

F.No. J-11015/418/2008-IA. II (M)

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Impact Assessment Division)



3rd Floor, Vayu Block
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 30th July, 2020

To,

M/s. Steel Authority of India Limited

Raw Materials Division,
Bolani Ores Mines, P.O.: Bolani,
Dist: Keonjhar, Odisha - 758037

Sub: Proposal for change in excavation & dispatch pattern of Bolani Iron Ore Mine [ML Area 1321.45 ha] of M/s Steel Authority of India Limited located at Village Bolani, Tehsil- Barbil, District Keonjhar, Odisha- EC under Para 7(ii) of EIA EIA Notification, 2006 - Regarding.

Ref: Online application No: IA/OR/MIN/139447/2020

Sir,

This has reference to letter vide No.SAIL/RMD/BOM/2020/E&L/1886 dated 28.01.2020 and online proposal No. **IA/OR/MIN/139447/2020** dated 31st January, 2020 of M/s. Steel Authority of India Limited for grant of EC under para 7(ii) of EIA Notification 2006 (as amended) for change in excavation & dispatch pattern by increasing excavation and dispatch of iron ore fines from existing Fines Dumps up to 3.0 MTPA (from present 0.5 MTPA) and Modification of Mining parameters including updating of reserves and waste generation keeping total production within approved EC capacity of 12 MTPA. Bolani Iron Ore Mine (1321.45 ha) is located at Villages Bolani & Balagoda and Karo Reserve Forest (R.F.) in Barbil Tehsil, Champua Sub- division, Keonjhar District of Odisha. The lease area forms part of Survey of India topo-sheet no: 73 F/8 (F45H/8) and is bounded by latitude 22° 05'11.65848" N & 22° 07'46.2869"N & longitudes 85° 16'52.81330" E – 85° 20'13.85260"E.

2. PP submitted that Bolani Ore Mines comprises of two adjacent leases; Bolani 5.1 Sq. Mile Lease (area: 1321.45 ha) and Bolani 6.9 Sq. Mile Lease (area: area: 1786.74 ha). 5.1 Sq. Mile lease is the main iron ore mining lease. 6.9 Sq. Mile Lease is a manganese ore mining lease. The two leases are adjacent to each other and have common infrastructure such as Railway siding, loading plant, crushing & screening,

conveyors, power-lines, magazine, township, office, guest house, hospital, roads, Tailing Dam etc. The lease comprises of 1312.86 ha Forest Land and 8.59 ha Non-Forest Land under the villages of Bolani and Balagoda. The 5.1 Sq. Mile ML was granted for 30 years with validity from 11.04.1960 to 10.04.1990. The lease has been renewed up to 09-04-2030 vide express order of Govt. of Odisha, Steel & Mines Department. Stage-II Forest clearance exists for the total forest land within the Mining Lease.

4. PP submitted that previously EC was obtained vide letter no. J-11015/418/2008-IA. II(M) dated 21st December, 2012 for increasing the production from the mine from 5.65 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 12.00 MTPA of Iron Ore (ROM), increasing the beneficiation plant's capacity to 12 MTPA and installing a new 4 MTPA pelletisation plant.

5. Project Proponent informed that Ministry of Mines, Gov. of India have noted in their Order F.No. 16/30/2019-M.VI dated 16th September, 2019 that vast stocks of slimes and sub-grade ore are lying at mine pit heads of captive mines of SAIL and are liable to cause environmental hazards. Accordingly, Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India have accorded permission for selling of these low grade mineral (tailings and sub-grade ore) in the open market to maximise the availability of iron ore for the purpose of beneficiation and pelletisation and subsequent use for iron & steel making and to protect the environment such that mineral can be exhausted and environmental hazards can be mitigated. The disposal of such stockpiles would enhance the availability of iron ore for the purpose of beneficiation and pelletisation and subsequent use for iron & steel making. Further, Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India has also directed concerned State Governments to allow SAIL to sell fresh iron ore up to 25% of total previous year production to mitigate the risk of possible shortage of iron ore on account of expiry of mining leases pertaining to merchant mining on 31.03.2020.

6. PP submitted that due to the above reasons, it has proposed the amendments viz. i) Excavation of iron ore from Bolani 5.1 Sq. Miles Mining Lease at 12 MTPA including a provision for excavation of maximum up to 3 MTPA iron ore fines from the existing Fines Dumps for selling in the open market. The excavated iron ore fines will be dispatched through rail/road or road & rail combination. 1.0 MTPA of excavated fines will be dispatched from SAIL's Bolani railway siding by transporting through internal road over 0.8 km. About 1.0 MTPA of fines will be dispatched from Bolani Public Siding by transporting through public road over about 2 km and 1 MTPA by public road over about 8 km to Barbil Public Siding or beyond by NH (NH – 520) as per prevailing condition. Since pellet plant is yet to be installed, option for dispatching of the excavated fines to external pellet conversion agencies and use the converted pellets by SAIL plants is also proposed, ii) Installation of mobile in pit crushing and screening plants of capacity up to 300 TPH, one no. in each D, Panposh, F, G and B & C Quarry for achieving the maximum production within the approved EC capacity, iii) Updation of mineral reserves from 137.72 MT (with life of mine 12 years) to 315 MT (with life of mine 26 years), which has been established through exploration and iv) Updation of waste quantity after detailed exploration from 13.729 Mm³ to 56.042 Mm³ till the end of conceptual period as per the updated reserves. Accordingly, change in land use area

under OB dumping from 38.02 ha to 64.81 ha till conceptual period to accommodate additional quantity of waste.

