



सत्यमेव जयते

File No.: J-11015/418/2008-IA.II(M)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
IA Division  
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Dated 13/09/2023



To,  
Joydev Chattopadhyay  
Rourkela Steel Plant, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)  
AREA 11, ROURKELA , SUNDARGARH, ODISHA, Rourkela Steel Plant, 769011  
bolanifc2016@gmail.com

**Subject:** Amendment in Environmental Clearance (EC) 11/07/2023 granted to the project under the provision of the EIA Notification 2006 -regarding.

**Sir/Madam,**

This is in reference to your application submitted to MoEF&CC vide proposal number EC23A0000OR5619082A dated 10/07/2023 for grant of an amendment in prior Environmental Clearance (EC) to the project under the provision of the EIA Notification 2006-and as amended thereof.

2. The particulars of the proposal are as below :

|  |   |
|--|---|
| (i) EC Identification No.                      | EC23A0000OR5619082A   |
| (ii) File No.                                  | J-11015/418/2008-IA.II(M)   |
| (iii) Clearance Type                           | Amendment in EC   |
| (iv) Category                                  | A   |
| (v) Schedule No./ Project Activity             | 1(a) Mining of minerals   |
| (vi) Sector                                    | Non-Coal Mining   |
| (vii) Name of Project                          | Extension of validity of amendments in Environmental Clearance grant orders to liquidate entire stock of old Dump Fines from Bolani Iron Ore Mines [ML area1321.45 ha] of M/s Steel Authority of India Limited. |
| (viii) Location of Project (District, State)   | KENDUJHAR, ODISHA   |
| (ix) Issuing Authority                         | MoEF&CC   |
| (x) EC Date                                    |   |
| (xi) Applicability of General Conditions       | YES   |
| (xiii) Status of implementation of the project |   |

1. In view of the particulars given in the Para 1 above, the project proposal interalia including Form-1(Part A, B and C)/ EIA & EMP Reports were submitted to the MoEF&CC for an appraisal by the EAC under the provision of EIA notification 2006 and its subsequent amendments.
2. The above-mentioned proposal has been considered by EAC in the meeting held on 31/07/2023. The minutes of the meeting and all the project documents are available on PARIVESH portal which can be accessed from the PARIVESH portal by scanning the QR Code above or through the following web link [click here](#).
3. The proposed project activity is listed at schedule no. 1(a) Mining of Minerals and 2(b) Mineral Beneficiation and falls under Category "A" of the schedule of the EIA Notification, 2006 as the mining lease area is greater than 250 ha and appraised at Central level.

The Project Proponent has informed the EAC that the instant proposal is for amendment in EC's dated 30.07.2020, 05.08.2021 & 19.09.2022 for extension of validity of Environmental Clearance for further period of 02 (Two) years to liquidate entire stock of old Dump Fines from Bolani Iron Ore Mines by keeping total production within approved EC capacity of 12.0 MTPA in the mine lease area of 1321.45 ha of M/s SAIL, located at Village Bolani, Tehsil- Barbil, District Keonjhar, Odisha. The Project Proponent also informed the EAC that initially fines generated has been stacked within the Bolani Iron Ore mine as a sub grade ore dump. About, 7.07 MT of fines has been accumulated including 2.95 MT in Bolani Iron Ore mine and 4.12 MT in adjoining mine lease of M/s SAIL. The Ministry of Mines vide order dated 16.09.2019 has directed the concerned State Governments to allow M/s SAIL to sell these low grade fines / slimes in open market. Subsequent to the permission granted by the Ministry of Mines on 16.09.2019, fines generated are dispatched to the Steel Plants, Sinter plant and Blast furnace.

The Project Proponent also informed the EAC that the in order to liquidate these low grade dump fines, necessary amendment in EC was obtained on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 for change in product mix and configuration to excavate accumulated dump fines from Old Fines Dumps maximum up to 3.0 MTPA and dispatch of such changed product mix through rail / road or road & rail combination for selling of dump fines in open market or for pellet conversion basis by keeping total production within the approved EC limit of 12.0 MTPA for one year. As the total targeted liquidation of the dump fines could not be achieved, subsequent extensions of the amendment in EC was obtained on 05.08.2021 & 19.09.2022 for one year respectively and the amendment in EC dated 19.09.2022 is valid upto 18.09.2023.

