

BY SPEED POST

No. J-11015/396/2008-IA.II(M)
 Government of India
 Ministry of Environment & Forests

534, Paryavaran Bhavan,
 C.G.O. Complex, Lodi Road,
 New Delhi-110 003.

Dated 21st December, 2012

To

M/s Steel Authority of India Ltd.
 20th Floor, Scope Minar
 Laxmi Nagar, Ditt. Centre
 Delhi - 110092

Subject: Bolani Iron Ore Mine of M/s SAIL located at village Bolani, Tehsil Barbil, District Keonjhar, Odisha – (6.9 Sq. mile)- environmental clearance - regarding.

Sir,

This has reference to your letter No. RMD/K/E&L/11/265 dated 14.12.2011 on the subject mentioned above. The project was earlier prescribed Terms of Reference (TORs) by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on 5.2.2008 for undertaking detailed EIA study for the purpose of obtaining environmental clearance in accordance with the provisions of the EIA Notification. The proposal is for environment clearance for production of 15,000 TPA of manganese ore (ROM). The mine is reported to be closed since 1978.

2. The mine is located between latitudes 22°05'N & 22°07'N and longitudes 85°19' & 85°23'E. Interstate boundary between Jharkhand and Orissa also lies on Western side at a distance of 1.5 km. The mine lease area is 1786.74 ha, which includes 706.52 ha of forestland. Stage-I forestry clearance was obtained on 24th February, 1999 for diversion of 706.52 ha of forestland. Mine working will be opencast semi-mechanised involving drilling and blasting. The mine working will not intersect with the ground water table. The peak water requirement is estimated as 48 kld, which will be obtained from Karo nadi and Jhikaria and Chapua nallahs. No groundwater will be withdrawn. Mining plan has been approved by IBM vide dated 06-08-2010.

3. It was observed that high levels of RSPM were there in the area due to bad road conditions in and around the mine lease. The proponent has undertaken repair of various identified stretches as also sprinkling of water on the public roads. The baseline AAQ data collected during March - April, 2012 compared with the data collected during winter season of 2008-09, although showed improvement in terms of RSPM levels.

4. No National park / Wildlife sanctuary / Biosphere reserve / Tiger reserve / Elephant reserve, etc., are reported to be located in the core and buffer zone of within 10 km of the

periphery of the project site. However, Karo Karampada Elephant Corridor is reported at a distance of 8 km from the mine lease. The information of flora fauna was presented, which reported observation of leopard, sloth bear, elephant, barking deer etc.

5. It is estimated that 0.89 million m³ of waste will be generated, which will be stored temporarily for two years and thereafter it will be backfilled. A tailing pond in an area of about 125 ha will be created till the end of the mine for use by the adjoining Bolani 5.1 sq.mile mine. An area of 289.83 will be covered under plantation. It has been reported that there is no population in the core zone, therefore, displacement of population and R&R has not been envisaged.

6. Public hearing has been held on 24.10.2011. The issues raised during public hearing were also considered and discussed during the meeting which inter-alia included drinking water supply, construction and improvement of road, provision of electricity, employment, health and hygiene etc. It was reported that there is no court case pending against the project. An amount of Rs. 170 lakhs has been earmarked for drinking water supply and an amount of Rs. 150 lakhs has been earmarked for construction of bridge over Karo river at Pacheri and Rs. 5 lakhs for the repairing of another bridge. Rs. 10 lakhs per annum for dispensary and school bus facility along with Rs. 2 lakhs as financial aid to the school.

7. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has examined the application in accordance with the EIA Notification, 2006 and hereby accords environmental clearance under the provisions thereof to the above mentioned Bolani Iron Ore Mine of M/s SAIL located at village Bolani, Tehsil Barbil, District Keonjhar, Odisha - (6.9 Sq. mile)- subject to implementation of the following conditions and environmental safeguards.

A. Specific Conditions

- (i) Environmental clearance is subject to obtaining clearance under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 from the competent authority, as applicable.
- (ii) The mining operations shall be restricted to above ground water table and it should not intersect the groundwater table. In case of working below the ground water table, prior approval of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Central Ground Water Authority shall be obtained, for which a detailed hydro-geological study shall be carried out. The project proponent shall ensure that no natural watercourse and/or water resources shall be obstructed due to any mining operations.
- (iii) Mitigation measures to control RSPM levels shall continue to be implemented and air quality data will also be collected during operation of the mines. The data so collected shall be analysed to see the effectiveness of the mitigation measures implemented. Based on the same, additional safeguard measures, as may be required shall be implemented in the project.
- (iv) The biological survey shall be repeated during October - December and mid May month to see the existence of wildlife corridors, if any. Based on the same, necessary Wildlife Conservation Plan as may be required shall be prepared and implemented in consultation with the State Forest and Wildlife Department.

