



Speed Post

F. No. J-11015/351/2006-IA.II(M) (pt.)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Impact Assessment Division

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Dated: 30th March, 2016

To,

M/s Steel Authority of India Limited,
5th Floor, Industry House,
10 Comac Street,
Kolkata-700017
E-mail: rmdsail@gmail.com

Subject: Integrated Barsua-Taldih-Kalta iron Ore mining (ML-130 lease), Beneficiation and Pelletisation Plant Project of M/s Steel Authority of India Limited, located in Village Tantra and within Tohra RF, Tehsil Koira, District Sundergarh, Orissa- Amendment of Environmental Clearance regarding.

Reference: Online Application IA/OR/MIN/20364/2009

The proposal for amendment of Environmental Clearance was received in the Ministry on 5th November, 2015 along with pre-feasibility report, approved scheme of mining, report on environmental impact due to modified production capacity, beneficiation and transportation arrangement. The proposal was placed before Expert Appraisal Committee in its 2nd meeting, held during January 20-22, 2016.

2. The proposal for enhancement of iron ore production capacity from 2.54 million TPA to 8.05 million TPA (ROM) along with expansion of beneficiation plant from 2.54 million TPA to 6.75 million TPA [(2.5 million TPA + 4.25 million TPA (new))] and setting up of a pelletization plant of 2.0 million TPA was granted EC on 29.10.2010.

3. The PP has requested for following amendments:

- (i) Temporary permission to change iron ore production (ROM) from three blocks viz. Barsua, Taldih and Kalta in ML-130 lease from 2.5, 4.25 and 1.3 million TPA to 3.5, 2.05 and 2.5 million TPA respectively, keeping the total iron ore (ROM) production restricted to 8.05 million TPA as specified in the earlier environment clearance.

- (ii) Permission to operate existing beneficiation plant at the rate 4.5 million TPA instead of 2.5 million TPA.
- (iii) Permission for road transportation of part of iron ore (ROM) from Taldih block to the Barsua Valley (about 11 kms.) and to the Barsua beneficiation plant for a period five years till facilities viz. crushing plant, LDBC are erected and commissioned for the Taldih block.
- (iv) To replace 'outside mine lease area' with 'ML- 162 lease and acquired area' in environment clearance, in order to utilize the infrastructure facilities for processing of iron ore produced from ML-130 lease.
- (v) To modify the total lease area of ML-130 lease from 2486.391 to 2486.383 ha. as per the joint survey committee report (DGPS survey report) of Govt. of Odisha and the lease deed executed by and between the Govt. of Odisha and SAIL on 13th November, 2014.

4. The project proponent (SAIL) has requested for above (i)-(iii) amendments only for three years and has provided the justification/reasons in the pre-feasibility report for making amendments in the environment clearance no. J-11015/351/2006-IA.II (M) granted on 29th October, 2010. The Stage-II Forest Clearance for ML-130 lease was obtained on 06.03.2013 and Stage-I forest clearance exists for the diversion of 77.94 ha. in ML-162 lease which was granted on 10th February, 2015. Permission for tree felling in 24.06 ha in Taldih block of ML-130 lease was granted on 28.10.2014 by the State Govt. and due to delay in tree felling, there has been considerable delay in establishing infrastructure for commencing the mining operation in the Taldih block. This is resulting in shortage of iron ore supply to the expanded and modernized SAIL steel plants. In order to meet the enhanced demand of iron ore of the already expanded / modernized steel plants, it is planned to redistribute iron ore production from the three blocks under ML -130 lease (i.e. Barsua to 3.5 Mt/yr, Kalta to 2.5 Mt/yr and Taldih Block to 2.05 Mt/yr) respectively against production of 2.5 Mt/yr from Barsua, 1.3 Mt/yr from Kalta & 4.25 Mt/yr from Taldih keeping the total annual production capacity within the approved limit of 8.05 Mt/yr till originally envisaged and approved facilities are established and commissioned in Taldih Block, which is likely to take about 5 years. The proposed redistribution of production from the mining blocks under ML - 130 would also involve change in beneficiation plant capacity of existing Ore Beneficiation Plant at Barsua from 2.5 Mt/yr to 4.5 Mt/yr and mode of temporary ore transport by road instead of earlier approved Long Distance Belt Conveyor. Thereafter, the project will operate as per the originally approved scope of work i.e. 2.5, 4.25 and 1.3 million TPA from Barsua, Taldih and Kalta blocks respectively. The scheme of mining has been approved by IBM vide No. MS/FM/36-ORI/BHU/2014-15/1843 dated 04.09.2015 for the proposed changes in production of iron ore (ROM) from the three mining blocks under ML-130 i.e. 3.5, 2.05 and 2.5 million TPA from Barsua, Taldih and Kalta blocks respectively (Total 8.05 million TPA of iron ore production-ROM).

