No.J-11015/86/2005-IA-II(M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests

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

Dated: 20th May 2005

To
Shri Prabhat Kumar,
Chief General Manager (Civil/Env./L&R),
M/s Western Coalfields Ltd.,
Coal Estate, Civil Lines,
Nagpur – 440001.

Sub: Umrer Opencast Expansion Project of M/s Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL), in village Kanhiwa, Tehsil Umrer, District Nagpur, Maharashtra –application for environmental clearance –reg.

Sir,

This has reference to M/s Coal India Ltd.'s letter dated 03.03.2003 forwarding your application and subsequent letter dated 08.03.2005 on the above-mentioned subject. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has considered the application. It has been noted that the project is for expansion of Umrer Opencast Coal Mine in terms of production capacity from 2.34 MTPA to 3.50 MTPA. The total mining lease area is 944.65 ha of which 870.90 ha is agricultural and and 73.75 ha is Govt. land. Of the total lease area, area for excavation is 362.0 ha, 77.81 ha is for external dump & embankment, 40 ha is for infrastructure, and 464.84 ha is for safety zone and rationalised area. There are no National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserves found in the 10 km buffer zone. Mining will be opencast by mechanised method. Drilling and blasting are involved. Expansion of rated capacity of the mine is from 2.34 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 3.50 MTPA of coal production. Mineral transportation of 10600 TPD of coal shall be by use of 1150 trucks per day. Ultimate working depth of mine is 145 m below ground level (bgl). Water table is in the range of 4-1012 m bgl (pre-monsoon) and 4-6.5m bgl (post-monsoon). Total water requirement is 2050 m3/d of which 1300 m3/d is mine site requirement and 750 m3/d is for township, which will be met from mine discharge water. Of the total estimated OB generation of 208.84 Mm3 from the project, a total of 128.633 Mm3 of OE has been excavated till date, of which 41.633 Mm3 is dumped as external OB dump and for construction of embankment along ML boundary and 87 Mm3 of OB has been backfilled. Public Hearing was held on 23.09.2004. NOC from Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board has been obtained on 28.02.2005. Balance life of the mine at the rated capacity is 10 years. The project has been approved by M/s WCL on 23/28.03.2005. The capital cost of the project is Rs. 4104 lakhs.

2. The Ministry of Environment & Forests hereby accords environmental clearance for the above-mentioned Umrer Opencast Expansion Coal project of M/s WCL for expansion in production of coal to 3.50 MTPA in a total lease area of 944.65 ha under the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 and subsequent amendments thereto subject to the compliance of the terms and conditions mentioned below:

A. Specific Conditions

(i) Top soil should be stacked properly with proper slope at earmarked site(s) and should not be kept active and shall be used for reclamation and development of greenbelt.

(ii) OB should be stacked at earmarked external OB dumpsites only and shall be a maximum height of 60 m only and consist of two benches of 30 m each. The ultimate slope of the dump shall not exceed 28°. The rehandling of the OB for backfilling will begin at the end of decoaling. Monitoring and management of rehabilitated dump sites should continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. Compliance status should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests and its Regional Office located at Bhopal on yearly basis.

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

Garland drains (size, gradient & length) and sump capacity should be designed keeping 50% safety margin over and above the peak sudden rainfall and maximum discharge in the area adjoining the mines site. Sump capacity should also provide adequate retention period to allow proper settling of silt material.

(iv) 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 rainfall data.

(v) The embankment constructed for the part of mine lease boundary, which is located along Amb river should be of sufficient height over the HFL and width to protect the mine from inundation from peak flow from river.

(vi) Pumps of adequate number and capacity should be provided which drain the mine water even during maximum rainfall.

(vii) Drills should be wet operated or with dust extractors.

(viii) Controlled blasting should be practiced with the use of delay detonators and only during daytime. The mitigative measures for control of ground vibrations and to arrest the fly rocks and boulders should be implemented.

(ix) Plantation shall cover external OB dumps, along ML boundary, on embankment, workshop, roads, CHP, township outside the lease area by planting native plant species in consultation with the local DFO/Agriculture Department. The density of the trees should be around 2500 plants per ha.

(x) A Progressive Mine Closure Plan shall be implemented. Backfilling of the mined out area covering a total of 395 ha leaving a void of 15 ha.shall commence in the quarried decoaled area (void) and reclaimed.

(xi) Regular monitoring of groundwater level and quality should be carried out by establishing a network of existing wells and construction of new piezometers. The monitoring for groundwater level should be done at least four times a year in pre-monsoon (May), monsoon (August), post-monsoon (November) and winter (January) seasons and for groundwater quality in May. Data thus collected should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests and the Central Ground Water Board, Regional Office quarterly within one month of monitoring.

(xii) The Company shall put up artificial groundwater recharge measures for augmentation of groundwater resource. The project authorities should meet water requirement of nearby village(s) in case the village wells go dry due to de-watering of the mine.

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

(xiv) The requisite clearance from the State Land Use Board shall be obtained for diversion of agricultural land for more agricultural purpose.

(xv) Digital processing of the entire lease area using remote sensing techniques should be done regularly once in 3 years for monitoring land use pattern and report submitted to MOEF and its Regional Office at Bhopal.

(xvi) 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 and 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, NO_x, monitoring. Location of the stations should be decided based on the meteorological data, topographical features and environmentally and ecologically sensitive targets in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.

(iv) Data on ambient air quality (RPM, SPM, SO_2,NO_x) should be regularly submitted to the Ministry including its Regional Office at Bhopal and the State Pollution Control Board and the Central pollution Control Board once in six months.

(v) 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 (loading & unloading) points should be provided and properly maintained.

(vi) 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.

(vii) Industrial wastewater (workshop and wastewater 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.

(viii) Vehicular emissions should be kept under control and regularly monitored. Vehicles used for transporting the mineral should be covered with tarpaulins and optimally loaded.

(ix) Environmental laboratory should 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 should wear protective respiratory devises 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 contractions due to exposure to dust and take corrective measures, if needed.

(xi) 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 Company.

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

(xiii) The Regional Office of this Ministry located at Bhopal shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the office(s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data/ information/monitoring reports.

(xiv) A copy of the clearance letter will be marked to concerned Panchayat/local NGO, if any, from whom and suggestion/representation has been received while processing the proposal.

(xv) State Pollution Control Board should 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 should 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 issue 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 web site 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 action under 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.

(Dr.T.Chandini)
Additional Director

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Environment Department, Government of Maharashtra, 15th Floor, New Admn. Bldg., Madam Cama Road, MUMBAI-400032.
3. Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, E-2/240 Arera Colony, Bhopla-462 016.
4. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, CBD-Cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi-110 032.
5. Chairman, Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board, Kalapataru Point, 3rd & 4th Floor, Sion Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opp.Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai – 400002.
6. Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, A-2, W3, Curzon Road Barracks, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001
7. Shri M.K. Shukla, CGM, Coal India Limited, SCOPE Minar, Core-I, 4th Floor, Vikas Marg, Laxminagar, New Delhi.
8. District Collector, Nagpur, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
9. EI Division, Ministry of Environment & Forests, EI Division, New Delhi.
10. Monitoring File. 11. Guard File. 12. Record File.