

F. No. J-11015/150/2008-IA-II(M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Impact Assessment Division

3rd Floor, Vayu Wing,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 07th August, 2023

To,

M/s The Ramco Cements Limited,
Auras Corporate Centre, 5th Floor,
98-A, Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai,
Mylapore, Chennai – 600 014.

Sub: Amendment in EC dated 10.12.2009 of M/s The Ramco Cements Limited for Budhwada Limestone Mine (Mine Lease area 160 Ha and production capacity 1.10 MTPA), located at Village Budawada, Jaggayyapeta Taluk, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh - Amendment in Environmental Clearance (EC) regarding.

Sir,

This has reference to the online proposal no. IA/AP/MIN/296628/2023 for Amendment in EC dated 10.12.2009 of M/s The Ramco Cements Limited.

2. Earlier, the Ministry had granted environmental clearance in favour of M/s Madras Cements Ltd vide letter dated 10.12.2009 for Budhwada Limestone Mine (Mine Lease area 160 Ha and production capacity 1.10 MTPA), located at Village Budawada, Jaggayyapeta Taluk, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh. The said EC was transferred vide letter dated 28.04.2023 from M/s Madras Cement Ltd to M/s The Ramco Cements Limited.

3. The details of the project as ascertained from the documents submitted by the Project Proponent and as revealed from the discussions held during the meeting are given as under:

- i. The proposed project activity is listed at schedule no. 1(a) Mining of Minerals. The instant proposal attracts the general conditions as the mine lease area is located at a distance of 1.8 km from the Andhra Pradesh – Telangana Interstate boundary and falls under Category “A” and appraised at the Central level.
- ii. The Project Proponent requested for amendment in EC dated 10.12.2009 for the following: -

S. No	Reference of EC dated 10.12.2009	Clause of EC dated 10.12.2009	Amendment sought by Project Proponent
1	B. General Conditions, Point No. I, Pg. No: 4	No change in mining technology and scope of working shall be made without prior approval of Ministry of Environment &	Establishing Railway siding facility with stacker & reclaimer facility within the Mining lease area and to permit transportation of

		Forests	limestone from RamcoBudawada RF limestone mine to the cement plant by road as well as by railway line.
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iii. The proposal was earlier considered in the 15thEAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held during 30-31 May, 2023 wherein the EAC deferred the proposal for want of requisite information. Then, the Project Proponent submitted the information on 20.06.2023 in Parivesh portal and accordingly the proposal was considered in the 17th EAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held during 11-12 July, 2023.

iv. Details of Previous Environmental Clearance (EC):

- a) The Project Proponent initially obtained Environmental Clearance (EC) vide EC letter dated 10.12.2009 for Budhwada Limestone Mine (ML area 160 Ha and production capacity 1.10 MTPA) located at Village Budawada, Jaggayyapeta Taluk, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh in favour of M/s Madras Cement Ltd.
- b) Then, the PP obtained Transfer of Environmental Clearance on 28.04.2023 from M/s Madras Cement Ltd to M/s The Ramco Cements Limited.

v. Details of Mine Lease:

- a) The Project Proponent has submitted that the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh vide Go.Ms.No.291, dated 30.10.2008 granted the mining lease for Limestone over an area of 160.0 Ha in Sy. No: 376 of Budawada Reserve Forest, Jaggayyapetta Taluk, Krishna District for a period of 20 years in favour of M/s Madras Cement Ltd. The mine lease deed was executed on 17.03.2009 for a period of 20 years i.e., upto 16.03.2029.
- b) Then, the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh vide Go.Ms.No.96 dated 13.10.2015 accorded permission for change of the name from M/s Madras Cements Limited to M/s The Ramco Cements Limited.
- c) Subsequently, the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh vide Go.Ms.No. 59 dated 02.05.2017 extended the mining lease for a period of 50 years w.e.f 17.03.2009 to 16.03.2059 for mining of Limestone over an area of 160.0 Ha in favour of M/s The Ramco Cements Limited.
- d) Thereafter, the Government of Andhra Pradesh issued the Corrigendum orders vide Go.Ms.No. 39, Dt. 03.06.2021 to the earlier grant orders, stating that wherever the words "Survey No. 376 of Budawada village, Jaggayyapet Mandal" occur shall be read as "Survey No. 236 (p) of Jaggayyapet village and Mandal, Krishna Dist., Andhra Pradesh".
- e) The Project Proponent executed the supplementary mine lease deed on 08.09.2021 for extension for the period upto 16.03.2059.

