



File No.: J-11015/381/2015-IA-II (M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate
Change
IA Division



Dated 21/05/2026



To,

Mr. Prashant M. Lokhande
M/s. Western Coalfields Limited
Coal Estate Civil lines, Nagpur-440001, Maharashtra
E-mail: gmenvironment.wcl@coalindia.in

Subject: Amalgamated Yekona I & II OC (Phase-I) (having production capacity of 3.85 MTPA within the ML area of 1679.39 ha), by M/s Western Coalfields Limited, located at village: Yekona; Tehsil: Warora; District: Chandrapur; State: Maharashtra – Amendment in Environment Clearance – Regarding

Sir/Madam,

This is with reference to your online application vide proposal no. IA/MH/CMIN/571243/2026 dated 27/03/2026 seeking for Amendment in Environmental Clearance accorded by the Ministry vide letter no. J-11015/381/2015-IA.II(M), dated 20.02.2025 and 15.11.2025 under the provision of EIA notification 2006 and as amended therein for the project mentioned above.

2. The particulars of the proposal are as below :

(i) EC Identification No.	EC26A0101MH5429426A
(ii) File No.	J-11015/381/2015-IA-II (M)
(iii) Clearance Type	Amendment in EC
(iv) Category	A
(v) Schedule No./ Project Activity	1(a) Mining of minerals
(vi) Sector	Coal Mining
(vii) Name of Project	Amalgamated Yekona I & II OC (Phase-I)
(viii) Location of Project (District, State)	Chandrapur, Maharashtra
(ix) Issuing Authority	MoEF&CC
(x) EC Date	20/02/2025
(xi) Applicability of General Conditions	NO
(xii) Status of implementation of the project	

3. The instant proposal is for amendment in Environment Clearance granted to M/s Western Coalfields Limited accorded vide Letter no. J-11015/381/2015-IA.II(M), dated 20.02.2025 and 15.11.2025 for Amalgamated Yekona I & II OC Mine (Phase I), having production capacity of 3.85 MTPA, within the ML area of 1679.39 ha), located at village: Yekona; Tehsil: Warora; District: Chandrapur; State: Maharashtra. The application for the instant proposal has been submitted by the PP on Parivesh portal on 27.03.2026. The proposal was considered in 43rd EAC Meeting held during 28-29th April, 2026. The MoM for the same may be seen using the web link: parivesh.nic.in.

Details submitted by the PP

4. Details of all the prior ECs including the EC for which amendment is sought:

S. No.	Details of Letter No.	EC/ Expansion EC/ Amendment in EC/ Validity extension/ Transfer of EC	Capacity (MTPA)	Area (ha)	Date of issuance	Status of implementation
1	J-11015/381/2015 - IA.II(M)	EC	2.75	1679.39	01.01.2021	Implemented
2	J-11015/381/2015 - IA.II(M)	Amendment in EC	2.75	1679.39	15.03.2024	Implemented
3	J-11015/381/2015 - IA.II(M)	EC enhancement under 7(ii) clause	3.30	1679.39	20.02.2025	Being Implemented
4	J-11015/381/2015 - IA.II(M)	EC enhancement under 7(ii) clause	3.85	1679.39	15.11.2025	Being Implemented

W.r.t the previous approvals, PP submitted the actual production details of the concerned mine and submitted that the mine became operational from FY 2020-21 onwards. CTO renewal has been obtained from the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, vide letter no. Format1.0/ CAC/ UAN No. MPCB - CONSENT- 0000265525/ CO/ 2603000011 dated 01.03.2026 and is valid up to 31.03.2027.

