F. No. J-11015/446/2013-IA.II (M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Impact Assessment Division

3rd Floor, Vayu Wing,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi-110 003
E-mail: sridhar-mef@nic.in
Tele: 011-24695304
Dated: 26th May, 2016

To,
M/s Ambuja Cement Ltd.,
P.O. Ambujanagar,
Taluka-Kodinagar, District-Girsomnath
(Earstwhile Junagadh),
Gujarat-362 715

Sub.: Lodhva Mining with production capacity 1.5 million TPA of Limestone
by M/s Ambuja Cements Ltd., located at village - Lodhva, Tehsil - Sutrappa,

Reference: Online Application IA/GJ/MIN/22537/2013

Sir,

This has reference to your online application for the above mentioned proposal. The proposal is of M/s Ambuja Cements Ltd. for Lodhva Limestone Mining Project (Area: 591.1389 ha) with production capacity of Limestone 1.5 MTPA (new mine). The mine lease is located at Village: Lodhva, Taluka: Sutrappa, District: Gir Somnath (Earstwhile Junagadh) (Gujarat). The Latitudes and Longitudes of the mine lease area lies between 20°48′46″N to 20°50′41″N and 70°34′07″E to 70°35′38″E. The study area falls within the Survey of India Topo sheet No. 41 L/9 (Restricted). The Project is located in Seismic zone-III.

2. The Proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee in its meeting held during January 27-28th, 2014 to determine the Terms of Reference (ToR) for undertaking detailed EIA study. TOR was issued by MoEF&CC vide letter no. J-11015/446/2013-IA.II (M) dated 14th March, 2014. The proposal was appraised before the Expert Appraisal Committee in December 21-22, 2015 and re-considered in March 21-22, 2016 wherein the Committee recommended the proposal for Environmental Clearance.

3. This is a proposed Limestone mining project with production capacity of 1.5 MTPA. Govt. of Gujarat issued LOI over an area of 591.1389 ha vide letter no. MCR-1599-3748-CHH dated 20.9.2013. The Mining Plan & Progressive Mine Closure Plan for 591.1389 ha area has been approved by Regional controller of Mines, Indian
Bureau of Mines, Udaipur vide their letter no. 682 (23) MP 579/2008 dated 25th September, 2014. Limestone Mining will be done by mechanized opencast method by deploying eco-friendly Surface Miner and Dozer. Drilling and Blasting is not involved. The limestone produced from the mine will be transported by covered tippers from mine to cement plant at Ambujanagar in Kodinar Taluka.

5. The mine lease area is 591.1389 ha, out of which 479.9511 ha is private land, 85.4550 ha is Govt Gaucher land and 25.7328 ha is Govt. waste land. Gaucher land is presently not planned for mining activity. Utilization of Gaucher land for mining shall be done as per the policy of Government of Gujarat. At the conceptual stage, out of the total mining lease area (i.e. 591.1389 ha), total mined-out area will be 442.7446 ha which will be converted into water bodies. Land procurement is under progress and around 70.7 ha land has been purchased by Ambuja Cements Ltd.

6. It was reported by the Project Proponent that no National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuaries/Biosphere Reserves/Wildlife Corridors/Tiger/Elephant Reserve are located within the 10 km study area of the mine lease. There are two forests within 10 km radius study area. No forest land is involved in project (mining lease) area. State Forest Dept. vide letter no WLP/32/A/1322-23/2015-16 dated 16.10.2015 has confirmed that no forest land is there in the lease area. It was reported by the Project Proponent that project area is located 22 kms from Gir Sanctuary and 24 kms from Gir National Park. The Conservation and Management Plan for Schedule-I species reported from study area has been approved by PCCF, Govt. of Gujarat and necessary fund allocation has been made by the project proponent. The project area is near to the sea coast and is located outside the CRZ boundary. The Baseline data was collected for the period March to May, 2014. The analytical results of samples collected for all parameter were found within the permissible limits.