5. As the above proposed change of scope of work is likely to impact the local road infrastructure as also the air quality of the area, specific environmental studies viz., Traffic Density Study and Air Quality Impact Predication Study have been carried out and presented in the report. The project proponent submitted the information on in the Pre-feasibility Report. It has been observed that adequate road capacity is available to undertake additional traffic load due to ore transportation by road from ML - 130 as proposed. Further, the air quality impact predication also shows the quality of air within the permissible limit.

6. The proposal of **amendment of EC** was appraised in the EAC meeting held during **January 20-22, 2016** wherein the Committee deliberated at length the information submitted, presentation made and discussion held, the Committee **recommended** the proposal for amendment in the environmental clearance granted vide letter no. J-11015/351/2006-IA.II (M) on 29th October, 2010 for the following:


- (i) Temporary permission to change iron ore production (ROM) from three blocks viz. Barsua, Taldih and Kalta in ML-130 lease from 2.5, 4.25 and 1.3 million TPA to 3.5, 2.05 and 2.5 million TPA respectively, keeping the total iron ore (ROM) production restricted to 8.05 million TPA as specified in the earlier environment clearance.
- (ii) Permission to operate existing beneficiation plant at the rate 4.5 million TPA instead of 2.5 million TPA.
- (iii) Permission for road transportation of part of iron ore (ROM) from Taldih block to the Barsua Valley (about 11 kms.) and to the Barsua beneficiation plant for a period five years till facilities viz. crushing plant, LDBC are erected and commissioned for the Taldih block.
- (iv) To replace 'outside mine lease area' with 'ML- 162 lease and acquired area' in environment clearance, in order to utilize the infrastructure facilities for processing of iron ore produced from ML-130 lease.
- (v) To modify the total lease area of ML-130 lease from 2486.391 to 2486.383 ha. as per the joint survey committee report (DGPS survey report) of Govt. of Odisha and the lease deed executed by and between the Govt. of Odisha and SAIL on 13th November, 2014.

The amendment for point no.(i) to (iii) will be only for 5 years.

7. The matter has been examined in the ministry and it has been decided that recommendation of the EAC are accepted, and the amendment in the above Point of amendment in the environmental clearance granted vide letter no. J-11015/351/2006-IA.II (M) on 29th October, 2010 is agreed. The amendment for point no.6 (i) to 6 (iii) will be only for 5 years from the date of issue of this letter.

8. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


Yours faithfully,


(Dr. U. Sridharan)
Scientist 'F'

Copy to:

- (i) **The Secretary**, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- (ii) **The Commissioner and Secretary**, Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh Secretariat, Shimla-171 002.
- (iii) **The Commissioner and Secretary**, Department of Environment, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh Secretariat, Shimla-171 002.
- (iv) **The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (C)**, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office (NCZ), Pearson Road, P.O. New Forest, Forest Research Institute (FRI) campus, Dehradun - 248006.

- (v) **The Chief Wildlife Warden**, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Mist Chamber, 1st Floor, Khalini, Shimla - 171 002.
- (vi) **The Chairman**, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi-1100032.
- (vii) **The Member Secretary**, Central Ground Water Authority, A-2, W3, Curzon Road Barracks, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001.
- (viii) **The Chairman**, Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, Paryavaran Bhavan, Phase-III, New Shimla - 171 009.
- (ix) **The Controller General**, Indian Bureau of Mines, Indira Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440 001.
- (x) **The District Collector**, Solan District, Himachal Pradesh.
- (xi) Guard File & MoEF&CC website.


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