencast Coal Mine Project with production capacity from 19.6 MTPA to 21 MTPA in Mine Lease area of 634.205 ha of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited located at village Balinga, Tumulia, Siarmal, Kulda & Bankibahal, Tehsil Hemgir, District Sundargarh (Odisha), under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments/circulars thereto subject to the compliance of the terms & conditions / specific conditions for environment safeguards:

5. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Copy To

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
2. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional office (EZ), Ministry of Environment & Forests, A-31, Chandershekharpur, Bhubaneswar- 751023 (Odisha).
3. The Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests, Government of Orissa, Secretariat, Bhubaneswar (Odisha).

4. The Chairman, Central Ground Water Authority, Jamnagar House, 18/11, Man Singh Road Area, New Delhi, Delhi 110001
5. The Chairman, Odisha State Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilkanthanagar, Unit VIII, Bhubaneswar - 751012 (Odisha).
6. District Collector, Sundargarh, Government of Odisha.
7. Monitoring File /Record File 8. PARIVESH Portal

Annexure 1

Specific EC Conditions for (Mining Of Minerals)

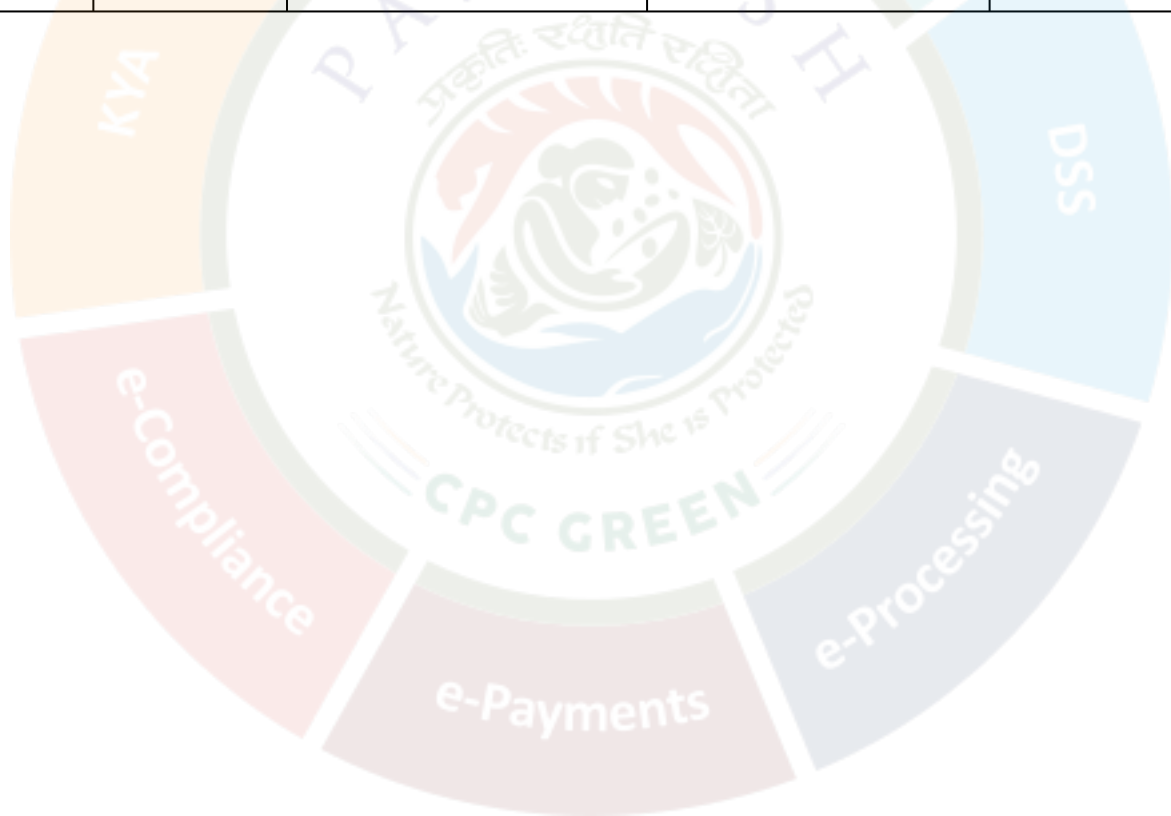
1. Specific Condition

S. No	EC Conditions
1.1	PP to submit the Progress report for mechanization of 4.5 MTPA (i.e. 21MTPA-16.5 MTPA) before submitting application for the validation of EC dated 24.05.2022
1.2	Further expansion in capacity shall be considered subject to the compliance of in-pit conveyor and silo loading system till railway siding for 100% transportation of coal is implemented.
1.3	PP shall implement in-pit conveyor system with silo loading facility till railway siding and No road transportation shall be allowed after December, 2024 till Sardega Siding and after December 2025 for Barpalli loop and accordingly, SPCB shall grant CTO for road transportation.
1.4	PP shall complete the implementation of conveyor system of 5.42 km till railway siding by December, 2024. SPCB shall not grant CTO for non-implementation of In-pit belt conveyor system after December, 2024.
1.5	PP shall develop in-house/at mine office environmental laboratory facilities with adequate instruments/equipment by June, 2023 for regular monitoring instead of depending upon its consultant and submit the status to Ministry's RO
1.6	PP to submit the existing transportation route in the matrix format before 31st December, 2023 to IRO, MoEF&CC.
1.7	PP shall deploy only 40-50 tonnes covered trucks/dumper to reduce fleet size till Rapid loading system and conveyor belt system is commenced. (i.e., till December, 2024).
1.8	All other terms and conditions as prescribed in Ministry's letter dated 22nd March, 2018, 10.01.2020 02.03.2021, 14.02.2022 and 24.05.2022 needs to be complied by PP.

Annexure 2

Amendment Logs

Description	Reference	Existing	Proposed / Amendment	Reason
Amendment in EC conditions.	Condition no. iii in the EC letter dated 09.01.2023	PP shall deploy only 40-50 te covered trucks/dumpers to reduce fleet size till rapid loading system and conveyor belt system is commenced. (i.e.. Till Oct 2023)	PP shall deploy only 40-50 te covered trucks/dumpers to reduce fleet size in a phased wise manner till Dec 2025.	Livelihood sustenance issues of the local truck owners that procrastinate a major issue.
Amendment in EC conditions	Condition no. ii in the EC letter dated 09.01.2023	PP shall implement in-pit conveyor system with silo loading facility till railway siding and no road transportation shall be allowed after October 2023 and accordingly SPCB shall not grant CTO for road transportation after October 2023.	The PP shall establish an in-pit conveyor system with silo loading access up to the railway siding in the outlined phases as proposed and committed . And, no road transportation shall be allowed after Dec 2025.	CTO is linked with the EC condition for ensuring further operation of this mine and facilitation of EC revalidation for 21 Mty is not possible without amending the condition.



Signature Not Verified

Digitally Signed by : Amit Vashishtha
Member Secretary, MoEFCC (EC)

Date: 05/01/2024