7. The Public Hearing was conducted on 06th June, 2015 at Shree Kanya Shala Maidan (Girls School Compound), Village Lodhva, Taluka-Sutrapada, District-Gir Somnath. The Public Hearing was presided over by Smt K.J. Trivedi, The Additional Collector & Additional District Magistrate, Gir Somnath. The issues raised during Public Hearing were also considered and discussed during the meeting, which inter-alia, included drinking water facility, Water resources Development and Salinity ingress prevention, Medical Assistance, Sanitation Programme, Plantation Programme, Education facility and village infrastructure, skill / vocational training to youth in Lodhva and surrounding villages and providing assistance for employment, Veterinary and agriculture support services, Mining Technology & Conservation & Management of Wildlife species. Total cost of the Project is Rs. 150 crores. Capital Cost for environmental protection measures is Rs. 3 crores & recurring cost is Rs. 25 Lacs/annum and CSR cost is Rs. 94.58 lacs for five years. It was informed by the PP that there is no court case related to the project.

8. The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has examined the proposal in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and further amendments thereto and hereby accords the environmental clearance under the provisions thereof to the above mentioned proposal of Lodhva Mining with production capacity 1.5 million TPA of Limestone by M/s Ambuja Cements Ltd., located at village - Lodhva, Tehsil - Sutrapada, District Gir - Somnath, (Erstwhile Junagadh) Gujarat (591.1389 ha) subject to compliance of the followings terms and conditions and environmental safeguards mentioned below:-
A. Specific conditions

i. Environmental clearance is subject to obtaining clearance under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 from the Standing Committee of NBWL, as may be applicable to this project.

ii. The available technical and personal measures shall be taken to prevent or control the generation, release and dissemination of dust in the workplace.

iii. The project proponent shall obtain Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate from the Gujarat Pollution Control Board and effectively implement all the conditions stipulated therein.

iv. Environmental clearance is subject to final order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of Goa Foundation Vs. Union of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 460 of 2004, as may be applicable to this project.

v. Wet drilling operation will be practiced to control dust.

vi. A buffer zone of 50 m (green belt) on either side of the pond/nalla located near mine lease area or passing through lease area should be developed for protection of the pond/nalla/stream.

vii. No mining activities will be allowed in forest area, if any, for which the Forest Clearance is not available.

viii. The mining operations shall be restricted to above ground water table and it should not intersect the groundwater table.

ix. The lose solids should be kept separately from flowing water and flow of effluents to nearby areas outside the leasehold shall be prevented. These paved drains along with arrangements for Over Burden Dumps and their drainage may be clearly depicted on a contoured map of the mining area.

x. The project proponent shall ensure that no natural watercourse and/or water resources shall be obstructed due to any mining operations. Adequate measures shall be taken for conservation and protection of the 1st and 2nd order streams, emanating or passing through the mine lease during the course of mining operation.

xi. The top soil, if any shall temporarily be stored at earmarked site(s) only and it should not be kept unutilized for long. The topsoil shall be used for land reclamation and plantation.

xii. Appropriate safeguard measures shall be taken to ensure stability and drainage of dump so that no solid waste/debris flows into the nallah.

xiii. The over burden (OB) generated during the mining operation shall be stacked at earmarked dump site(s) only and it should not be kept active for a long period of time and their phase-wise stabilization shall be carried out. Proper terracing of OB dump(s) shall be carried out so that the overall slope shall not exceed 28°. The over burden dump(s) shall be scientifically vegetated with suitable native species to prevent erosion and surface run off. In critical areas, use of geo textiles shall be undertaken for stabilization of the dumps. Monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas should continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. Compliance status should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and its Regional Office, Bhopal on six monthly basis.

xiv. Catch drains and siltation ponds of appropriate size shall be constructed for the working pit, temporary OB and mineral dumps to arrest flow of silt and sediment directly into the adjoining River and other water bodies. The water so collected should be utilized for watering the mine area, roads, green belt development etc. The drains should be regularly desilted particularly after the
monsoon and maintained properly.

xv. Dimension of the retaining wall at the toe of the OB dump(s) and the OB benches within the mine to check run-off and siltation should be based on the rain fall data.

