

No. J-11015/6/99 – 1A II (M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests

Paryavaran Bhawan,
C.G.O. Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi – 110 003

November 22, 1999

To

Shri N. Shanmugham
Vice President (Manufacturing),
Madras Cements Limited,
Ramasamyraja Nagar - 626 204
Kamarajar District Tamil Nadu

Subject: Expansion of M. V. Puram opencast captive limestone mine (capacity from 1,01,500 tonnes per annum to 4,06,300 tonnes per annum) by M/s Madras cements Limited at villages Sivalarpatti, District Thoothkudi, Tamil Nadu- environmental clearance reg.

Sir,

This has reference to the Environment and Forest Department, Government of Tamil Nadu letter no. 31876/Ec.III/98-1 dated 01.04.99 and subsequent communications from you dated 16.06.99 and 17.08.99 regarding environmental clearance of expansion of M. V. Puram opencast limestone mine. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has examined the application. It has been noted that the existing mining lease area is 103.54 ha. Additional mining lease area of 150.10 ha. has been obtained by the company. Targetted annual production of limestone will be raised from existing 1,01,500 tonnes to 4,06,300 tonnes. No forest land is involved. However, there are 331 land oustees from whom the land has been purchased. NOC from the State Pollution Control Board has been obtained. Indian Bureau of Mines has approved the mining plan. Public hearing was held on 24.06.98, when the project authorities assured to adopt the environmental protection and social welfare measures.

2. The Ministry of Environment & Forests hereby accords environmental clearance to the expansion of M. V. Puram opencast limestone mine (capacity from 1,01,500 tonnes per annum to 4,06,300 tonnes per annum) involving lease area of 150.10 ha in addition to the existing ML area of 103.54 ha. under the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 as amended on 04.05.94 and 10.04.97 subject to strict compliance of the following specific and general terms and conditions:

A. Specific conditions

- (i) The OB dumps should be stacked in earmarked dump sites only and should not be kept active for a long period. Inactive OB dumps should be scientifically vegetated with the suitable species to prevent surface run-off.
- (ii) Top soil should be stacked properly with adequate measures at earmarked site. It should be used for reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out areas.
- (iii) Garland drains of appropriate size should be constructed, to collect surface run-off from the OB & waste dump sites. The collected run-off should be diverted to the sedimentation tank before final disposal.
- (iv) A greenbelt of 30m width around the ML area by planting the native plant species in an area of 10.0 ha. should be raised in consultation with the local DFO / agriculture department. The density of the trees should be around 2000 plants per ha.
- (v) A detailed mine decommissioning plan should be submitted to the MoEF 5 years in advance for approval.
- (vi) Water conservation scheme should include water harvesting and recharging of the ground water.
- (vii) Fresh vibration study should be carried out by the project authorities and report submitted to the Ministry within six months time.
- (viii) Regional Environmental Impact Assessment study should be commissioned by the Department of Environment and Forests, Government of Tamilnadu to assess the cumulative impact of mining activities on the environment and proper management of degraded land by involving the mine owners in the region.

B. General conditions

- (i) No change in mining technology and working plan should be made without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
- (ii) No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of limestone and wastes / overburden 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, SO₂, NO_x, and CO monitoring. Location of the ambient air quality stations should be decided based on the meteorological data, topographical features, and environmentally sensitive targets in the consultation with the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.

- (iv) Data on ambient air quality should be regularly submitted to this Ministry including its Regional office at Bangalore and the State Pollution Control Board / Central Pollution Control Board once in six months.
- (v) Fugitive emissions should be controlled, regularly monitored and data recorded properly.
- (vi) Adequate measures should be taken for control of noise levels below 85 dB in the work environment.
- (vii) Personnel working in dusty areas should wear personal protective equipment devices. Adequate training and information on safety and health aspects should be provided.

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

- (viii) Funds earmarked for environmental protection measures should be kept in a separate account and should not be diverted for other purposes and year-wise expenditure should be reported to the Ministry.
- (ix) The project will be monitored by the Regional Office of this Ministry located at Bangalore. The project authorities should extend full co-operation to the officer(s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data / information / monitoring reports.
- (x) The project authorities should have valid "consent to operate" and mining plan approval.
- (xi) The project proponent should inform the Regional Office located at Bangalore as well as the Ministry, the date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.

3. The above conditions will be enforced, inter-alia, under the provisions of the water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and rules.

4. Failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above would result in withdrawal of environmental clearance.

P. Ahujara

(DR. P. L. AHUJARAI)
JOINT DIRECTOR

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