



Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF)

BY SPEED POST

No.J-11015/323/2008-IA.II (M)

Paryavaran Bhawan,  
C.G.O.Complex, Lodi Road  
New Delhi -110003.

To

Dated: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012

Head of Department Env. / CE (Civil),  
**M/s Western Coalfields Ltd.,**  
Coal Estate, Civil Lines,  
Nagpur – 440001.

**Sub: Telwasa Opencast Expansion Coalmine Project (production from 1.00 MTPA to 2.00 MTPA and lease area from 250.91 ha to 287.60 ha) of M/s Western Coalfields Ltd located near village Telwasa, Tehsil Bhadrawati, District Chandrapur, Maharashtra-Environmental Clearance-regarding**

Sir,

This has reference to letter No. 43011/57/2009-CPAM dated 29.07.2008 of Ministry of Coal forwarding your application for environmental clearance under Section 7 (ii) of the EIA Notification 2006 on the above-mentioned subject and subsequent letters dated 05.03.2012 and 18.04.2012 from M/s WCL. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has considered the application. It has been noted that environmental clearance was granted to the existing Telwasa OCP on 19.05.2005 for production of coal at a rated capacity of 1 MTPA in an ML area of 266 ha. **The present proposal is for expansion of Telwasa Opencast Project in terms of production from 1.00 MTPA to 2.00 MTPA and lease area from 250.91 ha to 287.60 ha.** Of the total ML area of 250.91 ha, 271.91 ha is agricultural land, 29.85 ha is Govt. wasteland and 22.64 ha is forestland. Forestry clearance has been obtained on 16.01.2002 in the name of Dhorwasa OCP, is for the twin projects of Telwasa and Dhorwasa which are adjoining one another and share a common lease boundary. Of the total forestland of 26.44 ha, 17.31ha is for Telwasa OC & 9.13 ha is for Dhorwasa OC. There are no National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuary; Biosphere Reserves found in the 15 km buffer zone. The shortest distance of the mine from the extended buffer zone of Tadoba-Andheri Tiger Reserve is 16.5 km. Bhandak RF is within the buffer zone. Of the total lease area of 271.91 ha, area for excavation is 87.25 ha, 46.50 ha is for external OB dumps, 20.60 ha is for infrastructure, 97.565 ha is area for blasting zone, and 46.14 ha is for rationalization of mine boundary area. The expansion project does not involve change mining technology, in the generation of total OB and dump area, or modalities of technical and biological reclamation of dumps. The expansion project also does not involve additional manpower, or equipment or water requirement for expansion in production. River Wardha flows alongside the mine at a distance of 100m. An embankment has been already constructed in the existing project. No additional modification of natural drainage is proposed in the expansion project. Mining is opencast by mechanised method involving shovel-dumper. Mineral transportation of coal is by road. Ultimate working depth of the mine is 110 m below ground level (bgl). Water table is in the range of near surface 3.09 to 15.10 m bgl during pre-monsoon and 2.0-14.10 m bgl during post monsoon Peak water requirement is 900 m<sup>3</sup>/day which is met from mine pit water. No additional source of water is proposed for use in the project operations. Peak mine water discharge is 1368m<sup>3</sup>/day The total OB generation over the balance life of mine is estimated as 10.931 M<sup>3</sup> m of which 10.281M<sup>3</sup>m would be backfilled, 0.50 Mm<sup>3</sup> would be used in the embankment and the balance would be dumped in the one external OB dumps of 60m height, which would cease from 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the expansion project, and only concurrent backfilling would continue till end of mine life. Public Hearing was held on 21.07.2004 for 1.4 MTPA capacity project. Balance life of the mine at 2.00 MTPA

rated capacity is 5 years. The project has been approved by M/s WCL on 05.11.2008. The capital cost of the project is Rs.50.24 Crores

2. The Ministry of Environment & forests hereby accords environmental clearance for the above-mentioned **Telwasa open cast project of M/s Western Coalfield for expansion in production from 1.00 MTPA to 2.00 MTPA and Mining Lease area from 266.00 ha to 287.60 ha** under the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments thereto and Circulars there under subject to the compliance of the terms and conditions mentioned below:

**A. Specific Conditions**

- (i) The embankment constructed along the river boundary shall be of suitable dimensions and stabilised with plantation and with stone pitching on the riverfront side in critical patches so as to withstand the peak water flow and prevent mine inundation.
- (ii) There shall be no overflow of OB into the river and into the agricultural fields and massive plantation of native species shall be taken up in the area between the river and the project.
- (iii) OB shall be stacked at two earmarked external OB dumpsite(s) only. The ultimate slope of the dump shall not exceed 28°. Monitoring and management of existing reclaimed dumpsites shall continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. Compliance status shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests and its Regional office located at Bhopal on yearly basis.
- (iv) Catch drains and siltation ponds of appropriate size shall be constructed to arrest silt and sediment flows from soil, OB and mineral dumps. The water so collected shall be utilised for watering the mine area, roads, green belt development, etc. The drains shall be regularly desilted and maintained properly.  
Garland drains (size, gradient and length) and sump capacity shall be designed keeping 50% safety margin over and above the peak sudden rainfall and maximum discharge in the area adjoining the mine site. Sump capacity shall also provide adequate retention period to allow proper settling of silt material.
- (v) Dimension of the retaining wall at the toe of the dumps and OB benches within the mine to check run-off and siltation shall be based on the rainfall data.
- (vi) Crushers at the CHP of adequate capacity for the expansion project shall be operated with high efficiency bag filters, water sprinkling system shall be provided to check fugitive emissions from crushing operations, conveyor system, haulage roads, transfer points, etc.
- (vii) Drills shall be wet operated.
- (viii) The project authorities shall undertake regular repairing and tarring of roads used for mineral transportation. A 3-tier green belt comprising of a mix of native species shall be developed all along the major approach roads,
- (ix) Controlled blasting shall be practiced with use of delay detonators and only during daytime. The mitigative measures for control of ground vibrations and to arrest the fly rocks and boulders shall be implemented.
- (x) A progressive afforestation plan shall be implemented covering an area of 91.29ha, which includes reclaimed external OB dump (30.29), backfilled quarry (30 ha), along roads and infrastructure (4.50 ha), rationalisation of mine boundry area & blasting area (26.50 ha), and in township located outside the lease by planting native species in consultation with the local

DFO/Agriculture Department. The density of the trees shall be around 2500 plants per ha. Massive plantation shall be carried out in open spaces in and around the mine and avenue plantation along the main approach roads to the mine.

- (xi) Of the total quarry area of 87.25 ha, 30ha shall be backfilled and reclaimed with plantation, and 28.25 ha shall be left undisturbed and the balance 29 ha of decoled void shall be converted into a water body at the post mining stage, the upper benches of which shall be gently sloped and the upper benches shall be terraced and stabilised with plantation/afforestation by planting native plant species in consultation with the local DFO/Agriculture Department. The density of the trees shall be around 2500 plants per ha.
- (xii) No groundwater shall be used for mining operations. Any additional water required shall be met from mine pit water.
- (xiii) Regular monitoring of groundwater level and quality shall be carried out by establishing a network of existing wells and construction of new piezometers. The monitoring for quantity shall be done four times a year in pre-monsoon (May), monsoon (August), post-monsoon (November) and winter (January) seasons and for quality in May. Data thus collected shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests and to the Central Pollution Control Board quarterly within one month of monitoring.
- (xiv) The Company shall put up artificial groundwater recharge measures for augmentation of groundwater resource in case monitoring indicates a decline in water table. The project authorities shall meet water requirement of nearby village(s) in case the village wells go dry due to dewatering of mine.
- (xv) ETP shall also be provided for workshop and CHP wastewater.
- (xvi) Besides carrying out regular periodic health check up of their workers, 10% of the workers identified from workforce engaged in active mining operations shall be subjected to health check up for occupational diseases and hearing impairment, if any, through an agency within the District/State and the results reported to this Ministry and to DGMS.
- (xvii) For monitoring land use pattern and for post mining land use, a time series of land use maps, based on satellite imagery (on a scale of 1: 5000) of the core zone and buffer zone, from the start of the project until end of mine life shall be prepared once in 5 years (for any one particular season which is consistent in the time series), and the report submitted to MOEF and its Regional office at Bhopal.
- (xviii) A Final Mine Closure Plan along with details of Corpus Fund shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests within six months from date of environmental clearance for approval.
- (xix) Land oustees shall be compensated as per the norms laid out R&R Policy of CIL or the National R&R Policy or R&R Policy of the State Government whichever is higher.
- (xx) The project authorities shall in consultation with the panchayat of the local villages identify socio-economic and welfare measures under CSR to be carried out over the balance life of the mine.
- (xxi) Corporate Environment Responsibility:
  - a) The Company shall have a well laid down Environment Policy approved by the Board of Directors.
  - b) The Environment Policy shall prescribe for standard operating process/procedures to bring into focus any infringements/deviation/violation of the environmental or forest norms/conditions.