xvi. Plantation shall be raised in the specified area including a 7.5 m wide green belt in the safety zone around the mining lease, OB dump(s), along the roads, etc. by planting the native species in consultation with the local DFO/Agriculture Department. In addition, plantation shall also be raised in the backfilled and reclaimed area and around water body. The density of the trees should be around 2500 plants per ha.

xvii. Effective safeguard measures, such as regular water sprinkling shall be carried out in critical areas prone to air pollution and having high levels of particulate matter such as around crushing and screening plant, loading and unloading point and all transfer points. Extensive water sprinkling shall be carried out on haul roads. It should be ensured that the Ambient Air Quality parameters conform to the norms prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board in this regard.

xviii. Regular monitoring of water quality upstream and downstream of perennial nullahs falling in the impact zone shall be carried out and record of monitoring data should be maintained and submitted to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, its Regional Office, Bhopal, Central Groundwater Authority, Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board, State Pollution Control Board and Central Pollution Control Board.

xix. Appropriate measures shall be taken for treatment of the upper catchment of the mine lease area.

xx. The project authority should implement suitable conservation measures to augment ground water resources in the area in consultation with the Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board.

xxi. Regular monitoring of ground water level and quality shall be carried out in and around the mine lease by establishing a network of existing wells and installing new piezometers during the mining operation. The periodic monitoring [(at least four times in a year- pre-monsoon (April-May), monsoon (August), post-monsoon (November) and winter (January); once in each season)] shall be carried out in consultation with the State Ground Water Board/Central Ground Water Authority and the data thus collected may be sent regularly to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and its Regional Office Bhopal, the Central Ground Water Authority and the Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board. If at any stage, it is observed that the groundwater table is getting depleted due to the mining activity, necessary corrective measures shall be carried out.

xxii. The project proponent shall obtain necessary prior permission of the competent authorities for drawl of requisite quantity of water, required for the project.

xxiii. Suitable rainwater harvesting measures on long term basis shall be planned and implemented in consultation with the Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board.

xxiv. Appropriate mitigative measures should be taken to prevent pollution of nearby River in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.

xxv. Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. Measures shall be taken for maintenance of vehicles used in mining operations and in transportation of mineral. The mineral transportation shall be carried
out through the covered trucks only and the vehicles carrying the mineral shall not be overloaded.

xxvi. Controlled blasting shall be practiced. The mitigative measures for control of ground vibrations and to arrest fly rocks and boulders should be implemented.

xxvii. Drills shall either be operated with dust extractors or equipped with water injection system.

xxviii. Mineral handling area shall be provided with the adequate number of high efficiency dust extraction system. Loading and unloading areas including all the transfer points should also have efficient dust control arrangements. These should be properly maintained and operated.

xxix. Sewage treatment plant shall be installed for the colony. ETP shall also be provided for the workshop and wastewater generated during the mining operation.

xxx. Pre-placement medical examination and periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the project shall be carried out and records maintained. For the purpose, schedule of health examination of the workers should be drawn and followed accordingly.

xxxi. Regular monitoring of free silica in the dust will be carried out and records maintained. It shall be ensured that the levels of silica do not exceed the prescribed limit. The workers will be provided with personal protective measures to guard against inhaling silica dust.

xxxii. Provision shall be made for the housing of construction labour within the site with all necessary infrastructure and facilities such as fuel for cooking, mobile toilets, mobile STP, safe drinking water, medical health care, creche etc. The housing may be in the form of temporary structures to be removed after the completion of the project.

xxxiii. The project proponent should take all precautionary measures during mining operation for conservation and protection of endangered flora as well as endangered fauna. Action plan for conservation of flora and fauna shall be prepared and implemented in consultation with the State Forest and Wildlife Department. Necessary allocation of funds for implementation of the conservation plan shall be made and the funds so allocated shall be included in the project cost. Copy of action plan may be submitted to the Ministry and its Regional Office at Bhopal within 3 months.

