

**File No. J-11015/183/2010 IA-II. (M)**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Impact Assessment Division)

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**Dated: 3rd April, 2023**

**To,**

The Assistant Vice-President (Corporate-Affairs)  
M/s **Hindalco Industries Limited**,  
Aditya Birla Centre, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
B wing, S.K. Ahire Marg, Worli,  
Mumbai-400030 (**Maharashtra**)  
Email: [corporateaffairs@adiatyabirla.com](mailto:corporateaffairs@adiatyabirla.com)

**Sub: Gare-Palma IV/4 Coal Block of Capacity 1 MTPA (Opencast: 0.56 MTPA to 0.84 MTPA (Increase by 0.28 MTPA) & Underground: 0.44 MTPA to 0.16 MTPA (Decrease by 0.28 MTPA) with reduction in mine lease area from 701.512, i.e. 683.272 ha by M/s Hindalco Industries Limited located in District Raigarh (Chhattisgarh) - For Amendment of Environment Clearance letter dated 24.05.2019 – reg.**

Sir,

This has reference to your online proposal No. IA/CG/CMIN/293233/2022 dated 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2022 on the above mentioned subject.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has granted environmental clearance vide letter dated 12th March, 2013 in favour of M/s Jayaswal Neco Industries to Gare-Palma IV/4 Coal Block of production capacity 1 MTPA (0.6 MTPA Underground & 0.4 MTPA Opencast) in mine lease area of 701.512 ha located in District Raigarh (Chhattisgarh).
3. Subsequent to cancellation of coal blocks pursuant to order of Hon'ble Supreme Court in August/September, 2014 and their reallocation to successful bidders, Gare-Palma IV/4 coal block was vested with M/s Hindalco Industries Limited vide Allotment Order No.104/16/2015/NA dated 23rd March, 2015 issued by the Nominated Authority in the Ministry of Coal. The said Environmental Clearance was accordingly transferred to M/s Hindalco Industries Limited vide this Ministry's letter dated 16th April, 2015.
4. Further, Amendment in Environment Clearance was granted by Ministry vide its letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 restructuring of EC capacity for Opencast mine from 0.56 MTPA to 0.84 MTPA and for Underground Mine from 0.44 MTPA to 0.16 MTPA with no change in mine lease area and overall production capacity.

5. Now Project proponent has again requested for amendment in Environment Clearance for restructuring of EC capacity for Opencast mine from 0.56 MTPA to 0.84 MTPA and for Underground Mine from 0.44 MTPA to 0.16 MTPA with reduction in mine lease area from 701.512 ha to 683.272 ha and same overall production capacity as per the granted Environmental Clearance. With the proposed restructuring, mining operations would be revised as under:-

Mining method	Proposed Production Capacity w.r.t EC dated 12 <sup>th</sup> March, 2013
Opencast	0.84 MTPA (Increase by 0.44 MTPA)
Underground	0.16 MTPA (Decrease by 0.44 MTPA)

6. It has been submitted that coal block area is 885.525 ha as allotted and approved by the Ministry of Coal. However, Project Proponent has submitted the approved Mining plan vide letter dated 14.02.2023 for the project area of 683.272 ha. The Mine plan and Mine Closure Plan (5th Modification) has been prepared by Indian Mine planners and consultants and approved by Ministry of Coal vide its Application No. Gare Palma IV-4CTCG013/APP00229/2022 dated 14.02.2023 for Gare Palma IV-4 for project area of 683.272 ha. Further, following details has been submitted by PP during appraisal.

- Land use details on the basis of 5<sup>rd</sup> Revision of Mining Plan along with Mine Closure Plan Approved in Feb., 2023 is given below:

a. Pre-Mining Land use details

S. No.	Land Use	Within ML Area (In Ha)	Outside ML Area (In Ha)	Total (In Ha)
1.	Agricultural Land	279.862	0.0	279.862
2.	Forest Land	236.553	0.0	236.553
3.	Waste Land	50.344	0.0	50.344
4.	Grazing Land	65.144	0.0	65.144
5.	Surface Water Bodies	9.767	0.0	9.767
6.	Settlements	0.0	0.0	0.0
7.	Other (Tenancy, Road, Community, Other Govt.)	41.602	0.0	41.602
<b>Total</b>		<b>683.272</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>683.272</b>

b. Post Mining Land use details:

Proposed land use	Area (In Ha)
Plantation	190.531
Agricultural Land	115.067
Public/Company Use	54.672
Water harvesting	25.673
Dismantled area	0
Forest land	236.553
Undisturbed	60.776
<b>Total</b>	<b>683.272</b>

