



सत्यमेव जयते

File No.: IA-J-11015/54/2021-IA-II(M)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate  
Change  
IA Division  
\*\*\*



Dated 19/11/2024



To,

Sh. Dipesh Omprakash Bhatia  
EMIL Mines and Mineral Resources Limited  
Industry House, 18th Floor, 10 Camac Street, Kolkata, West Bengal, Kolkata, 700017  
E-mail: emmrl.registered@adityabirla.com

Subject: **Bandha Opencast Coal Mine of 5 MTPA capacity in mine lease area of 1850.94 ha of M/s EMIL Mines and Mineral Resources Limited (EMMRL) located at Village Bandha, Tenduha, Pidarwah, Deori & Pachaur, Tehsil Sarai, District Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh) – Grant of Environmental Clearance - reg.**

Sir/Madam,

This is in reference to your application submitted to MoEF&CC vide proposal number IA/MP/CMIN/425307/2023 dated 08/04/2023 and subsequent submission of additional information vide letter dated 01/10/2024 for grant of prior Environmental Clearance (EC) for the project mentioned above under the provisions of the EIA Notification 2006 and as amended thereof.

2. The particulars of the proposal are as below :

(i) EC Identification No.	EC23A0101MP5971812N
(ii) File No.	IA-J-11015/54/2021-IA-II(M)
(iii) Clearance Type	Fresh EC
(iv) Category	A
(v) Project/Activity Included Schedule No.	1(a) Mining of minerals
(vi) Sector	Coal Mining
(vii) Name of Project	Bandha Coal Mine
(ix) Location of Project (District, State)	SINGRAULI, MADHYA PRADESH
(x) Issuing Authority	MoEF&CC
(xii) Applicability of General Conditions	No

3. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has considered the application. It is noted that the proposal is

for grant of Environmental Clearance to the Bandha Opencast Coal Mine of 5 MTPA capacity in mine lease area of 1850.94 ha of M/s EMIL Mines and Mineral Resources Limited (EMMRL) located at Village Bandha, Tenduha, Pidarwah, Deori & Pachaur, Tehsil Sarai, District Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh). The project/activity is covered under category 'A' of item 1(a) 'Mining of Minerals' the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006

4. The proposal was considered by the sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in its 43rd EAC meeting held on 24th April 2023 (Physical mode) and 47th meeting held during 21-22 July, 2023 through Video Conferencing. The proposal was further considered in 16th EAC meeting held during 8-9th October, 2024.

**The details of the proposal, as ascertained from the proposal documents and as revealed from the discussions held during the meetings, are given as under:**

i. The project area is covered under Survey of India Topo sheet No. 63 L/8 and is bounded by the geographical coordinates ranging from 24004'17" N to 24006'52" N and longitudes 82° 21' 39" E to 82° 24' 57" E. Details of project is as below-

S. No.	Particulars	Details	
a.	Details of the Project	Bandha Coal Mine	
b.	Latitude and Longitude of the project site	24.07166078118939,82.36108712288694 24.11415387931373,82.41594717255734	
c.	Land Requirement (in Ha) of the project or activity	Nature of Land involved	Area in Ha
		Non-Forest Land (A)	1043.023
		Forest Land (B)	807.917
		Total Land (A+B)	1850.94
d.	Date of Public Consultation	Public consultation for the project was held on 15.02.2023.	
e.	Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) involvement	YES	
f.	Project Cost	2300000	
g.	EMP Cost	10642	
h.	Employment Details		

#### Details of Minerals Products & By-products

Name of the Mineral to be mined	Classification of mineral [Major/Minor]	Production capacity in MTPA	Remarks
Coal	Major	5.0	-

ii. Coal linkage of the project is not applicable as the mine is commercial coal mine.

iii. Joint venture cartel has been formed - Not Applicable.

iv. As per PP, project does not fall in the Critically Polluted Area (CPA), where the MoEF&CC's vide its OM dated 13th January, 2010 has imposed moratorium on grant of environment clearance.

v. Employment generation- Project will generate employment for about 1406 persons directly. In addition, more than 5000 people will be benefited indirectly.

vi. The project is reported to be beneficial in terms of energy security for the development of country.

vii. Terms of Reference granted by Ministry vide its letter J-11015/54/2021-IA-II (M) dated 13.09.2021.

viii. Total mining lease area as per block allotment is 1850.94 ha. Mining plan & Mine Closure Plan was approved vide letter No. MPMP051/APP0063/2021 dated: 15.02.2022 by Ministry of Coal, Government of India.

ix. Net Geological Reserve reported in the mine lease area is 560.3800 MT with 207.3500 MT Mineable Reserves by opencast mining. Out of total mineable reserve of 207.3500 MT, 197.00 MT are available for extraction. Percent of extraction is 35.1550%. The land usage pattern of the project is as follows:

**A. Pre-mining land use details:**

S. No.	Type of Land	Existing/Pre- Mining Land Use	Area in Ha (As per original proposal)	Revised Area in Ha
1	Tenancy Land	Agriculture	678.17	655.74
2	Tenancy Land	Township	93.76	93.76
3	Tenancy Land	Grazing	0.00	0.00
4	Tenancy Land	Barren	0.00	0.00
5	Tenancy Land	Water Bodies	2.03	2.03
6	Tenancy Land	Road	0.00	0.00
7	Tenancy Land	Commercial/ Other Use	2.13	2.13
	<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>776.09</b>	<b>753.66</b>
8	Govt. Non-Forest Land	Agriculture	0.00	0.00
9	Govt. Non-Forest Land	Residential	0.00	0.00
10	Govt. Non-Forest Land	Township	0.00	0.00
11	Govt. Non-Forest Land	Grazing	47.19	47.19
12	Govt. Non-Forest Land	Barren	190.08	190.08
13	Govt. Non-Forest Land	Water Bodies	34.78	34.78
14	Govt. Non-Forest Land	Road	7.00	7.00
15	Govt. Non-Forest Land	Railway	0.68	0.68
16	Govt. Non-Forest Land	Other Use	9.63	9.63
	<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>289.36</b>	<b>289.36</b>
17	Forest Land	Revenue	3.55	3.55
18	Forest Land	Reserve	686.05	708.48
19	Forest Land	Protected	95.89	95.89
	<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>785.50</b>	<b>807.92</b>
		Free Hold	0.00	0.00
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1850.94</b>	<b>1850.94</b>

**B. Post Mining land use details:**

Type	Land use (Proposed)	Land Use (End of Life)	Land Use (Post Closure)					Undisturbed	Total
			Agricultural land	Plan-tation	Water Body	Public/ Company Use	Forest Land (Returned)		
External Dump	350	350		350					350
Safety Zone	15	15					15		15
Settling Pond	15	15			15				15
Road and Infrastructure Area	85	85				85			85
Rationalization Area	25.94	25.94		25.94					25.94
Garland Drains	10	10				10			10
Green Belt	15	15		15					15
UG Entry	10	10				10			10
Undisturbed OR Mining Right For UG	10	10					10		10
Excavation Area	1315								

