

CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION

1.01 General

Vijay West under ground project is located in Sendurgarh coalfield of SECL at about 23 Km east of Tahsil Headquarter “Passan”. The nearest railway station is Pendra Road on the Bilaspur-Katni broad gauge line of South Eastern Railway, which is about 27 km to the west of Pasan along an all weather metalled road. The Vijay West Block has an undulating type of topography. The temperature ranges from 4.9° C to 43.9° C and 1430 mm average annual rainfall.

1.02 Need of the Project

The annual average output from Vijay West underground project is proposed as 0.498 Mty. In general, there is shortage of superior grade coal in CIC Coalfield. The production and demand of CIC coalfield is tabulated below:

Year 2001-02			Year 2002-03			Year 2006-07			Year 2011-12		
D	A	G	D	A	G	D	A	G	D	A	G
22.68	22.01	(-) 0.67	24.2	23.07	(-)1.13	26.88	27.29	(+) 0.41	29.26	32.04	(+) 2.78

- D : Coal Demand
 A : Raw Coal Availability (including Vijay West and other future Projects)
 G : A - D

From the above demand and availability of coal of CIC coalfield, it appears that there is a need of opening new projects, i.e., future projects to bridge the gap between demand and availability. The grade of coal from the Vijay West underground project is mainly “B” to “D”, having long flame characteristic, i.e., superior grade of coal.

So, this underground project is identified as for contribution of reducing the future demands. Out of 11.086 Mt extractable reserves, the mine will produce mainly B, C & D grade coal having long flame characteristics. The superior grade non-coking coal production from existing mine is depleting and also underground coal production is stagnating. In view of above, the opening of Vijay West Project is justified and proposed.

1.03 Linkage

The project lies in an isolated place of Chirimiri Area. Coal from this Project is not linked to any specific consumer. It will be included among basket linkages for miscellaneous consumers.

1.04 Justification of EIA / EMP

The mining area of the project lies within the forest area and inclines along with necessary infrastructures have to be developed in the forest area. So, the Zero Date of the project has been considered as the date of acquisition of forest land for infrastructure development and clearance from MOEF for underground mining.

Environmental and forestry clearance is a pre-requisite for the approval of coal mining and other projects. In accordance with the above requirement, the Environmental Management Plan for Vijay West under ground mining project has been prepared. The report contains base line environmental quality data pertaining to one season generated by Govt. approved agency. The EMP was prepared on the basis of baseline quality data of air, water and noise generated from December 2002 to January 2003 (winter season).

1.05 Source and Type of Data

The present geological assessment is based on the “Geological Report on Coal Exploration - Vijay West Block, Sendurgarh Coalfield” prepared by MECL in May 1993. This block was explored by MECL covering an area of 12 Sq. Km. A total of 105 boreholes have been drilled by MECL and 11 boreholes by GSI. Thus, the total borehole number is 116 within the block area of 12 sq. km. The borehole density is about 9.66 boreholes per sq. km.

Baseline environmental data in respect of micro-meteorological data, air, water, soil quality data, noise-level data have been generated by a Govt. approved agency.

The source of meteorological data is Indian Meteorological Department, Pendra Observatory.

Socio economic data in respect of population statistics, economic profile, work force pattern, land use pattern, civic amenities etc. have been collected from district census handbook of Shahdol District, 1991.

Land use plan for core zone was collected by CMPDI RI-V from SECL authorities. Land use map was prepared based on topo-sheets of SOI and supplemented by information collected from Forest Department.

Ground water data has been collected from Ground Water Survey Unit of Shahdol District, MP Govt. at Burhar village.

The list of Flora- Fauna is collected from the Work Plan of South Shahdol Forest Circle (1996-97 to 2005-06), Forest Department, Government of M.P.
