

J-11015/830/2007- IA. II (M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests

Samyukta
09/10/09 DGM (Mining) / Stm / DPR

PR inform ic Gm to

Comply with the Conditions
Given in the order &
approve the v/s

Telefax: 011-24367257

e-mail: w.bharat@nic.in

Paryavaran Bhavan, C.G.O. Complex,
Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003.

Dated: December 12, 2008

(P. Ka)
08/12/08

To

✓ M/s Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.
Vishkahapatnam Steel Project,
Administrative Building,
Vishakhapatnam – 530 031.

Sub: Saripalli Sand Mine (ML area 64.67 ha and production capacity 50,000 TPA at village Nellimarla, in Nellimarla Mandal, in Vijayanagaram Distt., in Andhra Pradesh - reg. Environmental Clearance.

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to your letter dated 29.08.2008, on the above mentioned subject. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has examined the application.

2. It has been noted that the proposal is for sand mining at capacity 50,000 TPA along the bed of river Champavathi. The sand is for captive use at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant located at about 85.0 km away. The sand will be used in sinter process as a mix preparation and as runner sand at blast furnace. Life of the mine will be 7 years. Sand will be excavated manually on an average depth of 2.0 m depth. River Champavathi is located in valley portion of high rising mountains of Eastern Ghats. The river originates from hilly region of Andhra Pradesh and travels in South East direction and meets the Bay of Bengal. The sand is leached out from the surrounding hills from Quartzites, Khondalites and Granules and deposits along the course of the river. The river bed receives sand during monsoon. Sand mining will be carried at a depth of maximum 2.0 m and at a distance of 50.0 m from the river bank. The lease area is 64.67 ha, out of which sand mining will be carried out in 62.67 ha. An area of 1.0 ha each will be kept for infrastructure and roads respectively. The general topography of the lease in the river bed is at an average altitude of 20 m above MSL. Nellimarla and Vizinagaram reserve forests are located at distances of around 1.5 km from the lease. Damarasingi R.F is located at a distance of 3.0 km from the lease. There are no wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves, heritage sites etc. within 10.0 km distance from the lease. No relocation and rehabilitation of habitation will be involved. Approval of mining plan and mining scheme has been obtained from IBM on 06.11.2002 and 31.10.2007 respectively. Public hearing was held on 15.07.2008. Cost of the project will be Rs 1.0 Crore.

3. The project has been considered in accordance with the provisions of the EIA notification issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests vide S.O. 1533 (E), dated September 14, 2006.

4. Based on the information submitted by you, as at Para 2 above and others, the Ministry of Environment and Forests hereby accords environmental clearance to the above project under the provisions of EIA notification dated September 14, 2006, subject to the compliance of the following Specific and General conditions:



A. Specific conditions

- (i) No sand mining activity shall be carried out during the monsoon season.
- (ii) Mining shall be carried out keeping a distance of atleast 50 m away from the river bank.
- (iii) It shall be ensured that excavation of sand does not disturb or change the underlying soil characteristics of the river bed / basin where mining is carried out.
- (iv) It shall be ensured that sand mining does not in any way disturb the turbidity, velocity and flow pattern of the river water.
- (v) It shall be ensured that that there is no fauna dependant on the river bed or areas close to mining for its nesting. A report on the same, **vetted by the competent authority** shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry **within six months**.
- (vi) Primary survey of flora and fauna shall be carried out and data shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry **within six months**.
- (vii) Hydro-geological study shall be carried out by a reputed organisation / institute **within six months** and establish that sand mining in the said area will not adversely affect the ground water regime. The report shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry **within six months**. In case adverse impact is observed / anticipated, mining shall not be carried out.
- (viii) Adequate protection against dust and other environmental pollution due to mining shall be made so that the habitations (if any) close by the lease are not adversely affected. The status of implementation of measures taken shall be reported to the Regional Office of the Ministry and work shall be completed before start of sand mining.
- (ix) Shelter belt i.e Wind Break of 30 m width and consisting of at least 5 tiers around lease facing side of human habitation / school etc (if any in the vicinity) shall be raised. Status of implementation shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry regularly.
- (x) Need based assessment for the near by villages shall be conducted to study economic measures which can help in upliftment of poor section of society. Income generating projects/tools such as development of fodder farm, fruit bearing orchards, vocational training etc. can form a part of such programme. Company shall provide separate budget for community development activities and income generating programmes. This will be in addition to vocational training for individuals imparted to take up self employment and jobs.
- (xi) Maintenance of village roads through which transportation of sand is undertaken shall be carried out by the company regularly at its own expenses. The roads shall be black topped.
- (xii) Rain water harvesting shall be undertaken to recharge the ground water source. Status of implementation shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry **within six months** and thereafter every year from the next consequent year.

