

**J-11015/23/2009 - IA.II (M)**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment & Forests**

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Paryavaran Bhavan, C.G.O. Complex,  
Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003  
Dated: April 16, 2010

To

M/s Sri Ponguru Magnesite Mines  
5/12 A, Periaagollapatti, Kannankurichi,  
Post Salem, District Salem- 636 008  
Tamilnadu

**Sub: Mining project of M/s Sri Ponguru Magnesite mines at Village Jagir Ammapalayam, Taluka and District Salem in TamilNadu (ML area 77.50 ha and production Capacity 38,000 TPA of magnesite)- Reg. Environmental Clearance**

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to your communication no. nil dated 11.2.2010 along with copies of EIA/EMP and public hearing reports, regarding the subject mentioned above seeking environmental clearance under the provision of EIA Notification, 2006.

2. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has examined your application. It has been noted that the present proposal is for magnesite mining at capacity 38,000 TPA. The lease area is 77.50 ha, which is govt. revenue land. Out of total lease area of 77.50 ha, area for excavation will be 38.75 ha. An area of 16.56 ha will be kept for waste dump; 1.0 ha will be kept for infrastructure; 1.0 ha for mineral processing yard, 6.5 ha for roads; 4.0 ha for green belt; and 10.59 ha will be unutilized. Nagaramalai reserve forest, Kurumbappati reserve forest, Kapputhu reserve forest and Kanjamalai reserve forest are at a distance of 1.5km, 5.7km, 7.5 km and 9.7 km respectively. There are no wildlife sanctuaries, National Parks, Tiger Reserves and Heritage Sites etc within 10 Km of the lease. Method of mining will be open cast mechanized. The mineable reserve is 1.13 MT. Life of mine at proposed rate of production will be 30 years. The height and width of bench will be 5m and more than 5m respectively. The average elevation of the lease ranges from 85 to 130 m above MSL. Ultimate depth of mining will be at 65 m RL (25m bgl). Ground water table is at 60 m RL (50m bgl). Mining will not intersect ground water table. Water requirement of 15 KLD will be met from the ground water source and mine pit water. No relocation and rehabilitation of population will be involved. About 31.11M. tonnes of waste will be generated at the end of the mine life which will be dumped in the barrier zone of 16.56 ha. Backfilling is not proposed as the mineral is continuing in depth and the dumps will be stabilized with plantation. Approval for the mining scheme and progressive mine closure plan was obtained from the IBM vide letter no. TN/SLM/MG/MS-501-SZ dated 24.4.2009. Cost of the project will be Rs 3.7 Crores.

3. The proposal has been considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee-2 (Mining) in its meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2010. The Committee recommended the proposal for environmental clearance. Public hearing was held on 29.01.2010.

4. Based on the information submitted by the project proponent and recommendation of the Expert Appraisal Committee, the Ministry of Environment & Forests hereby accords environmental clearance to the said project under the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 subject to the implementation of the following terms and conditions:-

**A. Specific Conditions:**

- i. Top soil shall be stacked properly with adequate protection measures at earmarked sites and used for reclamation and rehabilitation of the mined out areas.
- ii. Wildlife Conservation Plan shall be prepared in consultation with the office of the Chief Wildlife warden and implemented. The plan shall comprise of in-built monitoring mechanism with special emphasis to protection of Schedule-I species. The status of implementation shall be submitted to the Ministry. Chain link fencing shall be installed around the mine lease area to prevent injury to the animals. Further, measures shall be taken to control the fire.
- iii. Mineralogical composition of the dust along with percentage of silica fractions in the dust particle and particle size analysis shall be carried out. Further, personnel exposure monitoring for dust shall be carried out for the workers.
- iv. Fugitive dust generation shall be controlled. Fugitive dust emission shall be regularly monitored at locations of nearest human habitation (including schools and other public amenities located nearest to sources of dust generation as applicable) and records submitted to the Ministry.
- v. Monitoring of ground and surface water quality shall be regularly conducted and records maintained and data submitted to the Ministry regularly. Further, monitoring points shall be located between the mine and drainage in the direction of flow of ground water and records maintained. Monitoring for Arsenic in ground water shall be undertaken.