vi. The Project Proponent has submitted that to achieve the EC permitted limestone production quantity of 1.10 MTPA and also to get EC for the expanded 2.50 MTPA

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limestone production capacity, prima facie, issues pertaining to approach road is to be resolved. Since the delay is causing a major stumble block for the progress of this mine initiated prior year 2008, the company has explored additional / alternative facility for transport of Limestone from the subject mine to its factory at Jayanthipuram. Though belt conveyor option is technically viable, due to non-availability of intervening land between the mines and the cement plant which comprises of RF, other mine leases, habitation, perennial river etc., it could not be considered practically feasible for implementation in the present circumstances.

- vii. The Project Proponent has submitted that at present, sized material from the crusher in the ML area is loaded into tipper / trucks and dispatched to cement plant by road. Now it is proposed to stack the sized material from crusher in the northern part of the lease area through stacker, then reclaim it to the 4 over ground hoppers for wagon loading and transport the material by wagons. Transportation of material by rail route entails establishment of the following facilities:
1. Stacker – 1 No. – 1200 TPH capacity non slewing hydraulic luffing stacker
 2. Reclaimer – 1 No. – 1320 TPH design capacity Bridge reclaimer
 3. Silo of 4400 Tonne storage capacity with sufficient number of chutes connected with a conveyor belt from the Limestone Crusher Plant for loading of empty rake of 59 BOXN wagons and other accessories.
 4. Establishment of Railway siding within the lease area.
 5. Transportation by rail to the Jayanthipuram cement plant at distance of 8 km, after getting the necessary communication from JPT railway station master.
 6. Unloading through Wagon Tipler at Jayanthipuram Cement plant having load capacity of 105 tonne and having unloading rated capacity of 600 TPH for unloading the limestone into the hopper from the rakes.
 7. The unloaded limestone from rakes into wagon tippler will be transported through a series of belt conveyors, which also passes through online Cross Belt Analyser (CBA), for the chemical parameter monitoring before stacking into the stockpile in the factory premises. From stock piles the limestone will be taken into process for manufacture of clinker.
- viii. The Project Proponent has emphasized that on commissioning of railway siding arrangements, limestone transportation will be only by railway wagons. The present road transport arrangement will be continued for only 6 months or till the commissioning of the alternate transport arrangements for which EC amendment is sought. Only in the case of any unforeseen emergencies where in the rail transport is not possible due to technical/administrative reasons, road transport after following all the traffic management plan will be carried out. Project Proponent also submitted the map showing the transportation route from Ramco Budawada Mine to Ramco Cement Plant. This road route passes through Kowthavari Agraharam hamlet, enroute to reach the cement plant. Other than few local vehicles and the trucks of TRCL from Budawada RF Mines, no major traffic movement is observed in this route. This road is double lane black topped. Present traffic density in this route is minimal and it easily absorbs the existing Budawada R.F. Limestone Mine Traffic. The effective traffic management plan has been devised and is being implemented in the existing transport arrangement. Further, the Project Proponent has submitted that a

permanent dust suppression system in the haul roads of ML area will be installed. Besides, a dedicated mobile water sprinkler is also deployed for effective dust suppression in the transport route. Due to systematic enforcement of above said measures no adverse impact on the logistical system is observed so far.