- c) The hierarchical system or Administrative Order of the company to deal with environmental issues and for ensuring compliance with the environmental clearance conditions shall be furnished.
- d) To have proper checks and balances, the company shall have a well laid down system of reporting of non-compliances/violations of environmental norms to the Board of Directors of the company and/or shareholders or stakeholders at large.

**B. General Conditions**

- (i) No change in mining technology and scope of working shall be made without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- (ii) No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of mineral coal and waste shall be made.
- (iii) Four ambient air quality monitoring stations shall be established in the core zone as well as in the buffer zone for PM10, PM2.5, SO2 and NOx monitoring. Location of the stations shall be decided based on the meteorological data, topographical features and environmentally and ecologically sensitive targets in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.
- (iv) Fugitive dust emissions (PM10 and PM 2.5) from all the sources shall be controlled regularly monitored and data recorded properly. Water spraying arrangement on haul roads, wagon loading, dump trucks (loading and unloading) points shall be provided and properly maintained.
- (v) Data on ambient air quality (PM10, PM 2.5, SO2 and Nox) shall be regularly submitted to the Ministry including its Regional Office at Bhopal and to the State Pollution Control Board and the Central Pollution Control Board once in six months.
- (vi) Adequate measures shall be taken for control of noise levels below 85 dBA in the work environment. Workers engaged in blasting and drilling operations, operation of HEMM, etc shall be provided with ear plugs/muffs.
- (vii) Industrial wastewater (workshop and wastewater from the mine) shall be properly collected, treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under GSR 422 (E) dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 1993 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 1993 or as amended from time to time before discharge. Oil and grease trap shall be installed before discharge of workshop effluents.
- (viii) Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. Vehicles used for transporting the mineral shall be covered with tarpaulins and optimally loaded.
- (ix) Environmental laboratory shall be established with adequate number and type of pollution monitoring and analysis equipment in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.
- (x) Personnel working in dusty areas shall wear protective respiratory devices and they shall also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects.  
Occupational health surveillance programme of the workers shall be undertaken periodically to observe any contractions due to exposure to dust and to take corrective measures, if needed and records maintained thereof.
- (xi) A separate environmental management cell with suitable qualified personnel shall be set up under the control of a Senior Executive, who will report directly to the Head of the company.
- (xii) The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures shall be kept in separate account and shall not be diverted for other purpose. Year-wise expenditure shall be reported to this Ministry and its Regional Office at Bhopal.



- (xiii) The Regional Office of this Ministry located at Bhopal shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The Project authorities shall extend full cooperation to the office(s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data/ information/monitoring reports.
  - (xiv) A copy of the will be marked to concerned Panchayat/ local NGO, if any, from whom any suggestion/representation has been received while processing the proposal.
  - (xv) State Pollution Control Board shall display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional Office, District Industry Centre and Collector's Office/Tehsildar's Office for 30 days.
  - (xvi) The Project authorities shall advertise at least in two local newspapers widely circulated around the project, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned within seven days of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and a copy of the clearance letter is available with the State Pollution control Board and may also be seen at the website of the ministry of Environment & Forests at <http://envfor.nic.in>.
3. The Ministry or any other competent authority may stipulate any further condition for environmental protection.
4. Failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
5. The above conditions will be enforced *inter-alia*, under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and Rules. The proponent shall ensure to undertake and provide for the costs incurred for taking up remedial measures in case of soil contamination, contamination of groundwater and surface water, and occupational and other diseases due to the mining operations.



(Dr.T.Chandini)  
Director

**Copy to:**

1. Secretary, Ministry of Coal, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of Maharashtra, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, New Admn. Bldg., Madam Cama Road, MUMBAI - 400032.
3. Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional office (EZ), Ministry of Environment & Forests, E-2/240 Arera Colony, Bhopal - 462016.
4. Chairman, Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board, Kalapataru Point, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Floors, Sion, Matunga Scheme Road No. 8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai - 400002.
5. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi -110032.
6. Member-Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, Curzon Road Barracks, A-2, W-3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.
7. Dr.R.K. Garg, Advisor, Coal India Limited, SCOPE Minar, Core-I, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Vikas Marg, Laxminagar, New Delhi.
8. District Collector, Chandrapur, Government of Maharashtra.
9. Monitoring File      10.      Guard File      11.      Record File.