- vi. Data on ambient air quality (PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>) should be regularly submitted to the Ministry including its Regional office located at Bangalore and the State Pollution Control Board / Central Pollution Control Board once in six months. The critical parameters such as PM<sub>10</sub>/PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> 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 2.5.2009 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, which is available on the website of the Ministry [www.envfor.nic.in](http://www.envfor.nic.in) shall also be referred in this regard for its compliance.
- vii. Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. Vehicles used for transportation of ores and others shall have valid permissions under Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 and its amendment. The number of shifts for mine operations could be as prescribed in the approved Mine Plan. However, the number of shifts or hours permissible for external vehicular traffic shall not exceed the limits in vogue for the area under consideration or in the event of passage through forest roads or public places, as may be applicable in this case. The limits prescribed by the local authorities shall not be exceeded. If no such guidelines for time restrictions are applicable, then external transport shall be preferably confined to two shifts.
- viii. The company shall ensure that no silt originating due to mining activity is transported in the surface water course (if any) flowing in the area. Proper drainage of the waste dumps shall be provided to prevent siltation of downstream water bodies. The dumps *per se shall* be drained and surface of the dump should be properly vegetated.
- ix. Measures for prevention and control of soil erosion and management of silt shall be undertaken. Protection of dumps against erosion shall be carried out with geo textile matting or other suitable material, and thick plantations of native trees and shrubs shall be carried out at the dump slopes. Dumps shall be protected by retaining walls.
- x. Rain water harvesting shall be undertaken to recharge the ground water source. Status of implementation shall be submitted to the Ministry within six months.
- xi. Need based assessment for the nearby villages shall be conducted to study economic measures with action plan which can help in upliftment of poor section of society. Income generating projects consistent with the traditional skills of the people besides development of fodder farm, fruit bearing orchards, vocational training etc. can form a part of such programme. Company shall provide separate budget for community development activities and income generating programmes. This will be in addition to vocational training for individuals imparted to take up self employment and jobs.

- xii. Occupational Health Cell shall be created at the company level under the charge of an officer of adequate seniority who is a qualified person in occupational health.
- xiii. Occupational health and safety measures for the workers including identification of work related health hazards, training on malaria eradication, HIV, and health effects on exposure to mineral dust etc. shall be carried out. Periodic monitoring for exposure to respirable mineral dust on the workers shall be conducted and records maintained including health records of the workers. Awareness programme for workers on impact of mining on their health and precautionary measures like use of personal equipment etc. shall be carried out periodically. Review of impact of various health measures undertaken (at interval of five years or less) shall be conducted followed by follow up action wherever required.
- xiv. Green belt development and selection of plant species shall be as per CPCB guidelines. Herbs and shrubs shall also form a part of afforestation programme besides tree plantation. Details of year wise afforestation programme including rehabilitation of mined out area shall be submitted to the Ministry within six months. The DFO/Agriculture University shall be consulted to increase the density of plantations.
- xv. Provision shall be made for housing the laborers 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:**

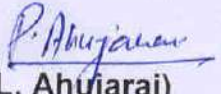
- (i) No change in mining technology and scope of working shall be made without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
- (ii) No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of mineral and waste shall be made.
- (iii) Fugitive dust emissions from all the sources shall be controlled regularly. Water spraying arrangement on haul roads, loading and unloading and at transfer points shall be provided and properly maintained.
- (iv) Four ambient air quality-monitoring stations shall be established in the core zone as well as in the buffer zone for PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> 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.
- (v) Measures shall be taken for control of noise levels below 85 dBA in the work environment. Workers engaged in operations of HEMM, etc. shall be provided with ear plugs / muffs.