- ix. The Project Proponent has submitted that the South Central Railway (SCR) vide Lr.No. C/T/143/TRCL-JPTN/20 dt.19.01.2021 has accorded in principle approval for the proposed private siding of the M/s The Ramco Cements Limited taking off from Jaggayyapet Town (JPTN) station. The SCR Railway Line from Jaggayyapet to Mellacheruvu is passing through this Mining Lease on north side of the boundary over a length of 495 m.
- x. The Project Proponent has submitted that the Modified Mining Plan (including Progressive Mine Closure Plan) due to proposed crushing plant and Railway siding at the subject ML area was approved by Indian Bureau of Mines vide Lr.No: AP/KSN/MP/LST-30/HYD dated 07.07.2021 over an area of 160 Ha for the period 2021-22 to 2023- 2024.
- xi. The Project Proponent has obtained the Permission (NOC) for Renewal vide Lr.No.PRR05-11028/16/2019-SLNA-GIS-CORD , date:13/02/2021 from the O/o the Commissioner, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development & Administrator, Apwalta for their existing Budawada Limestone mine located at Budawada Village, Jaggaiahpeta Mandal, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh to carry out the mining operations below the ground water table and usage of 38 KLD of ground water from the captive mine of Jayanthipuram Lime Stone Mine. This NOC is valid for three years from the date of issue.
- xii. **Details of Forest Clearance:**
- a) The Project Proponent has submitted that the entire mine lease area of 160 Ha is a Forest land.
- b) Stage-I Forest Clearance has been granted by MoEF&CC (FC Division) vide letter No. 8-56/2005-FC dated 31.12.2008 in favour of M/s Madras Cements Ltd., for diversion of 160 ha of forest land for mining of Lime stone in Budavada Reserve Forest in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh.
- c) Stage-II Forest Clearance has been granted by MoEF&CC (FC Division) vide letter No. 8-56/2005-FC dated 22.12.2011 in favour of M/s Madras Cements Ltd., for diversion of 160 ha of forest land for mining of Lime stone in Budavada Reserve Forest in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh.
- d) Govt. of Andhra Pradesh vide G.O Ms.No.26 dated 31.03.2012 accorded permission for diversion of 160 Ha of forest land for mining of Limestone in favour of M/s Madras Cements Ltd.
- e) The FC has been transferred from M/s Madras Cements Ltd., to M/s Ramco Cements Ltd., vide letter No. Rc.No:712/2000-TO dated 03.09.2016 granted by Forest Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.
- xiii. The Project Proponent has submitted that the production process / mining technology remains unchanged and the rail transport prima facie is environmentally a better option which would reduce the pollution significantly when compared to road

transport option. With regards to dust pollution, measure such as green net during construction, covering transport material with tarpaulin, proper maintenance of equipment, good quality of fuel, peripheral green belt, Enclosing the peripheral area on the northern side of the lease area mainly the ore stacking, handling and loading point by plantation, construction of an earthen bund of at least 2m along the periphery of mineral stock yard, dust suppression in the approach roads, provision of mist spray arrangement in the material handling area, enclosing conveyors transfer chutes, Bag filter arrangement at limestone crusher and transfer points etc, wagon loading arrangement with covered hatch provided with bag filter will be ensured. With regards to water environment, to obviate any minor negative impact on this front if any it is proposed for laying of railway siding with proper drainage gradient on either side, provision of longitudinal garland drain on either side of the railway siding and around the mineral stockyards depending upon the slope of the area. Rain water collected in these areas will be collected through this drain and connected to settling ponds with silt traps before discharging downstream. It is proposed to carry out block plantation in the entire safety zone area on the northern side of the lease area and also in the possible vacant land further north of the proposed RS alignment and the existing branch line passing through the lease area during the construction phase itself.

- xiv. Details of CTE/CTO, Certified Compliance Report, Past production:
- a) Consent for Establishment (CFE) granted by Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) vide Order No. 285/PCB/CFE/ROVJA/HO/2009-69 dated 08.04.2010 for production of 1.10 MTPA Limestone over an area of 160 ha. PP also submitted that the Auto Renewal of Consent for Operation & Hazardous waste Authorisation Order vide Order No. APPCB/VJA/VJA/488/HO/CFO/2021 dated 07/11/2022 has been granted by the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) for a further period of 5 (five) years i.e., up to 31.01.2028.
 - b) Certified Compliance Report issued by the Regional Office (RO), Vijayawada vide File No. IRO/VIJ/EPA/MISC/111-01/2021 dated 24.05.2022. The project was monitored by IRO on 11.11.2021. The Project Proponent has submitted the examination of action taken report issued by Regional Office (RO), Vijayawada vide File No. IRO/VIJ/EPA/EC-A/101/05-86/2023 dated 19.06.2023 wherein the RO has concluded that the PAs have complied or are in process of complying the conditions stipulated by the Ministry, accordingly, the Action Taken Report may be considered for further necessary action.
 - c) The Project Proponent has submitted the details of the certified production and dispatch from the Dept. of Geology and Mines Lr.No. 436/M/2001 dated 08.12.2022 for the year 2009-10 to 2021-22. The Project Proponent has also submitted the details of the production and dispatch for the year 2022-23 issued by the District Mines & Geology Officer, Vijayawada vide Letter No: 436/M/2001, dated 24.05.2023.

