

By Speed Post

F. No. J-11015/11/2007.IA-II (M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Impact Assessment Division

3rd Floor, Vayu Wing,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 26th March, 2015

To,

The Executive Director
M/s Steel Authority of India Ltd.
Bhilai Steel Plant
Ispat Bhawan, District Durg
Chattisgarh-490001
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Subject: Mahamaya Dulki Mining (Bhilai Steel Plant) for enhancement of production capacity from 0.96 to 1.46 MTPA of iron ore of M/s Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) in Durg & Rajnandgoan District Chhattisgarh (1522.67 ha) -regarding.

Sir,

This has reference to your letter no. MHQ/ED(Mines)/EAC/Dulki/06/335 dated 12.12.2006 regarding subject mentioned above and subsequent letters dated 16.04.2012, 09.07.2012, 31.12.2012, 30.01.2013, 21.02.2014 and 04.06.2014. The terms of reference to the proposal for undertaking detailed EIA study were prescribed on 13.04.2007. The proponent submitted the EIA/EMP and public hearing documents which were considered by Expert Appraisal Committee in its meeting held during 25-27th July, 2012 and re-considered during 20-22 February, 2013, 31st October-01st November 2013 and 29-30 April, 2014 wherein the Committee recommended the proposal for Environmental Clearance.

2. The Proposal is for renewal of mine lease which fell due on 04.11.2001 and enhancement of production of Iron Ore from 0.96 MTPA to 1.46 MTPA. Mine lease area is 1522.67 ha, which is forest land. The Stage-II Forest Clearance for the 84 ha has been obtained vide letter no. 8-19/2002-FC dated 07.03.2003 and Stage-I Forest Clearance has been obtained for 60 ha. The Latitude and Longitude of the proposed mine site is 20°28'30" N to 20°29'45" N and 80°59' 30" E to 81°59' 30"E, respectively.

3. No National Park /Sanctuary / Wildlife Corridors are reported within 10 kms of the mine lease. Six Schedule -I species i.e. Monitor lizard, Python, Peafowl, Bear, Leopard and Honey badger are reported from the mine lease area for which conservation plan has prepared and submitted by PP. Mine working will be opencast semi-mechanised. Life of the mine is 9-10 years. Water requirement is 30 kld, which will be obtained from Boirdih Dam. It is estimated that 36,16,108 m3 of

waste will be generated at the conceptual stage. There will be no groundwater intersection. Mining Scheme is approved by IBM vide letter no. DRG/FE/MPLN-658/NGP dated 19.09.2006.

4. Baseline studies were carried out during April 2009 to March 2010, March 2011 & November 2012(Except Monsoon). Public Hearing was held on 17.2.2011 and 2.5.2011 as the Project area falls in two Districts i.e Durg and Rajnandgaon of Chhattisgarh. The Public hearing was presided over by ADM, Rajnandgaon and ADM, Durg. The issues raised during Public Hearing were considered and discussed during the meeting, which inter-alia included repair of roads, provision of medical facilities, education, water supply, sanitation etc.

5. Total cost of the project is Rs. Rs 12.75 Crores. Capital Cost of environmental protection measures is Rs. 858 lakhs & Recurring cost is Rs. 147 lakhs/annum. Amount of Rs. 180 Lakhs have been earmarked towards socio-economic activities in the area. It was reported that there is no court case pending against the Project.

6. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has examined the application in accordance with the EIA Notification, 2006 and hereby accords environmental clearance specific to this case only under the provisions thereof to the above mentioned proposal of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) for enhancement of production capacity from 0.96 to 1.46 MTPA (ROM) of iron ore over mining lease area of 1522.67 ha [144 ha (forest area for which FC is available)] excluding 1378.67 ha of forest land subject to implementation of the following conditions and environmental safeguards.

A. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS:

- (i) No mining activities are allowed in forest area for which the FC is not available.
- (ii) The condition 3(iii)b of the guidelines issued by the Forest Conservation Division in this Ministry vide F. No. 11-362/2012-FC dated 1st February, 2013 is not being prescribed in view of Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 27.01.2014 and the EC is subject to the final order of the Supreme Court in the matter.
- (iii) The project proponent shall obtain Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate from the State Pollution Control Board and effectively implement all the conditions stipulated therein.
- (iv) The mining operations shall be restricted to above ground water table and it should not intersect the groundwater table.
- (v) The loose solids should be kept separately from flowing water and flow of effluents to nearby areas outside the leasehold shall be prevented. These paved drains along with arrangements for Over Burden Dumps and their drainage may be clearly depicted on a contoured map of the mining area.
- (vi) The project proponent shall ensure that no natural watercourse and/or water resources shall be obstructed due to any mining operations. Adequate measures shall be taken for conservation and protection of the 1st and 2nd

