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Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests

Paryavaran Bhawan,
C.G.O. Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi - 110 003

Dated the 19th May 2005

To

Director (Technical-P&P)
M/s Western Coalfields Limited
Coal Estate, Civil Lines,
NAGPUR-440 001
Maharashtra

Subject: New Majri-II (A) open cast coal mine of M/s Western Coalfields Limited located Village Majri, Tehsil Bhadravati, District Chandrapur in Maharashtra- environmental clearance reg.

Sir,

This has reference to Ministry of Coal letter No.43011/7/2003-CPAM dated 28.03.2003 and Coal India Ltd. letter dated 03.03.2005 and 08.04.2005 on the subject mentioned above. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has examined the application. It has been noted that the proposal is for expansion of coal production from 1.0 MTPA to 2.0 MTPA. Total mining lease area of the project is 432.02 ha, out of which 400.0 ha is agricultural (tenancy) land and 32.02 ha is waste land. No forestland is involved. Area proposed for excavation is 251.77 ha, 80.25 ha is kept for external OB dump, 100.0 ha for infrastructure etc. Township is existing outside the mine lease area. No ecologically sensitive area such national park/sanctuary/biosphere reserve etc. reported within 10 km radius of the project. There is no population in the core zone therefore displacement of the population is not involved. The annual targeted production capacity of the mine is 2.0 Million Tonnes. Working is opencast with shovel-dumper combination involving blasting. Present working depth is 60 m bgl and ultimate working is 80 m bgl. Total water requirement for the project is 694 m^3/day of which 639m^3/day is mine site requirement which will be met from mine water (sump) and 55 m^3/day is for township which will met from existing Wardha river based water supply. A total of 116.88 Mm^3 of OB has been excavated till date, out of which 72.76 Mm^3 is dumped as external OB dump and 1.0 Mm^3 OB dumped in the embankment and 43.62 Mm^3 OB is dumped in the internal dump. It is proposed that another 50.14 Mm^3 of OB will be generated in the remaining life of the mine. NOC from the State Pollution Control Board obtained on 28.02.2005 for production capacity of 0.56 MTY. Public hearing held on 21.07.2004. Project report has been approved on 28.03.2005 for enhancing production from 1.0 MTY to 2.0 MTY. Capital cost of the project is Rs. 11243.60 lakhs (as on 01.04.2002)

2. The Ministry of Environment and Forests hereby accords environmental clearance to the above mentioned coal mining project of M/s Western Coalfields Limited for production capacity of 2.0 MTY by opencast method involving total lease area of 432.0 ha under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 as amended on 01.05.2004 and 10.09.1997 subject to strict compliance of the terms and conditions mentioned below:

A. Specific conditions

(i) The environmental clearance is subject to approval of the State Landuse Department, Government of Maharashtra for diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural use.

(ii) The environmental clearance is subject to grant of consent to establishment by the Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board for the envisaged production capacity of 2.0 MTY.

(iii) Top soil should be stacked properly with proper slope at earmarked site(s) with adequate measures and should be used for reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out area.

(iv) OB dumps should be stacked at earmarked dump site(s) only and should not be kept active for long period. Proper terracing of OB dump should be carried out so that the overall slope will come down to 28 degree. Monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas should continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. Compliance status should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests on yearly basis.

(v) Catch drains and siltation ponds of appropriate size should be constructed to arrest silt and sediment flows from soil, OB and mineral dumps. The water so collected should be utilized for watering the mine area, roads, green belt development etc. The drains should be regularly desilted and maintained properly.

Garland drains of appropriate size should be constructed, to collect surface run-off from the OB and waste dump site(s) and taken to settling pond before discharge.

(vi) Dimension of the retaining wall at the toe of dumps and OB benches within the mine to check run-off and siltation should be based on the rain fall data.

(vii) Green belt should be raised by planting the native species around the ML area, Coal Handling Plan, roads, OB dump sites etc. in consultation with the local DFO / Agriculture Department. The density of the trees should be around 2000 plants per ha.

(viii) Mine discharge after proper settling should be made available for agricultural purpose through a properly developed distribution network. The project authorities should meet the water requirement of nearby village(s) in case the village wells go dry due to de-watering of the mine.