Backfilled Area		1200	295	905					1200
Excavated Void		115				115			115
<b>Total</b>	<b>1850.94</b>	<b>1850.94</b>	<b>295.00</b>	<b>1295.94</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>220.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>1850.94</b>

x. Thickness of seams to be worked on: Opencast mining method is proposed for extraction of coal seam VIII and VII. The effective thickness of the coal seam VIII is varying from 1.5-2.5m (Avg.-1.85m) and of seam VII is varies from 11.00-14.00m (Avg.-12.30m). Grade of coal: Grade of seam VIII from G7 to G17 (Avg. G12) and Grade of the Seam VII varies from G7 to G12 (Avg. G9). The overall grade of reserve proposed to be extracted by Opencast is G-10. Stripping ratio: 9.76 m<sup>3</sup>/t, Average gradient: - Coal Seams gradient of 20-80, Maximum thickness of seams: Seam VIII varies from 1.5 to 2.5 m (Avg. – 1.85 m) and Seam VII varies from 11.00 to 14.00 m (Avg. – 12.30 m).

xi. Method of mining operations envisages by Opencast Mining: Opencast mining is proposed by shovel-dumper combination for OB excavation and Surface Miner for coal winning and loading by FE Loader (3.5 m<sup>3</sup>) in conjunction with 35 T & 100 T Rear Dumper.

xii. Life of mine is 45 years (Based on the 5 MTPA) and 31 years (Based on the 7.5 MTPA Peak).

xiii. The project has 1 external OB dumps (temporary) in an area of 350 ha with 120 m height and 307.30 Mm<sup>3</sup> of OB. 1 internal OB in an area of 1200 ha with 1619.20 mm<sup>3</sup> of material is envisaged in the project.

xiv. Total quarry area is 1315 ha out of which backfilling will be done in 1200 ha up to a level of 560 MRL while final mine void will be created in an area of 115 ha with a depth of 230m. Backfilled quarry area of 1200 ha shall be reclaimed with plantation. Final mine void will be converted water body.

xv. Transportation of Coal: Coal Evacuation through road is proposed for first 3 to 4 years till completion of the proposed railway siding: In pit: Initially through Dumpers & through In pit conveyor after few years; Surface to siding: By dumpers and other suitable transportation means; Siding to loading: Initially through Road, later through RLS.

xvi. Reclamation has been Planned in an area of 1255 ha, comprising of Waste Dump and Backfilled Area and 30 ha in the safety zone & green belt. In addition to this, an area of 30 ha, included in the safety zone/rationalization area, has already been proposed for green belt development, as stated above.

xvii. **807.917 ha of forest land** has been reported to be involved in the project. PP has submitted Stage-I Forest Clearance for the forest land/area of 807.917 ha involved in the mine lease area vide letter dated 01/10/2024.

xviii. There are no National Park, eco-sensitive Zones, within 10 km radius.

xix. Wildlife conservation plan for schedule- I species has been submitted – There is no national park or wildlife sanctuary within the study area. However, due to presence of Schedule-1 Fauna, Wildlife Conservation Plan has been submitted to Forest Department for approval on 01.09.2022, Approval is awaited.

xx. The ground water level has been reported to be varying between 7 m bgl to 9.6 m bgl during pre-monsoon and between 4 m bgl to 6.5 m bgl during post-monsoon. Total water requirement for the project is 1200 m<sup>3</sup>/day.

xxi. NOC for ground water withdrawal has been approved by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) vide NOC no. CGWA/NOC/MIN/ORIG/2022/17071 on 18.11.2022.

xxii. Public hearing for the project of 5.0 MTPA (7.5 MTPA peak capacity) capacity in an area of 1850.94 ha was conducted on 15.02.2023 at Gram Panchayat Bhawan Bandha Village, Tehsil: Sarai, Dist: Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh under the Chairmanship of Shree D.P. Barman, ADM, Singrauli. Major issues raised in the public hearing & appropriate action to address the issues raised in the Public Hearing have already been taken/proposed to be taken are given in the action plan prepared and mentioned in chapter 7 in EIA/EMP report.

xxiii. Consent to Operate for the proposed capacity to be submitted after environment clearance to State Pollution Control

Board - Will be obtained after grant of EC.

xxiv. Bandha Nala and Kanchanmuda Nala passing through the site (Seasonal). No diversion of Bandha and Kanchanmuda Nala has been proposed.

xxv. No court cases, violation cases are pending against the project of the PP.

xxvi. The project does not involve violation of the EIA Notification, 2006 and amendment issued thereunder. No excess production of coal from the sanctioned capacity has been realized since it is a Greenfield project.

xxvii. The project involves 966 PAF. R&R of the PAPs will be done as per prevailing laws.

xxviii. Total cost of the project is Rs. 230000 Lakh. Cost of production is Rs 1400 per tonne, CSR cost will be 2% profit of last three years. R&R cost – 380 Crore. Environment Management Cost is: 10748.2 Lakh, Capital Rs 10642 Lakh; & Recurring Rs. 106.42 Lakh.

xxix. Base line monitoring status:

- Mention the Period/ Season of baseline study carried out - March to May 2021 (Pre-Monsoon) & Oct to Dec 2021 (Post-Monsoon).

- Whether the Laboratory has been accredited by the NABL/ MoEF&CC certification involved in analysis of water, air, noise & soil quality data, also providing its respective lab reports – Yes

5. The Expert Appraisal Committee in its 47th EAC meeting followed by 16th EAC meeting held during 21-22 July, 2023 and **8-9th Oct. 2024**, respectively, through Video Conferencing has recommended the project for grant of Environment Clearance (EC). Based on recommendations of the EAC, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords approval for Environment Clearance(EC) to Bandha Opencast Coal Mine of 5 MTPA capacity in mine lease area of 1850.94 ha of M/s EMIL Mines and Mineral Resources Limited (EMMRL) located at Village Bandha, Tenduha, Pidarwah, Deori & Pachaur, Tehsil Sarai, District Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh), under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments/circulars thereto subject to the compliance of the following terms & conditions / specific conditions in addition to the standard environmental conditions (**Annexure-1**).

6. The proponent shall abide by all the commitments and recommendations made in the EIA/EMP report and also that during presentation to the EAC. All the commitments made on the issues raised during public hearing shall also be implemented in letter and spirit.

7. The proponent shall obtain all necessary clearances/approvals that may be required before the start of the project. The Ministry or any other competent authority may stipulate any further condition for environmental protection. The Ministry or any other competent authority may stipulate any further condition for environmental protection.

8. Any appeal against this environmental clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

9. The coal company/project proponent shall be liable to pay the compensation against the illegal mining, if any, and as raised by the respective State Governments at any point of time, in terms of the orders dated 2nd August, 2017 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No.114/2014 in the matter of 'Common Cause Vs Union of India & others.

10. The concerned State Government shall ensure no mining operations to commence till the entire compensation for illegal mining, if any, is paid by the project proponent through their respective Department of Mining & Geology, in strict compliance of the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

11. This environmental clearance shall not be operational till such time the project proponent complies with the above said judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court, as applicable, and other statutory requirements.

