



Ardent steel limited
CIN- U27310CT2007PLC007671

Ref. No. 480/ASL/MoEF & CC / 2022-23

Date: 1st January 2023

To
The Director,
Ministry of Environment & Forest, Govt. of India
Eastern Regional Office,
A/3, ChandrasekharPur,
Bhubaneswar-751023

Sub: Submission of Half Yearly Environmental Clearance Compliance Report for Enhancement in Production capacity of Existing Iron Ore Pellet Plant from 6,90,000 TPA to 8,50,000 TPA through Process Optimization of M/s. Ardent Steel Limited in village - Phuljhar, Block -Bansapal, Dist. - Keonjhar, Odisha

Ref: EC Letter No. J-11011/112/2013-IA. II(I), date 29th March, 2016

CTO Reference No. 16141/IND-CON-6363, dtd-22nd October, 2021 of OSPCB

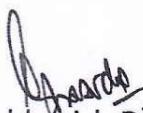
Dear Sir,

As per the conditions given in the Environmental Clearance accorded to our Existing Iron Ore Pellet Plant for Enhancement in Production capacity through Process Optimization in Phuljhar village of Keonjhar district on 13th February, 2020, we are herewith submitting the Half Yearly Environmental Clearance Compliance Report for the period of April' 2022-September'2022.

Thanking you.

Yours Faithfully

For Ardent Steel Limited


Dr. Subhasish Das
(Director)

Encl: As above.



COMPLIANCE REPORT FOR

THE PERIOD APRIL'2022-SEPTEMBER'2022

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

EC Letter No. J-11011/112/2013-IA.II(I), date 29th March, 2016



Ardent steel limited

Vill: Phuljhar, Block: Banspal, Dist: Keonjhar, Odisha.

COMPLIANCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE OF THE IRON ORE PELLETISATION PLANT OF
M/S ARDENT STEEL LIMITED

Vill: Phuljhar, Block: Banspal, Dist: Keonjhar, Odisha – 758085

A. SPECIFIC CONDITION

| SL NO | CONDITION | COMPLIANCE |
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| i. | Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the project shall be carried and schedule of health examination of the workers should be drawn and followed accordingly. | Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the project has been conducted in regular basis. Photo copy of health checkup reports are attached as Annexure – 1. |
| ii. | The project proponent shall ensure supply of safe drinking water to the nearby villages. | We are providing safe drinking water with the help of tankers within the radius of 3 km radius of the plant in the villages like Andharikhaman, Phuljhar (Barik Sahi, Majhi Sahi, Mahanta Sahi & Bhuiyan Sahi), etc Apart from this, hand pumps have been set up in Kaliapal, Chhatna, Dhalidihi villages. |
| iii. | The project proponent shall install 24 X 7 air monitoring devices to monitor air emissions, as provided by the CPCB and submit report to Ministry and its Regional Office. | 24 X 7 air monitoring devices to monitor air emissions has been installed. Last six month monitoring data is attached as Annexure – 2. |
| iv. | Continuous stack monitoring facilities for all the stacks shall be provided and sufficient air pollution control devices viz. Electrostatic precipitator (ESP), bag house, bag filters etc. shall be provided to keep the emission levels below 50 mg/Nm ³ and installing energy efficient technology. | Installation of 24 X 7 air monitoring device to monitor air emission is completed. Sufficient air pollution control devices viz. Electrostatic precipitator (ESP), bag house, have been provided to keep the emission levels below 50 mg/Nm ³ . |
| v. | The National Ambient Air Quality Emission Standards issued by the Ministry vide G.S.R. No. 826(E) dated 16th November, 2009 shall be followed. | Agreed, we are following it. AAQ monitoring data during the reporting period of April 2022 to September 2022 is enclosed as Annexure-3. |

| SL NO | CONDITION | COMPLIANCE |
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| vi. | Gaseous emission levels including secondary fugitive emissions from all the sources shall be controlled within the latest permissible limits issued by the Ministry vide G.S.R. 414(E) dated | Agreed, we have taken steps to control fugitive emission. Fugitive emission monitoring data during the reporting period enclosed at Annexure – 4. |

