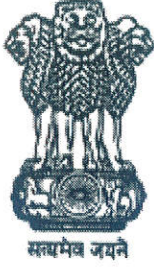


F.No. J-11015/272/2011-IA. II (M)

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(IMPACT ASSESSMENT Division)

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3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Vayu Block,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

To,

**Shri Anirudh Sharma**  
Chief General Manager (Mines)  
Steel Authority of India Ltd.  
Raw Material Division  
Gua Ore Mines, Singhbhum (West)  
Jharkhand-833213

**Subject: Amendment in Environmental Clearance granted vide letter no. EC/ SEIAA / 2015 – 16 / 694 / 2015 / 1291 dated 17th August, 2015 for selling of mineral in open market and change in mode of mineral despatch from Topailore Mining Lease (14.15 Ha) of M/s Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) 0.6 MTPA and at Village- Topailore, Tehsil- Noamundi District-West Singhbhum, Jharkhand. - (EC Amendment).**

**Ref: Online application No: IA/JH/MIN/135407/2020**

Sir,

This has reference to the proposal No. IA/JH/MIN/135407/2020 dated 17.02.2020 of M/s. Steel Authority of India Limited is for amendment in Environmental Clearance granted vide letter no. EC/ SEIAA / 2015 – 16 / 694 / 2015 / 1291 dated 17th August, 2015 for i) Transportation of part of excavated fines to Gua Public Siding by road [ existing: Transport to beneficiation plant by conveyor; proposed: Transport by Internal road to Gua public siding], ii) Excavation of fines from Fines Dump [ existing: 0.6 MTPA for beneficiation & pelletisation; proposed: 0.6 MTPA excavation for selling in open market], and iii) Transportation of remaining part of excavated fines to Gua Public Siding by road [ existing: Transport to beneficiation plant by conveyor; proposed: Transport by internal road & public road] .

2. The Topailore Mine [ ML Area 14.15 ha] of Gua Ore Mines is located in Tehsil Noamundi, District West Singhbhum, Jharkhand is a part of Survey of India Topo-sheet bearing no. 73F/8 (F45H8) and is bounded by latitudes from 22°12'35.788" N to 22°12'45.184" N and from Longitudes 85°21'0.336" E to 85°22'19.726" E. The entire mining lease area is located in Ghatkuri Reserve Forest. The Environmental Clearance has been granted by the SEIAA, Jharkhand vide letter no EC/ SEIAA / 2015 – 16 / 694 / 2015 / 1291 dated 17/08/2015 as the proposal was category 'B' project as per EIA notification 14th September 2006 (amended time to time) as the mining lease area is less than 50 Ha . However, at present SEIAA Jharkhand is not functioning and due to this proposal in Form-4 is submitted to Ministry vide proposal No. IA/JH/MIN/135407/2020 dated 17 Feb 2020 for amendment in EC. The proposal was placed in EAC meeting held during 26-27 February, 2020.

2. PP submitted that there is no geological reserve in the Topailore Lease, but about 6.58 million tonnes of iron ore fines i.e. part of the Fines Dump at Gua Ore Mines, is stacked in the lease. Environmental Clearance was granted for excavation of 0.6 million tonne per annum of Iron ore fines from the fines dump and transportation to the proposed Beneficiation & Pelletisation plants via covered conveyor which is located in adjacent Durgaiburu lease. Though all the statutory clearances exist, excavation of fines from the fines dump in the Topailore Mining Lease could not commence since installation of envisaged beneficiation & pellet plants for the processing of the fines is being delayed for want of Stage – II forest Clearance over an area of 361.295 ha which is still pending with MoEFCC, New Delhi. Of late, Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India vide order dated 16.09.2019 allowed sale of low-grade tailings/fines lying at mine pit heads at SAIL Captive Mines in open market for their effective utilization and eliminate environmental hazards. In compliance to directions of Ministry of Mines, GoI, SAIL intends to resume mining operation in Topailore Lease by excavation of the fines from the Fine Dump within the approved EC limit of 0.6 MTPA for selling in open market till installation of the envisaged beneficiation & pellet plants at Gua Ore Mines, which will take about 4 years after grant of Stage – II Forest clearance over 361.295 ha under Durgaiburu lease. The instant proposal is for modification / amendment of Environmental Clearance granted for Topailore Iron Ore Mining Project of Gua Ore Mines, SAIL to allow excavation of fines from the Fines Dump and transport involving road / rail for selling in open market.

3. PP informed that amendment is also required in the mine lease area i.e. from 14.16 ha to 14.15 ha as the Original lease deed is for 14.15 ha.

4. Project Proponent informed that Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India have noted that the large stocks of low grade material viz. low grade fines, slimes and sub-grade ore/fines extracted from the captive mines of M/s SAIL and which are not suitable for end-use of captive purposes has been accumulated over the years and which has occupied huge area within and/or



outside lease areas and are liable to cause environmental hazards. The Ministry has also observed that M/s SAIL does not have enough beneficiation and pelletisation capacity to consume these low grade fines/ore, slimes and sub-grade ore/fines. In view of the economic rationale for realisation of full value of such mineral extracted from the captive mines and providing flexibility for complete utilisation of all grades of minerals, the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India vide no. F.NO/16/30/2019-M.VI 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. The Ministry has also directed the concerned State Governments to allow M/s SAIL to sell fresh iron ore up to 25% of total previous year production for two years to mitigate the risk of possible shortage of iron ore on account of aforesaid expiry of mining leases.

