

No.J-11016/11/2004-IA-II(M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests

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

Dated: 6th January 2005

To
Shri Y.Raghavendra Rao,
Joint President,
M/s Gujarat Ambuja Cements Ltd.,
P.O. Ambuja Nagar – 362715,
Kodinar Taluk,
District Junagarh, GUJARAT

Sub: Sonapur-Thutra Limestone Mine (0.56 MTPA) of M/s Gujarat Ambuja Cements Ltd. in village Sonapur-Thutra, Tehsil Rajpura-Korpana, District Chandrapur, Maharashtra – Application for Environmental Clearance – reg.

Sir,

This has reference to Government of Maharashtra, Industries, Energy and Labour Department's letter No. MNG – 1003/1395/525/ Ind –9 dated 31.10. 2003 and your letters dated 17.01.2004, 07.06.2004, 16.09.2004, and 29.10.2004 on the above-mentioned subject. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has considered the application. It is noted that the proposal is for opening a new mine. The total mining lease area is **49.0 ha** which consists of 34.19 ha of agricultural land and 14.81 ha of wasteland. No forest and displacement of population is involved. Manikgarh Reserve Forest is situated at a distance of 3 km from mine site. No wildlife sanctuary or National Park is located within 20 km of mine site. The project does not fall within the migratory route of wildlife. Amal nala reservoir is located at a distance of 4.0 km. No modification of the natural drainage is envisaged. Mining will be confined to 35.58 ha, and 13.42 ha is for green belt. Mining is open cast by mechanised method and involves drilling and blasting using State-of Art technology. Rated capacity of the mine is **0.5 million TPA**. Transportation of 1700 TPD of mineral to the linked cement plant. No wastes will be generated and hence no backfilling is proposed. The excavated pits below 240 mRL shall be converted into artificial water reservoirs at the end of mine life. Topsoil generated will be used for green belt development. Total water requirement is 100 m³/d, which shall be met from mine sump and recycled water. Ultimate working depth is 30m below ground level (bgl) and will intersect watertable (2-19 m bgl). Approval from the IBM was obtained on 15.10.2003. NOC from State Pollution Control Board has been obtained on 09.07.2003. Public hearing was held on 06.05.2003. Life of the mine at the rated capacity is 15 years. The capital cost of the project is **Re. 215 lakhs**.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests hereby accords environmental clearance to Sonapur-Thutra Limestone Mine of M/s Gujarat Ambuja Cements Ltd. involving a total lease area of **49 ha and a rated capacity of 0.5 MTPA**, under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 and its subsequent amendments subject to terms and conditions mentioned below:

A. Specific Conditions


- (i) Top soil shall be concurrently used for greenbelt development.
- (ii) Peripheral bunds, check dams and siltation ponds of appropriate size should be constructed to arrest silt and sediment flows from the mining operations. The water so collected should be utilized for watering the mine area, roads, green belt development etc. The drains should be regularly desilted and maintained.
Garland drain (size, gradient & length) and sump capacity should be designed keeping 50% safety margin over and above the peak sudden rainfall and maximum discharge in the area adjoining the mine site. Sump capacity should also provide adequate retention period to allow proper settling of silt material.
- (iii) Drills should be wet operated or with dust extractors and controlled blasting should be practised.
- (iv) Crusher should be operated with high efficiency bag filters, water sprinkling system should be provided to check fugitive emissions from crushing operations, haulage roads, transfer points, etc.
- (v) Plantation should also be raised along the roads, dump sites etc covering an area of 10.90 ha. This includes a wide green belt along the periphery of the ML area, non-mineralised area and along road side within the lease area by planting native plant species in consultation with local DFO/ Agriculture Department. At least 2500 plant species/ha should be planted.
- (vi) The excavated pit of an area of 17.73 ha shall be converted into an artificial water reservoir. Water harvesting measures shall commence from the 11th year of mining operations. The higher benches of the void shall be terraced and plantation done to stabilise the slopes. Peripheral fencing shall be done along the excavated area.
- (vii) Regular monitoring of ground water level and quality should be carried out by establishing a network of existing wells and constructing new peizometers at suitable locations in project area. The frequency of monitoring should be minimum four times a year - January, pre-monsoon (April/May), monsoon (August), post-monsoon (November), and winter (January) seasons for groundwater level and in May for quality. Data generated from groundwater regime monitoring will be submitted to CGWB, Regional Office on an annual basis.
- (viii) A detailed mine closure plan should be submitted to MOEF five years in advance for approval.
- (ix) A Consent to Operate should be obtained from the SPCB before commencing production.