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| | 30th May, 2008 and regularly monitored. Guidelines/ Code of Practice issued by the CPCB shall be followed. | |
| vii. | Vehicular pollution due to transportation of raw material and finished product shall be controlled. Proper arrangements shall also be made to control dust emission during loading and unloading of the raw material and finished product. | <p>60 nos. of Water Sprinklers have been installed along the road as well as loading and unloading points to control the dust emission.</p> <p>Vehicles having valid PUC certificates are engaged in transporting raw materials /finished products. These materials are transported in covered condition.</p> <p>All roads inside the plant are concrete. A 10 KL capacity mobile water tanker has been engaged to sprinkle water on road. Truck mounted sweeper machine is engaged to clean dust.</p> |
| viii. | 'Zero' effluent discharge shall be strictly followed and no wastewater shall be discharged outside the premises. | Agreed, we are following 'Zero' effluent discharge concept. No wastewater is allowed to go outside the plant premises. |
| ix. | Regular monitoring of influent and effluent surface, sub-surface and ground water shall be ensured and treated wastewater shall meet the norms prescribed by the State Pollution Control Board or described under the E(P) Act whichever are more stringent. | <p>Agreed, we are following it. Surface & Ground water sample monitoring data during the reporting period enclosed at Annexure – 5(a) & Annexure – 5(b).</p> <p>As per the monitoring reports submitted, the parameters are within the prescribed limits.</p> |
| x. | <p>Proper handling, storage, utilization and disposal of all the solid/hazardous waste shall be ensured and regular report regarding toxic metal content in the waste material and its composition, end use of solid/hazardous waste shall be submitted to the Ministry's Regional Office, SPCB and CPCB.</p> <p>The proponent shall submit a copy of the agreement with the authorized vender to the regional office as a part of compliance.</p> | <p>The hazardous wastes (HW) generated in plant are used oil and oil sludge. These wastes are collected and stored in HW storage area marked as per Hazardous and other waste Management and Trans - boundary Movement) Rule 2016. Coal ash which is a solid waste has been analyzed and found that it does not contain any hazardous waste.</p> <p>The HW waste authorization certificate issues by the SPCB, Odisha is attached as Annexure – 6.</p> <p>This certificate is valid up to 31.03.2024.</p> |

| SL NO | CONDITION | COMPLIANCE |
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| xi. | Occupational health surveillance of the workers shall be done on a regular basis and records maintained as per the Factories Act and analysis shall be submitted to the regional office of the Ministry. | The Factories Act is strictly followed in our company. Adequate nos. of ear plugs, dust masks, etc, are provided to the workmen who are more exposed to the noisy & dusty atmosphere. All workers are examined for various health checkups viz., eye vision, respiratory system, cardiovascular system, abdomen tenderness, nervous system, locomotor system, skin condition, hernias, hydrocele, lung functioning test and X-ray test under Occupational health check up by a health professional, who is appointed on adhoc basis to conduct health examination once in every six months basis. |
| xii. | A time bound action plan shall be submitted to reduce solid waste generated due to the project related activities, its proper utilization and disposal. | In the pellet production process in our plant, a negligible amount of solid waste is generated; this is kept separately and later utilized in repairing of roads within plant premises. The time bound action plan to reduce solid waste generation due to the project related activities, its proper utilization and disposal has been submitted vide letter no. ASL/MOEF/ 2017-18, dated 19.01.2018. Ref: Annexure – 7. |
| xiii. | Proper utilization of fly ash shall be ensured as per Fly Ash Notification, 1999 and subsequent amendment in 2003 and 2009. All the fly ash shall be provided to cement and brick manufacturers for further utilization and Memorandum of Understanding shall be submitted to the Ministry's Regional at Chennai. | Not applicable for our industry as we don't have flash. |
| xiv. | A Risk and Disaster Management Plan shall be prepared and a copy submitted to the Ministry's Regional Office, SPCB and CPCB within 3 months of issue of environment clearance letter. | An updated plan has been submitted vide letter no. ASL MoEF/ 2019-20 dated 18.06.2019. This updated Risk and Disaster Management Plan has also been submitted at Directorate of Factories & Boilers, Odisha. |
| xv. | The project proponent shall provide for solar light system for all common area, street lights, villages, parking around project area and maintain the same regularly. | Solar light system for all common area, street lights, villages, parking around project area has been provided and we are maintaining the same regularly. |
| xvi. | The project proponent shall provide for LED lights in their offices and residential areas. | LED lights are provided in our offices and residential areas. |

