



सत्यमेव जयते

File No.: J-11015/331/2006-IA.II(M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
IA Division



Dated 21/12/2023



To,

M/s
STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LTD
587-A, 5th Floor, Ispat Bhawan Bhilai Steel Plant Steel Authority of India Ltd. BHILAI-490001 Du
587-A, 5th Floor, Ispat Bhawan Bhilai Steel Plant Steel Authority of India Ltd. BHILAI-490001 Du,
Bhilai, DURG, CHHATTISGARH, Bhilai Steel Plant, 490001
sksaha@sail-bhilaisteel.com

Subject: Amendment in Environmental Clearance dated 04.06.2009 for Changes in Operation of Rowghat Iron Ore Project of M/s SAIL's Bhilai Steel Plant (Despatch of Maximum 2.0 MTPA of Iron Ore by Road up to Antagarh Rly. Siding and / or Bhanupratappur Rly. Siding and then by Rail to Bhilai), located in Matla Reserve Forests, Narainpur and Kanker District, Chhattisgarh – Amendment in EC – reg.

Sir/Madam,

This is in reference to your application submitted to MoEF&CC vide proposal number EC23A0000CG5559947A 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.	EC23A0000CG5559947A
(ii) File No.	J-11015/331/2006-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	Amendment in Environmental Clearance for Changes in Operation of Rowghat Iron Ore Project of SAIL's Bhilai Steel Plant (Despatch of Maximum 2.0 MTPA of Iron Ore by Road up to Antagarh Rly. Siding and / or Bhanupratappur Rly. Siding and then by Rail to Bhilai) under Para 7(ii) of EIA Notification 2006.

(viii) Location of Project (District, State)	KANKER, CHHATTISGARH
(ix) Issuing Authority	MoEF&CC
(x) EC Date	
(xii) Applicability of General Conditions	NO
(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 Expert Appraisal Committee EAC under the provision of EIA notification 2006 and its subsequent amendments.
2. The above-mentioned proposal has been considered by Expert Appraisal Committee EAC in the meeting held on 14/11/2023. 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 brief about the reasons for an amendment requested along with comparison table illustrating the details of amendments are annexed to this letter as Annexure (1)
4. The brief about the reasons for an amendment requested along with comparison table illustrating the details of amendments are annexed to this letter as Annexure (1)The EAC, in its meeting held on 15/11/2023, based on information & clarifications provided by the project proponent and after detailed deliberations recommended the proposal for grant of amendment in Environment Clearance under the provision of EIA Notification, 2006 and as amended thereof.
5. The MoEF&CC has examined the proposal in accordance with the extant provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 & further amendments thereto and based on the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee hereby accords amendment in Environment Clearance for the instant proposal to M/s. STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LTD under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and as amended thereof subject to compliance of EC conditions, general instructions issued vide EC identification number EC23A0000CG5559947A and following certain additional specific conditions.
6. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Copy To

1. **The Secretary**, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001.
2. **The Secretary**, Department of Environment, Government of Chhattisgarh.
3. **The Secretary**, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Chhattisgarh, Chhattisgarh.
4. **The Chairman**, Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, Nanak Niwas, Civil Lines, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
5. **The Inspector General of Forests**, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Aranya Bhawan, North Block, Sector-19, Naya Raipur, Atal Nagar, Chhattisgarh - 492002.
6. **The Controller General**, Indian Bureau of Mines, Indira Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440 001.
7. **Regional Officer**, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440001.
8. **The Chairman**, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-Cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi-110 032.
9. **The Member Secretary**, Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, Paryavas Bhavan, North Block Sector-19, Atal Nagar Dist- Raipur(C.G.)-492002.

10. **The Member Secretary**, Central Ground Water Authority, 18/11, Jam Nagar House, Man Singh Road, New Delhi-110011.
11. **The Chief Wildlife Warden**, Govt. of Chattisgarh, Aranya Bhavan, Jail Road, Fafadih Chowk, Raipur - 492001.
12. **The District Collector, Narainpur and Kanker District**, Govt. of Chhattisgarh.
13. **Guard File.**
14. **PARIVESH Portal.**

Annexure 1

Specific EC Conditions for (Mining Of Minerals)

1. Water Management Structures

S. No	EC Conditions
1.1	Periodical maintenance of surface water management structures has to be carried out to prevent and control the water pollution and soil erosion. The Project Proponent shall take adequate measures to prevent the washout of fines during monsoon season.

2. Air Quality Data

S. No	EC Conditions
2.1	The real time data generated by continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations (CAAQMS) should be displayed digitally at entry and exit gate of mine lease area for public display and shall be linked to server of CPCB/SPCB.

