

J-11015/244/2007- IA. II (M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests



Paryavaran Bhawan
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New Delhi – 110 003
E-mail: w.bharat@nic.in
Telephone: 011- 2436 7257
Dated: February 05, 2009

To

M/s The Hutti Gold Mines Co. Ltd.
No.6/13 Gurappa Avenue, Primrose Road Cross
Bangalore – 560 025
Karnataka

Sub: *Wondali Gold Mine (ML area 388.77 ha and production of 200 TPD of Gold Ore) at villages Wondalli, Hosur and Mallapur, in Lingasugur Taluk, in Raichur Distt., in Karnataka – reg. Environmental Clearance.*

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to your letter dated 01.10.2008 received by the processing division of the Ministry on 03.11.2008, 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 underground gold ore mining at production capacity 200 TPD. The mine was last worked in the later half of the 19th century and the working had reached to about 213 m. The Wondalli Gold Deposit (mine) has been grouped into 3 groups based on the availability of the exploration data. The Wondalli Gold mine is located 10.0 Km east of the Hutti Gold Mine where the Processing Plant is located. The lease area of the mine is 388.77 ha; out of which 12.22 ha is govt. revenue land and 376.55 ha is patta land. Out of 388.77 ha, 1.77 ha will be kept for waste dump; 1.0 ha for Top Soil storage; Infrastructure 6.0 ha; green belt will be 14.0 ha; 366.0 ha will remain unutilised. The general topography of the lease area has undulating terrain with maximum elevation at 558 m above MSL. There are no perennial stream in the area except a small nallah, which is generally dry except during the rainy season. A tank exist in the southern boundary of the lease. There are no national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, biosphere reserves, heritage sites etc within 10 km of the lease. There are also no reserve forests within 10 km of the lease area. The ground water table is at about 10-12 m below general ground level. The mineral reserve is 0.938 MT. At proposed rate of production, life of the mine will be about 13 years. Method of mining will be underground involving drilling and blasting. Water requirement will be about 38.80 KLD, which will be met from ground water sources. No relocation and rehabilitation of land oustees will be involved. Public hearing was held on 19.07.2008. Approval from IBM for mining plan (including progressive mine closure plan) was obtained on 25.10.2007. Cost of the project is Rs 2.7 Crores.

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 and its interim operational guidelines issued on October 13, 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 subject to the compliance of the following Specific and General conditions.

A. Specific conditions

- (i) Blast vibrations study shall be conducted and submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry **within six months**. The study shall also provide measures for prevention of blasting associated impact on nearby houses and agricultural fields.
- (ii) Detailed hydro-geological study shall be reviewed by a reputed organisation/institute annually, and the impact of proposed gold ore mining on the ground and surface water (if any) regime at various locations within 5.0 Km from the lease area shall be carried out and mitigation measures undertaken as required shall be specified. Specific hydro-geological study shall be again carried at the end of mining plan period of the 5th year of mining before proceeding to undertake mining in the 6th year.
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) Land-use pattern of the nearby villages shall be studied, including 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.** Annual status of implementation of the plan and expenditure thereon shall be reported to the Regional Office of the Ministry.
- (v) 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.
- (vi) 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.
- (vii) 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.
- (viii) 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.

Garland drain of appropriate size, gradient and length shall be constructed for both mine pit and for waste dump and sump capacity shall be designed keeping 50% safety margin over and above peak sudden rainfall (based on 50 years data) and maximum discharge in the area adjoining the mine site. Sump capacity shall also provide adequate retention period to allow proper settling of silt material.

Sedimentation pits shall be constructed at the corners of the garland drains and desilted at regular intervals.

- (ix) Ground and surface water (if any) in and near (within 5.0 km of the lease) 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.
- (x) Cultivable waste land within 5 km radius of the lease shall be identified and developed into productive land and made available to villages. Status of implementation shall be submitted to the Regional office of the Ministry **before three months** from start of production.
- (xi) 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 Regional Office of the Ministry regularly.
- (xii) Monitoring of Manganese concentration in soil, water, ambient air, vegetation and urine sample of workers shall be conducted and submitted to the Ministry **within three months**. Thereafter regular monitoring of the same in all media as mentioned above shall be undertaken and records maintained.
- (xiii) Transportation of ore 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.
- (xiv) 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.
- (xv) Over burden (if any) 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.
- (xvi) 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.

- (xvii) 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.
- (xviii) The waste water from the mine shall be treated to conform to the prescribe standards before discharging in to the natural stream. The discharged water from the Tailing Dam (if any) shall be regularly monitored and report submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Board.
- (xix) 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.
- (xx) Prior permission from the Competent Authority shall be obtained for extraction of ground water (if any).
- (xxi) 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.
- (xxii) 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

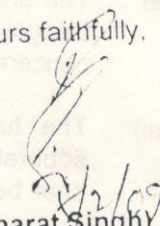
- (i) No change in mining technology and scope of working shall be made without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
- (ii) No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of mineral and waste shall be made.
- (iii) Four ambient air quality-monitoring stations shall be established in the core zone as well as in the buffer zone for RSPM, 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.
- (iv) 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) 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.
- (vi) 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 and health records of the workers shall be maintained.
- (vii) 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.
- (viii) 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.
- (ix) 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.
- (x) 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.
- (xi) 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.
- (xii) 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.
- (xiii) 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.
- (xiv) 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.
- (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.
- (xvi) 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.
- (xvii) 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 Karnataka, Bangalore.
3. Secretary, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
4. Secretary, Department of Forests, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
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, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Parisara Bhawan, 4th & 5th Floor, 49, Church Street, Bangalore - 560 001.
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 Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440 001.
10. District Collector, Raichur, Government of Karnataka.
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