



No. J-11015/71/2013-IA-II(M)

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Impact Assessment Division

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,

Jorbagh Road, N Delhi – 3

Email: lk.bokolia@nic.in Tel: 01124695301

Dated: 15th October, 2020

To,

The General Manager (Environment),

M/s Western Coalfields Ltd.,

Coal Estate, 9th Floor, Civil Lines,

Nagpur - 1 (Maharashtra)

Email: gmenvironment.wcl@nic.in; wclenv@yahoo.in

Sub: Validity extension of Environmental Clearance(EC) titled "Expansion of Ballarpur OCP (from 0.50 MTPA to 0.625 MTPA) in an ML area of 242.64 ha of M/s Western Coalfields Limited, Village Ballarpur, District Chandrapur (Maharashtra)" – reg.

Sir,

This is with reference to your online application No. IA/MH/CMIN/152112/2020 dated 27th May, 2020, on the above mentioned subject.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has granted environmental clearance (EC) to the project on 30th January 2015 to Expansion of Ballarpur OCP (from 0.50 MTPA to 0.625 MTPA) in an ML area of 242.64 ha of M/s Western Coalfields Limited, Village Ballarpur, District Chandrapur (Maharashtra). The life of the mine was 5 Years as per EC.

3. Now the proposal has been submitted for extension of validity of EC as there is additional coal reserves left in the old underground working which would get released after demolition of surface structures (required for implementation of mine closure activities). Earlier this coal could not be taken because of very high stripping ratio at that time and proximity of underground working. This additional coal reserve quantity is 2.496 MT which can be extracted by excavation of additional quarry area of 5.222 ha. This mining plan has been approved by the WCL board in its 321st meeting held on 24-04-2020 and communicated through resolution no. WCL/Office of CS/BM-321/2020-21/50 dated 25-04-2020. Life of mine is 5 years at the capacity of 0.625 MTPA for extraction of additional reserves of 2.496 MT coal available along fault line. Certified compliance report of existing EC dated 30-01-2015 has been secured from RO, MoEF & CC, Nagpur vide letter no. 3-45/2008(ENV) dated 07-05-2020 & ATR submitted vide letter dated 11-05-2020.

AN

4. The proposal was considered by the sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee in its 56th meeting held on 30th June, 2020 through video conferencing wherein the Committee recommended to condon the delay of application and the amendments/extension for additional 5 years (life of the mine) as proposed by the project proponent. Based on recommendations of the EAC, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby **accords approval for the extension of validity of Environmental Clearance (EC) titled "Expansion of Ballarpur OCP (from 0.50 MTPA to 0.625 MTPA)" dated 30th January, 2015 for a period of five years (i.e. upto 30th January 2025)** in an ML area of 242.64 ha of M/s Western Coalfields Limited, Village Ballarpur, District Chandrapur (Maharashtra), under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments/circulars thereto subject to the compliance of the terms & conditions and environmental safeguards mentioned below:

- (i) Clarification from District Forest Officer that mining area and its ancillary activities does not fall under Corridor of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary (Telangana), Chaprala Wildlife Sanctuary, Painganga Wildlife Sanctuary, and Tipeswar Wildlife Sanctuary.
- (ii) Validity of the existing EC along with capacity expansion is upto the life of the mine or 5 years, whichever is earlier from the date of issue of such letter.
- (iii) The project proponent shall obtain Consent to Establish/Operate from the State Pollution Control Board for the proposed peak capacity of 0.625 MTPA (Peak) prior to commencement of the production.
- (iv) All the non-compliance/partly complied condition as per certified compliance report of RO, Nagpur vide its report dated 7th May, 2020 shall be complied within 2 years.
- (v) Third party monitoring (by NEERI/CIMFR/IIT) for air quality shall be carried out at identified locations, both ambient and the process area, to arrive at impact of the proposed expansion. The results along with the recommendation shall be presented before the EAC to assess the efficacy and adequacy of pollution control measures.
- (vi) Transportation of coal from Coal Handling Plant(CHP) shall be through mechanized covered trucks. The State Pollution Control Board, while considering consent to operate for the project, shall ensure that with the proposed coal transportation by road, air quality would remain within the national ambient air quality standards
- (vii) Mitigating measures shall be undertaken to control dust and other fugitive emissions all along the roads by providing sufficient fixed type water sprinklers. Adequate corrective measures shall be undertaken to control dust emissions, which would include mechanized sweeping, water sprinkling/mist spraying on haul roads and loading sites, long range misting/fogging arrangement, wind barrier wall and vertical greenery system, green belt, dust suppression arrangement at loading and unloading points, etc.