3. Gap Plantation

S. No	EC Conditions
3.1	The Project Proponent shall undertake the gap plantation and shall plant quality sapling of appropriate height of native and fruit bearing species. In case of tall transplants (seedlings) the seedlings should have proper trained root stock with root biomass commensurate with seedling height to ensure good growth after out planting.

4. Clean Energy

S. No	EC Conditions
4.1	The Project Proponent shall explore the possibility of using atleast 20% of Electric vehicles/CNG/Solar instead of diesel operation within three years.

5. Mining Activity

S. No	EC Conditions
5.1	Mining activity is restricted to an area of 883.22 ha for which the Stage-II Forest Clearance is available.

6. Miscellaneous

S. No	EC Conditions
6.1	All other terms and conditions mentioned in the EC letter dated 04.06.2009, 15.03.2010, 08.06.2017 and 25.01.2022 shall remain unchanged.

7. Production

S. No	EC Conditions
7.1	The dispatch of 2.0 MTPA (Maximum) of Iron Ore by Road up to Antagarh Rly. Siding and / or Bhanupratappur Rly. Siding and then by Rail to Bhilai is allowed in two phases for a period of two years i.e., 1.5 MTPA for a period of 6 months w.e.f 01.01.2024 to 30.06.2024 and 2.0 MTPA (1.5 MTPA + 0.5 MTPA) for a period of 18 months w.e.f 01.07.2024 to 31.12.2025. Accordingly, State Pollution Control Board shall grant the Consent to Operate (CTO).

8. Progress Of Rail Link

S. No	EC Conditions
8.1	The Project Proponent shall speed up the progress of the rail link and monthly progress/status along with the photographs shall be submitted to the Regional Office of MoEF&CC.

9. Road Transportation

S. No	EC Conditions
9.1	Fugitive dust monitoring shall be monitored regularly at all the sensitive receptors and report shall be submitted quarterly to the Regional Office of MoEF&CC.
9.2	The Project Proponent shall maintain the entire mineral transportation route by road at their own cost. The Project Proponent shall also periodically maintain the roads to reduce the fugitive emissions from roads and also the vehicular emissions.
9.3	The wheel washing facility for the ore transport vehicles shall be provided at the exit point of the mine. The wheel washing facility shall be integrated with complete recirculation system.
9.4	Over loading of transport equipment's should be avoided to prevent spillage. Vehicles involved in transporting the material should be covered to prevent fugitive dust emission.
9.5	The Project Proponent shall undertake the dense plantation all along the haul roads and approach roads to attenuate the fugitive dust.

S. No	EC Conditions
9.6	The Project Proponent shall ensure that the additional traffic on the road in no way shall be hindrance to the public. Traffic marshal shall be deployed to ensure the safe movement of transportation.
9.7	Regular sprinkling shall be done on roads to suppress the dust at the source.

10. Validity

S. No	EC Conditions
10.1	This amendment in EC will be valid for a period of a 2 (two) years only w.e.f 01.01.2024.

11. Single Use Plastic

S. No	EC Conditions
11.1	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.

12. Regrassing

S. No	EC Conditions
12.1	The mining lease holders shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake regrassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc. The implementation report of the above said condition shall be submitted to the Ministry's Regional Office.

Additional EC Conditions

2. The details of the project as ascertained from the document submitted by the Project Proponent and revealed from the discussions held during the meeting are given as under:

- The proposed project activity is listed at schedule no. 1(a) Mining of Minerals and falls under Category "A" as the mining lease area is greater than 250ha and accordingly, appraised at the Central level.

1. Details of previous Environmental Clearance (EC):

Date of application	Proposal No	Consideration	Details	Date of accord
28.07.2007	IA/CG/MIN/8566/2009	-	Production of 14.0 MTPA of iron ore mining over a lease area of 883.22ha	04.06.2009
23.06.2009	-	-	Partial modification in EC letter dated 04.06.2009 and additional specific conditions were imposed	15.03.2010
09.02.2017	IA/CG/MIN/	February 20-	Transportation of 0.3 million TPA of ore from Rowghat M.L to	08.06.2017

	8566/2009	21, 2017	Keonti by road and further onwards to Dalli Raihara/Bhilai through rail till 2021	
01.11.2021	IA/CG/MIN/236647/2021	30th Nov - 3rd Dec, 2021	Extension of validity of amendment in Environmental Clearance granted on 08.06.2017 for Rowghat Iron Ore mine Deposit F [ML area 2028.797ha and production capacity 14 million TPA] for transportation of 0.3 MTPA of iron ore from Rowghat ML to Keonti rail head by road and further onwards to Dalli Rajhara/Bhilai by rail located in Matla Reserve Forests, in Narainpur and Kanker District, Chhattisgarh for a period of another two (2) years i.e., till 31.12.2023	25.01.2022

