



No. J-11015/106/2009-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: 9th February, 2021

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: Expansion of Gondgaon Extension Opencast Coal Mine Project from 2.5 MTPA to 3.5 MTPA by M/s Western Coalfields Limited in a mine lease area of 791.40 ha in Village Gondgaon, Tehsil Parseoni, District Nagpur (Maharashtra) – Amendment in Environment Clearance-reg.

Sir,

This has reference to your online proposal No. IA/MH/CMIN/157028/2020 dated 10th June, 2020, on the above-mentioned subject.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, vide letter dated 14th March, 2018, has granted Environmental Clearance and further extended vide its letter dated 28th March, 2019 and 9th March, 2020, to expansion of Gondgaon Extension Opencast Coal Mining Project from 2.5 to 3.5 MTPA in area of 917 ha (mine lease area 845.74 ha) subject to compliance of certain terms & conditions and environmental safeguards.

3. Now, Project proponent has submitted the proposal for amendment is without any change in the mining parameters or production capacity and within the same lease area. The proposal is for including the activity of sand segregation from external OB dumps with capacity of 2000 m³/day along with regular coal mining activities. Till date, major portion of OB is dumped on the surface and is of no use except for land degradation. The sand present in the OB is to be segregated within the Mining lease area for useful purpose. This sand segregation from OB is one of the new initiatives for converting waste to useful resources. Details regarding Mass balance of Coal production, OB excavation & Sand segregation (Peak excavation per year) year wise during the balance period of mine shall ensure that total excavation as per earlier EC remains the same as far as environmental impact is concerned after amendment. Accordingly, Project Proponent has submitted the Revised Mining Plan as approved in M/s Western Coalfields Limited Board vide: WCL/Office of CS/CR-04/2020-21/505, dated 20th October, 2020. The Capital of Rs 247.30 Lakhs as per 2018 PR and Revenue- @ Rs 6.00/tonne

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has been provisioned for Environment Management of the total mine including coal mining & sand segregation an Escrow Account of Expn. of Gondgaon OC for mine closure activities has been opened against the existing provisions. The Mine closure corpus of Rs 4297.24 lakhs has been deposited in escrow account in 8 years period from 2012-13 to 2019-20.

4. Accordingly, Land Use plan of the mine after including Sand Segregation infrastructure & activity are mentioned below:

S.No	Description	Leasehold Area(Ha)
1	Quarry Area	277.13
2	Embankment Area	13.05
3	External OB dump	252.25
4	Infrastructure including Sand segregation activity	59.26
5	Project Township	13.00
	Roads	5.74
6	Rehabilitation Site	21.66
7	Area needed for rationalization and blasting zone	149.31
	Total	791.40

Stage-wise Land use and Reclamation Area (ha)

S. N.	Land use category	Present (1st year)	5 th year	8 th year	3 years after end of mine life
1	Backfilled Area (Reclaimed with plantation)	0	20	79	79
		0	0	0	40
2	Excavated Area (Not reclaimed)/void	146.98	166.98	198.13	198.13
3	External OB dump (Reclaimed with plantation)	163.07	232.03	232.03	252.25
		28	30	40	40
4	Top soil dump ((Reclaimed with plantation)	20.22	20.22	20.22	0
		0	0	0	0
6	Undisturbed area (brought under plantation)	365.67	252.46	162.31	162.31
		96	100	120	130
7	Roads (avenue plantation)	5.74	5.74	5.74	5.74
		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
8	Area around buildings and Infrastructures including sand segregation infrastructure/activity	59.26	59.26	59.26	59.26
		24.20	24.20	24.20	24.20
9	Embankment	8.80	13.05	13.05	13.05

S. N.	Land use category	Present (1st year)	5 th year	8 th year	3 years after end of mine life
10	Rehabilitation	21.66	21.66	21.66	21.66
		12.44	12.44	12.44	12.44
	Total	791.40	791.40	791.40	791.40
	(Plantation)	169.64	175.64	205.64	255.64

4. The proposal was considered by the sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee in its 4th meeting held on 27th November, 2020 through video conferencing wherein the Committee recommended the proposal for amendment of Environment Clearance. Based on recommendations of the EAC, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords approval for the amendment in EC to Expansion of Gondgaon Extension Opencast Coal Mine Project with capacity of 3.50 MTPA in ML Area of 791.40 ha M/s Western Coalfields Limited located in Gondgaon Village, Parseoni Tehshil, District Nagpur, (Maharashtra) for implementing Sand Segregation plant of 2000m³/day based on revised Mine Plan as per EIA Notification, 2006 with all the condition stipulated in EC dated 9th March, 2020 shall remain the same and subject to additional conditions as mentioned below for environment safeguards: -

- (i) PP shall install permanent 10 nos of fog cannon for reducing dust emission in sand segregation plan, haul road, OB dump area during unloading.
- (ii) PP shall construct atleast 10 mts height metal sheet barricading along the periphery of sand segregation plant
- (iii) All mitigation measures for air pollution shall be implemented as submitted during appraisal.
- (iv) Coal transportation shall be shifted from road – rail to Pipe Conveyor system at the end of 2023 and no coal will be transported by road transportation.
- (v) PP shall do tree plantation on reclaimed OB land.
- (vi) 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.


5. All other terms and conditions stipulated in the Environmental Clearance dated 14th March, 2018, 28th March, 2019 and 9th March, 2020 shall also apply in addition to above.

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


(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. The Chairman, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, Curzon Road Barracks, A-2, W-3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi
5. The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 32
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, Nagpur, Government of Maharashtra
8. Monitoring File/Guard File/Record File 9. PARIVESH Portal


(Lalit Bokolia)
Director