xv. Court case details:

Court Case, No and its present status	With regards to mineral transportation in a small stretch of land owned by Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), writ petition was filed by RINL and its details are as follows:
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	<p><u>Writ. No. 5066 of 2019, dt.10.04.2019.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RINL filed writ petition on 10.04.2019 against Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and TRCL. The High Court of Andhra Pradesh issued the order on 25.04.2019 for suspension of Memo No. 11031/M.III(2)/2013, Dt. 23.05.2018 and further memo No. 11031/M.III(2)/2013, Dt. 23.01.2019. • Hon'ble AP High Court was pleased to dismiss the writ petition filed by RINL on 14.06.2021 after hearing all the parties and also was pleased to vacate the interim stay granted in the matter. <p><u>RINL Writ Appeal No. 424 of 2021, dt.15.07.2021 against the judgment of writ. No. 5066 of 2019, dt.10.04.2019.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The above appeal was heard on 22.07.2021 and Honbl'e Chief Justice Bench has issued the orders to stop operations on road and maintain the "Status Quo" in this matter till the next date of hearing. • Status Quo is maintained in RINL land. Presently an alternative transport route which is of a greater distance is being utilized.
Undertaking by Project Proponent w.r.t court case	The Project Proponent has submitted an undertaking vide letter dated 20.05.2023 stating that they solemnly agree to abide by all the directions of the Hon'ble Court in this matter.

4. The EAC in its 17th EAC meeting held on 11-12 July, 2023 has considered the proposal. The EAC asked the Project Proponent about the timeline of commissioning of railway line and action plan to complete the same. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the railway line will be commissioned within 6 months. The EAC asked the Project Proponent to give commitment in this regard. Further, the Project Proponent informed the EAC that the effective traffic management plan will be implemented. The Project Proponent vide email dated 12.07.2023 has given undertaking that the project will be completed by 6 months period and transportation of Limestone will be carried out through railway wagons and also submitted the action plan for execution of railway siding as informed during the meeting.

The EAC asked about the dispute regarding the mineral transportation with Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL). The Project Proponent informed the EAC that presently an alternative transport route is being used bypassing the land of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL). The EAC asked the Project Proponent whether the existing transportation route passes through any village road. This road route passes through Kowthavari Agraharam hamlet to reach the cement plant. Present traffic density in this route is minimal and it easily absorbs the existing Budawada R.F. Limestone Mine traffic. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the examination of action taken report issued by Integrated Regional Office (IRO), Vijayawada vide File No. IRO/VIJ/EPA/EC-A/101/05-86/2023 dated 19.06.2023. Further, the Project Proponent has informed the EAC that 4,66,400 MT of Limestone was produced against the EC capacity of 1.10 MTPA during the year 2022-23 and the same was certified by the District Mines & Geology Officer, Vijayawada vide letter dated 24.05.2023. The

EAC asked about the status of the court case w.r.t mineral transportation. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the status quo is maintained in RINL land and presently an alternative transport route of a greater distance is being utilized and no stay by the Hon'ble Court. Further it is proposed to transport Limestone only through railway wagons within 6 months.

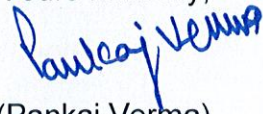
After detailed deliberations made by the Project Proponent, the EAC under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments therein, **recommended** the proposal for amendment in EC dated 10.12.2009 of M/s The Ramco Cements Limited w.r.t establishing Railway siding facility with stacker & reclaimer facility within the mine lease area and to permit transportation of limestone from mine to the cement plant by railway line for Budhwada Limestone Mine (ML area 160 Ha and production capacity 1.10 MTPA) located at Village Budawada, Jaggayyapeta Taluk, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh along with the additional specific conditions.