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| xvii. | Green belt shall be developed at least in 33% of the total project area with at least 10meter wide green belt on all sides along the periphery of the project area and along road sides etc. by planting native and broadleaved species in consultation with local DFO, local community and as per the CPCB guidelines. | <p>Out of total plant area of 36.781ha, around 12.13 ha (32.97% of total area) of land has been covered under green belt.</p> <p>During the period of 2021, 3200 saplings have been distributed to periphery villages and 300 saplings have been planted in the plant premises. The details plantation are given below.</p> <p>3200 saplings have been distributed to villagers of Andharikhaman, Phuljhar, Chhanchana, Dhaladihi, Kasia etc. to plant in their unused land.</p> <p>Mango-50, Amla-40, Neem-30, Mahaneem-20, Satiyana-22, Siek-34, Kendi-20, Jamun-20, Sisu-22, Chakhunda-20, Guava-22 Total=300</p> |
| xviii. | At least 2.5% of the total cost of the project shall be earmarked towards the Enterprise Social Commitment based on Public Hearing issues, locals need and item-wise details along with time bound action plan shall be prepared and submitted to the Ministry's Regional Office. Implementation of such program-shall be ensured by constituting a Committee comprising of the proponent, representatives of village Panchayat and District Administration. Action taken report in this regard shall be submitted to the Ministry's Regional Office. | <p>The project cost at that time (2010) was Rs.133.96 crores which presently has increased to Rs.199.00 crores due to inflation. The standalone pellet plants were waived off for conducting public hearing vide MoEF Notification No SO 2572(E), dated 14th September 2015. However, the company has already spent about Rs.5,98,62,000 on Enterprise social commitment upto the year 2017, which is about 4.47% of project cost & is more than 2.5% as stipulated.</p> <p>In the year 2021-22 period Rs 50.61 lac has been spent on Enterprise social commitment which includes constriction of hospital building in Phuljhar, improvement in education facility in the village & maintenance of ambulance.</p> |
| xix. | The proponent shall prepare a detailed CSR Plan for every year for the next 5 years for the existing-cum-expansion project, which includes village-wise, sector-wise, (Health, Education, Sanitation, Health, Skill Development and infrastructure requirements such as strengthening of village roads, avenue plantation, etc.) activities in consultation with the local communities and administration. The CSR Plan will include the amount of 2% retain annual profits as provided for in Clause 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 which provides for 2% of the average net profits of previous 3 years | <p>Our Iron ore Pelletization Plant at Phuljhar was accorded Environmental clearance vide MoEF & CC Letter No. J-11011/112/2013 – IA II (I), Dated 29th March, 2016. As such the five year period under consideration for which CSR activities need to be planned include 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22. The plant was not in operation during 2015-16. It incurred a loss of Rs. 4.78 crores in 2016-17.</p> <p>The details of CSR activities being uploaded on company's website along with six</p> |

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| | towards CSR activities for life of the project. A separate budget head shall be created and the annual capital and revenue expenditure on various activities of the Plan shall be submitted as part of the Compliance Report to RO. The details of the CSR Plan shall also be uploaded on the company website and shall also be provided in the Annual Report of the company. | monthly compliance reports (ardentsteel.com). During the 2021-22, Rs 50,61,846 is spend for CSR activities. These include expenses for reconstruction of school building in Phuljhar, electrification of Phuljhar village GP & donation to NGO for improvement of education. |
| xx. | The Company shall submit within three months their policy towards Corporate Environment Responsibility which shall inter-alia address (i) Standard operating process/procedure to being into focus any infringement/deviation /violation of environmental or forest norms/ conditions, (ii) Hierarchical system or Administrative order of the Company to deal with environmental clearance conditions and (iii) System of reporting of non-compliance/violation environmental norms to the Board of Directors of the Company and/or stakeholders or shareholders. | The company has submitted their policy towards Corporate Environment Responsibility (in the EAI /EMP Report) which address (i) Standard operating process/procedure to being into focus any infringement / deviation violation of environmental or forest norms/ conditions, (ii) Hierarchical system of Administrative order of the Company to deal with environmental clearance conditions and (iii) System of reporting of non-Compliance / violation environmental norms to the Board of Directors of the Company and/or stakeholders or shareholders. |
| xxi. | 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. | The plant is in operation with valid consent to Operate from SPCB, Odisha. Later EC was obtained in 2016, as per the notification of MoEF & CC. Thus, the construction activities were completed before obtaining the EC. So no housing for construction labor is needed. The condition is not applicable at present. |

B. GENERAL CONDITION

| SL NO | CONDITION | COMPLIANCE |
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| i. | The project authorities must strictly adhere to the stipulations made by the Odisha Pollution Control Board and the State Government. | We are following the stipulations of SPCB, Odisha strictly. We have obtained Consent to Operate (CTO) capacity 0.85 MTPA from State Pollution Control Board, Odisha vide letter no. 16141/IND-I-CON-6363; dated 22.10.2021; which is valid till 31.03.2024. Ref. Annexure- 9 . |
| ii. | No further expansion or modifications in the plant shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). | Agreed, our future expansion will only be carried out after prior approval of MoEF & CC. |
| iii. | At least four ambient air quality monitoring stations should be established in the downward direction as well as where | Ambient Air Quality at four locations and Stack emission are monitored regularly by a MoEF / NABL accredited laboratory. The |

