

J-11015/1045/2007 - IA.II (M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests

Tel no. 24363973

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

Dated: April 22, 2010

To

M/s Gogte Minerals
146, Tilakwadi
Belgaum 590 006
Belgaum, Karnataka

Sub: Redi Iron ore mine of M/s Gogte Minerals over an extent of 94.7060 ha and 0.368MTPA of iron ore production at Village Redi, Taluka Venguria in District Sindhudurg in Maharashtra- Reg. Environmental Clearance

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to your communication no. nil dated 27.9.2008 received in the Ministry along with copies of EIA/EMP and public hearing reports regarding the subject mentioned above and subsequent communications dated 13.1.2010 and 6.4.2010 along with communication no. MCZMA 2009/CR73/TC-3 dated 6.1.2010 seeking environmental clearance under the provision of EIA Notification, 2006.

2. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has examined your application. It has been noted that the proposal is for Iron Ore mining at capacity 0.368 MTPA. The lease area is 94.706 ha, which is a private land and acquired on lease. The mine lease is located at a distance of 700 m away from the Shiroda Creek and 1.6 km from the Terekhol Creek. The lease area has undulating terrain having average altitudes ranging from 15 to 46 m above MSL. The total mineable reserves are 7.0 MT. Life of the mine at proposed rate of production will be 20 years. Method of mining will be open cast mechanized. No drilling and blasting is involved. There are no wild life sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves, heritage sites etc. within 10.0 km of the lease area. Sawantwadi R.F is located 2.5 km from the lease in the north east direction. Ultimate depth of mining will be at 85 to 100 m below MSL. Ground water table is at 5 m above MSL. Mining will intersect water table. Peak water requirement at the mine will be 508 KLD, which will be met from ground water. Life of the mine is 20 years and ore reserves are 7 MT. Solid waste of around 1.57 MT will be generated which will be used for back-filling of the worked out pits. No relocation and rehabilitation of population will be involved. Mining plan has been approved by Indian Bureau of Mines on 27.07.2007. Public hearing was held on 04.07.2008. Cost of the project will be Rs 3.0 Crores.

3. It is also noted that a detailed Hydro-geological study has been carried out. The result of the study indicates that the radius of influence due to mine pit dewatering extends up to about 212 m around the mine pit; the groundwater development is about 47.03 %, which is well within the safe limits as per Central Ground Water Board norms; there are no reported falling trends in the ground water levels both during pre-monsoon and post monsoon; no change in ground water regime due to mining activity has been observed. The ore body is limited in aerial extent and is sandwiched between impervious layers and hence mining and deepening of the pit may not lead to change in water quality.

4. The Expert Appraisal Committee earlier considered the project in its meeting held on 5th November, 2008. The Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA) has granted clearance on 06.01.2010. On receipt of clearance from MCZMA, proposal was placed before the EAC in its meeting held on 25th-26th March, 2010. The Committee recommended the proposal for environmental clearance. Public hearing was held on 04.07.2008.

5. Based on the information submitted by the project proponent and recommendation of the Expert Appraisal Committee, the Ministry of Environment & Forests hereby accords environmental clearance to the said project under the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 subject to the implementation of the following terms and conditions:-

A. Specific Conditions:

- i) Top soil shall be stacked properly with adequate protection measures at earmarked sites and used for reclamation and rehabilitation of the mined out areas.
- ii) The company shall comply with all the conditions stipulated vide communication no. MCZA 2009/CR73/TC-3 dated 6.1.2010 from the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority.
- iii) Fugitive dust generation shall be controlled. Fugitive dust emission shall be regularly monitored at locations of nearest human habitation (including schools and other public amenities located nearest to sources of dust generation as applicable) and records submitted to the Ministry.
- iv) 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**.
- v) Conservation plan for wildlife shall be prepared in consultation with the Chief Wild Life Warden and implemented. The plan shall consist of in-built monitoring and evaluation mechanism. Necessary fund for implementation of the same shall be separately allocated and shall not be diverted for any other activity

- vi) No two pits shall be simultaneously worked. After exhausting the first mine pit and before starting mining operations in the next pit, reclamation and plantation works in the exhausted pit shall be completed so as to ensure that reclamation, forest cover and vegetation are visible during the first year of mining operations in the next pit. This process shall be followed till the last pit is exhausted. Adequate rehabilitation of mined pit shall be completed before any new ore body is worked.
- vii) The ground water quality shall be monitored regularly to check ingress of sea water by having observation wells around the ML area along the sea coast.
- viii) Monitoring of surface and ground water quality within 5.0 km of the lease shall be regularly conducted and records maintained and data 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 and records maintained.
- ix) Data on ambient air quality (PM₁₀, 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. The critical parameters such as PM₁₀/PM_{2.5}, NO_x in the ambient air within the impact zone, peak particle velocity at 300m distance or within the nearest habitation, whichever is closer shall be monitored periodically. Further, quality of discharged water shall also be monitored [(TDS, DO, pH) and total Suspended solids (TSS)]. The monitored data shall be uploaded on the website of the company as well as displayed on a display board at the project site at a suitable location near the main gate of the company in public domain. The circular no.J-20012/1/2006-IA.II (M) dated 2.5.2009 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, which is available on the website of the Ministry www.envfor.nic.in shall also be referred in this regard for its compliance.
- x) Trenches / garland drains shall be constructed at foot of dumps and coco filters installed at regular intervals to arrest silt from being carried to water bodies. Adequate number of Check Dams and Gully Plugs shall be constructed across seasonal/perennial nallahs (if any) flowing through the ML area and silts arrested. De-silting at regular intervals shall be carried out.
- xi) The company shall ensure that no silt originating due to mining activity is transported in the surface water course (if any) flowing in the area. Proper drainage of the waste dumps shall be provided to prevent siltation of downstream water bodies. The dumps *per se* shall be drained and surface of the dump should be properly vegetated.
- xii) 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.