12. This issue with an approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

(Sundar Ramanathan)  
Scientist 'E'/Additonal Director  
Tel: 011- 20819378  
Email- r.sundar@nic.in

**Copy To**

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Deputy Director General of Forests (C), Ministry of Env., Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office, E-5, Kendriya Paryavaran Bhawan, E-5 Arera Colony, Link Road-3, Ravishankar Nagar, Bhopal – 462 016.
3. The Member Secretary, Madhya Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, Paryavaran Parisar, E-5, Arera Colony, Bhopal -462 016.
4. The Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Jamnagar House, 18/11, Man Singh Road Area, New Delhi, Delhi 110 001.
5. The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi – 32.
6. The District Collector, Singrauli, Government of (Madhya Pradesh.)
7. Monitoring File/PARIVESH Portal



**A. Specific Conditions**

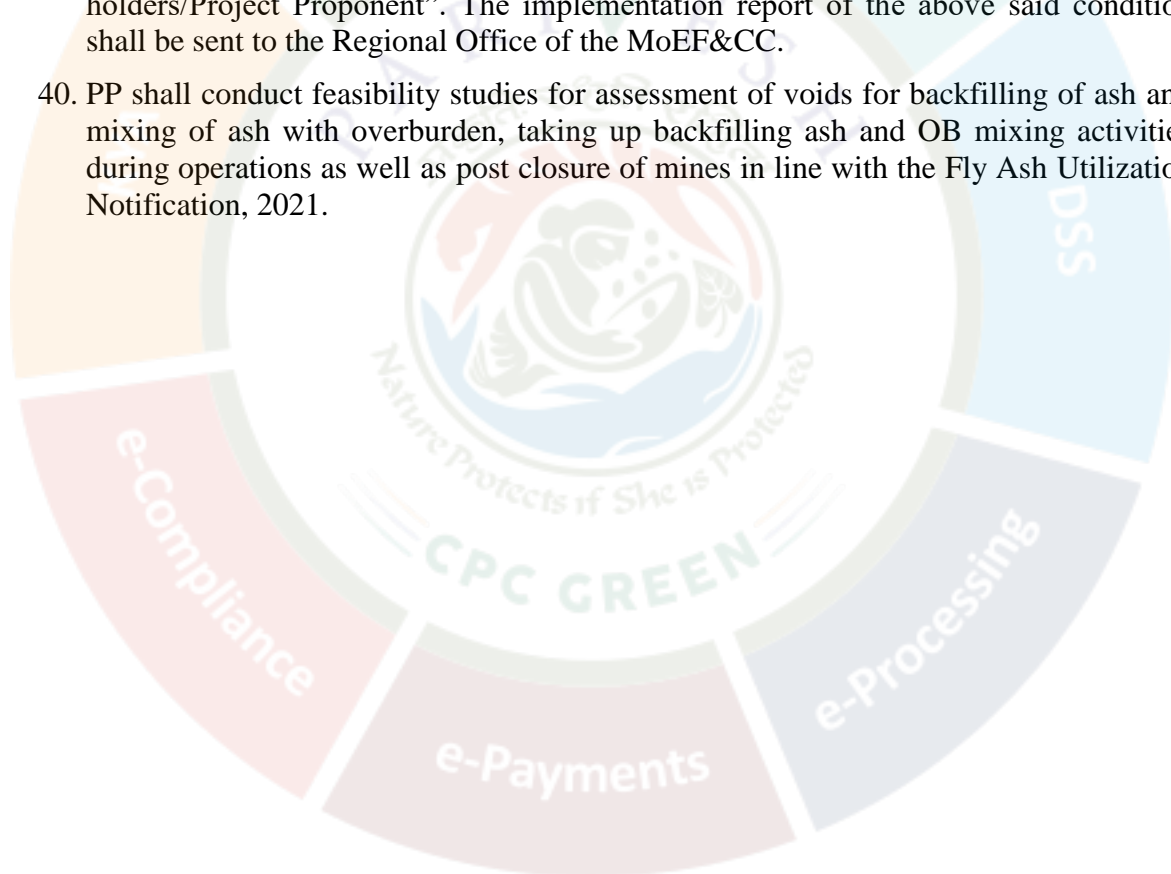
1. PP shall obtain CTE/CTO from State Pollution Control Board for 5.0 MTPA production capacity for open cast operation.
2. PP shall divert the Kanchanmuda Nallah in a manner that its construction for diversion shall be covered in one go without extended period and works plan shall be designed to complete the diversion avoiding Monsoon season (i.e effective working months of non-monsoon season). Embankment height shall be maintained on both side of stream with sufficient free board upto 3 mts from its HFL.
3. PP shall maintain 50 mts width of embankment all along the diverted stream/nallah (Kanchanmuda) and conduct dense plantation with fruit bearing native species by itself.
4. The diversion of Kanchanmuda Nallah shall be monitored by IRO and complete report with the drone video and satellite imagery shall be submitted to IRO, MoEF&CC.
5. PP shall prepare Gabion wall and garland drain all along the OB dumps to catch the surface run-off and sludge coming from dump along with construction of catch drain along the periphery of mine to prevent surface runoff and sedimentation pond to arrest Total Suspended Solids (TSS) particles.
6. PP shall install dedicated inpit conveyor belt with silo loading system till railway siding for transportation of 90% of extracted coal through rail on or before December, 2027 and only 10% shall be transported by road. Accordingly, SPCB should grant the consent to operate.
7. Till the period of setting up mechanized system, PP shall deploy the truck size of upto 40 tonnes (payload) for transportation of coal by dedicated road not passing through village or any sensitive locations. Transportation of coal shall be done in covered trucks only till December, 2027.
8. The mining plan shall be revised/amended at later stage after incorporating the diversion of Nallah in one go with year-wise coal production.
9. PP shall implement activities-wise proposed budget of Rs. 1672 lakhs (as Public Hearing Budget) in time bound manner as in Table 7-2 Chapter 7 on page no. 435 of EIA report, Rs. 10642 Lakhs as a capital cost and Rs 106.42 lakhs for recurring cost (EMP budget) in time bound manner as in Table 10.5, Chapter 10 on page no. 480 of EIA report. The details of annual expenditure shall be part of report submitted to IRO, MoEF&CC. PP needs to include the audited figures against the expenditure and activities to be monitored by through dedicated online monitoring mechanism. The maintenance of all activities shall be covered through recurring cost of Public Hearing, which will be part of CSR budget.
10. PP needs to protect the tribal population as per forest right act, 2006 and under the supervision of District Collector, Singrauli.
11. PP shall provide protection to the agriculture field lying inside the ML area from dust and polluted water.
12. As proposed during the meeting, PP will reduce the carbon footprint after sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub> and the total carbon sequestration potential is approximately 435519 kg/year wherein the carbon sequestration per tree is approximately 32.78 kg/year. PP shall

complete the plantation for total 3277350 no of trees to sequestered estimated potential of carbon i.e. 25938838.14 kg/year. IRO will review the progress of tree plantation w.r.t CO2 sequestration. The process of sequestration of CO2 will include the planting trees, by “Developing carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies” and implementation of renewable energy. Further, PP shall carry out enough plantation to ensure carbon sequestration lost due to deforestation and other fossil fuel based activities. With all efforts, PP to ensure after 6th year no carbon to be emitted and net zero CO2 shall take place.