Further, the Project Proponent has informed the EAC that till March 2023, only 1.04 MT of dump fines could be dispatched from Bolani Iron Ore lease (5.10 sq miles ML). About 1.91 MT of dump fines are still left unsold within the mine lease area. In order to accelerate liquidation of the dump fines, it has been planned to start dispatching these dumps to pellet conversion agents for beneficiation & palletisation and use of the converted pellet in SAIL Plants. Keeping the present demand of dump fines and market conditions 02 (two) more years are required to liquidate the entire stock of dump fines from the 5.10 Sq Miles Mining Lease. In this regard, the Project Proponent is requesting for amendment in EC's dated 30.07.2020, 05.08.2021 & 19.09.2022 for a further period of 2 (two) more years i.e. upto 18.09.2025 to liquidate entire stock of dump fines inside 5.10 Sq. miles ML without any further change in mining parameters, product mix and configuration under Para 7(ii) of EIA Notification 2006 with the following provisions (i) Continue excavation of iron ore fines from old Fines Dumps maximum up to 3 MTPA for selling in open market or supplying to external pellet conversion agencies for captive use of converted pellets keeping the total production within EC capacity of 12 MTPA and (ii) Continue dispatch up to 1.5 MTPA dump fines with total dispatch up to 10 MTPA including iron ore production from the mines through SAIL's Bolani Railway Siding, and up to 1.5 MTPA dump fines & 0.5 MTPA iron ore from mines with total up to 2 MTPA through public roads leading to Public Sidings at Bolani / Barbil or beyond NH 520.

The EAC asked about the composition/grade of the dump fines. The Project Proponent has informed the EAC that the grade of the dump fines is 58-60% Fe. The Project Proponent has informed the EAC that the present maximum traffic on the Bolani – Barbil Road is ~2896 PCUs/day, which includes dispatch of dump fines from Bolani Ores Mines by road as compared to its recommended design service volume of 13800 PCUs/day. Therefore, the Bolani – Barbil Road is further having additional capacity to the tune of 10904 PCUs/day, i.e. it can handle about additional 10 MTPA road traffic. Therefore, proposed continuation of the road transport to the tune of 2 MTPA from Bolani Ores Mines will not have any adverse impact on the traffic infrastructure at

Bolani. The Project Proponent has submitted that ambient air quality was monitored at 04 locations including 02 locations in the vicinity of Transportation Route for PM10, PM2.5, SO2, NOx & CO during the month of March-May, 2023. Work Zone Air Quality, Ground Water, Surface Water, Drinking Water, Effluent Quality and Noise levels were monitored for the period from April, 2022 to March, 2023 through NABL accredited lab. The monthly averages of Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) are well within the prescribed norms of 1200 µg/m3. A rise in water level is observed during September, 2022. pH of the water samples is neutral in the range of 6.54 to 8.28. The concentration of metals in ground water samples are found well within the norms including Iron which ranged from <0.05 to 0.25 mg/l. The concentrations of Fe are within 3.0 mg/l as per General Standards for discharge of effluents into surface water. The environmental quality in and around the mine was found to be within the permissible limits.

The Project Proponent also informed the EAC that the Liquidation of fines will not only result in effective utilization of these low grade minerals, but also eliminates environmental hazards associated due to storage of fines. There is no change in scope of work from earlier EC amendment dated 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. The Project Proponent has shown the Certified Compliance report dated 25.07.2022. The EAC asked about the status of the court case. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the subsequent to the judgment of Apex Court dated 02.08.2017, the Government of Odisha vide letter dated 23.10.2017 issued a demand notice for payment of Rs. 47,49,46,999/- to recover the price of mineral produced beyond the CTO capacity. Against this demand, M/s SAIL had filed a Writ Petition bearing WP (C) No- 24279/2017 before High Court of Orissa at Cuttack. The matter was heard and Hon'ble High Court had passed the stay order on 04.04.2018. The matter was last heard on 26.04.2022 and the matter is sub-judice. There is no violation or demand against the Environment Clearance and Forest Clearance grant Orders.