5. The matter was examined in the EAC in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and further amendments thereto and the undersigned is directed to say that the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change after accepting the recommendation of EAC during its meeting held during 11-12 July, 2023 hereby accords the amendment in EC dated 10.12.2009 of M/s The Ramco Cements Limited w.r.t establishing Railway siding facility with stacker & reclaimer facility within the mine lease area and to permit transportation of limestone from mine to the cement plant by railway line for Budhwada Limestone Mine (ML area 160 Ha and production capacity 1.10 MTPA) located at Village Budawada, Jaggayyapeta Taluk, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh along with the additional specific conditions mentioned below:-

A. ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

- i. The Project Proponent needs to commission the railway line within the 6 months from the date of issue of this amendment EC.
- ii. The Project Proponent is allowed to transport Limestone through existing transport route by road only for a period of 6 (six) months, thereafter road transportation will not be allowed.
- iii. The Project Proponent shall ensure that the transportation of Limestone has to be carried out only through railway wagons after commissioning of railway line.
- iv. The Project Proponent should follow-up the status of implementation on Wildlife Conservation Plan from the Forest Officials and the same shall be submitted to the Ministry's Integrated Regional Office in the six monthly compliance report.
- v. The project Proponent should plant quality sapling of appropriate height of native and fruit bearing species. In case of tall transplants (seedlings) the seedlings should have proper trained root stock with root biomass commensurate with seedling height to ensure good growth after out planting. The Project Proponent shall make the actual count on the saplings planted and its survival rate and in case of failure of achievement of 95% survival rate, action plan for achieving the target survival rate shall be submitted to the Ministry's Integrated Regional Office.

- vi. NoC from the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)/ Concerned Local authority, as the case may be, shall be obtained before drawing the ground water for the project activities.
 - vii. This amendment in EC is subject to the outcome of the said court case of Writ Appeal No. 424 of 2021, dt.15.07.2021.
 - viii. All other terms and conditions mentioned in the EC letter dated 10.12.2009 shall remain unchanged.
5. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

(Pankaj Verma)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

- i. **The Secretary**, Ministry of Mines, Government of India Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ii. **The Secretary**, Department of Environment, Government of Andhra Pradesh, 4thBlock, 1st Floor, Room No:268, Andhra Pradesh Secretariat Office, Velagapudi.
- iii. **The Secretary**, Department of Forests, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem, Guntur-522004, Andhra Pradesh.
- iv. **The Secretary**, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Sri Anjaneya Towers, D.No. 7-104, B-Block, 5th& 6thFloors, Vijayawada, Ibrahimpatnam, Andhra Pradesh 521456.
- v. **The Secretary**, Department of Industries and Commerce (M-III), Government of Andhra Pradesh, Commissionerate of Industries, First Floor, Government Regional Printing Press Buildings, Mutyalampadu, Vijayawada-520011.
- vi. **The Regional Officer**, Regional Office (RO), Vijayawada, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Green House Complex, Gopalreddy road, Vijayawada-520010, Andhra Pradesh.
- vii. **The Member Secretary**, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-Cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi-110 032.
- viii. **The Member Secretary**, Andhra Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, D.No. 33-26-14 D/2, Near Sunrise Hospital, Pushpa Hotel Centre, Chalamvari Street, Kasturibaipet, Vijayawada – 520 010.
- ix. **The Member Secretary**, Central Ground Water Authority, A 2, W-3 Curzon Road Barracks, K.G Marg, New Delhi-110011.
- x. **The Chief Wildlife Warden**, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhawan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem, Guntur-522004, Andhra Pradesh.
- xi. **The Controller General**, Indian Bureau of Mines, Indira Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440 001.
- xii. **The District Collector**, Krishna District, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

- xiii. Guard File.
- xiv. **PARIVESH Portal.**

Pankaj Verma
(Pankaj Verma)
Scientist 'E'