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| | <p>maximum ground level concentration of PM10, PM2.5, SO2 and NOx 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 SPCB / CPCB once in six months.</p> | <p>monitoring report during this six-month period is attached as Annexure – 2.</p> |
| iv. | <p>Industrial wastewater shall 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. The treated wastewater shall be utilized for plantation purpose.</p> | <p>Very negligible amount of wastewater is generated from plant which is collected in a concrete sump of 50 m³ (4 X 5 X 2.5 m) capacity and three concrete sumps of capacity 96 m³ (4 x 8 x 3 m) each. The water is being recycled to the grinding process only. Total rain water and sprinkling water is being collected through drains to a pond of capacity 55000 m³ (100 x 100 x 5.5 m) which is recycled to thickener of grinding area. The water seepage near the storage yard is being collected through garland drains and routed to a concrete pit of capacity 92.5 m³ (5 x 5 x 3.7 m). All the treated water from the settling ponds have been recycled in the process and no water is being discharged outside of the plant premises. The wastewater being generated from the process being treated in settling ponds by gravitational settling and the treated water being recycled in the process only. So effluent treatment plant is not required for this process.</p> |
| v. | <p>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 should conform to the standards prescribed under EPA Rules, 1989 viz. 75 dBA (daytime) and 70 dBA (nighttime)</p> | <p>The noise monitoring result in this six month period is attached as Annexure- 8. Noise control measures are provided at noise generating sites to keep the noise level under approved level. It has been observed that Noise level is within the prescribed limit. The monitoring reports are submitted to Regional Office of MoEF & CC, Bhubaneswar along with six monthly compliance reports on regular basis.</p> |
| vi. | <p>Occupational health surveillance of the workers shall be done on a regular basis and records maintained as per Factories Act.</p> | <p>It is being done on regular basis. The periodical medical examination of the workers has been carried out by a qualified doctor and the records were maintained.</p> |
| vii. | <p>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.</p> | <p>Rain Water Harvesting and Ground Water Recharge has been provided. Detail are provided in: Annexure – 10.</p> |

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| viii. | The project proponent shall also comply with all the environmental protection measures and safeguards recommended in the EIA/EMP report. Further, the company must undertake socio-economic development activities in the surrounding villages like community development programmes, educational programmes, drinking water supply and health care etc. | Yes, it is being carried out as per the need of the local villagers. |
| ix. | Requisite funds shall be earmarked towards capital cost and recurring cost/annum for environment pollution control measures to implement the conditions stipulated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) as well as the State Government. An implementation schedule for implementing all the conditions stipulated herein shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry at Bhubaneswar. The funds so provided shall not be diverted for any other purpose. | The project was operating before obtaining the EC. As such pollution control systems for air, water and noise control has been in place. Total expenditure on account of pollution control measures in the financial year 2019-20 is about Rs 8.5 lakhs. |
| x. | 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 be put on the web site of the company by the proponent. | Copy of environmental clearance letter given to Phuljhar Panchayat and a receipt from Gram Panchayat on this subject has also been obtained. A copy of the EC letter is also available in the website. |
| xi. | The project proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated environment clearance conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall simultaneously be sent to the Regional Office of the MoEFCC at Bhubaneswar. The respective Zonal Office of CPCB and the SPCB. The criteria pollutant levels namely; PM10, SO2, NOx (ambient levels as well as stack emissions) or critical sectoral parameters, indicated for the projects shall be monitored and displayed at a convenient location near the main gate of the company in the public domain. | The compliance report, monitoring report, CSR Activities report are being uploaded on company's website (ardentsteel.com) regularly. We have installed a display board at the main gate. Along with the temperature, it is also displaying the environmental monitoring values. |
| xii. | The project proponent shall also submit six monthly reports on the status of the compliance of the stipulated environmental conditions including results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) to the | The six-monthly EC compliance report is being submitted regularly. |

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| | Regional Office of MoEFCC, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and the SPCB. The Regional Office of this Ministry at Bhubaneswar /CPCB /SPCB shall monitor the stipulated conditions. | |
| xiii. | 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 environmental conditions and shall also be sent to the respective Regional Office of the MoEFCC at Bhubaneswar by e-mail. | The environmental statement for each financial year is submitted regularly to SPCB, Odisha. |
| xiv. | 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 of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) 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 should be forwarded to the regional office at Bhubaneswar. | It has already been intimated to public and also submitted a copy to the State Pollution Control Board, Odisha. |
| xv. | 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 commencing the land development work. | The project has been completed before obtaining the EC. Financial Closure: 21 .10.2008 Financial approval: 21.10.2008 Purchase of 1st land: 31.05.2008 Start of Construction:01.09.2008 Proof for the above already submitted earlier. |