Year	Actual Coal Production in MTPA	Planned Coal Production in MTPA as per Environment Clearance	Excess production beyond the EC sanctioned capacity
2020-21	1.10	2.75	Nil
2021-22	2.417	2.75	Nil
2022-23	2.749	2.75	Nil
2023-24	2.749	2.75	Nil
2024-25	3.30	3.30	Nil
2025-26	3.85	3.85	Nil

5. Details regarding amendment sought in the EC dated 20.02.2025 and 15.11.2025:

Specific/ General Condition no.	Details of conditions as per EC	Amendment sought	Justification
EC dtd 20.02.2025 Specific EC Condition 1.3	In order to mitigate air pollution in and around mine premises, the proposed railway siding shall be commissioned by March 2026 as committed. No transportation shall be done by trucks after March 2026 except for small scale industry and thermal power	In order to mitigate air pollution in and around mine premises, the proposed railway siding shall be commissioned by March 2027 as committed. No transportation shall be done by trucks after March 2027 except for small scale industry and thermal power	The major part of the work i.e 700 mtrs of Railway Siding work including wharf wall, loading platform, WBM road, Track linking has been completed, RUB has been completed on PWD road. Further road work as well as work on 2.0 km out of total 4.675 km of rail tracks for connection with main rail head from Chikni Railway Station is

Specific/ General Condition no.	Details of conditions as per EC	Amendment sought	Justification
	located within 5 kms of the mine area. PP should take up the 3 tier plantation on the coal transportation route to mitigate the environment impacts. This shall be completed during the forthcoming monsoon session	located within 5 kms of the mine area. PP should take up the 3 tier plantation on the coal transportation route to mitigate the environment impacts. This shall be completed during the forthcoming monsoon session	in progress. In remaining portion, work couldn't be taken up due to protests by villagers, the matter has been taken up with state administration to resolve the issue and resume the work. Major reasons of Delay:
EC dtd 15.11.2025 section 9(viii): Details of Transportation Quantity being transported by Road/ Rail/ conveyer/ ropeway:	Total material to be transported by Road is 3.85 MTPA. In this project, coal transportation is proposed by under construction Railway Siding by March'2026 within ML Area except for the small scale industry and thermal power plants located within 5 kms of the mine area	Total material to be transported by Road is 3.85 MTPA. In this project, coal transportation is proposed by under construction Railway Siding by March'2027 within ML Area except for the small scale industry and thermal power plants located within 5 kms of the mine area	- Extended Monsoon during 2025 impacted the Civil work. - Acquisition of 27.24 ha land (outside the project area) was completed in June 2025 by Ministry of Railways for connecting Yekona railway siding with nearest railway station. Compensation amount of Rs 5.97 Crores for the acquired land was deposited to State Govt of Maharashtra. However, the Land owners protested, seeking higher compensation and employment against the acquired by Railways. At present the work is stand still in this portion. Railways and WCL officials sought assistance from the State Government authorities to pacify the agitators so that construction activities can resume at the earliest. Additional Collector of Chandrapur district has been appointed as arbitrator by Govt of Maharashtra to resolve the said dispute. The Overhead Electrification, Signaling Work of Railway Siding and various other works of connecting Yekona Railway siding with nearest rail station will be completed in 4 to 5 months, once the work is resumed. Considering the above facts, we are able to envision the commissioning of Yekona Railway Siding by 31st March 2027.
EC dtd 15.11.2025 section 9(viii): Details of Transportation Proposed change in transportation means if any:	Existing transportation by Road only. However, coal transportation is proposed by constructing Railway Siding by March'2026 within ML Area except for the small scale industry and thermal power plants located within 5 kms of the mine area.	Existing transportation by Road only. However, coal transportation is proposed by constructing Railway Siding by March'2027 within ML Area except for the small scale industry and thermal power plants located within 5 kms of the mine area.	

6. Present and proposed coal evacuation system and environmental parameters of the coal transportation road:

i. Present Coal Evacuation Method:

The existing coal transportation route is from mine pit to Coal Stockyard by Tippers. Then coal consumers evacuate the coal from mine by trucks. The major consumers are GMR and Sai Wardha Thermal Power Plant i.e. within the 5 km from mine boundary. The length of Coal transportation road from Coal stockyard within the mine is 7.5 kms. 75% of coal is transported to Thermal Power Plants (75% being transported to Thermal power plants within 5 kms from mine) by Road mode and remaining 25% (auctioned coal) is being dispatched to other non-power and other small-scale consumers by road mode.

ii. Proposed Coal Evacuation Method:

