

F. No. IA-J-11011/170/2017-IA-II-(I)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Impact Assessment Division)

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Dated: 29th June, 2017

To

**M/s Hindusthan Zinc Ltd,
Plot No.2, sector -14,
Integrated Industrial Estate (IIE),
Pantnagar, Uttarakhand- 263153
Email: c.chandru@vedanta.co.in Fax: 05944 254470**

Subject: Expansion of Silver Refining Plant for production of refined silver from 500 TPA to 600 TPA at Plot No.2, Sector -14, Integrated Industrial Estate (IIE), Pantnagar, Uttarakhand by M/s Hindusthan Zinc Ltd – Environment Clearance for expansion under clause 7(ii) of EIA Notification 2006 regarding.

Sir,

This has reference to your online application vide proposal no. **IA/UK/IND/63964/2010** dated 13th April 2017 along with the application in prescribed format (Form-I), copy of pre-feasibility report and Environment Management plan for expansion under clause 7(ii) of EIA Notification, 2006 for the project mentioned above. The proposed project activity is listed at Sl. No. 3(a) Metallurgical industries (ferrous & non-ferrous), under category 'B' of the Schedule of EIA Notification, 2006. Since the SEAC is not yet constituted, the proposal was appraised at the Central level.

2.0 Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) is currently operating silver plant of 500 TPA capacity located at State Industrial Development Corporation Limited (SIDCUL), Pantnagar village, Kichha tehsil, Udham Singh Nagar District, Uttarakhand State. The project site is part of the Notified Industrial Area administered by SIDCUL, Department of Industries, Government of Uttarakhand.

3.0 The existing project of M/s HZL obtained environment clearance for 500 TPA refined silver production vide letter no. EC- 51/10/265 dated 16.03.2010. The existing project was earlier appraised by SEAC Uttarakhand as Category B as per the EIA Notification dated 14th September 2006.

4.0 Now, M/s HZL proposes to enhance the production capacity of the existing plant from 500 TPA to 600 TPA (20% increase) owing to the increased percentage of silver content in raw material. The manufacturing process consists of pyro-metallurgical refining of anode slime in furnaces and hydro-metallurgical refining in electrolysis section. This plant shall treat the "anode slime" & high-grade metal (HGM) produced as a by-product in the HZL lead smelters in

Rajasthan to recover the silver. This plant shall produce 25 TPA of Silver Nitrate as a by-product. The existing plant is having all the necessary utilities and auxiliary support system like power distribution, fuel oil storage & distribution, compressed air, water treatment system etc.

5.0 Site is located at the intersection of latitude 29°20'7" N and longitude 79°24'01" E. The plant is in an area of 10 ha. There will not be any additional acquisition for this proposed expansion project.


6.0 Existing plant water requirement is 325 m³/day, which is being met from bore wells for which necessary permission has already been obtained. No additional water is required for the expansion. It is reported that zero liquid discharge is being maintained and the same will be continued.

7.0 No additional power required for this proposed expansion project. Existing power of 2 MW required for the plant is being met from Uttarakhand State Power Corporation Limited (UPCL).

8.0 There will not be any additional manpower deployment as the existing resources will be utilized in this expansion.

9.0 It is reported that extensive green belt has been developed in & around the plant premises in consultation with DFO (around 10,391 local saplings have been planted) which is around 38% of total area. Plantation is being done annually along with gap filling and ensuring good survival rate of saplings.

10.0 It was informed that the increase in silver production from the same quantity of raw material which is rich in silver content will not have any additional adverse impact on environment, socio-economics and natural resources.

 11.0 For the existing project, public hearing was not conducted as the project is in notified industrial area of SIDCUL.

12.0 The certified compliance of earlier EC was obtained from the Regional Office of MoEF&CC vide letter no. VII/ENV/SCLUTR/Ind-63/2010/142 dated 3rd May, 2017.

13.0 The proposal was considered in the 18th meeting of Expert Appraisal Committee [EAC (Industry-I)] held during 3rd to 5th May 2017. After detailed deliberation, the committee recommended for expansion of silver production from 500 TPA to 600 TPA subject to conditions namely i) The proposed gap planting to achieve 33% of the green belt with local and broad-leaved species shall be carried in the first year; ii) The enhancement of production from 500 TPA to 600 TPA shall achieve owing to the increased percentage of silver content in raw material, no additional machinery shall be established iii) and No change in the scope of the project.

14.0 The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has considered the application based on the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry-I) and hereby decided to grant environmental clearance to the above-mentioned expansion of Silver Refining Plant for production of refined silver from 500 TPA to 600 TPA at Plot No.2, Sector -14, Integrated Industrial Estate (IIE), Pantnagar, Uttarakhand by M/s Hindusthan Zinc Limited under Clause 7(ii) of EIA Notification, 2006, subject to strict compliance of the following Specific conditions:

SPECIFIC CONDITION:

- i. The proposed gap planting to achieve 33% of the green belt with local and broad-leaved species shall be carried in the first year.
- ii. The enhancement of production from 500 TPA to 600 TPA shall achieve owing to the increased percentage of silver content in raw material, no additional machinery shall be established.
- iii. No change in the scope of the project shall be made without prior approval of the ministry.
- iv. All the conditions prescribed in the environmental clearance letter No EC- 51/10/265 dated 16.03.2010 issued by Uttarakhand SEAC shall be strictly complied with.

15.0 The Ministry may revoke or suspend the clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory.

16.0 The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions if found necessary. The Company in a time bound manner shall implement these conditions.


17.0 The above conditions shall 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, Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and rules.

This issues with the approval of competent authority.


(Sharath Kumar Pallerla)
Scientist 'F'/Director

Copy to:-

1. **The Secretary**, Department of Environment, Government of Uttarakhand, Secretariat, Dehradun.
2. **The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests**, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office (NCZ), Pearson Road, P.O. New Forest, Forest Research Institute (FRI) campus, Dehradun - 248006.
3. **The Chairman**, Uttarakhand Environment Protection & Pollution Control Board, E-115, Nehru Colony, Hardwar Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
4. **The District Collector, Panthnagar** District, State of Uttarakhand.
5. **Guard File/Record File/Monitoring File.**
6. **MoEF&CC website.**


(Sharath Kumar Pallerla)
Scientist 'F'/Director