

J-11015/351/2006-IA.II(M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Impact Assessment Division

Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Agni Wing, 1st Floor, Aliganj,
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110 003.

Dated: 17th March, 2021

To,

M/s Steel Authority of India Limited

The Chief General Manager,
Barsua-Taldih Iron Mines SAIL- Raw Materials Division,
PO- Tensa, Sundargarh, Orissa-770042.

Subject: Proposal for Amendment in Environmental Clearance for re-distribution of iron ore production from Kalta and Taldih Blocks keeping total production from Barsua, Taldih & Kalta Blocks within permitted EC capacity of 8.05 MTPA under para 7(ii) of EIA Notification 2006 for Integrated Barsua-Taldih-Kalta Iron Ore Mining project (ML-130, Lease area 2486.383 Ha) of M/s Steel Authority of India Limited, located in Village Tantra and within Toda RF, Tehsil Koira, District Sundergarh, Odisha - Amendment in EC.

Sir,

The proposal of M/s Steel Authority of India Limited is for Amendment in Environmental Clearance for re-distribution of iron ore production from Kalta and Taldih Blocks keeping total production from Barsua, Taldih & Kalta Blocks within permitted EC capacity of 8.05 MTPA under para 7(ii) of EIA Notification 2006 for Integrated Barsua-Taldih-Kalta Iron Ore Mining project (ML-130, Lease area 2486.383 Ha), located in Village Tantra and within Toda RF, Tehsil Koira, District Sundergarh, Odisha. The Mining Lease area is 18 km long and comprises of 3 mining blocks namely Barsua (Southern part), Taldih (Middle part) and Kalta (Northern part). The mine lease area falls under the Survey of India Toposheet No. 73G/1 and bounded by latitude 21°49'25.43800" to 21°59'50.88516"N and longitudes from 85°07'43.73832" to 85° 13'53.48136"E.

2. As per EIA Notification dated 14th September, 2006 as amended from time to time, the project falls under Category A or Activity 1(a) as the mining lease area is greater than 100 ha.

3. The Project Proponent submitted that the Environmental Clearance was granted for a production capacity of 8.05 Million Tonnes of iron ore along with setting up of a beneficiation plant of 4.25 million TPA (in additional to existing plant of 2.5 million TPA) and setting up of a pelletisation plant of 2.0 million TPA capacity involving total mine lease area of 2486.391 Ha by MoEF&CC vide letter no. J-11015/351/2006-IA.II(M) dated 29.10.2010. PP has earlier obtained Amendment in EC vide MoEF&CC letter no. J-11015/351/2006-

Pankaj Kumar

IA.II(M) dated 30.03.2016. The EC was further amended for change in excavation & dispatch pattern with provisions for dispatch of tailings / dump fines from three mining blocks under ML-130 by MoEF&CC letter no. J-11015/351/2006-IA.II (M) dated 3rd July, 2020 with corrigendum dated 13th July 2020.

4. The Project Proponent informed that the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India vide Order no. F.NO/16/30/2019-M.VI dated 16.09.2019 directed concerned State Governments to allow SAIL to sell iron ore up to 25% of total previous year production to mitigate shortage of iron ore on account of expired mining leases pertaining to merchant mining on 31.03.2020. Govt. of Odisha vide order dated 02.12.2019 allowed SAIL to sell up to 25% of previous year production from SAIL mines in Odisha. Accordingly, SAIL has planned to maximize iron ore production from its mines up to EC permitted capacities and supply the additional iron ore in the open market in addition to meeting its own requirements. Taldih Mine commenced operation only in Nov., 2016. Due to limited availability of diverted area, production bottle-necks have developed and the mine's capacity is limited to 1.35 MTPA (i.e. 0.7 MTPA less than the permitted capacity of 2.05 MTPA). On the other hand Kalta Mine is operating since 1966 and the quarries are fully developed. In order to make up for the shortfall in iron ore production from Taldih, it is proposed to increase iron ore production from Kalta to 3.2 MTPA from 2.5 MTPA. The production from Barsua block would remain unchanged (3.5 MTPA). Thus the permitted capacity of 8.05 MTPA would not be exceeded. This can be achieved with existing resources without any increase in lease area (2486.383 ha). In view of the above, the Project Proponent applied for Amendment in Environmental Clearance vide online Proposal No:IA/OR/MIN/197576/2021 dated 13.02.2021 for Change in Project Configuration of Barsua-Taldih-Kalta Iron ore Mining Project (ML-130) of SAIL for redistribution of production amongst of two of the three blocks of the mine (Kalta & Taldih) without changing the total approved capacity of the entire mine (8.05 MTPA) and mine lease area (2486.383 ha) under Para 7(ii) of EIA Notification 2006. The proposal for amendment in Environmental Clearance (EC) was considered before the Expert Appraisal Committee (Non-Coal Mining) in its 28th EAC meeting held during 24th-26th February, 2021.