- (v) The biological survey shall also be undertaken to identify the trees with orchids, if any. Such trees, so identified shall be protected and if need be, these trees may be relocated.
- (vi) The over burden (OB) generated during the mining operation shall be stacked at earmarked dump site(s) only and should not be kept active for long period. 1.775 million m³ of waste will be generated during the conceptual period, which will be partly backfilled (74%). In critical areas, use of geo textiles shall be undertaken for stabilization of the dump. Monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas should continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. Compliance status should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests and its Regional Office located at Bhubaneswar on six monthly basis.
- (vii) Catch drains and siltation ponds of appropriate size should be constructed to arrest silt and sediment flows from mine working, soil, OB and mineral dumps. The water so collected should be utilized for watering the mine area, roads, green belt development etc. The drains should be regularly desilted particularly after monsoon and maintained properly.

Garland drain of appropriate size, gradient and length shall be constructed for both mine pit and OB dump and sump capacity should be designed keeping 50% safety margin over and above peak sudden rainfall (based on 50 years data) and maximum discharge in the area adjoining the mine site. Sump capacity should also provide adequate retention period to allow proper settling of silt material. Sedimentation pits should be constructed at the corners of the garland drains and desilted at regular intervals.

- (viii) Dimension of the retaining wall at the toe of dumps and OB benches within the mine to check run-off and siltation should be based on the rainfall data.
- (ix) The project proponent shall take all precautionary measures during mining operation for conservation and protection of endangered fauna namely elephant, sloth bear etc. spotted in the study area. All the safeguard measures brought out in the Wildlife Conservation Plan so prepared specific to this project site and approved by the Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) shall be effectively implemented. A copy of Wildlife Conservation Plan shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests and its Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
- (x) The critical parameters such as RSPM (Particulate matter with size less than 10micron i.e., PM₁₀) and NO_x in the ambient air within the impact zone, peak particle velocity at 300m distance or within the nearest habitation, whichever is closer shall be monitored periodically. Further, quality of discharged water shall also be monitored [(TDS, DO, PH and Total Suspended Solids (TSS)]. The monitored data shall be uploaded on the website of the company as well as displayed on a display board at the project site at a suitable location near the main gate of the Company in public domain. The Circular No. J-20012/1/2006-IA.II(M) dated 27.05.2009 issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests, which is available on the website of the Ministry www.envfor.nic.in shall also be referred in this regard for its compliance.

B. General conditions

- (i) No change in mining technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
- (ii) No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of mineral iron ore and waste should be made.
- (iii) The project proponent shall obtain Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate from the State Pollution Control Board, Orissa and effectively implement all the conditions stipulated therein.
- (iv) A Final Mine Closure Plan along with details of Corpus Fund shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests 5 years in advance of final mine closure for approval.
- (v) The project proponent shall practice suitable rainwater harvesting measures on long term basis and work out a detailed scheme for rainwater harvesting in consultation with the Central Groundwater Authority and submit a copy of the same to the Ministry of Environment and Forests and its Regional Office, Bhubneswar.
- (vi) Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. Measures shall be taken for maintenance of vehicles used in mining operations and in transportation of mineral. The vehicles should be covered with a tarpaulin and shall not be overloaded.
- (vii) No blasting shall be carried out after the sunset. Blasting operation shall be carried out only during the daytime. Controlled blasting shall be practiced. The mitigative measures for control of ground vibrations and to arrest fly rocks and boulders should be implemented. Drills shall either be operated with the dust extractors or equipped with water injection system.
- (viii) Mineral handling area shall be provided with adequate number of high efficiency dust extraction system. Loading and unloading areas including all the transfer points should also have efficient dust control arrangements. These should be properly maintained and operated.
- (ix) Sewage treatment plant shall be installed for the colony. ETP shall also be provided for the workshop and wastewater generated during the mining operation.
- (x) Pre-placement medical examination and periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the project shall be carried out and records maintained. For the purpose, schedule of health examination of the workers should be drawn and followed accordingly.
- (xi) Provision shall be made for the housing of construction labour within the site with all necessary infrastructure and facilities such as fuel for cooking, mobile toilets, mobile