5. The Project Proponent reported that the mining plan for Topailore lease was approved by IBM vide letter no. 314(3)/3006- MCCM(CZ)/MP/-17 dated 26.04.2007 for a capacity of 80,000 tonne in first year and thereafter for a capacity of 6,00,000 tonne per year for the next four years. Modification in approved of Mining Plan for period from 2017-18 to 2021-2022 has also been approved by IBM vide letter No. RAN/WSB/Fe/MP-14/2019-20 dated 26.12.2019. The entire Topailore Mining Lease area (14.15 ha) is forest area under Ghatkuri Reserve Forest. Stage-II Forest Clearance (FC) for diversion of entire forest land under the Topailore Leases over 14.15 ha has been granted by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Regional Office, Jharkhand vide letter no. 5-JHC092/2009-BHU/3497 dated 04th October, 2019. PP reported that the transportation of most of the excavated fines from the Topailore Mining Lease by private road (SAIL owned) to Gua Public Siding covering a distance of about 3.5 km for further dispatch by rail. Transportation of remaining excavated fines through private road (SAIL owned) covering a distance of 2.2 km & subsequently through Public Road up to Barajamda Railway Siding & thereafter by rail or directly by road by other agencies.

6. The Project Proponent reported that the proposed change in scope of work does not have any significant adverse impacts on environment as revealed by the studies undertaken. Further, proposed additional pollution prevention and control measures under the current proposal will further improve environmental quality and land use of the area and also maintain & improve socio-economic aspects of the region. Project Proponent also submitted that in order to assess the likely impacts, if any, on the local road infrastructure & air quality of the area, due to the proposed changes in the scope of work, specific environmental studies viz., Traffic Density Study and Air Quality Impact Prediction Study have been carried out through M/s MECON and incorporated in the enclosed 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 to the Public Sidings at Gua and Barajamda. Further, the air quality impact predication also shows the quality of air is

within the permissible limits. The proposed utilization of fines from the fines dumps will not only result in effective utilization of these low grade minerals, but also eliminates environmental hazards associated due to storage of fines. The proposed change in scope of work does not have any significant adverse impacts on environment as revealed by the studies undertaken.

8. Based on the discussion held and document submitted the Committee in the EAC meeting held during 26-27 February, 2020 and subsequent amendments suggested in the EAC meeting held during 5-6, May, 2020, the Committee **recommended** the proposal for amendment in EC w.r.t i) Transportation of part of excavated fines to Gua Public Siding by road, ii) Excavation of fines from Fines Dump iii) Transportation of remaining part of excavated fines to Gua Public Siding by road and iv) reduction of mine lease area from 14.16 ha to 14.15 ha. Mineral by road to public siding by the road within the mining lease area and road owned by M/s SAIL outside ML area. No public road will be utilised. This amendment is only valid for 5 years.

9. 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 hereby accords the Amendment in Environmental Clearance under the provisions thereof to the above mentioned proposal of M/s. Steel Authority of India Limited for i) Transportation of part of excavated fines to Gua Public Siding by road within the mining lease area or road owned by M/s SAIL, ii) Excavation of fines from Fines Dump 0.6 MTPA excavation for selling in open market and iii) reduction in lease area from 14.16 ha to 14.15 Ha. Topailore Mining Lease of located at Village- Topailore, Tehsil- Noamundi District-West Singhbhum, Jharkhand. Except above changes, all other terms and conditions as prescribed in EC letter no. EC/ SEIAA / 2015 – 16 / 694 / 2015 / 1291 dated 17th August, 2015 shall remain the same. In addition to this, as per Ministry's O.M No 22-34/2018-IA.III dated 16.01.2020 to comply with the direction made by Hon'ble Supreme Court on 8.01.2020 in W.P. (Civil) No 114/2014 in the matter Common Cause vs Union of India, *the mining lease holder shall after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to other mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc.*

10. This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

(Sharath Kumar Pallerla)  
Director/Scientist 'F'

**Copy to:**

- 1). **The Secretary**, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New



Delhi

- 2). **The Secretary**, Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Jharkhand, Secretariat, Ranchi
- 3). **The Secretary**, Department of Environment, Government of Jharkhand, Secretariat, Ranchi
- 4). **The Secretary**, Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Secretariat, Ranchi
- 5). **The Chief Wildlife Warden** of the State Govt. of Jharkhand, Ranchi
- 6). **The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests**, Regional Office (ECZ), Bunglow no. A-2, Shyamali Colony, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834002.
- 7). **The Chairman**, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032.
- 8). **The Chairman**, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board, Ranchi, Jharkhand
- 9). **The Member Secretary**, Central Ground Water Authority, A-2, W3, Curzon Road Barracks, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001.
- 10). **The Controller General**, Indian Bureau of Mines, Indira Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440 001.
- 11). **The District Collector**, Singhbhum (West), Jharkhand.
- 12). **Guard File**
- 13). **MoEF&CC website (PARIVESH Portal)**

  
19/5/2020

(Sharath Kumar Pallerla)  
Director/Scientist 'F'