1. Now, the Project Proponent has requested for amendment in EC dated 04.06.2009 for Changes in Operation of Rowghat Iron Ore Project of M/s SAIL's Bhilai Steel Plant (Despatch of Maximum 2.0 MTPA of Iron Ore by Road up to Antagarh Rly. Siding and / or Bhanupratappur Rly. Siding and then by Rail to Bhilai) as mentioned below:

S. No	Reference	Description	Existing	Amendment sought	Reason for amendment
1	Para 2 of Original EC 04.06.2009	Change in Process	14 MTPA Crushed Ore Disptached to downhill through 12 KM Conveyor length	2 MTPA Crushed and Screened Ore transport through Road from Hill Top from existing 0.3 MTPA	Downhill conveyor not installed due to non handing over of land by forest department
2	Para 2 of Original EC	Change in Process	14 MTPA Screening Ore transport through Rail from Rowghat Siding located at Foot Hill to Bhilai Steel Plant	Total 2 MTPA Screened Material transport through Road Length 235 KM maximum upto Antagarh or Bhanuprtappur Siding till Dec'26 from existing 0.3 MTPA upto Dec'23)	Railway siding not commissioned due to hindrances caused due to Left wing extremism Consequently delay in handing over of land by GoCG
3	Para 14 of Amended EC dated 25.01.2022	Amendment in Quantity and extension of time	0.3 MTPA transport through Road upto Keonti Siding validity upto Dec'23	Request for allowing dispatch through road @ 2.0 MTPA till Dec.,'26 which includes: 1. @ 0.8 MTPA of iron ore up to Antagarh Railway Siding via Tadoki (direct route) 2. 1.2 MTPA up to Bhanupratappur/Antagarh Railway Siding via Narainpur & Kanker (long route) and subsequently by rail to Bhilai. 3. In case of law and order problem along the Rowghat Mine to Antagarh Siding (direct route) as is often the case, the entire ore will be trucked to Bhanupratappur/Antagarh Siding via Narainpur & Kanker.	Railway Siding Commissioned only upto Antagarh Siding. Expected to reach Rowghat by Dec'25 and development of associated infrastructure by Dec'26

1. The Project Proponent has submitted the mine lease deed was executed on 21.10.2009 and is valid for a period of 20

years. The entire lease area of 2028.797 ha is a Forest Land. Stage-II Forest Clearance was obtained vide letter no. F.No.8-44/2005-FC (Pt), dated 3rdAug., 2009for diversion of 883.22 ha of forest land.

2. The Project Proponent has submitted that the Rowghat Mine commenced mining operations only in late Feb., 2022. Prevailing micro-meteorological conditions, ambient air quality (14 locations), noise levels (14 locations) and water quality (Groundwater: 5 locations and Surface water: 5 locations), soil quality (6 locations) were assessed by carrying baseline environmental data generation for one month during May, 2023 (Summer Season). Traffic density on the proposed ore evacuation route was also studied.
3. The Project Proponent has submitted the certified compliance report issued by the Sub Office, MoEF&CC vide letter dated 10.10.2023 for the EC's dated 04.06.2009, 15.03.2010, 08.06.2017 and 25.01.2022. The site visit was conducted on 18.09.2023. Then, the Project Proponent has submitted the action taken report on 16.10.2023 to the Regional Office, MoEF&CC. The Ministry vide letter dated 02.11.2023 requested the Regional Office, Nagpur to submit the review report of the ATR submitted by Project Proponent. Then, the Project Proponent vide email dated 13.11.2023 submitted the revised and updated action taken report.

3. Observation and Recommendation of the EAC:

The Project Proponent has informed the EAC that the instant proposal is for amendment in EC dated 04.06.2009 for changes in operation of Rowghat Iron Ore Project of M/s SAIL's Bhilai Steel Plant for dispatch of Maximum 2.0 MTPA of Iron Ore by Road up to Antagarh Rly. Siding and / or Bhanupratappur Rly. Siding and then by Rail to Bhilai. Initially, Environmental Clearance (EC) was obtained on 04.06.2009 for production of 14.0 MTPA of Iron ore. The ore is dispatched by rail to SAIL's Bhilai Steel Plant located at a distance of 185 km from the mine lease area. There has been delay in commissioning of rail link to Rowghat due to Left wing extremism activities and obtaining forest clearance. In this regard, amendment in EC dated 04.06.2009 has been sought to allow dispatch through road @ 2.0 MTPA till Dec.,2026 from the existing capacity of 0.3 MTPA by road. About 81% of the rail works has been completed upto Tadoki (77km) and the remaining work up to Rowghat will be completed by June, 2025and it is expected to commission the Rowghat Station by Dec 2025 and associated linking infrastructure by Dec, 2026. The Bhilai Steel Plant is the sole producer and supplier for strategically important products to Indian Railways. The Bhilai Steel Plant is completely dependent on Rowghat Iron Ore mine and this project is an importance of national interest. The EAC noted the public complaints were received against the project and also in support of the project to increase their production capacity.

