



Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(IA Division)

By speed post

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New Delhi – 110 003
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F. No. J-11011/35/2008-IA-II (I)

Dated: July 21, 2009

To

M/s Akshara Industries Ltd
Survey No. 225/1C1 and 225/1C2 Village No. 9,
Eguvaripalayam, Gummdi Poondi Taluk,
Thiruvallur District,
Tamil Nadu

aksharaind@eth.net

Sub : Expansion of Sponge Iron Plant (6000 TPM to 12,000 TPM) and setting up of Steel Billets Unit (12,000 TPM), Rolled Steel Products (12,000 TPM) and Power Plant (22 MW) at Survey No. 225/1C1 and 225/1C2 Village No. 9, Eguvaripalayam, Gummdi Poondi Taluk, Thiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu by M/s Akshara Industries Limited – Environmental Clearance reg.

Sir,

This has reference to your letter no. nil dated 15th January, 2009 alongwith EIA/EMP report and public hearing proceeding seeking environmental clearance for the above mentioned project and subsequent submission of clarifications vide your letter no. AKS/SIP/90306-02 dated 23rd March, 2009 and no. nil dated 5th June, 2009.

- 2.0 The Ministry of Environment and Forests has examined the proposal and noted that proposal is for expansion of Sponge Iron Plant (6000 TPM to 12,000 TPM) and setting up of Steel Billets Unit (12,000 TPM), Rolled Steel Products (12,000 TPM) and Power Plant (22 MW) at Survey No. 225/1C1 and 225/1C2 Village No. 9, Eguvaripalayam, Gummdi Poondi Taluk, Thiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu by M/s Akshara Industries Limited. The total land available is 38.29 acres and expansion activities will be carried out within the existing premises. The total cost of the project after expansion will be Rs. 220.00 Crores.
- 3.0 It is noted that the waste gases generated from the DRI plant will be utilized for power generation in cogeneration power plant. Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP) will be installed to achieve 100 mg/Nm³ of particulate matter emission from DRI kiln/power plant. Low NOX burner, use of lime stone for control of SO₂ emissions and suitable height of stack will be provided with FBC boiler. Fumes extraction system with cyclone dust collector/bag filters will be installed for control of air pollution from induction furnaces. Reheating furnace will be based on producer gas and emissions will be through 30 m high stack. The total water requirement will be 265 m³/hr out of this 7 KLD will be for domestic purposes. The wastewater from cooling towers, DM Plant and boiler will be collected in guard pond (90.74 KLD) and used for irrigation in green belt. Domestic wastewater (5 KLD) will be disposed off through dispersion trenches within plant premises for green belt development. Solid waste generated from the plant as char / dolochar will be used in FBC plant and slag (1200 TPM) generated from induction furnace will be disposed off in land filling.
- 4.0 Public hearing meeting was held on 31st October, 2008.
- 5.0 The Ministry of Environment and Forests hereby accords environmental clearance to the above project under the provisions of EIA Notification dated 14th September, 2006 subject to strict compliance of the following specific and general conditions:

A. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS:

- i) Efforts shall be made to reduce RSPM levels in the ambient air and a time bound action plan shall be submitted. On-line stack monitoring facilities for all the stacks and sufficient air pollution control devices shall be provided to keep the emission levels below 100 mg/Nm³. Necessary calibration and cleaning of the opacity meter shall be done time to time.

- ii) Electrostatic precipitator (ESP) shall be provided to DRI plant, WHRB and AFBC. Hot gases from DRI plant shall be utilized in the WHRB. Induction furnace (IF) shall be provided with hood with ducting and connected to an Induced Draft (ID) fan outside the building to extract fumes from melting process to control the process emissions 100 mg/Nm³. Fume extraction system shall be provided to IF. Adequate pollution control measures shall be provided to control the gaseous emissions from the reheating furnace when furnace oil is used before discharging to open atmosphere through recuperator and chimney of adequate height. All the stacks including stack of dedusting unit shall be as per the norms prescribed in the Notification issued by the Ministry vide G.S.R. 414(E) dated 30th May, 2008.
- iii) Gaseous emissions including secondary fugitive emissions from all the sources including conveyor belts and transfer points shall be controlled within the latest permissible limits issued by the Ministry vide G.S.R. 414(E) dated 30th May, 2008 and regularly monitored and reports submitted to Ministry's Regional Office at Bangalore, CPCB and TNPCB. Guidelines / Code of Practice issued by the CPCB shall be followed.
- iv) The proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated EC conditions, including monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall simultaneously be sent to the Regional Office of MoEF, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and the SPCB. The criteria pollutant namely; SPM, RSPM, SO₂, NO_x (Ambient levels as well as stack emissions) or critical sectoral parameters, indicated for the project shall be monitored and displayed at the convenient location near the main gate of the Company in the public domain.
- v) Possibility of using nearby railway siding for the transportation of raw material and coal shall be explored and Ministry shall be informed accordingly. Vehicular pollution due to transportation of raw material and finished product shall be controlled. Proper arrangements shall also be made to control dust emissions during loading and unloading of the raw material and finished product.
- vi) Prior 'permission' for the drawl of 265 m³/hr ground water from shall be obtained from CGWA / SGWB.
- vii) All the char from the existing and proposed DRI plant shall be utilized in AFBC power plant to be installed simultaneously. No char shall be disposed off anywhere else. All the slag shall be used for road making and filling low lying areas only after passing through Toxic Chemical Leachability Potential (TCLP) test and shall be used only when found non-hazardous. Toxic slag shall be disposed off in secured landfill as per CPCB guidelines.
- viii) Solid waste in the form of slag, sludge and oily waste shall be stored separately in designated place only. Waste oil and oily sludge shall be disposed off to registered recyclers as per CPCB guidelines.
- ix) All the other solid wastes including refractory waste shall be properly utilized or disposed off in environment friendly manner.
- x) Proper utilization of fly ash shall be ensured as per Fly Ash Notification, 1999 as amendment in 2003.
- xi) Proper house keeping shall be ensured and all the raw material including iron ore, char, coal etc. shall be stored at designated places.
- xii) Green belt shall be developed at least 33% as per the CPCB guidelines to mitigate the impacts of fugitive emissions in consultation with local DFO.
- xiii) Occupational health surveillance shall be carried out as per the Factories Act, 1948.
- xiv) All the recommendations mentioned in the Charter on the Corporate Responsibility for the Environmental Protection (CREP) for the Steel Plants shall be implemented.
- xv) The company shall comply with the commitments made during public hearing meeting held on 31st October 2008.
- xvi) 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, crèche etc. The housing may be in the form of temporary structures to be removed after the completion of the project.