- 5th Revision of Mining Plan along with Mine Closure Plan Approved in Feb., 2023, Life of Mine is ~7 years for Opencast from 2022-23 and ~11 years for Underground mining from 2022-23.
- 5th Revision of Mining Plan along with Mine Closure Plan Approved in Feb., 2023; 190.531 ha area will be covered under greenbelt/plantation. 01 External dump in patch C created by prior allotted which is technically & bio-logically reclaimed. Internal OB Dump: 45.79 MCuM of OB will be generated from 22-23 to 28-29 (End of OC Operation). Total OB is soil, shale & sandstone. It is proposed to backfill OB in maximum possible de-coaled area. OB backfilled in de-coaled area will be technically & biologically reclaimed in stages for the restoration of mined out land.
- Forest land of 419.887 ha comes within the mining lease and Forest Clearance has been obtained vide MoEF&CC and letter No. 8112/2002 FC dated 09.06.2003 in favor of JNIL and Forest Clearance was transferred from JNIL to HIL dated 18.05.2015.

7. The proposal was considered by the sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in the 37<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held during 17-18 November, 2022 and 40<sup>th</sup> meeting during 16 -17 February, 2023 through physical mode wherein the Committee recommended the proposal for Amendment in Environmental Clearance. Based on recommendations of the EAC, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords approval for amendment in Environment Clearance(EC) to Gare-Palma IV/4 Coal Block of Capacity 1 MTPA (**Opencast: 0.56 MTPA to 0.84 MTPA (Increase by 0.28 MTPA) & Underground: 0.44 MTPA to 0.16 MTPA (Decrease by 0.28 MTPA)**) with reduction in mine lease area from 701.512, i.e. 683.272 ha by M/s Hindalco Industries Limited located in District Raigarh (Chhattisgarh), under the provisions of EIA Notifications, 2006 and its amendments therein with following specific conditions.

- As per NGT order dated 15.02. 2022 in Original Application No. 104/2018 in the matter of Shivpal Bhagat & Ors vs UIO, PP to comply with all the recommendation of Carrying Capacity Study being conducted by reputed institute by CPCB & SPCB.
- As per NGT order dated 15.02. 2022 in Original Application No. 104/2018 in the matter of Shivpal Bhagat & Ors vs UIO, Coal transportation is permitted for only one year through road from date of commissioning and subsequently, transport must be done by rail or closed conveyor belt only.
- As per NGT order dated 15.02. 2022 in Original Application No. 104/2018 in the matter of Shivpal Bhagat & Ors vs UIO, proper and free health care facilities with multispecialty treatment system shall be provided in coal mine buffer area.
- As per NGT order dated 15.02. 2022 in Original Application No. 104/2018 in the matter of Shivpal Bhagat & Ors vs UIO, PP shall have to comply that when coal is sold to TPP, there is the agreement to sell that at least 25% Fly Ash of the coal sold, should be accepted by the coal company (seller) from TPP (Purchaser) failing which coal company shall be liable for civil action and other legal measures.
- PP shall use the Overburden dump for backfilling purpose to bring the mine at the ground level.
- PP shall deploy minimum 10% of total Mine vehicle operating, on biofuels and Electric.
- The PP shall increase the truck fleet size i.e. upto 50 tonne.
- The PP shall install one CAAQMS in the core zone of mine lease area and the data to display on the website as well as on the main entry gate of the organization

- (ix) The PP shall develop Sal nursery with the minimum plant capacity of 25,000 within 5 ha of project area. Further, Sal tree shall be planted as much as possible while reclaiming during mine closure activity.
- (x) The PP shall submit the renewal of CGWA NOC in order to smooth continuation of Mines to Ministry's IRO within six months.

8. All other conditions stipulated in Environment Clearance (EC) granted vide letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2013, transfer of EC dated 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 and amendment in EC dated 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 shall remain unchanged.

This issues with the approval of the competent Authority

  
(Lalit Bokolia)  
Director

**Copy to:**

1. The Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests, Government of Chhattisgarh, Secretariat Raipur
2. Deputy Director General of Forests (C), Ministry of Env., Forest and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Aranya Bhawan, North Block, Sector-19 Naya Raipur, Atal Nagar, Chhattisgarh - 492002
3. The Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, Jamnagar House, 18/11, Man Singh Road Area, New Delhi, Delhi 110001
4. The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, CBD-cum Office Complex East Arjun Nagar New Delhi- 32
5. The District Collector, **Raigarh**, Government of Chhattisgarh.
6. Monitoring File
7. PARIVESH

  
(Lalit Bokolia)  
Director