The Proposed coal transportation route is from mine pit to Railway Siding by Tippers. The railway Siding, within the ML area is under construction and will be commissioned by March 2027. Coal transportation shall be done by Railways after March 2027 except for small scale industry and thermal power located within 5 kms of the mine area.

iii. Environmental parameters of the coal transportation road:

Air quality monitoring data for PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, NO_x & SO₂ (Unit in g/m³) has been conducted for 3 months i.e. from Oct 2023 to Dec 2023 at Manager Office, Yekona village, Wanoja Village and Naydeo Village the details are given below:

Manager Office (all values in g/m ³)				
	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO _x	NO _x
Maximum Value	155	81	29	34
Minimum Value	129	69	23	26
Average Value	144	75	26	30
98th Percentile	155	81	29	34
Standard (as per GSR 742 E)	300	--	120	120
Yekona Village (all values in g/m ³)				
	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO _x	NO _x
Maximum Value	77	52	29	32
Minimum Value	63	38	19	20
Average Value	71	44	25	28
98th Percentile	77	52	29	32
Standard	100	60	80	80
Wanoja Village (all values in g/m ³)				
	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO _x	NO _x
Maximum Value	75	51	27	31
Minimum Value	60	43	18	20
Average Value	69.7	46.7	23.1	26.9
98th Percentile	74.84	50.84	26.84	30.84
Standard	100	60	80	80
Naydeo Village (all values in g/m ³)				
	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO _x	NO _x
Maximum Value	89	53	22	27
Minimum Value	80	34	17	21
Average Value	84.1	42	19.2	23.7
98th Percentile	89	52	22	27
Standard	100	60	80	80

Ambient Noise Quality:

Ambient noise monitoring has been conducted for 3 months i.e. from Oct 2023 to Dec 2023 at Manager Office, Yekona village, Wanoja Village and Naydeo Village, the details are given below:

Manager Office (all values in dB(A))		
	DAY TIME	NIGHT TIME
Minimum Value	51.60	43.10
Maximum Value	57.20	55.90
98th Percentile	57.16	55.68
Average Value	54.70	51.45
Standard	75	70
Yekona Village (all values in dB(A))		
	DAY TIME	NIGHT TIME

Minimum Value	43.10	41.10
Maximum Value	46.10	44.10
98th Percentile	45.86	44.02
Average Value	43.90	42.58
Standard	55	45
Wanoja Village (all values in dB(A))		
	DAY TIME	NIGHT TIME
Minimum Value	42.70	41.80
Maximum Value	44.90	43.70
98th Percentile	44.88	43.66
Average Value	44.15	42.78
Standard	55	45
Naydeo Village (all values in dB(A))		
	DAY TIME	NIGHT TIME
Minimum Value	41.60	39.10
Maximum Value	45.20	42.80
98th Percentile	45.05	42.76
Average Value	43.43	41.32
Standard	55	45

Details of existing control measures are as follows:

- i. Surface Miner to avoid drilling and blasting in Coal.
- ii. Trolley mounted mist canon: 10 Nos. installed along coal transportation road and coal stock yard
- iii. Mobile water tanker -
 - 4 Nos. 16 KL at haul road
 - 4 Nos. 12 KL at coal transportation road and stockyard
- iv. Fixed sprinklers –
 - 21 Nos. installed at Coal Stockyard
 - 45 nos. at coal transportation road and weigh bridge.
- v. Till date plantation in 78 ha (1,95,000 Nos. saplings) has been done.
- vi. Type of coal transportation road is given below-
 - Cement Concrete Road: 5.3 km
 - Bitumen road: 1.50 Km and WBM Road 2.00 km
- vii. Automatic Tyre washing system installed at mine exit point
- viii. 1 No. Road sweeping machine deployed at Coal transportation road.