13. PP shall complete the dense plantation along mine roads, on OB dumps and non-dump areas with local species particularly of Sal tree/species. PP shall develop 10 ha of Sal nursery in the project area and yearly minimum 10,000 saplings to be distributed among near villagers for afforestation purpose.
14. PP shall complete the plantation in an area of 1310.94 ha @ 2500 plants per ha during the closure of mine. IRO will monitor the coverage of the area through plantation from time to time. The plantation shall also be done in Infrastructure and undisturbed area of 130 Ha proportionately to increase the tree density.
15. PP shall maintain the same distribution of species during the progressive mine closure of the lease area. As well as 295 Ha of reclaimed Land to be converted into agriculture land after completing the mining.
16. PP shall monitor regularly water levels in open dug wells located in village and by establishing Piezometer to ascertain the impact of mining over ground water table and to plan mitigative measures to recharge the area.
17. Main haul road in the mine shall be provided with permanent water sprinklers, and other roads shall be regularly wetted with water tankers fitted with sprinklers. Also PP shall install Mist Cannon Dust Suppression Systems (80-100 mtrs.) at Coal Stock Yard to suppress the dust particles.
18. Garland drains (2mX3m) of adequate size shall be provided at the toe of the benches to arrest discharge and runoff with silt and sediments surging into areas adjoining the periphery of Overburden dump, which will be regularly cleaned before the onset of monsoon every year.
19. Check dams shall be constructed at required locations within drains to arrest eroded materials and settling ponds shall be constructed to treat mine discharge water inside the mine block.
20. As proposed 5 water harvesting pond shall be created separately to recharging the ground water and usage of project affected families.
21. Proper profiling of working benches of pits and dumps shall be done to channelize water in garland drains & sumps.
22. Waste generated from the domestic use shall be treated in STP and the treated water will be utilized in plantation & greenbelt development. Wastewater from the HEMM washing/ workshop will be treated in ETP. After treatment, water will be reused in washing of HEMM, dust suppression and greenbelt development.
23. PP shall limit the activities of mining in its mine lease area only. No OB Dumping and infrastructure activity should be proposed and dumped on forest land. Accordingly revised Mine Plan should be submitted (if required) and submitted to Ministry.

24. PP shall make use of advanced computer simulation techniques for design and execution of blasting operation in the mine. PP shall make use of Electronic Delay Detonators for optimal blasting in coal and OB rock to minimize the environmental impacts of blasting such as ground vibration, fly rocks and excessive dust generation.
25. PP shall explore the possibility & deploy atleast 20% of overall fleet of dumpers/trucks as electrical or CNG/LNG based dumpers/trucks for transportation of coal/OB etc and deploy e-vehicles for workers/staff in/out of the mine.
26. PP shall create a “Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System” for resolving any issues related to the pollution of mines and complaint has to resolve as soon as possible not beyond 30 days. In this regard, adequate awareness to be spread among the public to address their grievance to company with simple and easy manner and for which company needs to devise the mechanism. The same shall be reported to IRO within 3 months. A logbook to be maintained by PP on “Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System.
27. PP shall ensure distribution of water from the artificial reservoir within and outside Mine lease area in consultation with gram panchayat. The water treatment plant to meet the requirement with the start of production.
28. PP shall install fixed fog cannon (mist spayer) and fixed sprinkler all along the haul road/ CHP, and OB dump till Railway siding is completed. The sufficient number of fog cannons (not less than 10 nos.) with 40 mts jet length shall be installed within 6 months. It should be ensured that air pollution level confirm to the standards prescribed by the MOEFCC/CPCB.
29. PP shall deposit the approved amount as proposed for wildlife conservation plan to the Govt. of **Madhya Pradesh, Forest & Environment Dept.** and further consult with State Biodiversity Authority for its CSR activity.”
30. PP shall construct new multispecialty (50 beds) hospital in the 10 km of the project area within 5 years for local people out of approved budget. The project affected families shall be given free medical facility. This shall be done in consultation of DM of the district.
31. PP shall conduct third party audit of compliance of EC condition at an interval six months and its report shall be submitted to IRO, MoEF&CC.
32. The status of mine closure activities must be included in every six months compliance report submitted to the state pollution control board and IRO.
33. PP to maintain the topped haul road properly to minimized the dust emission. PP to also develop pucca roads by seeking consent from the panchayat with widening of roads especially roads inter linking the villages within the study area of 10 km radius buffer zone.
34. PP to install solar lights along the road used for transportation of minerals to avoid the accidents at night and also seek its maintenance. PP is asked to also identify the rural areas for installation of solar light with its maintenance within the study area of 10 km radius buffer zone within one year.
35. PP to provide bio toilets to the villages located within the study areas within 1 year from the grant of this EC.
36. Persons of nearby villages shall be given training on livelihood and skill development to make them employable with its proper records.

37. PP shall pay to farmers of agricultural land if there is any loss due to pollution found by concerned District Commissioner as per extent rules or norms.
38. PP should establish in house (at project site) environment laboratory for measurement of environment parameter with respect to air quality and water (surface and ground. A dedicated team to oversee environment management shall be setup which should comprise of Environment Engineers, Laboratory chemist and staff for monitoring of air, water quality parameters on routine basis. Any non- compliance or infringement should be reported to the concerned authority.
39. Hon'ble Supreme Court in an Writ Petition(s) Civil No. 114/2014, Common Cause vs Union of India &Ors vide its judgement dated 8th January, 2020 has directed the Union of India to impose a condition in the mining lease and a similar condition in the environmental clearance and the mining plan to the effect that the mining lease holders shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc. Compliance of this condition after the mining activity is over at the cost of the mining lease holders/Project Proponent". The implementation report of the above said condition shall be sent to the Regional Office of the MoEF&CC.
40. PP shall conduct feasibility studies for assessment of voids for backfilling of ash and mixing of ash with overburden, taking up backfilling ash and OB mixing activities during operations as well as post closure of mines in line with the Fly Ash Utilization Notification, 2021.



## **B. Standard EC Conditions**

### **I. The grant of Environmental Clearance is further subject to compliance of the Standard EC conditions as under:**

#### **(a) Statutory compliance**

- (i) The project proponent shall obtain forest clearance under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1986, in case of the diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose involved in the project.
- (ii) The project proponent shall obtain clearance from the National Board for Wildlife, if applicable.
- (iii) The project proponent shall prepare a Site-Specific Conservation Plan / Wildlife Management Plan and approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden. The recommendations of the approved Site-Specific Conservation Plan/Wildlife Management Plan shall be implemented in consultation with the State Forest Department. The implementation report shall be furnished along with the six-monthly compliance report (in case of the presence of schedule-I species in the study area).
- (iv) The project proponent shall obtain Consent to Establish/Operate under the provisions of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 from the concerned State pollution Control Board/ Committee.
- (v) The project proponent shall obtain the necessary permission from the Central Ground Water Authority.
- (vi) Solid/hazardous waste generated in the mines needs to be addressed in accordance to the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016/Hazardous & Other Waste Management Rules, 2016.