- (vi) Industrial waste water (workshop and waste water from the mine) should be properly collected, treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under GSR 422 (E) dated 19<sup>th</sup> May, 1993 and 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1993 or as amended from time to time. Oil and grease trap shall be installed before discharge of workshop effluents.
- (vii) Personnel working in dusty areas shall be provided with protective respiratory devices and they shall also be imparted adequate training and information on safety and health aspects.
- (viii) A separate Environmental Management Cell with suitable qualified personnel shall be set-up under the control of a Senior Executive, who will report directly to the Head of the Organization.
- (ix) The project authorities shall inform to the Regional Office of the Ministry located at Bangalore regarding date of financial closures and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
- (x) The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures shall be kept in separate account and shall not be diverted for other purpose. Year wise expenditure shall be reported to the Ministry and its Regional Office located at Bangalore.
- (xi) The project authorities shall inform the Regional Office located at Bangalore regarding date of financial closures and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
- (xii) The Regional Office of the Ministry located at Bangalore shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities shall extend full cooperation to the officer(s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data / information / monitoring reports.
- (xiii) The project proponent shall submit six monthly reports on the status of the implementation of the stipulated environmental safeguards to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, its Regional Office, Bangalore, Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Board. The project proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the environment of the environmental clearance conditions on their website and update the same periodically and simultaneously send the same by e-mail to the Regional Office, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Bangalore.

- (xiv) The project proponent shall advertise in at least two local newspapers widely circulated in the region around the project, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality, / office of Municipal Corporation/Gram Panchayat concerned and on the company's web site within seven days from the date of this clearance letter, informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and copies of clearance letter are available with the State Pollution Control Board/Committee and may also be seen at Website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at <http://envfor.nic.in>.
  - (xv) A copy of clearance letter will be marked to concerned Panchayat / local NGO, if any, from whom suggestion / representation has been received while processing the proposal. The clearance letter shall also be put on the website of the company.
  - (xvi) State Pollution Control Board shall display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional office, District Industries Centre and Collector's office / Tehsildar's Office for 30 days.
  - (xvii) The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March in Form-V as is mandated shall be submitted to the State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently and shall also be put on the website of the company along with the status of compliance of environmental clearance conditions. The same shall also be sent to the Regional Office of Ministry by e-mail.
5. The Ministry of Environment and Forests reserves the right to revoke the clearance if conditions stipulated are not implemented to the satisfaction of the Ministry. MOEF may impose additional environmental conditions or modify the existing ones, if necessary.
6. In case of any deviation or alteration in the project proposed from those submitted to this Ministry for clearance, a fresh reference should be made to the Ministry to assess the adequacy of the condition(s) imposed and to add additional environmental protection measures required, if any.
7. 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 Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
8. Any appeal against this environmental clearance shall lie with the National Environment Appellate Authority, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 11 of the National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997.


9. 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 Tamil Nadu and any other Court of Law relating to the subject matter.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Dr. P. L. Ahujarai)  
Director

**Copy to:**

1. Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of Tamilnadu, Chennai.
3. Secretary, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Tamilnadu, Chennai.
4. Secretary, Department of Forests, Government of Tamilnadu, Chennai
5. The Secretary (Environment), Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Fort. St. George, Chennai- 600009.
6. The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032.
7. The Chairman, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, 76, Mount Road, Guindy, Chennai – 600032.
8. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office (SZ), Kendriya Sadan, IV<sup>th</sup> Floor, E&F Wings, 7<sup>th</sup> Main Road, II<sup>nd</sup> Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034.
9. Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, A2, W3 Curzon Road Barracks, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001.
10. Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, Indira Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440 001.
11. District Collector, District Salem , Tamilnadu.
12. Monitoring File.
13. Guard File.
14. Record File.

  
(Dr. P.L. Ahujarai)  
Director