7. Status of construction of the proposed railway siding:

S. No.	Activity	Timeline			Remarks
		Period in Days	From	To	
1	LOA of IPRCL	-	-	07.05.2022	Completed
2	Approval of WCL Board for Land Acquisition	-	-	27.09.2022	Completed
3	Initial Survey of Land	-	-	-	Completed
4	Centerline marking of Track	-	-	-	Completed
5	Finalization of Land schedule for the land to be acquired for construction of railway siding	-	-	06.07.2023	Completed
6	Preparation of Plan and Land Schedule as per the requirement of Railways, Nagpur	30	10.07.2023	09.08.2023	Completed
7	Submission and Approval of Plan & Land	30	10.08.2023	09.09.2023	Completed

	Schedule by Railways, Nagpur				
8	Final Survey and measurement of Land by State departments	240	11.10.2023	09.07.2024	Completed
9	Publication of Land Acquisition in Gazette	-	-	02.09.2024	Completed
10	Land Possession outside Lease area	-	-	06.06.2025	Completed
11	Starting of Civil work of Wharf Wall Siding Platform and Track Laying Works (within leasehold area)		10.11.2024	31.08.2025	Completed
12	Civil Work including cross drainage work, RUB, retaining wall work (outside leasehold area)	1030	15.01.2024	15.11.2026	Under Progress
13	Civil Work of Installation of Wind Barrier	166	16.01.2026	30.06.2026	Under Progress
14	Construction of Cabin and other building	125	01.10.2026	04.02.2027	Yet to Start
15	Overhead Electrification (OHE)	151	16.10.2026	15.03.2027	Yet to start
16	Signaling Works, testing and commissioning	166	16.10.2026	30.03.2027	Yet to Start
	Commissioning of Railway Siding		31.03.2027		

8. **Details of Court Cases:** PP reported that there is no legal issue/ violation w.r.t i) Environment (Protection) Act, ii) Air (P&CP) Act, Water (P&CP), Act, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, Wildlife Protection Act, MMDR Act, Factories Act. Further, there is no court case on the project. However, there are four court cases related to the bypass road passing outside the mine lease area and the details are given as below:

S. No.	Name of the Court/ Tribunal	Name of the specific Court/ Bench	Case Category & Number & Date	Status of court case	Orders/ Directions of the court, if any, and its relevance with the proposed project
1.	Bombay High Court	Nagpur Bench	Writ Petition WP No. 2470/2022 (Filing dt: 29.04.2022)	Pending (Last listed on 05.02.2025)	No order/ Direction of the court in this regard has been received till date.
2.	Bombay High Court	Nagpur Bench	Writ Petition WP No. 1617/2023 (Filing dt: 06.03.2023)	Pending (Last listed on 09.06.2023)	No order/ Direction of the court in this regard has been received till date.
3.	Bombay High Court	Nagpur Bench	Writ Petition WP No. 1839/2023 (Filing dt: 14.02.2023)	Pending (Last listed on 31.07.2023)	No order/ Direction of the court in this regard has been received till date.
4.	Bombay High Court	Nagpur Bench	Writ Petition WP No. 2874/2024 (Filing dt: 24.04.2024)	Pending (Last listed on 21.08.2025)	No order/ Direction of the court in this regard has been received till date.

Observation and deliberation of the EAC:

9. Committee after deliberations noted the following:

i. MoEF&CC has granted EC to M/s Western Coalfields for Amalgamated Yekona I & II OC (Phase-I) for the production capacity of 2.75 MTPA within the ML area of 1679.39 ha, vide EC letter dated 01.01.2021. The same was amended vide letter dated 15.03.2024 for seeking extension in timeline for commission of railway siding by December 2026. Later another ECs for the same were granted within the same ML area for the production capacity of 3.30 MTPA and 3.85 MTPA vide letter dated 20.02.2025 and 15.11.2025 respectively.

ii. Now, the PP has again submitted application for seeking extension in timeline for commissioning of railway siding under construction within the ML area, up to 31.03.2027.

iii. During the deliberation, the Committee observed that while Environmental Clearance for enhancement of production

capacity to 3.85 MTPA was granted vide letter dated 15.11.2025, the Project Proponent had committed that the railway siding would be commissioned by March 2026, based on which the timeline for compliance was reduced. However, the Project Proponent has now sought further extension of the timeline for commissioning of the railway siding. The Committee took a serious view of the repeated extensions sought by the Project Proponent despite the commitments made during appraisal, and observed that such repeated requests without timely compliance result in avoidable delay in the appraisal process and repeated consideration by the Committee.