#### **(b) Air quality monitoring and preservation**

- (i) Continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations as prescribed in the statute be established in the core zone as well as in the buffer zone for monitoring of pollutants, namely PM10, PM2.5, SO2 and NOx. Location of the stations shall be decided based on the meteorological data, topographical features and environmentally and ecologically sensitive targets in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board. Online ambient air quality monitoring stations may also be installed in addition to the regular monitoring stations as per the requirement and/or in consultation with the SPCB. Monitoring of heavy metals such as Hg, As, Ni, Cd, Cr, etc to be carried out at least once in six months.
- (ii) The Ambient Air Quality monitoring in the core zone shall be carried out to ensure the Coal Industry Standards notified vide GSR 742 (E) dated 25th September, 2000 and as amended from time to time by the Central Pollution Control Board. Data on ambient air quality and heavy metals such as Hg, As, Ni, Cd, Cr and other monitoring data shall be regularly reported to the Ministry/Regional Office and to the CPCB/SPCB.
- (iii) Transportation of coal, to the extent permitted by road, shall be carried out by covered trucks/conveyors. Effective control measures such as regular water/mist sprinkling/rain gun etc shall be carried out in critical areas prone to air pollution (with higher values of PM10/PM2.5) such as haul road, loading/unloading and transfer points. Fugitive dust emissions from all sources shall be controlled regularly. It shall be ensured that the

Ambient Air Quality parameters conform to the norms prescribed by the Central/State Pollution Control Board.

- (iv) The transportation of coal shall be carried out as per the provisions and route envisaged in the approved Mining Plan or environment monitoring plan. Transportation of the coal through the existing road passing through any village shall be avoided. In case, it is proposed to construct a 'bypass' road, it should be so constructed so that the impact of sound, dust and accidents could be appropriately mitigated.
- (v) Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. All the vehicles engaged in mining and allied activities shall operate only after obtaining 'PUC' certificate from the authorized pollution testing centres.
- (vi) Coal stock pile/crusher/feeder and breaker material transfer points shall invariably be provided with dust suppression system. Belt-conveyors shall be fully covered to avoid air borne dust. Side cladding all along the conveyor gantry should be made to avoid air borne dust. Drills shall be wet operated or fitted with dust extractors.
- (vii) Coal handling plant shall be operated with effective control measures w.r.t. various environmental parameters. Environmental friendly sustainable technology should be implemented for mitigating such parameters.

**(c) Water quality monitoring and preservation**

- (i) The effluent discharge (mine waste water, workshop effluent) shall be monitored in terms of the parameters notified under the Water Act, 1974 Coal Industry Standards vide GSR 742 (E) dated 25th September, 2000 and as amended from time to time by the Central Pollution Control Board.
- (ii) The monitoring data shall be uploaded on the company's website and displayed at the project site at a suitable location. The circular No.J-20012/1/2006-1A.11 (M) dated 27th May, 2009 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change shall also be referred in this regard for its compliance.
- (iii) Regular monitoring of ground water level and quality shall be carried out in and around the mine lease area by establishing a network of existing wells and constructing new piezometers during the mining operations. The monitoring of ground water levels shall be carried out four times a year i.e. pre-monsoon, monsoon, post-monsoon and winter. The ground water quality shall be monitored once a year, and the data thus collected shall be sent regularly to MOEFCC/RO.
- (iv) Monitoring of water quality upstream and downstream of water bodies shall be carried out once in six months and record of monitoring data shall be maintained and submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/Regional Office.
- (v) Ground water, excluding mine water, shall not be used for mining operations. Rainwater harvesting shall be implemented for conservation and augmentation of ground water resources.
- (vi) Catch and/or garland drains and siltation ponds in adequate numbers and appropriate size shall be constructed around the mine working, coal heaps & OB dumps to prevent run off of water and flow of sediments directly into the river and water bodies. Further, dump material shall be properly consolidated/ compacted and accumulation of water over dumps shall be avoided by providing adequate channels for flow of silt into the drains. The drains/ ponds so constructed shall be regularly de-silted particularly before onset of

monsoon and maintained properly. Sump capacity should provide adequate retention period to allow proper settling of

- (vii) silt material. The water so collected in the sump shall be utilised for dust suppression and green belt development and other industrial use. Dimension of the retaining wall constructed, if any, at the toe of the OB dumps within the mine to check run-off and siltation should be based on the rainfall data. The plantation of native species to be made between toe of the dump and adjacent field/habitation/water bodies.
- (viii) Adequate groundwater recharge measures shall be taken up for augmentation of ground water. The project authorities shall meet water requirement of nearby village(s) after due treatment conforming to the specific requirement (standards).
- (ix) Industrial waste water generated from CHP, workshop and other waste water, shall be properly collected and treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under the standards prescribed under Water Act 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rules made there under, and as amended from time to time. Adequate ETP /STP needs to be provided.
- (x) The water pumped out from the mine, after siltation, shall be utilized for industrial purpose viz. watering the mine area, roads, green belt development etc. The drains shall be regularly desilted particularly after monsoon and maintained properly.
- (xi) The surface drainage plan including surface water conservation plan for the area of influence affected by the said mining operations, considering the presence of river/rivulet/pond/lake etc, shall be prepared and implemented by the project proponent. The surface drainage plan and/or any diversion of natural water courses shall be as per the approved Mining Plan/EIA/EMP report and with due approval of the concerned State/GoI Authority. The construction of embankment to prevent any danger against inrush of surface water into the mine should be as per the approved Mining Plan and as per the permission of DGMS or any other authority as prescribed by the law.
- (xii) The project proponent shall take all precautionary measures to ensure riverine/riparian ecosystem in and around the coal mine up to a distance of 5 km. A riverine/riparian ecosystem conservation and management plan should be prepared and implemented in consultation with the irrigation / water resource department in the state government.

#### **(d) Noise and Vibration monitoring and prevention**

- (i) Adequate measures shall be taken for control of noise levels as per Noise Pollution Rules, 2016 in the work environment. Workers engaged in blasting and drilling operations, operation of HEMM, etc shall be provided with personal protective equipments (PPE) like ear plugs/muffs in conformity with the prescribed norms and guidelines in this regard. Adequate awareness programme for users to be conducted. Progress in usage of such accessories to be monitored.
- (ii) Controlled blasting techniques shall be practiced in order to mitigate ground vibrations, fly rocks, noise and air blast etc., as per the guidelines prescribed by the DGMS.
- (iii) The noise level survey shall be carried out as per the prescribed guidelines to assess noise exposure of the workmen at vulnerable points in the mine premises, and report in this regard shall be submitted to the Ministry/RO on six-monthly basis.

### **(e) Mining Plan**

- (i) Mining shall be carried out under strict adherence to provisions of the Mines Act 1952 and subordinate legislations made there-under as applicable.
- (ii) Mining shall be carried out as per the approved mining plan (including Mine Closure Plan) abiding by mining laws related to coal mining and the relevant circulars issued by Directorate General Mines Safety (DGMS).
- (iii) No mining shall be carried out in forest land without obtaining Forestry Clearance as per Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- (iv) Efforts should be made to reduce energy and fuel consumption by conservation, efficiency improvements and use of renewable energy.