- STP, safe drinking water, medical health care, crèche etc. The housing may be in the form of temporary structures to be removed after the completion of the project.
- (xii) Regular monitoring of ground water level and quality shall be carried out in and around the mine lease by establishing a network of existing wells and installing new piezometers during the operation. The periodic monitoring [(at least four times in a year- pre-monsoon (April-May), monsoon (August), post-monsoon (November) and winter (January); once in each season)] shall be carried out in consultation with the State Ground Water Board/Central Ground Water Authority and the data thus collected may be sent regularly to the Ministry of Environment and Forests and its Regional Office Bhubneswar, the Central Ground Water Authority and the Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board. If at any stage, it is observed that the groundwater table is getting depleted due to the mining activity, necessary corrective measures shall be carried out.
 - (xiii) The project proponent shall obtain necessary prior permission of the competent authorities for drawl of requisite quantity of surface water, if any, required for the project.
 - (xiv) The Company shall submit within 3 months their policy towards Corporate Environment Responsibility which should inter-alia provide for (i) Standard operating process / process to bring into focus any infringement / deviation / violation of the environmental or forest norms / conditions, (ii) Hierarchical system or Administrative order of the company to deal with the environmental issues and for ensuring compliance with the EC conditions and (iii) System of reporting of non compliances / violations of environmental norms to the Board of Directors of the company and / or shareholders or stakeholders.
 - (xv) Atleast four ambient air quality-monitoring stations should be established in the core zone as well as in the buffer zone for RSPM (Particulate matter with size less than 10micron i.e., PM₁₀) and NO_x monitoring. Location of the stations should be decided based on the meteorological data, topographical features and environmentally and ecologically sensitive targets and frequency of monitoring should be undertaken in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.
 - (xvi) Data on ambient air quality [(RSPM(Particulate matter with size less than 10micron i.e., PM₁₀) and NO_x] should be regularly submitted to the Ministry including its Regional office located at Bhubaneswar and the State Pollution Control Board / Central Pollution Control Board once in six months.
 - (xvii) The top soil, if any shall temporarily be stored at earmarked site(s) only and it should not be kept unutilized for long. The topsoil shall be used for land reclamation and plantation.
 - (xviii) Measures should be taken for control of noise levels below 85 dBA in the work environment. Workers engaged in operations of HEMM, etc. should be provided with ear plugs / muffs.
 - (xix) Industrial waste water (workshop and waste water from the mine) should be properly collected, treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under GSR 422 (E)

dated 19th May, 1993 and 31st December, 1993 or as amended from time to time. Oil and grease trap should be installed before discharge of workshop effluents.

- (xx) A separate environmental management cell with suitable qualified personnel should be set-up under the control of a Senior Executive, who will report directly to the Head of the Organization.
- (xxi) The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures should be kept in separate account and should not be diverted for other purpose. Year wise expenditure should be reported to the Ministry and its Regional Office located at Bhubaneswar.
- (xxii) The project authorities should inform to the Regional Office located at Bhubaneswar regarding date of financial closures and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
- (xxiii) The Regional Office of this Ministry located at Bhubaneswar shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer (s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data / information / monitoring reports.
- (xxiv) The project proponent shall submit six monthly reports on the status of compliance of the stipulated environmental clearance conditions including results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, its Regional Office Bhubneswar, the respective Zonal Office of Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Board. The proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the environmental clearance conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall simultaneously be sent to the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Bhubneswar, the respective Zonal Officer of Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Board.
- (xxv) A copy of the clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to concerned Panchayat, Zila Parisad/ Municipal Corporation, Urban Local Body and the Local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/ representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal. The clearance letter shall also be put on the website of the Company by the proponent.
- (xxvi) The State Pollution Control Board should display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional office, District Industry Centre and the Collector's office/ Tehsildar's Office for 30 days.
- (xxvii) The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31st March in Form-V as is mandated to be submitted by the project proponent to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently, shall also be put on the website of the company along with the status of compliance of environmental clearance conditions and shall also be sent to the respective Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Bhubneswar by e-mail.

(xxviii) The project authorities should advertise at least in two local newspapers of the District or State in which the project is located and widely circulated, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned, within 7 days of the issue of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and a copy of the clearance letter is available with the State Pollution Control Board and also at web site of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at <http://envfor.nic.in> and a copy of the same should be forwarded to the Regional Office of this Ministry located at Bhubaneswar.

8. The Ministry or any other competent authority may alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.

9. Failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

10. The above conditions will be enforced inter-alia, under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and rules made thereunder and also any other orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India/ High Court of Orissa and any other Court of Law relating to the subject matter.

11. Any appeal against this environmental clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.


(Dr. Saroj)
Director

Copy to:

- (i) The Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- (ii) The Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of Orissa, Secretariat, Bhubaneswar.
- (iii) The Secretary, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Orissa, Secretariat, Bhubaneswar.
- (iv) The Secretary, Department of Forests, Government of Orissa, Secretariat, Bhubaneswar.
- (v) The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032.
- (vi) The Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional Office (EZ), Ministry of Environment and Forests, A-3 Chandrashekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023.
- (vii) The Chairman, Orissa State Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, A/118 Nilakantha Nagar, Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar-751012.
- (viii) The Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, A2, W3 Curzon Road Barracks, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001.
- (ix) The District Collector, District Keonjhar, Government of Orissa.

- (x) EI Division, Ministry of Environment & Forests, EI Division, New Delhi.
- (xi) Monitoring File.
- (xii) Guard File.
- (xiii) Record File.


(Dr. Saroj)
Director