- xiii) Rain water harvesting shall be undertaken to recharge the ground water source. Status of implementation shall be submitted to the Ministry within six months.
- xiv) Land-use pattern of the nearby villages shall be studied, including identification of common property resources available for conversion into productive land. Action plan for abatement and compensation for damage to agricultural land/ common property land (if any) in the nearby villages, due to mining activity shall be submitted to the Regional office of the Ministry **within six months before start of mining**. Annual status of implementation of the plan and expenditure thereon shall be reported to the Regional Office of the Ministry.
- xv) Need based assessment for the near by villages shall be conducted to study economic measures which can help in upliftment of poor sections of the area. Income generating projects consistent with the traditional skills of the people besides 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.
- xvi) Maintenance of village roads through which transportation of ores are undertaken shall be carried out by the company regularly at its own expenses. The roads shall be black topped.
- xvii) 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.
- xviii) Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. Vehicles used for transportation of ores and others shall have valid permissions under Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 and its amendment. The number of shifts for mine operations could be as prescribed in the approved Mine Plan. However, the number of shifts or hours permissible for external vehicular traffic shall not exceed the limits in vogue for the area under consideration or in the event of passage through forest roads or public places, as may be applicable in this case. The limits prescribed by the local authorities shall not be exceeded. If no such guidelines for time restrictions are applicable, then external transport shall be preferably confined to two shifts.

xix) Green belt development and selection of plant species shall be as per CPCB guidelines. Herbs and shrubs shall also form a part of afforestation programme besides tree plantation. Details of year wise afforestation programme including rehabilitation of mined out area shall be submitted to the Ministry within six months.

xx) Provision shall be made for 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, creche etc. The housing may be in the form of temporary structures to be removed after the completion of the project.

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 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 PM₁₀, 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) 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) 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.

- (ix) 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.
- (x) 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.
- (xi) The project authorities shall inform 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.
- (xii) 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.
- (xiii) The project proponent shall submit six monthly reports on the status of the implementation of the stipulated environmental safeguards to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, its Regional Office, Bangalore, Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Board. The project proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the environment of the environmental clearance conditions on their website and update the same periodically and simultaneously send the same by e-mail to the Regional Office, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Bangalore.
- (xiv) The project proponent shall advertise in at least two local newspapers widely circulated in the region around the project, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality, / office of Municipal Corporation/Gram Panchayat concerned and on the company's web site within seven days from the date of this clearance letter, informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and copies of clearance letter are available with the State Pollution Control Board/Committee and may also be seen at Website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at <http://envfor.nic.in>.
- (xv) 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. The clearance letter shall also be put on the website of the company.
- (xvi) State Pollution Control Board shall display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional office, District Industries Centre and Collector's office / Tehsildar's Office for 30 days.

(xvii) The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31st March in Form-V as is mandated shall be submitted to the State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently and shall also be put on the website of the company along with the status of compliance of environmental clearance conditions. The same shall also be sent to the Regional Office of Ministry by e-mail.

6. The Ministry of Environment and Forests reserves the right to revoke the clearance if conditions stipulated are not implemented to the satisfaction of the Ministry. MOEF may impose additional environmental conditions or modify the existing ones, if necessary.

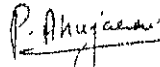
8. In case of any deviation or alteration in the project proposed from those submitted to this Ministry for clearance, a fresh reference should be made to the Ministry to assess the adequacy of the condition(s) imposed and to add additional environmental protection measures required, if any.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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 thereunder and also any other orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India / High Court of Maharashtra and any other Court of Law relating to the subject matter.

Yours faithfully,


(Dr. P. L. Ahujara)
Director

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of Maharashtra, 15th Floor, New Admn. Bldg., Madam Cama Road, MUMBAI - 400032.
3. Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional office (EZ), Ministry of Environment & Forests, E-2/240 Arera Colony, Bhopal ? 462016.
4. Chairman, Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board, Kalapataru Point, 3rd & 4th Floors, Sion, Matunga Scheme Road No. 8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai 400002.
5. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi -110032.
6. Member-Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, Curzon Road Barracks, A-2, W-3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.
7. District Collector, Sindhudurg, Government of Maharashtra.
8. Monitoring File
9. Guard File
10. Record File.

(Dr. P. L. Ahujarai)
Director