Guidelines for removal/transportation of already excavated mineral ore by the previous lessees from the mining leases which expired on 31.3.2020

Lease period of certain mining leases of iron ore, Manganese ore, Chromite ore has expired on 31.3.2020 and have been allotted through auction to the successful bidders. On expiry of the mining leases, no further excavation of mineral has been allowed by State Govt. in Steel & Mines department. The consent to operate were also issued to these above mines upto the valid lease period i.e. 31.3.2020.

The concerned lessee shall be permitted as per Rule 12(1)(gg) of the Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016 to take down and remove for its own benefit, all or any ore mineral excavated during the currency of the lease, engines, machinery, plant, buildings structures, tramways, railways and other works, erections and conveniences which may have been erected, set up or placed by the lessee in or upon the leased lands and which the lessee is not bound to deliver to the State Government within six calendar months after paying the rents, rates and royalties payable under the Act and rules made there under or under the lease deed.

Accordingly, Steel & Mines Department have allowed removal of the ore minerals already excavated prior to expiry of the mining lease and lying in the leasehold area as per Odisha Minerals (Prevention of Theft, Smuggling and Illegal Mining and Regulation of Possession, Storage, Trading and Transportation) Amendment Rules, 2015. Some of the such lessees have also established and obtained consent to establish and consent to operate for intermediate mineral ore stockyard for storage and handling of the removed ore mineral from these mining leases.

State Pollution Control Board, Odisha regulates the mining activity and other ancillary activities such as ore processing, beneficiation, transportation etc. of a mining lease through consent administration under the provisions of Air (PCP) Act,1981 and Water (PCP) Act,1974. The consent is granted to the lessee of the mining lessee for carrying out all such
activities. Since the successful bidder in the auction process is the new lessee of the mine, hence the Consent shall be granted in favour of the new mining lessee.

Although in the same lease area, the previous lessee continues removal of the ore excavated during the currency of the lease, but no separate Consent to operate is envisaged for such activity. However, the removal and transportation of such ore mineral shall be done subject to permission from Steel & Mines Department and other Statutes, as applicable. Keeping in mind the potential for water and air pollution due to activities related to transport of excavated ore, certain pollution control measures are to be taken. Therefore, following conditions shall also be scrupulously followed for control of air and water pollution during carrying out these activities:

1. Retention wall and garland drain shall be maintained around mineral stacks terminating at settling pit to prevent runoff of water and flow of sediments directly into nearby water bodies. Garland drain and sedimentation pit shall be de-silted after monsoon or as and when required. The discharged water quality shall remain within the following standards:

   (i) pH - 5.5 - 9.0
   (ii) TSS - 100 mg/l (rainy days)
       - 50 mg/l (non-rainy days)
   (iii) Oil & Grease - 10 mg/l

2. Adequate water sprinkling shall be carried out on the internal transportation roads used by the outgoing lessee. These roads shall be devoid of ruts and potholes and shall be maintained properly to avoid generation of dust during movement of vehicles.

3. Regular water sprinkling on mineral transportation roads passing through the habitation area as well as other strategic point on the National Highway shall be done jointly by the mining lessees (Both new and outgoing Lessee) in consultation with the Regional Officer, SPCB.

4. All the vehicles engaged in mining and transporting activity in the mine shall have Pollution under Control (PUC) certificate. A record of the same shall be maintained for verification of inspecting agency.

5. All the ore carrying vehicles shall pass through the mechanized wheel washing facility, if installed. The wheel washing facility shall be integrated with complete recirculation system.

6. The vehicles carrying ore for transportation from the mine shall be covered with tarpaulin (both bottom & top).

7. The captive railway sidings within the leasehold area shall be used for transportation of ore as per the ownership established as per the law and permission from Steel & mines Department in this regard.
8. Adequate air pollution control measures shall be adopted in the siding area during handling of ore mineral.

9. Monitoring of ambient air and fugitive emission in transportation corridor within the mining lease shall be carried out twice in a week. The concentration of SPM shall be within 1200µg/m³. The monthly consolidated monitoring report shall be submitted to Head Office and Regional Office of State Pollution Control Board.

10. An undertaking shall be submitted by the outgoing lessee that the transportation activity is carried out as per this guideline.

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MEMBER SECRETARY

Memo No. 4112 /Dt. 17-04-2020
Copy forwarded to the Addl. Chief Secretary, Steel and Mines Department, Govt. of Odisha for kind information.

MEMBER SECRETARY

Memo No. 4112 /Dt. 17-04-2020
Copy forwarded to the Director of Mines, Govt. of Odisha for kind information.

MEMBER SECRETARY

Memo No. 4114 /Dt. 17-04-2020
Copy forwarded to the Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary, Forest and Environment, Govt. of Odisha for kind information.

MEMBER SECRETARY

Memo No. 4115 /Dt. 17-04-2020
Copy forwarded to all the Regional Officer, State Pollution Control Board, Odisha for information and necessary action.

MEMBER SECRETARY

Memo No. 4116 /Dt. 17-04-2020
Copy forwarded to all the District Magistrate and Collectors for kind information.

MEMBER SECRETARY

Memo No. 4117 /Dt. 17-04-2020
Copy forwarded to all the concerned Lessees for information and necessary action.