

F.No.22-76/2014-IA-III [E- 31534]
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Impact Assessment Division

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
3rd Floor, Vayu Wing,
Jor Bagh Road
Ali Ganj, New Delhi-3

18th December, 2025

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Clarification on the applicability of OM dated 7th October, 2014 on status of land acquisition with regard to project site while considering the case for Environment Clearance (EC) - reg.

The Ministry vide OM No.22-76/2014-IA-III dated 7th October 2014, which was partially modified vide OM dated 20th February 2025, has provided the type of documents relating to acquisition of land with regard to the project site, which may be considered as adequate by EACs/SEACs at the time of appraisal of the case for EC.

2. The Ministry is in receipt of request that the consent from landowners should not be insisted upon at the time of grant of EC for non-coal mining projects and the status of land acquisition should not be linked with the grant of EC, as the consent of the landholders is not required prior to execution of mining lease, as per the MMDR Act, 1957 and the Rules framed thereunder.

3. The matter was referred to the non-coal mining Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for consideration. After due deliberation the sectoral EAC observed that the request for delinking the consent from landowners at the time of grant of EC for non-coal mining projects, appears to be reasonable and can be accepted. Further, the EAC, *inter-alia*, also observed that, there are many mining projects where mining operations have started after grant of EC and land acquisition is still in progress in a phased manner based on requirement.

4. The recommendations of the non-coal mining EAC were examined and comments and inputs on the applicability of the OM dated 7th October 2014, as amended, on other sectors were also sought. Based on the inputs received, it was observed that, insisting for land acquisition documents at the time of appraisal for EC, may not be practical for certain other projects such as Coal Mining, Oil & Gas exploration and production, Highways etc.

5. The matter was also placed before the Expert Advisory Committee and the Committee agreed that insisting for land acquisition documents at the time of appraisal for EC, may not be practical for certain type of projects.

6. In this regard, based on the recommendations of the non-coal mining EAC and the recommendations of the Expert Advisory Committee, the Ministry hereby clarifies that, the OM dated 7th October 2014, as amended, shall not be applicable for the following projects/activities covered in the schedule of the EIA Notification, 2006:-

- i. Item 1(a) [(i) Mining of minerals, and (ii) Slurry pipelines (coal, lignite and other ores) passing through national parks / sanctuaries / coral reefs, ecologically sensitive areas]
- ii. Item 1(b) [Off-shore and onshore oil and gas exploration, development and production]
- iii. Item 6(a) [Oil & gas transportation pipe line (crude and refinery/ petrochemical products), passing through national parks /sanctuaries/coral reefs /ecologically sensitive areas including LNG Terminal]
- iv. Item 7(f) [Highways]

7. However, while ECs are granted to the above mentioned projects/activities, a specific condition may be included in the EC that, CTO shall be granted in respect of only those land parcels/Khasra Numbers in the Revenue record which have been either acquired by Project Proponent or consent has been obtained from the landowners or from the concerned State Government, or their authorized agency, as the case maybe.

8. This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.



18/12/2025
(Dr. J.D. Marcus Knight)
Scientist E

To

1. The Chairman, CPCB
2. The Chairman of all the Expert Appraisal Committees
3. The Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs.
4. The Chairpersons/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs /UTPCCs.
5. All the officers of IA Division

Copy for information

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS (EF&CC)
3. PPS to the Secretary (EF&CC)
4. PPS to the AS(AG)
5. PPS to the JS(RA)
6. Website of MoEF&CC/ Guard file