7. The Project Proponent reported that the Scheme of Mining for the period 01.04.2015 to 31.03.2020 was approved by IBM, Bhubaneswar vide letter no. MS/FM/31-ORI/BHU/2014-15, dated 03.08.2015 and subsequent modification of Review of Mining Plan for the period 2018-2020 approved by IBM, Bhubaneswar vide letter no. MSM/FM/17--ORI/BHU/2018-19/1086, dated 06.08.2018 valid up to 31.03.2020. The review of the mining plan for the period 2020-2025 has already been approved by IBM vide letter no. RMP/A/19-ORI/BHU/2019-20 dated 13.11.2019 covering the above proposed changes. Consent to Operate has been obtained from OSPCB, Bhubaneswar vide letter no. IND-I-CON-242 dated 28.03.2019 which was valid till 31.03.2020 and subsequently it has been renewed upto 31.03.2021 by OSPCB vide letter No. 3840/IND-I-CON-242, dated 27.03. 2020. Certified Compliance report of Environmental Clearance has been obtained from the Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhubaneswar vide letter no. 101-570/09/EPE dated 29.01.2020. Stage-II Forest clearance exists for the total forest land within the Mining Lease.

8. Project Proponent submitted that in order to assess the likely impacts, if any, on the local road infrastructure and air quality of the area, due to the proposed above mentioned changes in the scope of work, specific environmental studies viz., Traffic Density Study and Air Quality Impact Prediction Study have been carried out and incorporated in the addendum to EIA/EMP Report. It has been observed that adequate road capacity is available to undertake additional traffic load due to iron ore transportation by road from fine dumps located in 5.1 Sq. Mile lease as proposed. Further, the air quality impact predication also shows the quality of air within the permissible limit. The proposed 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 besides meeting the iron ore demand during scarcity period of the country. PP reported that the Installation of in-pit crushing and screening plant (fixed/mobile) of capacity up to 300 TPH, one no. in each D, Panposh, F, G and B & C Quarries for achieving the maximum production (Earlier provision was for Installation of pit head crushing plant at D & Panposh (Quarries) within the approved EC capacity and Updation of mineral reserve from 137.72 MT (with life of mine 12 years) to 315 MT (with life of mine 26 years), which has been established through the exploration. Updation of Waste generation quantity after detailed exploration from 13.729 Million m³ to 56.042 Million m³ till the end of conceptual period.

9. The Project Proponent reported that subsequent to the judgment of Apex Court dated 02.08.2017, the Governments of Odisha vide letter dated 23.10.2017 issued a demand notice for payment of Rs. 47,49,46,999/-. Against this demand, 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 & matter is sub-judice.

10. The proposal was earlier placed in the 14th EAC Meeting held during February 26-27, 2020 wherein the Committee deferred the proposal for want of requisite information. The Project Proponent vide its letter dated 29.05.2020 submitted the

requisite information/clarification and the proposal was considered in **in the 18th EAC Meeting held during 22nd – 24th June, 2020**. Based on the discussion held and document submitted the Committee **recommended** the proposal for grant of EC under para 7(ii) of EIA Notification 2006 for the amendment in EC as proposed in para 6 above subject to additional specific conditions (Sl. 11 A).

11. The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has examined the proposal in accordance with the para 7(ii) of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and further amendments thereto and hereby accords the amendment (mentioned in para 6 above) as recommended by EAC subject to compliance of following additional specific conditions. The other terms & conditions of EC granted vide letter No. J-11015/418/2008-IA. II (M) dated 21.12.2012 & 17.02.2014 shall remain the same.

A: Additional Specific Conditions

- i. This amendment is valid for a period of one year and the same may be extended after the site visit or compliance monitoring by Regional Office, whichever is earlier.
- ii. Fines from the tailing dam shall not be excavated during the monsoon period.
- iii. Mitigative measures proposed for excavation and transportation of mineral shall be complied with including moist and covered.
- iv. The PP shall monitor the fugitive emissions by installing at least two AAQ monitoring stations along the transportation route.
- v. The stripping ratio and total excavation for each year shall remain same as approved in the previous EC. Any change in the same is with prior approval of the Ministry.

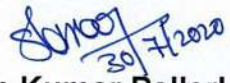
12. The Ministry or any other competent authority may alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.

13. Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated data 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.

14. 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.


15. 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.

Yours faithfully,


(Sharath Kumar Pallerla)
Scientist 'F'/Director

Copy to: -

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
2. The Secretary, Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. The Secretary, Department of Forest, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
5. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Odisha, 5th Floor, BDA Apartments, Prakruti Bhawan, Nilakantha Nagar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012.
6. The APCCF, Regional Office (EZ), A/3, Chandrasekharapur, Bhubaneswar – 751023.
7. The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi-1100032.
8. The Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, A-2, W3, Curzon Road Barracks, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001.
9. The Chairman, OSPCB, Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakantha Nagar, Unit – VIII, Bhubaneswar – 751012, Odisha.
10. The Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, Indira Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440 001.
11. The District Collector, District Keonjhar, Orissa.
12. Guard File
13. MoEF&CC Website.


(Sharath Kumar Pallerla)
Scientist 'F'/Director