iv. The Committee deliberated on the reasons submitted for seeking the amendment and observed that the construction activities of the proposed railway siding were adversely affected due to extended monsoon conditions during 2025, which impacted the civil works. The Committee further noted that acquisition of 27.24 ha land outside the project area for connectivity of Yekona railway siding with the nearest railway station was completed by the Ministry of Railways in June 2025, and compensation was deposited with the Government of Maharashtra. However, the Committee observed that protests by land owners seeking enhanced compensation and employment against the acquired land have resulted in stoppage of work in the affected portion. The Committee further noted that Railway and WCL officials have sought assistance from the State Government authorities for resolution of the issue and that the Additional Collector of Chandrapur district has been appointed as arbitrator by the Government of Maharashtra to resolve the dispute.

v. The Committee further deliberated on the status of construction work of the proposed railway siding and observed that major components of the work, including approximately 700 meters of railway siding, wharf wall, loading platform, WBM road, track linking, and construction of RUB on the PWD road, have been completed. The Committee further noted that the remaining road work and laying of approximately 2.0 km rail track out of the total 4.675 km required for connection with the main railhead at Chikni Railway Station are presently under progress.

vi. The Committee further deliberated on the environmental management measures implemented along the coal transportation road and observed that the Project Proponent has adopted various dust suppression and pollution mitigation measures, including deployment of surface miners to avoid drilling and blasting in coal, installation of 10 nos of trolley-mounted mist cannons along the coal transportation road and coal stockyard, deployment of mobile water tankers at haul roads, transportation roads and stockyards, installation of fixed sprinklers at coal stockyard, transportation roads and weighbridge areas, development of plantation over 78 ha with approximately 1,95,000 saplings, provision of cement concrete, bitumen and WBM roads along the transportation corridor, installation of automatic tyre washing system at mine exit point, and deployment of a road sweeping machine along the coal transportation route.

vii. Project Proponent presented a drone video during the appraisal process showcasing the ongoing construction activities of the railway siding and the concrete road under development. The Committee opined that the 3 tier plantation using native shade bearing and fast-growing species of not less than 2 meter height shall be undertaken on both sides of the road within six months from completion of the road construction work to minimize dust emissions and enhance the green cover along the transportation corridor.

Recommendations of the Committee:

10. In view of the foregoing and after the detailed deliberations, the Committee **recommended** the instant proposal for grant of amendment in the EC granted vide letter no. J-11015/381/2015-IA-II(M), dated 20.02.2025 and 15.11.2025, as detailed below, subject to stipulation of the additional specific conditions (**Annexure-I**).

EC letter dtd. 20.02.2025 and 15.11.2025	Details of the conditions as per EC/ EC Amendment	Recommendation of EAC
EC dtd 20.02.2025 Specific EC Condition 1.3	<i>"In order to mitigate air pollution in and around mine premises, the proposed railway siding shall be commissioned by March 2026 as committed. No transportation shall be done by trucks after March 2026 except for small scale industry and thermal power located within 5 kms of the mine area. PP should take up the 3 tier plantation on the coal transportation route</i>	Agreed. With regard to the changes in the said condition, Committee is of the opinion to amend the same as follows: <i>"In order to mitigate air pollution in and around mine premises, the proposed railway siding shall be commissioned by March 2027 as committed. No transportation shall be done by</i>