Then, the Project Proponent has presented the KML file and shown the boundary of the Rowghat mine lease area and informed the EAC that the entire mine lease area of 2028.797 ha is a Forest Land. Presently mining activity is being carried out in Anjarel block. The present proposal is to transport the ore of 0.8 MTPA from Rowghat to Antagarh Railway siding (~58km by road) via Tadoki (direct route) and 1.2 MTPA ore to Antagarh / BhanupratappurRailway Siding (232 km/200km by road) via Narainpur & Kanker (long route). Due to law and order issue, the State Govt. has suggested to take the longer routevia Narainpur & Kanker to reach Antagarh / BhanupratappurRailway Siding. If the law and order issue exists via Tadoki route, the entire material will be transported through longer route as suggested by the State Govt. The Project Proponent also informed the EAC that the own RCC road of 7.5m width has been developed by the Project Proponent with an estimated budget of Rs 35 Cr from the foot hill of Rowghat to SH-5. Further, the Project Proponent has shown the photographs of the road developed by M/s SAIL, SH 5 between Tadoki & Antagarh, Road linking SH-5 with Antagarh Siding, Kondagaon bypass road, Kanker bypass road and SH 6 between Kanker &Bhanupratappur. Project Proponent also shown the photographs of Antagarh and Bhanupratappur Railway sidings and also the progress of the rail link.

The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the project is well equipped to produce 2.0 MTPA. Transportation will be outsourced and local people will be involved in transportation. The EIA Consultant has informed the EAC that the baseline data was generated during May, 2023. The ambient air quality stations (14 locations) were monitored in the mine lease and all along the transportation route. Noise levels at 14 locations were within the norms prescribed by CPCB. Surface water quality has been monitored at 5 locations and found to be suitable for drinking after conventional treatment and disinfection. Traffic density was studied on the transport route at 9 locations at hourly intervals. Additional load on the road will not have impact and the resultant concentration of PM10due to transportation will be ~91.14 g/m3, PM2.5: ~47.1 g/m3, SO2:15.8 g/m3 and NOx: 25.26 g/m3. The Project Proponent also detailed about the CSR activities being taken up.

The Project Proponent has shown the certified past production details dated 06.07.2023 from the year 2020-21 to 2022-23. The Project Proponent has submitted the certified compliance report issued by the Sub Office, MoEF&CC vide letter dated 10.10.2023 for the EC's dated 04.06.2009, 15.03.2010, 08.06.2017 and 25.01.2022. The site visit was conducted on 18.09.2023. Then, the Project Proponent has submitted the action taken report on 16.10.2023 to the Regional Office, MoEF&CC.

After detailed deliberations made by the Project Proponent and the Consultant, the EAC opined that the dispatch of 2.0 MTPA (Maximum) of Iron Ore by Road up to Antagarh Rly. Siding and / or Bhanupratappur Rly. Siding and then by Rail to Bhilai will be allowed in two phases for a period of two years i.e., 1.5 MTPA for a period of 6 months w.e.f 01.01.2024 to 30.06.2024 and 2.0 MTPA (1.5 MTPA + 0.5 MTPA) for a period of 18 months w.e.f 01.07.2024 to 31.12.2025 considering the pollution load due to transportation by road. The EAC also opined that meanwhile, the Project Proponent shall speed up the progress of the rail link. Based on the discussions held, the EAC in its meeting held during 14-15 November, 2023 under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and its subsequent amendments therein; **recommended** the proposal for amendment in EC dated 04.06.2009 for dispatch of Maximum 2.0 MTPA of Iron Ore by Road up to Antagarh Rly. Siding and / or Bhanupratappur Rly. Siding and then by Rail to M/s SAIL's Bhilai Steel Plant from Rowghat Iron Ore Project [MLA:2028.797 ha] of M/s SAIL, located in Matla Reserve Forests, Narainpur and Kanker District, Chhattisgarh along with the following additional specific conditions mentioned below: -

Annexure 2

Amendment Logs

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