xxxiv. The critical parameters such as RSPM (Particulate matter with size less than 10 micron i.e., PM₁₀) and NOₓ in the ambient air within the impact zone, peak particle velocity at 300m distance or within the nearest habitation, whichever is closer shall be monitored periodically. Further, quality of discharged water shall also be monitored [(TDS, DO, PH and Total Suspended Solids (TSS)]. The monitored data shall be uploaded on the website of the company as well as displayed on a display board at the project site at a suitable location near the main gate of the Company in public domain. The Circular No. J-20012/1/2006-IA.II(M) dated 27.05.2009 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, which is available on the website of the Ministry www.envfor.nic.in shall also be referred in this regard for its compliance.

xxxv. A Final Mine Closure Plan along with details of Corpus Fund should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change 5 years in advance of final mine closure for approval.

xxxvi. The project proponent shall undertake all the commitments made during the public hearing and effectively address the concerns raised by the locals in the public hearing as well as during consideration of the project, while implementing the project.
B. General conditions

(i) No change in mining technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

(ii) No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of mineral and waste should be made.

(iii) Four ambient air quality-monitoring stations should be established in the core zone as well as in the buffer zone for RSPM (Particulate matter with size less than 10micron i.e., PM$_{10}$) and NOx 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 should be regularly submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests including its Regional office located at Bhopal and the State Pollution Control Board / Central Pollution Control Board once in six months. Provisions contained in notification no. B-29016/20/90/PCI-I dated 18.11.2009 should be followed for monitoring.

(v) Fugitive dust emissions from all the sources should be controlled regularly. Water spraying arrangement on haul roads, loading and unloading and at transfer points should be provided and properly maintained.

(vi) Personnel working in dusty areas should wear protective respiratory devices and they should also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects.

(vii) Occupational health surveillance program of the workers should be undertaken periodically to observe any contractions due to exposure to dust and take corrective measures, if needed.

(viii) A separate environmental management cell with qualified personnel should be set-up under the control of a Senior Executive, who will report directly to the Head of the Organization.

(ix) The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures should be kept in separate account and should not be diverted for other purpose. Year wise expenditure should be reported to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and its Regional Office located at Bhopal.

(x) The project authorities should inform to the Regional Office located at Bhopal regarding date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.

(xi) The Regional Office of this Ministry located at Bhopal 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.

(xii) The project proponent shall submit six monthly reports on the status of compliance of the stipulated environmental clearance conditions including results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, its Regional Office Bhopal, the respective Zonal Office of Central Pollution Control Board the State Pollution Control Board. The proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the environmental clearance conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall simultaneously be sent to the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Bhopal, the respective Zonal Office of Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Board.
(xiii) A copy of the clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to concerned Panchayat, Zila Parishad / Municipal Corporation, Urban Local Body and the Local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal. The clearance letter shall also be put on the website of the Company by the proponent.

(xiv) The State Pollution Control Board should display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional office, District Industry Centre and the Collector's office/ Tehsildar's Office for 30 days.

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

(xvi) The project authorities should 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 should be forwarded to the Regional Office of this Ministry located at Bhopal.

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

10. 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 the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

11. The above conditions will be enforced inter-alia, under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and rules made thereunder and also any other orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India/High Court of Gujarat and any other Court of Law relating to the subject matter.

12. 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.

(Dr. U. Sridharan)
Scientist 'F'

Copy to:

i. The Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001.

ii. The Secretary, Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Gujarat, Secretariat, Gandhinagar.
iii. The Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of Gujarat, Secretariat, Gandhinagar.

iv. The Secretary, Department of Forests, Government of Gujarat, Secretariat, Gandhinagar.

v. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Gujarat, Dr. Jivaji Mehta Bhavan, Block No. 14, 1st Floor, Old Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar-382 010.

vi. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Regional Office, Kendriya Paryavaran Bhawan, Link Road No.3, Ravi Shankar Nagar, Bhopal – 462 016.

vii. The Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, A-2, W3, Curzon Road Barracks, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001.

viii. The Chairman, Gujarat State Pollution Control Board, Sector 10-A, Gandhi Nagar - 382043, Gujarat.


x. The District Collector, Gir - Somnath, (Erstwhile Junagadh) District, Gujarat.

xi. Guard File.

xii. MoEF&CC website.

(Dr. U. Sridharan)
Scientist 'F'