B. GENERAL CONDITIONS:

- i. The project authorities shall strictly adhere to the stipulations made by the State Pollution Control Board and any other statutory authorities.

- ii. No further expansion or modifications in the plant shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. In case of deviations or alterations in the project proposal from those submitted to this Ministry for clearance, a fresh reference shall be made to the Ministry to assess the adequacy of conditions imposed and to add additional environmental protection measures required, if any.
- iii. The gaseous emissions from various process units shall conform to the load/mass based standards notified by this Ministry on 19th May, 1993 and standards prescribed from time to time. The State Board may specify more stringent standards for the relevant parameters keeping in view the nature of the industry and its size and location. At no time, the emission level shall go beyond the prescribed standards. Interlocking facilities shall be provided so that process can be automatically stopped in case emission level exceeds the limit.
- iv. At least four ambient air quality monitoring stations shall be established in the downward direction as well as where maximum ground level concentration of SPM, SO₂ and NO_x are anticipated in consultation with the SPCB. Data on ambient air quality and stack emission shall be regularly submitted to this Ministry including its Regional Office at Bhubaneswar and the SPCB/CPCB once in six months.
- v. The project authorities shall strictly comply with the rules and regulations under Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 as amended in October, 1994 and January, 2000. Authorization from the SPCB shall be obtained for collection, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes.
- vi. The project authorities must strictly comply with the rules and regulations with regard to handling and disposal of hazardous wastes in accordance with the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2003. Authorization from the State Pollution Control Board must be obtained for collection / treatment / storage / disposal of hazardous wastes.
- vii. The overall noise levels in and around the plant area shall be kept well within the standards (85 dBA) by providing noise control measures including acoustic hoods, silencers, enclosures etc. on all sources of noise generation. The ambient noise levels shall conform to the standards prescribed under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 Rules, 1989 viz. 75 dBA (day time) and 70 dBA (night time).
- viii. The company shall develop rain water harvesting structures to harvest the rain water for utilization in the lean season besides recharging the ground water table.
- ix. The project proponent shall also comply with all the environmental protection measures and safeguards recommended in the EIA/EMP report.
- x. A separate Environmental Management Cell equipped with full fledged laboratory facilities shall be set up to carry out the environmental management and monitoring functions.
- xi. Adequate funds shall be earmarked towards capital cost and recurring cost/annum and judiciously used to implement the conditions stipulated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests as well as the State Government. A time bound implementation schedule shall be submitted to the Ministry and its Regional Office at Bhubaneswar to implement all the conditions stipulated herein. The funds so provided shall not be diverted for any other purpose.
- xii. The implementation of the project vis-à-vis environmental action plans shall be monitored by Ministry's Regional Office / SPCB / CPCB. A six monthly compliance status report shall be submitted to monitoring agencies.
- xiii. The project proponent shall also submit six monthly reports on the status of compliance of the stipulated EC conditions including results of monitored data (both on hard copies as well as by e-mail) to the respective Regional Office of MoEF, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and the SPCB.
- xiv. A copy of 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 put up on the website of the Company by the proponent.
- xv. The project proponent shall inform the public that the project has been accorded environmental clearance by the Ministry and copies of the clearance letter are available with the SPCB and may also be seen at Website of the Ministry at <http://envfor.nic.in>. This shall be advertised within seven days from the date of issue of the clearance letter, at least in two local newspapers that are widely circulated in the region of which one shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned and a copy of the same shall be forwarded to the Ministry's Regional Office.

- xvi. 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 EC conditions and shall also be sent to the respective regional Office of the MoEF by e-mail.
- xvii. The project authorities shall inform the Regional Office 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 the project.
- 6.0 The Ministry may revoke or suspend the clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory.
- 7.0 The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions, if found necessary. The company in a time bound manner will implement these conditions.
- 8.0 Any appeal against this environmental clearance shall lie with the National Environment Appellate Authority, Second Floor, Trikot-I, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066, if preferred within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 11 of the National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997.
- 9.0 The above conditions will be enforced, inter-alia under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2003 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and rules.

Copy to:

1. The Secretary (Environment), Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Fort. St. George, Chennai- 560560.
2. The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi- 110032.
3. The Chairman, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, 100, Anna Salai, Guindy, Chennai - 600032.
4. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office (SZ), Kendriya Sadan, IVth Floor, E&F Wings, 7th Main Road, IInd Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034.
5. Monitoring Cell, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.
7. Monitoring File.
8. Record File.

(H.S. Malviya)
Joint Director