Based on the discussions held, the EAC under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and its subsequent amendments, recommended during 31 July, 2023 to 1st August, 2023 the proposal for amendment in EC's dated 30.07.2020, 05.08.2021 and 19.09.2022 of M/s SAIL for extension of validity of Environmental Clearance for further period of 02 (Two) years to liquidate entire stock of old Dump Fines from Bolani Iron Ore Mines by (i) continue excavation of iron ore fines from old Fines Dumps maximum up to 3 MTPA for selling in open market or supplying to external pellet conversion agencies for captive use of converted pellets keeping the total production within EC capacity of 12 MTPA, (ii) continue dispatch of 8.5 MTPA ROM Iron Ore from mines, 1.5 MTPA from fines dump with total dispatch up to 10 MTPA by SAIL's Bolani Rly. Siding and dispatch of 0.5 MTPA from Iron Ore from Mines and 1.5 MTPA from fines dump with total up to 2 MTPA through public roads leading to Public Sidings at Bolani / Barbil beyond NH 520 within approved EC Capacity 12.0 MTPA, in the mine lease area of 1321.45 ha, located at Village Bolani, Tehsil- Barbil, District Keonjhar, Odisha along with the additional specific conditions as given below.

Further, the Project Proponent vide email dated 16.08.2023 has submitted the Certified Compliance Report issued by the Regional Office, Bhubaneswar dated 14.08.2023. Site visit was conducted by Regional Office, Bhubaneswar on 04.08.2023. The EAC during 24-25 August, 2023 noted that the certified compliance report issued by the Regional Office, Bhubaneswar stating that the no noncompliance's detected and no further action is required.

Ministry accepted the recommendations of EAC (non-coal) and grants the amendment in Environmental Clearance.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

#### **Copy To**

1. **The Secretary**, Ministry of Mines, Government of India Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. **The Chief Secretary**, Government of Odisha, Secretariat, Bhubaneswar.
3. **The Secretary**, Department of Environment, Government of Odisha, Secretariat, Bhubaneswar.
4. **The Secretary**, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Odisha, Secretariat, Bhubaneswar.

5. **The Secretary**, Department of Forests, Government of Odisha, Secretariat, Bhubaneswar.
6. **The Secretary**, Department of Steel and Mines, Government of Odisha, Secretariat, Bhubaneswar.
7. **The Member Secretary**, Odisha Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, A/118 Nilakantha Nagar, Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar-751012.
8. **The Deputy Director General of Forests (C)**, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office, A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar – 751023.
9. **The Chief Wildlife Warden**, Prakurti Bhawan, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, BDA Apartment, Nilakanthanagar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012, Odisha.
10. **The Chairman**, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-Cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi-110 032.
11. **The Controller General**, Indian Bureau of Mines, Indira Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.
12. **The Member Secretary**, Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, 12/1 Jam Nagar House, Shahjahan road, New Delhi 110011.
13. **The District Collector**, Keonjhar District, Govt. of Odisha.
14. **Guard File.**
15. **PARIVESH Portal.**

## Annexure 1

### Specific EC Conditions for (Mining of minerals)

#### 1. Miscellaneous

| S. No | EC Conditions  |
|-------|--|
| 1.1   | All other terms and conditions mentioned in the earlier EC dated 21.12.2012, 17.02.2014, 30.07.2020, 05.08.2021 and 19.08.2022 shall remain unchanged. |

#### 2. Monitoring

| S. No | EC Conditions  |
|-------|--|
| 2.1   | The Project Proponent shall monitor the air quality, noise level, soil quality, water quality, water level and ground vibration at the edge of the mine, near the village and at other sensitive receptors and such collected data shall be submitted quarterly to the Ministry's Regional Office. |

#### 3. Single Use Plastic

| S. No | EC Conditions   |
|-------|---|
| 3.1   | The Project Proponent shall create awareness among the local people working within the project area as well as its surrounding area on the ban of Single Use Plastic (SUP) in order to ensure the compliance of Notification published by MoEF&CC on 12/08/2021. A report, along with photographs, on the measures taken shall also be included in the six monthly compliance report. |

#### 4. Ecology

| S. No | EC Conditions   |
|-------|---|
| 4.1   | The Project Proponent shall monitor the environmental quality of the land use before and after continuation of excavation and dispatch of dump fines. |

#### 5. Road Transportation

| S. No | EC Conditions  |
|-------|--|
| 5.1   | The Project Proponent shall ensure that the vehicles should not be overloaded. All the trucks should be properly covered during transportation of fines.   |
| 5.2   | The Project Proponent shall regularly maintain the transport route for improvement of road capacity and to control the fugitive emissions during transportation and shall ensure that the transport of minerals will be as per IRC Guidelines with respect to complying with traffic congestion and density. |

Annexure 2

#### Amendment Logs

| Description | Reference | Existing | Proposed / Amendment | Reason |
|-------------|-----------|----------|----------------------|--------|
| NA          | NA        | NA       | NA                   | NA     |