EC letter dtd. 20.02.2025 and 15.11.2025	Details of the conditions as per EC/ EC Amendment	Recommendation of EAC
	<i>to mitigate the environment impacts. This shall be completed during the forthcoming monsoon session.”</i>	<i>trucks after March 2027 except for small scale industry and thermal power located within 5 kms of the mine area. PP should take up the 3 tier plantation on the coal transportation route to mitigate the environment impacts. This shall be completed during the forthcoming monsoon session”</i>
EC dtd 15.11.2025 section 9(viii): Details of Transportation Quantity being transported by Road/ Rail/ conveyer/ ropeway:	<i>“Total material to be transported by Road is 3.85 MTPA. In this project, coal transportation is proposed by under construction Railway Siding by March’2026 within ML Area except for the small scale industry and thermal power plants located within 5 kms of the mine area.”</i>	Agreed. With regard to the changes in the said para, Committee is of the opinion to amend the same as follows: <i>“Total material to be transported by Road is 3.85 MTPA. In this project, coal transportation is proposed by under construction Railway Siding by March’2027 within ML Area except for the small scale industry and thermal power plants located within 5 kms of the mine area”</i>
EC dtd 15.11.2025 section 9(viii): Details of Transportation Proposed change in Transportation means if any:	<i>“Existing transportation by Road only. However, coal transportation is proposed by constructing Railway Siding by March’2026 within ML Area except for the small scale industry and thermal power plants located within 5 kms of the mine area.”</i>	Agreed. With regard to the changes in the said para, Committee is of the opinion to amend the same as follows: <i>“Existing transportation by Road only. However, coal transportation is proposed by constructing Railway Siding by March’2027 within ML Area except for the small scale industry and thermal power plants located within 5 kms of the mine area.”</i>

Decision of MoEF&CC:

11. The undersigned is directed to inform that Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has examined the proposal in accordance with the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 & further amendments thereto and after accepting the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee (Coal) hereby decided for grant of amendment in the EC letter dated 20.02.2025 and 15.11.2025 as mentioned in table of above **Para 10**, under the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and its amendments subject to stipulation of additional specific conditions (**Annexure-I**).

12. All Other terms and conditions prescribed in EC dated 20.02.2025 and 15.11.2025 shall remain unchanged.

13. The project proponent shall obtain fresh Environment Clearance in case of change in scope of the project, if any.

14. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,
(Sundar Ramanathan)
Scientist ‘F’
Tel: 011- 20819378
Email- r.sundar@nic.in

Copy To

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

2. The Principal Secretary, Department of environment, Government of Maharashtra-15th Floor, New Admin Bldg, Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya, Mumbai-32, Maharashtra.
3. The Deputy Director General of Forests (C), Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur- 440 001,
4. The Chairman, Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board, Kalapataru Point, 3rd & 4th Floors, Sion, Matunga Scheme Road No 8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion circle, Sion (E) Mumbai-2.
5. The Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA),18/11Jamnagar House, Man Singh Road, New Delhi-11001.
6. The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi – 32.
7. The Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 3rd and 4th floor, Opp. PVR Cinema, Sion Circle, Mumbai-400 022, Maharashtra.
8. The Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board, Central Region, N.S. Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440 001 Maharashtra.
9. District Collector, Chandrapur, Government of Maharashtra.
10. PARIVESH Portal.

Annexure 1

Specific EC Conditions for (Mining Of Minerals)

1. Additional Specific Conditions:

S. No	EC Conditions
1.1	Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) and Noise quality data along the entire coal transportation route shall be monitored and the data shall be submitted along with the six monthly compliance to the concerned Regional Office and also kept on the web portal of the company.
1.2	Project proponent shall carry out three tier plantation along the coal transportation route with the native shade bearing and fast growing species with saplings of not less than 2 meter height on both the sides of the coal transportation road to further control the dust pollution by Monsoon 2026. Compliance in this regard shall be submitted along with the six monthly compliance to the concerned Regional Office and also kept on the web portal of the company.
1.3	Proponent shall carryout regular maintenance of the potholes on roads, repair and maintenance of roads, scrapping of material fallen on roads, and removal of scraps from mining areas. Along with this, PP shall make sure that all the pollution control equipments are in good working condition and maintenance of those equipments is regularly carried out.
1.4	Additional air pollution control measures should be taken along roads being used for the transport of coal including e-/ CNG/ LNG vehicles.
1.5	The Project Proponent shall undertake avenue plantation using native and fast-growing species along both sides of the concrete road under development within six months of completion of the road construction work. The plantation shall be properly maintained with adequate survival measures, including watering and replacement of dead saplings, to ensure effective dust suppression and enhancement of green cover.