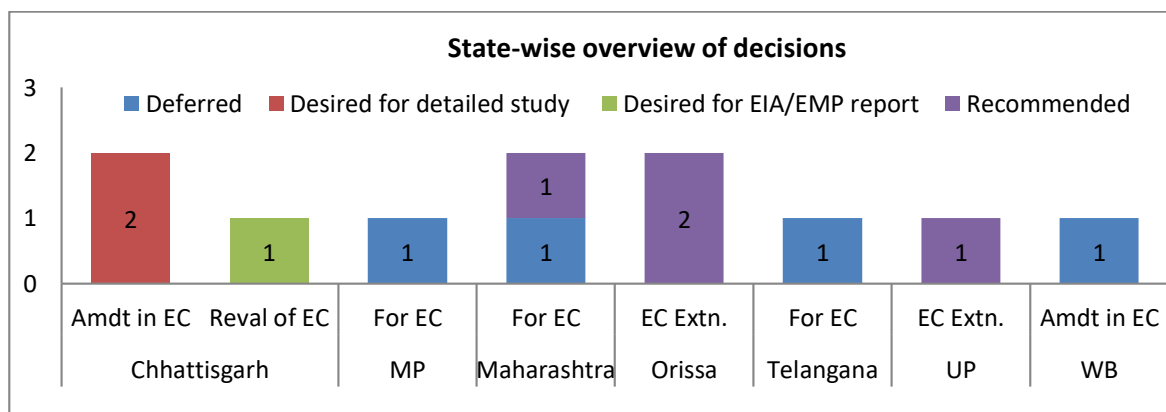


EAC recommends 2.65 MTPA coal capacity addition

Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for Coal of MoEF&CC considered 11 proposals in the meeting on 24 January 2019. There were four proposals for Environmental Clearance (EC), three proposals for Amendment in EC, three proposals for Extension of Validity of EC and one proposal for Revalidation of EC.

Ministry stealthily added three proposals to the 8 projects mentioned in the agenda made public. Of the three additional proposals, two are for Environmental Clearance - first being Batura OCP in districts Anuppur and Shahdol (Madhya Pradesh), and second being Expansion of Pauni-II Opencast Coal in district Chandrapur (Maharashtra). One proposal, Krishnashila OCP in Tehsil Dudhi, District Sonbhadra (Uttar Pradesh) is for Extension of EC.

Expansion of Pauni-II Opencast Coal Mine in Maharashtra has been recommended and it will result in 2.65 MTPA coal capacity addition.



Washeries to study impacts of road transportation of coal

Phil Coal Beneficiation and Paras Power & Coal Beneficiation, both of 2.5 MTPA capacity and both located at village Ghutku, Tehsil Takhatpur, District Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh, came for 'Amendment in EC' regarding transport of coal by road.

Phil Coal Beneficiation desired amendment of the condition of rail transportation in view of 'coal transportation not possible by rail due to non availability of sufficient number of rakes, and also wagon loading through silos not economically viable and feasible for smaller washeries'.

Accordingly, amendment has been sought to permit coal transportation by road only till the rakes are made available by the railway authorities.

The Committee directed that the washery may continue to operate in the mean time irrespective of the above condition, but with adequate pollution control measures and strictly complying with the provisions of the Ministry's Notification dated 2nd January, 2014 limiting coal transportation with ash content not exceeding 34%.

In case of Paras Power & Coal Beneficiation Limited, the Committee directed the washery to continue its operations, while revising the condition as under:-

'Transport of raw coal, washed coal and the rejects shall be through road/rail (60% by rail and 40% by road) with the exemption from wagon loading through silo, for a period of one year.'

However, In both the cases, Committee directed the proponents to undertake detailed study for assessment of 'carrying capacity of the proposed route / road, impact of increased traffic on air quality and the local habitation, and to submit the same within six months for consideration.'¹

Chotia-I Opencast cum UG Coal Mining Project

There was a proposal for revalidation of EC of Chotia-I Opencast cum Under Ground Coal Mining Project of 0.75 MTPA in mine lease area of 863 ha of BALCO located in village(s) Chotia and Bania, Tehsil Podiuprodha, District Korba, Chhattisgarh.

The Committee, after deliberations, desired for preparation of "the EIA/EMP report based on one season baseline data along with the details in respect of the following:-

- Public Consultation, including public hearing, shall be conducted through concerned SPCB as per the provisions/procedure contained in the EIA Notification, 2006 for information of the stakeholders about the present coal mining operations inviting comments and their redressal,
- Mining Plan and the Progressive Mine Closure Plan duly approved by the competent authority,
- Compliance status of the conditions stipulated in the environmental from the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry.
- Consent to operate from the State Pollution Control Board for the present mining operations.

¹ <http://environmentclearance.nic.in/writereaddata/Form-1A/Minutes/08022019WD7IJ7ANApprovedMinutes-42ndMeeting.pdf>

- Redressal of issues raised during the last public hearing conducted by the SPCB.
- Coal production realized from the mine from 1993-94 vis-à-vis capacity stipulated in the environment clearance.
- Need assessment survey for the activities proposed under the CSR and the comprehensive plan to be prepared accordingly for implementation by the project proponent. Also, impact of the CSR activities undertaken at an interval of 5 years to be evaluated and a report to be submitted.
- Stage-I/Renewal of forest clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, as the case may be, of the forest land involved in the project.
- Details of court cases and the compliance status.”²

Review by

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Projects considered in the meeting

Stage	Project Proposal	Proponent	State	Capacity (MTPA)	Lease (ha)	Decision
For EC	Kistaram Opencast Project	SCCL	Telangana	2	435.68	Deferred
For EC	Expansion of Bhatadi OC Expansion	WCL	Maharashtra	0.49	847.37	Deferred
Amdt in EC	Cluster No. 3 comprising 3 mines	ECL	West Bengal	3.97	1628	Deferred
EC Extn.	Bhubaneswari Opencast Exp. from 25 MTPA to 28 MTPA	MCL	Orissa	3	638.341	Recommended
Amdt in EC	Phil Coal Beneficiation Pvt. Ltd.	PCBPL	Chhattisgarh	2.5	9.93	Desired for detailed study
Reval of EC	Chotia I captive coal mining project	Prakash Industries	Chhattisgarh	0.75	1101.03	Desired EIA/EMP report
EC Extn.	Kulda Expansion Opencast Project	MCL	Orissa	14	634.205	Recommended
Amdt in EC	2.5 MTPA coal washery at Ghutku Village	PPCBL	Chhattisgarh	2.5	8	Desired for detailed study

² <http://environmentclearance.nic.in/writereaddata/Form-1A/Minutes/08022019WD7IJ7ANApprovedMinutes-42ndMeeting.pdf>

For EC	Batura OCP	SECL	Madhya Pradesh	3	967.473	Deferred
For EC	Expansion of Pauni-II Opencast Coal Mine	WCL	Maharashtra	2.65	1095.52	Recommended
EC Extn.	Krishnashila OCP	NCL	Uttar Pradesh	0.75	851.78	Recommended