### **(f) Land reclamation**

- (i) Digital Survey of entire lease hold area/core zone using Satellite Remote Sensing survey shall be carried out at least once in three years for monitoring land use pattern and report in 1:50,000 scale or as notified by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change(MOEFCC) from time to time shall be submitted to MOEFCC/Regional Office (RO).
- (ii) The final mine void depth should preferably be as per the approved Mine Closure Plan, and in case it exceeds 40 m, adequate engineering interventions shall be provided for sustenance of aquatic life therein. The remaining area shall be backfilled and covered with thick and alive top soil. Post-mining land be rendered usable for agricultural/forestry purposes and shall be diverted. Further action will be treated as specified in the guidelines for Preparation of Mine Closure Plan issued by the Ministry of Coal dated 27th August, 2009 and subsequent amendments.
- (iii) The entire excavated area, backfilling, external OB dumping (including top soil) and afforestation plan shall be in conformity with the “during mining”/”post mining” land-use pattern, which is an integral part of the approved Mining Plan and the EIA/EMP submitted to this Ministry. Progressive compliance status vis-a-vis the post mining land use pattern shall be submitted to the MOEFCC/RO.
- (iv) Fly ash shall be used for external dump of overburden, backfilling or stowing of mine as per provisions contained in clause (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (8) of fly ash notification issued vide SO 2804 (E) dated 3rd November, 2009 as amended from time to time. Efforts shall be made to utilize gypsum generated from Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD), if any, along with fly ash for external dump of overburden, backfilling of mines. Compliance report shall be submitted to Regional Office of MoEF&CC, CPCB and SPCB.
- (v) Further, it may be ensured that as per the time schedule specified in mine closure plan it should remain live till the point of utilization. The topsoil shall temporarily be stored at earmarked site(s) only and shall not be kept unutilized. The top soil shall be used for land reclamation and plantation purposes. Active OB dumps shall be stabilised with native grass species to prevent erosion and surface run off. The other overburden dumps shall be vegetated with native flora species. The excavated area shall be backfilled and afforested in line with the approved Mine Closure Plan. Monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas shall continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining.

Compliance status shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/ Regional Office.

- (vi) The project proponent shall make necessary alternative arrangements, if grazing land is involved in core zone, in consultation with the State government to provide alternate areas for livestock grazing, if any. In this context, the project proponent shall implement the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to acquiring grazing land.

**(g) Green Belt**

- (i) The project proponent shall take all precautionary measures during mining operation for conservation and protection of endangered/endemic flora/fauna, if any, spotted/reported in the study area. The Action plan in this regard, if any, shall be prepared and implemented in consultation with the State Forest and Wildlife Department.
- (ii) Greenbelt consisting of 3-tier plantation of width not less than 7.5 m shall be developed all along the mine lease area as soon as possible. The green belt comprising a mix of native species (endemic species should be given priority) shall be developed all along the major approach/ coal transportation roads.

**(h) Public hearing and Human health issues**

- (i) Adequate illumination shall be ensured in all mine locations (as per DGMS standards) and monitored weekly. The report on the same shall be submitted to this ministry & it's RO on six-monthly basis.
- (ii) The project proponent shall undertake occupational health survey for initial and periodical medical examination of the personnel engaged in the project and maintain records accordingly as per the provisions of the Mines Rules, 1955 and DGMS circulars. Besides regular periodic health check-up, 20% of the personnel identified from workforce engaged in active mining operations shall be subjected to health check-up for occupational diseases and hearing impairment, if any, as amended time to time.
- (iii) Personnel (including outsourced employees) working in core zone shall wear protective respiratory devices and shall also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects.
- (iv) Implementation of the action plan on the issues raised during the public hearing shall be ensured. The project proponent shall undertake all the tasks/measures as per the action plan submitted with budgetary provisions during the public hearing. Land oustees shall be compensated as per the norms laid down in the R&R policy of the company/State Government/Central Government, as applicable.
- (v) The project proponent shall follow the mitigation measures provided in this Ministry's OM No.Z-11013/5712014-IA.II (M) dated 29th October, 2014, titled 'Impact of mining activities on habitations-issues related to the mining projects wherein habitations and villages are the part of mine lease areas or habitations and villages are surrounded by the mine lease area.

**(i) Corporate Environment Responsibility**

- (i) The company shall have a well laid down environmental policy duly approve by the Board of Directors. The environmental policy should prescribe for standard operating procedures to have proper checks and balances and to bring into focus any

infringements/deviation/violation of the environmental/forest/wildlife norms/conditions. The company shall have defined system of reporting infringements/deviation/violation of the environmental/forest/wildlife norms/conditions and/or shareholders/stake holders.

- (ii) A separate Environmental Cell both at the project and company head quarter level, with qualified personnel shall be set up under the control of senior Executive, who will directly to the head of the organization.
- (iii) Action plan for implementing EMP and environmental conditions along with responsibility matrix of the company shall be prepared and shall be duly approved by competent authority. The year wise funds earmarked for environmental protection measures shall be kept in separate account and not to be diverted for any other purpose. Year wise progress of implementation of action plan shall be reported to the Ministry/Regional Office along with the Six Monthly Compliance Report.
- (iv) Self environmental audit shall be conducted annually. Every three years third party environmental audit shall be carried out.

**(j) Miscellaneous**

- (i) The project proponent shall make public the environmental clearance granted for their project along with the environmental conditions and safeguards at their cost by prominently advertising it at least in two local newspapers of the District or State, of which one shall be in the vernacular language within seven days and in addition this shall also be displayed in the project proponent's website permanently.
- (ii) The copies of the environmental clearance shall be submitted by the project proponents to the Heads of local bodies, Panchayats and Municipal Bodies in addition to the relevant offices of the Government who in turn has to display the same for 30 days from the date of receipt.
- (iii) The project proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated environment clearance conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and update the same on half-yearly basis.
- (iv) The project proponent shall monitor the criteria pollutants level namely; PM10, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> (ambient levels) or critical sectoral parameters, indicated for the projects and display the same at a convenient location for disclosure to the public and put on the website of the company.
- (v) The project proponent shall submit six-monthly reports on the status of the compliance of the stipulated environmental conditions on the website of the ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at environment clearance portal.
- (vi) The project proponent shall follow the mitigation measures provided in this Ministry's OM No.Z-11013/5712014-IA.II (M) dated 29th October, 2014, titled 'Impact of mining activities on habitations-issues related to the mining projects wherein habitations and villages are the part of mine lease areas or habitations and villages are surrounded by the mine lease area.
- (vii) The project proponent shall submit the environmental statement for each financial year in Form-V to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently and put on the website of the company.

- (viii) The project authorities shall inform to the Regional Office of the MOEFCC regarding commencement of mining operations.
- (ix) The project authorities must strictly adhere to the stipulations made by the State Pollution Control Board and the State Government.
- (x) The project proponent shall abide by all the commitments and recommendations made in the EIA/EMP report, commitment made during Public Hearing and also that during their presentation to the Expert Appraisal Committee.
- (xi) No further expansion or modifications in the plant shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- (xii) Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated data may result in revocation of this environmental clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- (xiii) The Ministry may revoke or suspend the clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory.
- (xiv) The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions if found necessary. The Company in a time bound manner shall implement these conditions.
- (xv) The Regional Office of this Ministry shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer (s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data / information/monitoring reports.
- (xvi) The above conditions shall 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, Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Trans-boundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and Rules and any other orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India / High Courts and any other Court of Law relating to the subject matter.

