

Speed Post

No. J-11015/450/2012-IA.II (M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Impact Assessment Division

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Dated: 17th August, 2015

To,

M/s Steel Authority of India Limited

Raw Material Division,
Post-Barhi, District-Katni
Madhya Pradesh-483 770

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Sub.: Mining of limestone with proposed production capacity of 0.06 million TPA (ROM) in Kuteshwar Limestone Mine (Left Bank Lease) by M/s Steel Authority of India Limited, located at village-Kuteshwar, Tehsil-Vijayraghavgarh, District-Katni, Madhya Pradesh (91.14ha)-Environmental Clearance regarding.

Sir,

This has reference to your application for the above mentioned proposal for Mining of limestone with proposed production capacity of 0.06 million TPA (ROM) in Kuteshwar Limestone Mine (Left Bank Lease). The mine lease area is located at village-Kuteshwar, Tehsil-Vijayraghavgarh, District-Katni, Madhya Pradesh in MLA of 91.14ha. The Latitudes and Longitudes of the mine lease area are 23°58'28" N & 23°59'22" N and 80°48'55" E & 80°49'43" E respectively on Topo sheet no. No 63 D/16 & 64A/13.

2. The Ministry had prescribed TOR on 13.05.2013. The Proponent after conducting Public Hearing on 28.02.2014 submitted the EIA/EMP report for seeking environmental clearance. The proposal of EC was appraised in the EAC meeting held during June 24-26, 2015 wherein the EAC recommended the Proposal for environmental clearance for Limestone mine with production capacity of 0.06 million TPA (ROM).

3. The total mine lease area is 91.14 ha. Out of which 19.80 ha area will be used for Mining (excavation), 6.764 ha for overburden/dumps, 0.03 ha for infrastructure development, 3.50 ha for roads, 61.046ha will be undisturbed area. The Mining Plan of Left Bank Lease has been approved by the IBM vide letter No. M.P/KATNI/LIMESTONE/ MPLAN/PSU/R-02/02-03 dated 02-09-2003. The Mining Plan was modified and approved by the IBM vide letter no. MP/Katni/MP/Modi-05/04-05/5237 dated 02.11.2004. Third Scheme of Mining was approved by the IBM for a period 2012-13 to 2016-17 vide letter No. MP/Katni/Limestone/M.Sch.-18/14-15/6664, dated 01-12-2014. The Project Proponent reported that the total Limestone reserves in the mine lease area were estimated as 62.8 million tonnes upto a depth of 320 metres, of which proved reserves were 3.1 million tonnes, prefeasibility resources were 13.63 million tonnes and feasible resources were

18.07 million tonnes and inferred resources were 28 million tonnes. However, as most of the lease area is under submergence of Bansagar Dam during the major part of the year, and all the working pits are filled up by inundated water of the Dam, the mineable reserves have been reclassified considering the present available mineable area and working depth, i.e. from 339 m to 335 m RL (4 m). On the basis of the mineable reserve of 4,80,000 tonnes (0.48 million tonnes) and annual proposed production rate of about 60,000 tonnes, the anticipated life of the mine will be about 8 years.

4. Mining operations started at Left Bank Lease in 1993 through manual means. The mine is being operated by Opencast Mechanized method using heavy earth moving machinery (HEMMs) for various operations like drilling, blasting, loading, transportation, etc. However, the blasted ore will be sorted and sized to +25 to -75 mm limestone manually. The deposit is being mined by top-slicing open cast fully mechanized method i.e. as per current practice, aided by drilling and blasting. In this scheme of mining period, the mining will be carried out by developing the present working pit towards north direction by leaving 3 m space from the pit as safety measure. The working will be carried out with a bench height of 1.5 m from about 339 m to 337.5 m. After the recession of water in the post-monsoon season, mining will be resumed by de-silting the mining area. For expediting the drying up of the working quarry, the accumulated water will be drained out. Working will be carried out by leaving 3 m safety zone from the present working face which will act as a safety wall of 3 m width for the proposed working pit, which will be properly fenced by barbed wire to protect workers. The mining will be planned in the available higher level areas and the depth of working will be confined to 1.5 m bench. The sized material will be loaded by manual labour into 22 tonner dumper / tippers and also by using loader / excavator for loading and transporting to the railway siding at Khanna-Banjari for onward transportation to different SAIL Steel Plants as per their requirements. The interburden and silt forming the waste material will be sorted out manually and loaded into dumper for transportation to the dump site along the north-western boundary of the lease.

5. Project Proponent reported that there is no National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Wildlife Corridor in the 10 km radius study area of the Kuteshwar Mine Lease. Bandhavgarh National Park is located at about 13.2 km S of the mine lease area. Hardua Reserve Forest (5.1 km NW), Karreha Reserve Forest (7.5 km N), Bara Reserve Forest (5.5 km NE) and an Open Mixed Jungle (6.7 km SE) are located within the study area. There is no endangered or endemic flora and fauna species observed in the study area of the project. There is no forest in the mine lease area. There are four forests in the study area viz., Hardua Reserve Forest (5.1 km NW), Karreha Reserve Forest (7.5 km N), Bara Reserve Forest (9.0 km NE) and Open Mixed Jungle (6.7 km SE). There is no nallah flowing in the lease area. River Chhoti Mahanadi flows through the eastern boundary of the lease area. Presently the deepest level of the mine is at 332 m RL which is much above the ground water table. As there is no ore beneficiation / washing of ore at Left bank Lease, water is mainly required for dust suppression & plantation (20 KLD), Drinking (3 KLD). Total water requirement in the mine is about 23 m³ per day.

6. The Ministry has earlier accorded the environmental clearance to the project vide MOEF letter no. J-11015/34/93-IA II (I) dated 16th June, 1995 under the provisions of EIA Notification, 1994. The certified compliance report of the