- (xiii) Measures for prevention and control of soil erosion and management of silt shall be undertaken. Protection of dumps against erosion shall be carried out with geo textile matting or other suitable material, and thick plantations of native trees and shrubs shall be carried out at the dump slopes. Dumps shall be protected by retaining walls.
- (xiv) Ground water in the core zone shall be regularly monitored for contamination and depletion due to mining activity and records maintained. The monitoring data shall be submitted to the regional office of the Ministry regularly. Further, monitoring points shall be located between the mine and drainage in the direction of flow of ground water shall be set up and records maintained.
- (xv) Transportation of sand shall be done by covering the trucks with tarpaulin or other suitable mechanism so that no spillage of ore / dust takes place. Transportation shall be done only during day time.
- (xvi) Occupational health and safety measures for the workers including identification of work related health hazards, training on malaria eradication, HIV, and health effects on exposure to mineral dust etc. shall be carried out. The company shall engage a full time qualified doctor who is trained in occupational health. Periodic monitoring for exposure to respirable mineral dust on the workers shall be conducted and records maintained including health records of the workers. Awareness programme for workers on impact of mining on their health and precautionary measures like use of personal equipments etc. shall be carried out periodically. Review of impact of various health measures undertaken (at interval of five years or less) shall be conducted followed by follow up action wherever required.
- (xvii) Top soil / solid waste shall be stacked properly with proper slope and adequate safeguards and shall be utilized for backfilling (wherever applicable) for reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out area. Top soil shall be separately stacked for utilization later for reclamation and shall not be stacked along with over burden.
- (xviii) Over burden (OB) shall be stacked at earmarked dump site(s) only and shall not be kept active for long period. The maximum height of the dump shall not exceed 30 m, each stage shall preferably be of 10 m and overall slope of the dump shall not exceed 28°. The OB dump shall be backfilled. The OB dumps shall be scientifically vegetated with suitable native species to prevent erosion and surface run off.

Monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas shall continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. Compliance status shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests on six monthly basis.

- (xix) Adequate plantation shall be raised in the ML area, haul roads, OB dump sites etc. Green belt development shall be carried out considering CPCB guidelines including selection of plant species and in consultation with the local DFO / Agriculture Department. Herbs and shrubs shall also form a part of afforestation programme besides tree plantation. The density of the trees shall be around 2500 plants per ha. The company shall involve local people with the help of self help group for plantation programme. Details of year wise afforestation programme including rehabilitation of mined out area shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry every year.
- (xx) Regular monitoring of ground water level and quality shall be carried out by establishing a network of existing wells and constructing new piezometers during the mining operation. The monitoring shall be carried out four times in a year – pre-monsoon (April-May), monsoon (August), post-monsoon (November) and winter

(January) and the data thus collected shall be regularly sent to MoEF, Central Ground Water Authority and Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board.

- (xxi) Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. Vehicles used for transportation of ores and others shall have valid permissions as prescribed under Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 and its amendments. Transportation of ore shall be done only during day time. The vehicles transporting ores shall be covered with a tarpaulin or other suitable enclosures so that no dust particles / fine matters escape during the course of transportation. No overloading of ores for transportation shall be committed. The trucks transporting ore shall not pass through wild life sanctuary.
- (xxii) Prior permission from the Competent Authority shall be obtained for extraction of ground water, if any.
- (xxiii) Action plan with respect to suggestions/improvements and recommendations made during public consultation/hearing shall be submitted to the Ministry and the State Govt within six months.
- (xxiv) A final mine closure plan, along with details of Corpus Fund, shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests, 5 years in advance of final mine closure for approval.

