

**F.No.J-11015/251/2009-IA.II (M)**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**Impact Assessment Division**

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Prithvi Wing, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj  
New Delhi-110 003  
Date: 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

To

M/s Steel Authority of India Limited  
Raw Material Division,  
Manoharpur, Chiria, West Singhbhum,  
Jharkhand-833106

**Sub: Amendment in Environmental Clearance dated 24.01.2012 for continuation of iron ore transportation through road for another 2 years w.e.f. 23.01.2022 in Dhobil Iron Ore Mine (Production capacity of 0.75 MTPA ROM) in the mine lease area of 513.036 Ha of M/s SAIL - Bokaro Steel Plant located in Village Dhobil, Tehsil Manoharpur, District West Singhbhum, State Jharkhand- reg.**

Sir,

This has reference to proposal no. IA/JH/MIN/242657/2021 for amendment in Environmental Clearance of Dhobil Iron Ore Mining Project (Production capacity of 0.75 MTPA ROM) in the mine lease area of 513.036 ha of M/s SAIL - Bokaro Steel Plant for continuation of iron ore transportation through road for another 5 years w.e.f. 23.01.2022 located in Village Dhobil, Tehsil Manoharpur, District West Singhbhum, Jharkhand.

2. The Project Proponent submitted that apart from Dhobil mine lease, there are five more mining leases viz. Ajitaburu, Budhaburu, Sukriluturburu, Ankua and Tatiburu under Manoharpur Ore Mines, Chiria. There is about 1.5 billion tonnes of iron ore reserve & resources under these leases and are the future iron ore securities of SAIL. Accordingly, SAIL has planned for development of Chiria as a large mechanised mine with 7 MTPA capacity in 1st Phase and subsequently to 15 MTPA in 2nd phase. Under the capacity expansion plan, it has been planned to have a common Crushing & Screening Plant with capacity of 7.0 MTPA in Ajitaburu ML and the associated infrastructure facilities like beneficiation, blending, stockpiling, railway sidings, tailing ponds etc., will be located in non-forest land i.e. at Patherbasa near Manoharpur, which is about 15 km away from the mines. In order to bring ore from mines to Patherbasa, evacuation of ore has been planned through Long Distance Belt Conveyor (LDBC) which will be starting from Ajitaburu and ending in Patherbasa.

Based on the route selected, FC proposal for diversion of 14.88 ha of forest land was submitted online on 31.01.2017. Govt. of Jharkhand forwarded the proposal to MoEF&CC, GoI, Regional Office, Ranchi in 11.01.2018. The proposal was considered by

*Ranvijay Verma*

M/s Steel Authority of India Limited, Jharkhand

Regional Expert Committee (REC) MoEFCC, Integrated Regional Office (IRO), Ranchi on 11.03.2019. MoEFCC has approved Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM) for Saranda & Chaibasa Forest Divisions on 08.06.2018. As per the approved MPSM, Chiria leases are falling under Conservation Area / No Mining Zone and thus prohibits mining in entire Chiria i.e. Ankua Forest Block. However, for Dhobil lease of Chiria where Stage-II FC for already broken up area is available, mining operations (0.75 MTPA) have been allowed only within the already broken area over 29.411 ha. Grant of forest clearances under the Ankua RF including forest clearances required for Chiria mines are presently on hold by MoEFCC till reassessment of MPSM. In view of these reasons, development of Chiria mines as well as installation LDBC conveyor system for the evacuation of iron ore from mining leases of Manoharpur Iron Ore Mines could not be started. In the meantime, the prescribed time limit of 5 (five) years for ore transportation by road for Dhobil Iron Ore Mine is expiring on 23.01.2022.

