

**No. J-11015/80/2016-IA.II (M)**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
Impact Assessment Division

\*\*\*\*\*

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jorbagh Road, N Delhi - 3

Dated: 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

To,

The General Manager (Environment),  
M/s Western Coalfields Ltd,  
Coal Estate, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Civil Lines,  
**Nagpur** - 1 (Maharashtra)

**Email:** [gmenvironment.wcl@nic.in](mailto:gmenvironment.wcl@nic.in); [wclenv@yahoo.in](mailto:wclenv@yahoo.in)

**Sub: Expansion of Pauni-II Opencast Coal Mining Project from 0.6 MTPA to 3.25 MTPA of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in mine lease area of 1095.52 ha located in District Chandrapur (Maharashtra) - Revalidation and Environment Clearance - reg.**

Sir,

This has reference to your online proposal No. IA/MH/CMIN/133855/2019 dated 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 on the above-mentioned subject.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has considered the proposal for extension of environmental clearance dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 to the Expansion of Pauni-II Opencast Coal Mining Project from 0.6 MTPA to 3.25 MTPA of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in mine lease area of 1095.52 ha located in District Chandrapur (Maharashtra), for a period of one year and subject to compliance of certain terms and conditions, which *inter-alia* included the following and other conditions: -

*'The project proponent shall collect and analyze one season data for environmental parameters and submit for consideration of the EAC before 31st December, 2019.*

3. In line with the above condition, Project Proponent submitted the compliance of all the specifics conditions including one season baseline data. Site inspection was carried out by Regional Office, Nagpur on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 to monitor the status of compliance of conditions stipulated in the environmental clearance dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 and certified compliance report was submitted vide its letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

4. The proposal was considered by the sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in its meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 and recommended for continuance of the project and validity of environmental clearance dated 28<sup>th</sup> 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 continuance of the

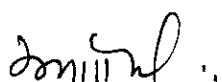
**Expansion of Pauni-II Opencast Coal Mining Project from 0.6 MTPA to 3.25 MTPA of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in mine lease area of 1095.52 ha located in District Chandrapur (Maharashtra), for a period of 30 years or life of the mine, whichever is earlier, under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments/circulars thereto subject to the compliance of additional as under:-**

- (i) EAC 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
- (ii) All the partially complied condition observed by Ministry's Regional Office in certified compliance report dated 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 shall be completed in 3 years.
- (iii) PP shall implement in-pit belt conveyor system in next 3 years from the issue of this letter.
- (iv) Project proponent to plant 100,000 nos. of native trees with broad leaves along the periphery of the mine to prevent the effect of air pollution in 3 years of the issue of this letter. After completion of tree plantation, number of trees shall be duly endorsed from District Forest Officer
- (v) The Project Proponent shall comply 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 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of Common Cause versus Union of India and Ors.
- (vi) 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 commencing 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.
- (vii) 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.
- (viii) 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

Amind ..

villages are the part of mine lease areas or Habitations and villages are surrounded by the mine lease area”.

- (ix) 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.
- (x) 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.
- (xi) Hon’ble Supreme Court in an Writ Petition(s) Civil No. 114/2014, Common Cause vs Union of India & Ors vide its judgement dated 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Ministry
- (xii) PP shall not divert proposed nallah till it justifies the reason of diversion
- (xiii) PP shall ensure regular water supply to the nearest villages.
- (xiv) 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.
- (xv) 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.
- (xvi) In addition, the project proponent shall develop greenbelt outside the plant premises such as avenue plantation, plantation in vacant areas, social forestry etc.
- (xvii) Monitoring of compliance of EC conditions may be submitted with third party audit every year.

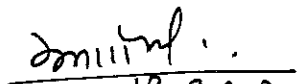
  

---

- (xviii) The percentage the CER may be atleast 2 times the amount given in the OM dated 1st May, 2018 recommended by the EAC and item-wise details along with time bound action plan shall be prepared and submitted to the Ministry's Regional Office.
- (xix) Effective fugitive emission control measures should be imposed in the process, transportation, packing etc.
- (xx) Transportation of materials by rail/ conveyor belt, wherever feasible.
- (xxi) A detailed water harvesting plan may be submitted by the project proponent
- (xxii) In case, domestic waste water generation is more than 10 KLD, the industry may install STP.
- (xxiii) Monitoring of compliance of EC conditions may be submitted with third party audit every year

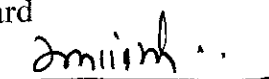
5. All other terms and conditions stipulated in the earlier Environmental Clearance dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 shall also apply in addition above conditions.

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

  
13.3.2020  
(Manoj Kumar Gangeya)  
Director

**Copy to:**

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
2. The Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of Maharashtra, 15<sup>th</sup> 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. The Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, Curzon Road Barracks, A-2, W-3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi
5. The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 32
6. The Member Secretary, 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 - 2
7. The District Collector, Chandrapur, Government of Maharashtra
8. Monitoring File      10. Guard File      11. Record File      12. Notice Board

  
13.3.2020  
(Manoj Kumar Gangeya)  
Director