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सत्यमेव जयते

File No.: J-11015/54/2021-IA.II(M)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
IA Division  
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Dated 25/07/2025



To,

Sh. Dipesh Omprakash Bhatia  
M/s. Emil Mines and Mineral Resources Limited  
Industry House, 18th Floor, 10 Camac Street, Kolkata, West Bengal, 700017  
E-mail: emmrl.registered@adityabirla.com

**Subject: Bandha Coal Opencast Coal Mine (area: 1850.94 Ha having production capacity of 5 MTPA) by M/s Emil Mines and Mineral Resources Limited located at villages: Bandha, Tenduha, Pidarwah, Deori & Pachaur, Tehsil Sarai, District Singrauli; State: Madhya Pradesh – Amendment in Environment Clearance – regarding**

Sir/Madam,

This is with reference to your online application vide proposal No. IA/MP/CMIN/541624/2025 dated 16.06.2025 for seeking amendment in Environment Clearance accorded by the Ministry vide letter dated 19.11.2024, under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 for the project mentioned above.

2. The particulars of the proposal are as below :

(i) EC Identification No.	EC25A0101MP5244739A
(ii) File No.	J-11015/54/2021-IA.II(M)
(iii) Clearance Type	Amendment in EC
(iv) Category	A
(v) Schedule No./ Project Activity	1(a) Mining of minerals
(vi) Sector	Coal Mining
(vii) Name of Project	Bandha Coal Mine
(viii) Location of Project (District, State)	SINGRAULI, MADHYA PRADESH
(ix) Issuing Authority	MoEF&CC
(x) EC Date	19/11/2024
(xi) Applicability of General Conditions	NO
(xii) Status of implementation of the project	

3. M/s. EMIL Mines and Mineral Resources Limited (EMMRL) has made an online application vide proposal no. IA/MP/CMIN/541624/2025 dated 16.06.2025 seeking for amendment in Environmental Clearance granted vide Letter No.

IA-J-11015/54/2021-IA-II(M), dated 19.11.2024 for Bandha Coal Opencast Coal Mine (area: 1850.94 Ha having production capacity of 5 MTPA), located at villages: Bandha, Tenduha, Pidarwah, Deori & Pachaur, Tehsil Sarai, District Singrauli; State: Madhya Pradesh.

4. The instant proposal was considered in 28th EAC meeting held during 30th June, 2025. The MoM for the same may be seen using the web link: [parivesh.nic.in](http://parivesh.nic.in).

5. The instant proposal is for seeking amendment in Specific Condition no. 23 (i.e. regarding dumping of OB in within the ML area and non – forestland only) of EC granted vide letter dated 19.11.2024.

**6. Details of previous approvals:**

S. No.	Details of Letter No.	EC/Expansion EC/Amendment in EC/Validity extension/Transfer of EC	Capacity (MTPA)	Area (Ha)	Date of issuance	Status of implementation
1	File No: IA-J-11015/54/2021-IA-II(M)	EC for greenfield project	5.0	1850.94	19.11.2024	Pre-Commissioning (yet to be implemented)

**7. Land use details:**

Nature of land involved	Area (Ha)
Non-Forest Land	1043.02
Forest Land	807.917
<b>Total Land</b>	<b>1850.94</b>

PP obtained Stage-I Forest Clearance for the forest land/area of 807.917 ha involved in the mine lease area vide letter dated 01.10.2024 and Stage-II forest clearance was obtained vide letter dated 30.04.2025.

**8. The details of the condition for which amendment is sought and justification for the same is as follows:**

Details of EC	Details of Conditions as per EC	Amendment Sought	Justification
Specific Conditions No. 23 of EC dated 19.11.2024	PP shall limit the activities of mining in its mine lease area only. No OB Dumping and infrastructure activity should be proposed and dumped on forest land. Accordingly, a revised Mine Plan should be submitted (if required) and submitted to Ministry	PP shall limit the activities of mining in its mine lease area only. OB dumping should be done as per the approved Mining Plan and Mine Closure Plan.	Justification is given in the paragraph below.

**9. Justification for requirement of forestland for external OB dump:** PP submitted that, eventually after submission of Stage I FC, EC was granted on 19.11.2024 for the Bandha Opencast Coal Mine Project with a rated production capacity of 5 MTPA over a total area of 1850.94 Ha, with a specific condition no. 23 stating that “PP shall limit the activities of mining in its mine lease area only. No OB Dumping and infrastructure activity should be proposed and dumped on forest land. Accordingly, a revised Mine Plan should be submitted (if required) and submitted to Ministry”.

PP submitted that, after the recommendation of the EAC in its meeting held on 21-22 July 2023, the proposal for diversion of 807.917 ha of forest land, including 183.75 ha proposed for external overburden (OB) dumping was taken up for consideration by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 27.08.2024. The FAC deliberated extensively on the issue of OB dumping on forest land.

As per the minutes of the said FAC meeting, the Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bhopal informed the Committee that:

*“External Dump is proposed over an area of 350 Ha involving both forest (183.75 ha.) and non-forest land. As the quantity of OB is substantial, it is not feasible to re-handle and put it back in internal dumps as it will increase the height*

beyond the safe limits. CMPDIL, a premier planning institute, under Ministry of Coal, Government of India has critically evaluated all the options and designed the dumps up to a height of 120 m above ground based on modelling and regional experience, taking all safety and statutory factors into account and the same has been approved by Ministry of Coal (MoC). Further it is observed that there is no non-forest land available for external dump outside the coal block as entire area around the block is coal bearing with other operating mines and allocated Coal blocks. Therefore, taking into consideration all the facts mentioned above, the external dump proposed over 183.75 ha forest land accounting for about 22.74% of the total area proposed for diversion, is observed to be justified”.

It is pertinent to mention that Stage-I FC was granted on 01.10.2024 and upon submission of the compliance report to the stipulated conditions, the Final/Stage-II FC has subsequently been granted on 30.04.2025.

Prior to this, after thorough assessment of the technical feasibility and environmental safeguards, the Mining Plan & Mine Closure Plan, which includes provision for external overburden dumping over 183.75 ha of forest land, had already been approved by the Ministry of Coal (MoC) on 15.02.2022.

### **Requirement of Forest land for External Dump**

The removal of overburden is the first step in a coal winning operation, to expose underlying coal for excavation. External dumping is required in the initial years of opencast coal mining till sufficient coal gets exposed for extraction due to following reasons:

- i. The mine has a high stripping ratio of 9.76 m<sup>3</sup>/ton, resulting in the generation of a large volume of overburden (OB), as the initial coal will be exposed only after excavation of 90 m to 130 m.
- ii. Out of the total lease area of 1850.94 Ha, 1315 Ha falls under the open pit area, and the remaining 535.94 Ha is planned for coal extraction through the underground method of mining after the completion of opencast mining. At present, the surface area of 535.94 Ha will be utilized for OB dumping, infra, safety zone etc. Out of 535.94 Ha, 350 Ha will be used for external OB dumping which includes 183.75 Ha Forest land and only this area is the unique place which is technically suitable location for external OB dumping.
- iii. Partial backfilling of the OB dump will start after the 6th year of operation. Rehandling of the external dump for backfilling is not feasible, as the height of the internal OB dump would exceed 120 m, which is considered unsafe from both safety and environmental perspectives. Rolling reclamation of the dump would also not be feasible (both technically and biologically) and would result in barren land throughout the life of the mine, causing safety risks and environmental degradation.
- iv. The block is surrounded by operating and allotted coal blocks; hence, there is no land available outside the mine lease area for dumping purposes. Therefore, permission for external OB dumping over 350 Ha within the lease area which includes 183.75 Ha of forest land is required, otherwise mining operations cannot commence.