5. The Project Proponent submitted that the baseline environmental data covering air quality, water quality, noise levels generated by SAIL during the period April, 2019 to March, 2020 and traffic density studies conducted during January, 2021 at a selected location. PP submitted that the fugitive emissions in the work zone are carried at five locations in Barsua Iron Mine (BIM), three locations in Taldih Iron Mine (TIM) and four locations in Kalta Iron Mine (KIM). The SPM values in all the twelve locations are well within the prescribed limits as per MoEF Notification No. GSR 809(E) dt 04.10.2010 for iron ore mining and processing. In addition, Continuous AAQ Monitoring stations (CAAQMS) have also been installed at three locations for measurement of PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, Sulphur-dioxide (SO₂) and Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x). The results indicated that the ambient air quality is within the norms of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), 2009. The noise levels had been monitored at three AAQ locations and four locations in the work zone during the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2019 - 20. During the 3rd & 4th Quarters of 2019 - 2020, noise was monitored at eleven locations in work zone and is found to be within the prescribed limits of CPCB. The ground

Pankaj Verma

water analysis was carried out 3 locations every month and observed to well within the prescribed limits of IS: 10500 (2012). The surface water analysis was carried out 6 locations every month and it is observed that the water is slightly reddish though is suitable for drinking in absence of any alternate source. Quality of Tailing Dam supernatant water before discharge and Tailing Dam Overflow water i.e. Discharge Water monitored every month. The results for pH, TSS, oil & Grease, BOD and COD were well with the prescribed limits. PP submitted that the Barsua, Taldih and Kalta Iron Mines under ML – 130 have implemented the Integrated Management System (IMS) and accredited to Quality Management System (QMS linked ISO – 9001 - 2015), Environmental Management System (EMS linked to ISO – 14001: 2015) and Occupational Health and Safety Management System (linked to ISO – 45001 - 2018).

6. The Project Proponent submitted the past production details for the period 1993-94 to 2018-19 duly authenticated by Deputy Director of Mines, Koira vide Lr. No. 6522/Mines dated 13.12.2019. PP reported that subsequent to the judgment of Apex Court dated 02.08.2017 the Government of Odisha has issued demand notice to Barsua Kalta Mines for payment of compensation towards excess production on or before 31st December, 2017 against EC/CTO capacity. Dy. Director of Mines (DDM), Koira vide letter dated 02.09.2017 issued a demand notice for payment of Rs. 66,89,42,779.5 /- in respect of Barsua / Kalta Iron Mines to recover price of mineral produced without/beyond EC alone under Section 21 (5) of MMDR Act, 1957. The said amount was deposited on 29.12.2017 under protest. Further, letter No.5962/Mines dtd 24.10.2017 of DDM, Koira has directed to pay compensation of Rs.90,19,71,684.40 /- for mining in excess of the permissible limit under the Consent to Operate. Against the above stated demands, SAIL had filed a Writ Petition bearing WP (C) No- 24282/2017 in High Court of Odisha, Cuttack. The matter was heard and Hon'ble High Court had passed the stay order on 04.04.2018 & matter is sub-judice. PP also submitted the affidavit dated 20.04.2020 that Barsua-Taldih-Kalta Iron Ore Mine (ML-130, Mining Lease: 2486.383 Ha) of SAIL shall comply with all the statutory requirement & judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 2nd August 2017 in writ Petition (civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of common cause versus Union of India & Ors subject to the result of the pending writ petitions before Hon'ble High Court of Odisha and further appeals thereto if need arises.