B. General conditions

- (i) No change in mining technology and scope of working shall be made without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
- (ii) No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of mineral (iron ore) and waste shall be made.
- (iii) Fugitive dust emissions from all the sources shall be controlled regularly. Water spraying arrangement on haul roads, loading and unloading and at transfer points shall be provided and properly maintained.
- (iv) Four ambient air quality-monitoring stations shall be established in the core zone as well as in the buffer zone for RPM, SPM, SO₂, NO_x monitoring. Location of the stations should be decided based on the meteorological data, topographical features and environmentally and ecologically sensitive targets and frequency of monitoring should be undertaken in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.
- (v) Data on ambient air quality (RPM, SPM, SO₂, NO_x) should be regularly submitted to the Ministry including its Regional office located at Bangalore and the State Pollution Control Board / Central Pollution Control Board once in six months.
- (v) Measures shall be taken for control of noise levels below 85 dBA in the work environment. Workers engaged in operations of HEMM, etc. shall be provided with ear plugs / muffs.
- (vi) Industrial waste water (workshop and waste water from the mine) should be properly collected, treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under GSR 422 (E) dated 19th May, 1993 and 31st December, 1993 or as amended from time to time. Oil and grease trap shall be installed before discharge of workshop effluents.

- (vii) Personnel working in dusty areas shall be provided with protective respiratory devices and they shall also be imparted adequate training and information on safety and health aspects.
- (viii) Provision shall be made for the housing the labourers within the site with all necessary infrastructure and facilities such as fuel for cooking, mobile toilets, mobile STP, safe drinking water, medical health care, crèche etc. The housing may be in the form of temporary structures to be removed after the completion of the project.
- (ix) A separate Environmental Management Cell with suitable qualified personnel shall be set-up under the control of a Senior Executive, who will report directly to the Head of the Organization.
- (x) The project authorities shall inform to the Regional Office of the Ministry located at Bangalore regarding date of financial closures and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
- (xi) The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures shall be kept in separate account and shall not be diverted for other purpose. Year wise expenditure shall be reported to the Ministry and its Regional Office located at Bangalore.
- (xii) The project authorities shall inform to the Regional Office located at Bangalore regarding date of financial closures and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
- (xiii) The Regional Office of the Ministry located at Bangalore shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities shall extend full cooperation to the officer(s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data / information / monitoring reports.
- (xiv) A copy of clearance letter will be marked to concerned Panchayat / local NGO, if any, from whom suggestion / representation has been received while processing the proposal.
- (xv) State Pollution Control Board shall display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional office, District Industry Centre and Collector's office / Tehsildar's Office for 30 days.
- (xvi) The project authorities shall advertise at least in two local newspapers widely circulated, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned, within 7 days of the issue of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and a copy of the clearance letter is available with the State Pollution Control Board and also at web site of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at <http://envfor.nic.in> and a copy of the same shall be forwarded to the Regional Office of the Ministry located in Bangalore.

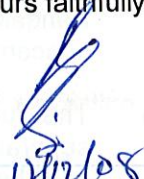
5. The Ministry or any other competent authority may alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.

6. 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.

7. Any appeal against this environmental clearance shall lie with the National Environment Appellate Authority, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 11 of the National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997.

8. 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.

Yours faithfully,


(W. Bharat Singh)
Deputy Director

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
3. Secretary, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
4. Secretary, Department of Forests, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
5. Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional Office (SZ), Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor E&F, Wings 17th Main Road, 1 Block, Koranmangala, Bangalore-560 034.
6. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-Cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi-110 032.
7. Chairman, Andhra Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, Paryavaran Bhawan, A-3 Industrial Estate, Sanath Nagar, Hyderabad – 500 018
8. Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, A2, W-3 Curzon Road Barracks, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001.
9. Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, Indira Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur- 440 001.
10. District Collector, Vijayanagaram District, Government of Andhra Pradesh.
11. EI Division, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.
12. Monitoring File.
13. Guard File.
14. Record File.


(W. Bharat Singh)
Deputy Director