

Inspection Notes of C.D.Kumar, CEO-KSPCB

Name of The HCE visited	M/s Vedanta Limited, (formerly M/s Sesa Goa Ltd), ML No.2677, Megalahalli, Chitradurga Taluk
Date of Visit	06.03.2020
Officers Accompanied	Muralidhar-SEO, E. Prakash – RO, Lohit Kumar-DEO
Person Contacted	Madesha, Manager Adithya, Env Engineer

It is a B-Category Iron Ore Mine (160.59Hectares) for which the Board has granted CFOs under Water Act 1974 & Air Act 1981 with conditions up to 30.06.2021 for 4.51 MMTP besides Authorisation under HWM Rules 2016. The mine was visited in view of the instructions issued through Head Office Memo No.6275 dated 02.03.2020 under random inspection of organization identified based on computerized risk assessment. Mine was in partial operation and following are the observations.

- The Board has granted consent for iron ore mining of 4.51 MMTPA based on CEC letter dated 05.03.2018 for the period up to 30.06.2021. During visit no mining activity (extraction of ore from mining pit) noticed and to query the representatives informed that they have extracted permitted quantity of ore for the period 2019-20 and stopped mining activity by end of February 2020. The RO was instructed to secure production details and to cross verify with Dept of Mines & Geology.
- Source of water is from Bore wells and used for domestic and dust suppression purposes. During discussions the Manager informed that they have provided ST&SP at three locations within the mining area. As per the records the occupier is not using assured quantity of water for dust suppression.
- CFO granted only for 5 DG Sets whereas in the mine area more air pollution sources are existing. Mines Manager was instructed to approach the Board immediately seeking CFO under Air Act 1981 for all the sources/industrial plants.
- The Board has granted Authorisation to handle Used Oil & waste residues containing oil. The main source of HW generation is Garage where maintenance of dumpers, excavators, trucks & mining equipments being carried out. The mining authority has constructed separate shed for storage of haz wastes. The used oil & oil filters are stored in MS barrels and for waste cotton PVC container provided. The floor is damaged and it requires improvement to make completely impervious. Besides better spillage management facility is to be established.
- First Aid station exists in mining area for which the occupier has obtained Authorisation under BMW Rules.
- The mining authority is having one Fixed Crushing cum Screening units of 750 TPH capacity. The unit was not in operation during visit. This crusher is partially covered which is very old and inadequate. No effective dust control system provided at crusher loading section (from trucks). Three Mobile Crushing cum Screening units of capacity 400 TPH are existing. Adequate dust control equipments not provided except for water sprinkling arrangement which is inadequate. In addition there are three Mobile Screening unit of 250TPH for which no APC measures provided. During discussions the representatives informed that the Mist canons are deployed for the purpose which appears to be symbolic. Even though they claimed to be mobile these units are stationed at single points for several months. The authorities have to take immediate measures to provide suitable and efficient APC measures for these units.

- There are 18 temporary stock yards exist in the mine premises for the storage of graded iron ore. Few are located in cluster and few are in isolated area besides few are below ground level. No efforts made to provide suitable barricade for iron ore stockyards to suppress dust emanated due to wind breeze. These stock yards are not provided with any dust suppression system except symbolic water sprinkling arrangements through tankers. Also these stock yards are not provided with proper arrangements to carry runoff water. The water cannons deployed are grossly inadequate to suppress dust besides symbolic canals stretches are made at few places.
- Permanent water sprinkling arrangements not made at all strategic areas for dust suppression. The present arrangement viz water sprinkling through tankers is inadequate. Besides Plantation has not done all along the internal roads of mining area. During discussions the representatives informed that presently they are in the process of planning for additional plantation which will be taken up during current monsoon.
- The major solid waste generated from the mining activity is the over burden (OB). To a query the representatives informed that they are dumping the OB in designated area as per IBM approved mining plan. Garland drains are provided for few dumps to carry storm water. During discussions the representatives informed that they have provided garland drains as per CEC approved R&R Plan. RO was instructed to verify the same immediately.
- Required APC measures are not provided at Railway sliding facility where iron ore is stored and loaded to wagons.
- During discussions the Manager informed that they are carrying out monitoring of AAQM, GW, Noise and submitting environmental quality monitoring reports regularly to RO on quarterly basis. RO was instructed to cross verify the monitoring results.

The observations made during visit indicate that the occupier has not taken pollution control measures as stipulated in the consent and also to prevent air pollution. The Regional officer was instructed to issue notice immediately based on the observations and to take necessary follow up action as contemplated under law. Besides to secure production details from Local Mines & Geology Department to ensure that the production is within consented quantity and also to cross verify the monitoring activity. The photographs taken during visit are enclosed.

Encl. as above


CEO-KSPCB

Copy for N/A

1. SEO-Mines, KSPCB, Bengaluru
2. E-Governance Section, KSPCB, Bengaluru
3. Regional Office, Chitradurga



Hazardous waste storage facility



Mining Pit



Water Canon for dust suppression



Ore Crushing cum Screening Unit



Ore Dump at Railway Sliding Facility