### **Observations and deliberation of the Committee:**

10. The EAC noted the following:

- i. MoEF&CC accorded EC vide letter dated 19.11.2024 to M/s Emil Mines and Mineral Resources Limited for Bandha Coal Opencast Coal Mine (area: 1850.94 Ha having production capacity of 5 MTPA), located at villages: Bandha, Tenduha, Pidarwah, Deori & Pachaur, Tehsil Sarai, District Singrauli; State: Madhya Pradesh.
- ii. The instant proposal is for seeking amendment in specific condition no. 23 of the EC granted vide letter dated 19.11.2024, wherein, it was stipulated that “PP shall limit the activities of mining in its mine lease area only. No OB Dumping and infrastructure activity should be proposed and dumped on forest land. Accordingly, a revised Mine Plan should be submitted (if required) and submitted to Ministry.”
- iii. The instant project involves 1043.02 Ha of non – forestland and 807.917 Ha of forestland. PP obtained stage – I forest clearance on the same vide letter dated 01.10.2024 and stage – II forest clearance vide letter dated 30.04.2025.

iv. The amendment sought pertaining to this particular specific condition is to allow OB dumping in the forestland. During deliberation Committee apprised on the said matter and observed that, the quantity of OB is substantial and as per the dump height designed by CMPDIL, which is already 120 m above the ground level, the same cannot be increased. Committee also took into cognizance that, the external dump cannot be re-handled and backfilled in the quarry area, as due to the substantial quantity of OB, the dump height of the internal dump would cross the safety limits.

v. Further, Committee also observed that PP also explored the option of nearby area for OB dumping. However, no external non-forest land is available in adjacent areas as they are coal-bearing either with operating mines or allocated blocks.

vi. Committee also observed, that FAC has granted Stage – II forest clearance for the forestland involved, with the permission for OB dumping on 183.75 Ha of forest land, only after appraising the proposal with due diligence and considering all the available options.

vii. Committee opined that, while external OB dump will be made on the forestland, PP shall make sure that the surrounding land is not degraded and temporary grassing shall be done on the OB dump, till the time reclamation of the same is not done.

viii. Committee opined that the PP shall install continuous water sprinklers on the OB dump for dust suppression and plantation on the same shall be done using native, fast-growing, and deep-rooted species for quick stabilization. Multi – tier plantation shall be done using grasses, shrubs, pioneer trees and native species.

ix. Committee took into cognizance the MoC guidelines dated 31.01.2025, wherein it is mentioned in para 4.3 that, “For optimum utilization of land resources, minimize transportation of OB or maximize extraction of coal by using the available land or void of nearby mines through handling/ re-handling of OB is allowed. An agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) shall be signed between the mine owners in case of different owners along with the standard operating procedure to be followed by the respective mine owners. The Mining Plan(s) of both mines must be revised to incorporate and reflect this change. The consent of the respective State Government for this purpose shall be attached in the Mining Plan(s). In the case of allocated or auctioned coal blocks, prior consent of the Nominated Authority is required.” EAC opined, that accordingly the PP shall explore the feasibility for dumping of OB in the neighbouring mines and make the necessary changes if required.

**Recommendations of the Committee:**

11. After deliberations, the Committee recommended the proposal for amendment in EC granted vide file no. IA-J-11015/54/2021-IA-II(M), dated 19.11.2024, as detailed below subject to stipulation of following additional specific conditions (Annexure-I). Other terms and conditions prescribed in EC dated 19.11.2024 shall remain unchanged:

Condition No. as per EC dated 19.11.2024	Description as per approved EC	Amendment sought in EC	Recommendation of EAC
Specific Condition No. 23	PP shall limit the activities of mining in its mine lease area only. No OB Dumping and infrastructure activity should be proposed and dumped on forest land. Accordingly, a revised Mine Plan should be submitted (if required) and submitted to Ministry	PP shall limit the activities of mining in its mine lease area only. OB dumping should be done as per the approved Mining Plan and Mine Closure Plan.	<b>Agreed</b> With regard to the changes in specific condition no. 23, Committee is of the opinion to amend specific condition no. 23 as follows: <b>“Project proponent shall restrict the mining activities to its mine lease area only. OB dumping shall be done as per the approved Mine Plan and Mine Closure Plan with all requisite statutory permissions obtained from the concerned competent authority”</b>

**Decision of MoEF&CC:**

12. The undersigned is directed to inform that Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has examined the

proposal in accordance with the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 & further amendments thereto and after accepting the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee (Coal) hereby decided for grant of amendment in the EC dated 19.11.2024 as mentioned in table of above **Para 11**, under the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and its amendments subject to stipulation of additional specific conditions ( **Annexure-I**).

13. All other terms and conditions prescribed in EC letter dated 19.11.2024 shall remain unchanged.

14. The project proponent shall obtain fresh Environment Clearance in case of change in scope of the project, if any.

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

Yours faithfully,  
(Sundar Ramanathan)  
Scientist 'F'  
Tel: 011- 20819378  
Email- r.sundar@nic.in

**Copy To**

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
2. Deputy Director General of Forests (C), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office, E-5, Kendriya Paryavaran Bhawan, E-5 Arera Colony, Link Road-3, Ravishankar Nagar, Bhopal – 462016.
3. The Chairman, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, Curzon Road Barracks, A-2, W-3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.
4. The Regional Director, Central Ground Water B
5. oard, North Central Region, Block-1, 4th Floor, Paryawas Bhawan Area Hills, Jail Road, Bhopal - 462011, Madhya Pradesh.
6. The Chairman, Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board, E-5, Main Rd No. 3, Ekant Park, Arera Colony, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh 462.016.
7. The Member Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board, E-5, Main Rd No. 3, Ekant Park, Arera Colony, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh 462.016.
8. The District Collector, Singrauli, Government of MP.
9. PARIVESH Portal

**Annexure 1**

**Specific EC Conditions for (Mining Of Minerals)**

**1. Additional Specific Condition**

S. No	EC Conditions
1.1	Project Proponent shall develop concurrent plantation over the OB dump in such a way that the nearby forestland is not degraded. Plantation shall be done using native, fast-growing, and deep-rooted species for quick stabilization. Multi – tier plantation shall be done using grasses, shrubs, pioneer trees and native species.
1.2	Project proponent shall ensure that adequate number of fixed water sprinklers on the OB dump for dust suppression purpose.
1.3	Project proponent shall explore the feasibility of using the mine voids of the neighbouring mines for dumping of OB, in line with the para 4.3 of MoC Guidelines dated 31.01.2025.

Signed by  
Sundar Ramanathan  
Date: 25-07-2025 09:49:44  
Reason: Verified and signed