- (viii) Continuous monitoring of occupational safety and other health hazards, and the corrective actions need to be ensured.
- (ix) Persons of nearby villages shall be given training on livelihood and skill development to make them employable
- (x) Mechanism for treating stored mine water shall be developed to avoid any ground and surface water contamination
- (xi) Active OB Dump should not be kept barren/open and should be covered by temporary grass to avoid air born of particles
- (xii) Project proponent to plant 150,000 nos. of native trees with broad leaves along the transportation route in three years to prevent the effect of air pollution. After completion of tree plantation, number of trees shall be duly endorsed from District Forest Officer.
- (xiii) Fund allocation for Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) shall be made as per Ministry's O.M. No. 22-65/2017-IA.III dated 30th September 2020 and based on commitment made during public consultation process for incorporating in EIA-EMP for deliberation of EAC.
- (xiv) Project Proponent shall obtain blasting permission from DGMS for conducting mining operation near villages and also explore deployment of rock breakers of suitable capacity in the project to avoid blasting very near to villages. There shall be no damages caused to habitation/structures due to blasting activity.
- (xv) 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.
- (xvi) 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.
- (xvii) 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 antsnake venom including all other paramedical safeguards may be ensured before initiating the mining activities.

- (xviii) 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".
- (xix) 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.
- (xx) 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 Regional Office of the MoEFCC.

Specific condition with respect area being in CPAs

- (i) CTE/CTO for the project shall be obtained from the SPCB as required under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the SPCB shall follow the mechanism/protocol issued by the Ministry vide letter no. Q-16017/38/2018-CPA dated 24th October, 2019 while issuing the CTE/CTO for the project, for improvement of environmental quality in the area.
- (ii) The green belt of at least 5-10 m width shall be developed in more than 40% of the total project area, mainly along the periphery of mine boundary, in downward wind direction, and along road sides etc. Selection of plant species shall be as per the CPCB guidelines in consultation with the State Forest Department.
- (iii) In addition, the project proponent shall develop greenbelt outside the plant premises such as avenue plantation, plantation in vacant areas, social forestry etc.
- (iv) Monitoring of compliance of EC conditions may be submitted with third party audit every year.

27

- (v) Fund allocation for Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) shall be atleast 2 times the amount given as per Ministry's O.M. No. 22-65/2017-IA.III dated 30th September 2020 and based on commitment made during public consultation process for incorporating in EIA-EMP for deliberation of EAC and item-wise details along with time bound action plan shall be prepared and submitted to the Ministry's Regional Office..
- (vi) Effective fugitive emission control measures should be imposed in the process, transportation, packing etc.
- (vii) Transportation of materials by rail/ conveyor belt, wherever feasible.
- (viii) A detailed water harvesting plan may be submitted by the project proponent
- (ix) In case, domestic waste water generation is more than 10 KLD, the industry may install STP.
- (x) Monitoring of compliance of EC conditions may be submitted with third party audit every year
5. All other conditions stipulated in the environmental clearance letter dated 30th January, 2015 shall also apply.


(Lalit Bokolia)
Director

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
2. The Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of Maharashtra, 15th Floor, New Admn. Bldg, Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya, Mumbai - 32 (Maharashtra)
3. The Additional PCCF (Central), Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office (Western Central Zone), Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building Civil Lines, Nagpur-1 (Maharashtra)
4. CMD, WCL, Nagpur
5. The Chairman, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, Curzon Road Barracks, A-2, W-3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi
6. The Chairman, Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board, Kalapataru Point, 3rd & 4th Floors, Sion, Matunga Scheme Road No. 8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai - 2
7. The District Collector, Chandrapur, Government of Maharashtra
8. Monitoring File /Guard file/PARIVESH Portal


(Lalit Bokolia)
Director