3. The Project Proponent submitted vide letter dated 19.03.2022 that the implementation of the evacuation of ore from Chiria Mines through Long Distance Belt Conveyor (LDBC) is getting delayed due to delay in grant of forest clearances and implementation of the same may be done only after grant of necessary clearances and execution of mine lease deeds by the Jharkhand State Government. Considering the same implementation plan for construction of LDBC for evacuation of ore over 48 months from the zero date (date of grant of necessary clearances) has been prepared which is as follows:

S. No.	Activities	Expected Time Lines
1.0	Finalization of revision of MPSM and its approval by MoEFCC allowing mining operations in Ankua Reserve Forest including Chiria Mines.	Dec' 2022
2.0	Grant of Stage - II FC over 595.075 ha for development of Chiria Mines covering four main mining leases by MoEFCC, New Delhi	June 2023
3.0	Grant of Stage - I & Stage II FC for diversion of 14.88 ha by of forest land for Installation of Conveyor Belt by IRO, MoEFCC, Ranchi	Stage - I by March' 2023 Stage-II by Sep 2023
4.0	Handing over the forest lands by Sate Forest Department over 595.075 ha for development of Chiria Mines and 14.88 ha for Installation of Conveyor Belt	Dec' 2023
5.0	Development of Chiria Mines including installation of Common Crushing & Screening Plant at Ajitaburu and installation of LDBC from Chiria to Patharbasa for evacuation of iron ore,	48 months from handing over the forest lands by State Govt. Dec; 2027

4. The proposal for Amendment in Environmental Clearance for continuation of iron ore transportation through road for another 5 years was considered in the 46<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held during 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. Based on the discussion held and presentation given by the project proponent and the consultant, the Committee observed that the Environmental Clearance was obtained on 24.01.2012 & Modification dated 01.05.2012 for production of 0.75 million tonnes per year (MTPA) of iron ore involving mine lease area of 513.036 ha and initially allowed ore transport by road for 5 years. Further, amendment in EC was obtained on 19.04.2017 for allowing transportation of iron ore by road for another 5 years w.e.f. 23.01.2017 till 23.01.2022 with a condition that the project proponent will put in place the conveyor system for transportation of iron ore within 5 years. The Committee noted that project proponent has now requested for continuation of transportation through road for another 5 years w.e.f 23.01.2022 and also noted that the progress of work completion of conveyor belt is not upto the mark. Therefore, the Committee recommended the proposal for continuation of iron ore transportation through road for another 2 years w.e.f 23.01.2022. Further, the Committee recommended a field visit may be along with the pending visit of Kiriburu-Meghahatuburu Iron Ore Mines of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) for real time appraisal on ground realities for facilitating the decision making in future. The Committee also felt that the project proponent shall submit a progress report of completion of the conveyor belt on six monthly basis.

5. The Ministry has examined the proposal in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and further amendments thereto; and after accepting the recommendations of 46<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held during 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, hereby accords the amendment in Environmental Clearance dated 24.01.2012 of Dhobil Iron Ore Mining Project (Production capacity of 0.75 MTPA ROM) in the mine lease area of 513.036 ha of M/s SAIL - Bokaro Steel Plant for continuation of iron ore transportation through road for another 2 years w.e.f 23.01.2022 located in Village Dhobil, Tehsil Manoharpur, District West Singhbhum, State Jharkhand.

6. If Project proponent does not stand upto the commitment provided vide letter dated 19.03.2022, the production may get curtailed to minimise the air pollution due to transportation of ore through trucks. All other conditions imposed in this Ministry's letter no. J-11015/251/2009-IA.II (M) dated 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 shall remain same.

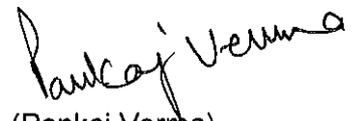
7. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,  
  
(Pankaj Verma)  
Scientist E

**Copy to:**

- (1) The Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001.
- (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, Forest Department, Ranchi
- (6) The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (C), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office (ECZ), Bungalow No. A-2, 34, Shyamali Colony, Ranchi - 834 002.
- (7) The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110 032.
- (8) The Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, 18/11, Jam Nagar House, Man Singh Road, New Delhi-110 011.
- (9) The Chairman, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board, Ranchi.
- (10) The Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, Indira Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440 001.
- (11) The District Collector, West Singhbhum.
- (12) Guard File.
- (13) MoEF&CC Website.

  
(Pankaj Verma)  
Scientist E