7. The proposal for amendment in Environmental Clearance (EC) was considered before the Expert Appraisal Committee (Non-Coal Mining) in its 28th EAC meeting held during 24th-26th February, 2021. The Committee has deliberated in detail and opined that the proposal is for amendment in EC for redistribution of the production within the sanctioned EC capacity. In view of the above, the Committee **recommended** the proposal for Amendment in Environmental Clearance under para 7(ii) of EIA Notification 2006 for re-distribution as (i) increase in iron ore production from Kalta Block by 0.7 MTPA from 2.5 MTPA and the final capacity is 3.2 MTPA which also includes maximum of 0.5 MTPA of sub-grade iron ore fines excavated from accumulated stocks and (ii) reduction in iron ore production from Taldih Block by 0.7 MTPA from 2.05 MTPA and the final capacity is 1.35 MTPA which also includes maximum of 0.5 MTPA of sub-grade iron ore fines excavated from accumulated stocks within permitted EC capacity of 8.05 MTPA for Integrated Barsua-Taldih-Kalta Iron Ore Mining project (ML-130, Lease area 2486.383 Ha) of M/s Steel Authority of India

Sanjay Kumar

Limited, located in Village Tantra and within Toda RF, Tehsil Koira, District Sundergarh, Odisha keeping all the other terms and conditions of earlier EC dated 30.03.2016, 30.07.2020 and 13.07.2020 remain unchanged.

8. The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has examined the proposal in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and further amendments thereto; and after accepting the recommendation of EAC meeting held during 24th - 26th February, 2021 hereby decided to accord the amendment of Environmental Clearance under the provisions there to the above mentioned proposal for grant of Amendment in Environmental Clearance under para 7(ii) of EIA Notification 2006 for re-distribution as (i) increase in iron ore production from Kalta Block by 0.7 MTPA from 2.5 MTPA and the final capacity is 3.2 MTPA which also includes maximum of 0.5 MTPA of sub-grade iron ore fines excavated from accumulated stocks and (ii) reduction in iron ore production from Taldih Block by 0.7 MTPA from 2.05 MTPA and the final capacity is 1.35 MTPA which also includes maximum of 0.5 MTPA of sub-grade iron ore fines excavated from accumulated stocks within permitted EC capacity of 8.05 MTPA for Integrated Barsua-Taldih-Kalta Iron Ore Mining project (ML-130, Lease area 2486.383 Ha) of M/s Steel Authority of India Limited, located in Village Tantra and within Toda RF, Tehsil Koira, District Sundergarh, Odisha. All other terms & conditions of the Environmental Clearance granted vide EC dated 30.03.2016, 30.07.2020 and 13.07.2020 shall remain same along with the following specific conditions:

- I. The Project Proponent shall submit the additional EMP cost to take care for extraction of 0.7MTPA ROM and its transportation to Roxy railway siding.
- II. The Project Proponent also informed that the internal haul road of 4.5km leading to National Highway will be used for next 4 years. The Committee permitted to utilize the internal haul road for next 4 years only by which time the conveyor shall be installed.
- III. Production from Barsua Block (3.5 MTPA) shall remain unchanged.
- IV. Total production from Mines (8.05 MTPA) shall remain unchanged.
- V. No change in M.L. Area (2486.383 ha) or method of mining or mineral transport.

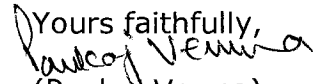
9. The Ministry or any other competent authority may alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.

10. Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated date and failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

11. 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 there under and also any other orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India/High Court and any other Court of law relating to the subject matter.

Pankaj Verma

12. 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.
13. PP shall also obtain the NOC from the statutory bodies as required to be obtained.
14. These issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

 (Pankaj Verma)


Scientist 'E'

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Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India Shastri Bhawan, NewDelhi.
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 State Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, A/118 Nilakantha Nagar, Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar-751012.
8. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (C), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office (EZ), A/3, Chandrasekharapur Bhubaneswar -751023.
9. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Prakurti Bhawan, 5th floor, BDA Apartment, Nilakanthanagar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012, Odisha.
10. The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032.
11. The Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, Indira Bhavan, 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, Sundergarh District, Govt. of Odisha.
14. Guard File.
15. PARIVESH PORTAL.


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