



J-11015/10/1995-IA.II (M)

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Impact Assessment Division

Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Vayu Wing, 3rd Floor, Aliganj,
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 10th January, 2020

To,

The Chief General Manager (CP&P)
M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited
PO - Jagruti Vihar, Burla,
District **Sambalpur** - 768 020 (Odisha)

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Sub: Expansion of Kulda Opencast Coal Mining Project from 10 MTPA to 14 MTPA of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd in ML area of 634.205 ha located in Tehsil Hemgir, District Sundargarh (Odisha) - Extension/Continuation of Environmental Clearance - reg.

Sir,

This has reference to your online proposal No. IA/OR/CMIN/127633/2019 dated 26th November, 2019 on the above mentioned subject.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, vide letter of even no. dated 22nd March, 2018, and further extension dated 28th March, 2019, has granted environmental clearance to the expansion of Kulda Opencast Coal Mining Project from 10 to 14 MTPA of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd in mine lease area of 634.205 ha (total area 694.205 ha) for a period of one year, subject to compliance of certain terms and conditions, which *inter-alia* included the following:-

"The EAC shall review compliance of the actions taken on observations of the Regional Office before December, 2019, and make its recommendations for continuance of the project thereafter. Also, based on the monitoring results, the Committee shall examine adequacy and efficacy of the pollution control measures and its impact on ambient air quality".

3. In line with the above condition, site inspection was carried out by the Ministry's Regional Office at Bhubaneswar on 1st November, 2019 to monitor compliance status of the conditions stipulated in the said environmental clearance. The report in this regard has been forwarded by the Regional Office vide their letter dated 2nd December, 2019. The project proponent has submitted action plan dated 4th December, 2019 addressing concerns/observations of the RO.

4. The proposal was considered by the sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in its meeting held on 5th December, 2019 and recommended for continuance of the project and validity of environmental clearance dated 28th March, 2019 for a period of 30 years or life of the mine, whichever is earlier subject to the terms and conditions stipulated therein remaining the same and with additional conditions. Based on recommendations of the EAC, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords approval for continuation of the **Kulda Opencast Coal Mining Expansion Project from 10 to 14 MTPA** of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd in mine lease area of 634.205 ha located in Tehsil Hemgir, District Sundargarh (Odisha), **for a period of 30 years or life of the mine, whichever is earlier**, under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments/circulars thereto subject to the compliance of additional as under:-

- (i) EAC asked project proponent **to plant 50,000 nos. of native trees** with broad leaves along the villages and transportation route to prevent the effect of air pollution. After completion of tree plantation, **number of trees shall be duly endorsed from District Forest Officer.**
- (ii) EAC desired that the MoC may direct CIL subsidiaries to comply the EC/FC/CTO conditions strictly within certain time bound manner so that the mining operations will be environmentally sustainable/viable etc.
- (iii) The Project Proponent shall complies with all the statutory requirements and judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated the 2nd August 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of Common Cause versus Union of India and Ors. State Government shall ensure that the entire compensation levied, if any, for illegal mining paid by the Project Proponent through their respective Department in strict compliance of judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated the 2nd August 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of Common Cause versus Union of India and Ors.
- (iv) Project Proponent shall obtain the necessary prior permission from the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) in case of intersecting the Ground water table. The intersecting ground water table can only be commence after conducting detailed hydrogeological study and necessary permission from the CGWA. The Report on six monthly basis on changes in Ground water level and quality shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry, CGWA and State Pollution Control Board.
- (v) Proponent shall appoint an Occupational Health Specialist for Regular and Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the Project and maintain records accordingly; also, Occupational health check-ups for workers having some ailments like BP, diabetes, habitual smoking, etc. shall be undertaken once in six months and necessary remedial/preventive measures taken accordingly. The Recommendations of National Institute for ensuring good occupational environment for mine workers shall be implemented; The prevention measure for burns, malaria and provision of

antisnake venom including all other paramedical safeguards may be ensured before initiating the mining activities.

- (vi) Project Proponent shall follow the mitigation measures provided in Office Memorandum No. Z-11013/57/2014-IA.II (M), dated 29th October, 2014, titled "Impact of mining activities on Habitations-Issues related to the mining Projects wherein Habitations and villages are the part of mine lease areas or Habitations and villages are surrounded by the mine lease area".
- (vii) The illumination and sound at night at project sites disturb the villages in respect of both human and animal population. Consequent sleeping disorders and stress may affect the health in the villages located close to mining operations. Habitations have a right for darkness and minimal noise levels at night. PPs must ensure that the biological clock of the villages is not disturbed; by orienting the floodlights/ masks away from the villagers and keeping the noise levels well within the prescribed limits for day light/night hours.
- (viii) The project proponent shall take all precautionary measures during mining operation for conservation and protection of endangered fauna, if any, spotted in the study area. Action plan for conservation of flora and fauna shall be prepared and implemented in consultation with the State Forest and Wildlife Department. A copy of action plan shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and its Regional Office.
- (ix) **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 Ministry's Regional Office for site inspection/verification.**

5. All other terms and conditions stipulated in the environmental clearance dated 22nd March, 2018 shall remain unchanged.

6. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Copy to:

EC Extension Kulda of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited


(Dr. R.B.Lal)
Scientist E
(डॉ. आर. बी. लाल)
(Dr. R. B. LAL)
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Min. of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
Govt. of India, New Delhi

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 Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Curzon Road Barracks, A-2, W-3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi
5. The Member Secretary, CPCB, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi -32
6. The Member Secretary, Orissa State Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilkanthanagar, Unit VIII, Bhubaneswar - 751012 (Odisha)
7. The District Collector, Sundargarh, Government of Odisha
8. Monitoring File 9. Guard File 10. Record File 11. Notice Board

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