(ix) The project authority should implement suitable conservation measures to augment ground water resources in the area in consultation with the Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board.

(x) Regular monitoring of ground water level and quality should be carried out by establishing a network of existing wells and constructing new piezometers during the mining operation. The monitoring should be carried out four times in a year – pre-monsoon (April-May), monsoon (August), post-monsoon (November) and winter (January) and the data thus collected may be sent regularly to MOEF, Central Ground Water Authority and Regional Director central Ground water Board.

(xi) Permission from the competent authority should be obtained for drawal of water from Wardha river for domestic use.

(xii) Appropriate mitigative measures should be taken to prevent pollution of Wardha river in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.

(xiii) Coal handling plant should be provided with adequate number of high efficiency dust extraction system. Loading and unloading areas including all the transfer points should also have efficient dust control arrangements. These should be properly maintained and operated.

(xiv) Sewage treatment plant should be installed for the colony. ETP should also be provided for workshop and CHP wastewater.

(xv) Consent to operate should be obtained from SPCB for the enhanced production.

(xvi) Vehicular emissions should be kept under control and regularly monitored.

(xvii) Digital processing of the entire lease area using remote sensing technique should be done regularly once in three years for monitoring land use pattern and report submitted to MOEF and its regional office.

(xviii) A Final Mine Closure Plan along with details of Corpus Fund should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests 5 years in advance of final mine closure for approval.

B. General conditions

(i) No change in mining technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

(ii) No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of mineral coal and waste should be made.

(iii) Four ambient air quality monitoring stations should be established in the core zone as well as in the buffer zone for RPM, SPM, SO_2, NOx & CO monitoring. Location of the stations should be decided based on the meteorological data, topographica features, and environmentally and ecologically sensitive targets in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.

(iv) Data on ambient air quality (PM10, SPM, SO2, NOx & CO) should be regularly submitted to the Ministry including its Regional office at Bhopal and the State Pollution Control Board / Central Pollution Control Board once in six months.

(v) Drills should be wet operated or with dust extractors and controlled blasting should be practised.

(vi) Fugitive dust emissions from all the sources should be controlled regularly monitored and data recorded properly. Water spraying arrangement on haul roads, wagon loading, dump trucks (haul & unloading) should be provided and properly maintained.

(vii) Adequate measures should be taken for control of noise levels below 85 dBA in the work environment. Workers engaged in blasting and drilling operations, operations of HEMM, etc should be provided with ear plugs / muffs.

(viii) Industrial waste water (workshop and waste water from the mine) should be properly collected, treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under GSR 422 (E) dated 19th May, 1993 and 31st December, 1993 or as amended from time to time. Oil and grease trap should be installed before discharge of workshop effluents.

(ix) Acid mine water, if any, has to be treated and disposed of after conforming to the standard prescribed by the competent authority.

(x) Environmental laboratory should be established with adequate number and type of pollution monitoring and analysis equipment in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.

(xi) Personnel working in dusty areas should wear protective respiratory devices and they should also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects.

Occupational health surveillance programme of the workers should be undertaken periodically to observe any contribution due to exposure to coal dust and take corrective measures, if needed.

(xii) A separate environmental management cell with suitable qualified personnel should be set-up under the control of a Senior Executive, who will report directly to the Head of the Organization.

(xiii) The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures should be kept in separate account and shall not be diverted for other purpose. Year wise expenditure should be reported to the Ministry and its Regional Office located at Bhopal.

(xiv) The Regional Office of this Ministry located at Bhopal shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full

6. Chairman, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Shri Chhatrapati Shiva Maharaj Municipal Market Building, 4th Floor, Hata Pannalal Ambedkar Road MUMBAI-400 001

7. Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, A2, W3 Curzon Road Barracks, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001.

8. District Collector Chandrapur District, Maharashtra.

9. Shri M.K.Shukla, Chief General Manager, Coal India Limited,407/8, Surya Kiran, 19 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110 001.

10. EI Division, Ministry of Environment & Forests, EI Division, New Delhi.

11. Monitoring File.

12. Guard File.

13. Record File.