B. General Conditions

- (i) No change in technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

- (ii) No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of limestone, waste/OB dumps should be made.
- (iii) Four ambient air quality monitoring stations should be established in the core zone as well as buffer zone for SPM, RPM, NOX and SO₂. Location of the ambient air quality stations should be decided based on meteorological data, topographical features and environmentally and ecologically sensitive targets and the frequency of monitoring should be undertaken in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.
- (iv) Data on environmental quality should be regularly submitted to the Ministry including its Regional Office at Bhopal and the State Pollution Control Board/Central Pollution Control Board once in six months.
- (v) Adequate measures for control of fugitive emissions should be undertaken such as water spraying arrangements on haul roads, loading and unloading points, and transportation of minerals, etc. Fugitive dust emissions from all sources should be regularly monitored and data recorded properly.
- (vi) Adequate measures should be taken for control of noise levels below 85 dBA in the work environment. Workers engaged in blasting and drilling operations, operations of HEMM, etc., should be provided with ear plugs/muffs.
- (vii) Industrial waste water (workshop and wastewater from the mine) should be properly collected, treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under GSR 422 (E) dated 19th May 1993 and 31st December 1993 or as amended from time to time. Oil and grease trap should be installed before discharge of effluents from the Workshop.
- (viii) 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.
Occupational health surveillance programme of the workers should be undertaken periodically and corrective measures taken, if required.
- (ix) The data on environmental quality should be collected and analysed either through an in-house environmental laboratory established with adequate number and type of pollution monitoring and analysis equipment or got analysed through an approved laboratory under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.
- (x) A separate environmental management cell with suitable qualified personnel should be set up under the control of a senior executive who will report directly to the head of the organisation.
- (xi) The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures should be kept in separate account and not diverted for any other purpose. Year-wise expenditure should be reported to the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

- (xii) The project authorities should inform to the Regional Office located at Bhopal regarding date of financial closures and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
 - (xiii) The Regional Office of this Ministry located at Bhopal shall monitor compliance of the stipulated environmental conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer(s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data/information/monitoring reports.
 - (xiv) A copy of the clearance letter should be marked to concerned Panchayat/local NGO, if any, from whom any suggestion/representation has been received while processing the proposal.
 - (xv) The State Pollution Control Board should display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional office, District Industry Centre and the collector's/Tehsildar's Office for 30 days.
 - (xvi) The project authorities should advertise at least in two local newspapers widely circulated around the project, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned within 7 days of issuance 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 may also be seen at web site of the Ministry of Environment and forests at <http://envfor.nic.in>.
3. The Ministry or any other competent authority may stipulate any further additional condition for environmental protection.
 4. Failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance.
 5. 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 alongwith their amendments and rules.


 (Dr.T.Chandini)
 Additional Director

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Department of Industries, Energy and Labour Department, Government of Maharashtra, MUMBAI-400032.
2. Secretary, Environment Department, Government of Maharashtra, 15th Floor, New Admn. Bldg., Madam Cama Road, MUMBAI-400032.
3. Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, E - 2 / 240 Arera Colony Bhopal - 462 016.
4. Secretary, Department of Mines, Ministry of Coal & Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

5. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar New Delhi – 110 032.
6. Chairman, Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board, Kalapataru Point, 3rd & 4th Floor, Sion Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opp.Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai –400002.
7. Chairman, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, Jamnagar House, New Delhi.
8. Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, 'Indira Bhawan', Civil Lines, Nagpur.
9. District Collector, Chandrapur, Government of Maharashtra, Chandrapur.
10. Advisor (EI), Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi.
11. Monitoring file. 12. Guard file. 13. Record file.