

SUMMARY EIA

(As Per EIA Notification No. S.O. 1533(E) dated 14th September 2006 & amendments thereof

of

Baranj Opencast Coal Mining Project

Village: Somnala, Bonthala, Chek Baranj, Kadholi, Kesurli,

Chichordi & Baranj Mokasa,

District: Chandrapur, State: Maharashtra

Mining lease area: 1457.20 Ha

Expansion in capacity from 3.50 MTPA to 5.00 MTPA

(Project Category 'A') (Brownfield Project)

Submission for

Public Hearing

to

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board

Project Proponent

M/s Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd.

Shakti Bhawan No. 82, Race Course Road, , Bengaluru Urban, Karnataka, 560001



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OCTOBER 2025

SUMMARY EIA

This concise summary of the Key Project Parameters along with overall justification for implementation of the project and explanation of how adverse effects have been mitigated as required under the generic structure of Appendix III of the EIA Notification 2006. Further, the conclusion on the studies undertaken is also included in the summary EIA.

- 1.0 ALLOCATION OF COAL BLOCK:** The Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India has vested Baranj Coal Block consisting six Coal Blocks viz. Kiloni, Manora Deep and Baranj I, Baranj II, Baranj III and Baranj IV, in Bhadravati Tahsil, Chandrapur District, Maharashtra to M/s Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) vide allotment order no. 103/14/2015/NA dated 31/03/2015 in accordance with Coal Mines (Special Provision) Act, 2015 and already executed the allotment Agreement on 26th March'2015.
- 2.0 LOCATION OF THE PROJECT:** The Baranj Opencast Coal Mining Project is located in Village Chinchordi, Baranj(Mokasa), Chek Baranj, , Kesurli, Kodhali, Somnala & Bonthala Tehsil-Bhadravati, District-Chandrapur, Maharashtra. between latitudes 20°06'43" to 20°08'59" N and longitudes 79°05'47" to 79°08'28" E & is covered under the Survey of India toposheet no. 55 P/4. The Baranj Coal Block is located in Wardha Valley Coalfields of Maharashtra.
- 3.0 PROJECT AREA & LAND REQUIREMENT:** The Project Area is 1457.20 Ha Mining Lease Area to be used for mining & allied activities like OB Dumps, CHP and Nala, Road, Power line Diversions etc. The 1457.20 ha area includes 1276.21 Ha of Private Land and 96.59 Ha Government Land and 84.41 ha of Revenue Forest Land. The Project involves acquisition of this entire land, and the necessary Stage -2 Forest clearance for diversion of this 84.41 ha of Forest land has been obtained.
- 4.0 CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROJECT SITE:** The present Baranj Opencast Coal Mining Project, is an operating coal mine and covers areas of Villages –Somnala, Bonthala, Chek Baranj, Kadholi, Kesurli, Chichordi & Baranj Mokasa of Bhadravati Taluka in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State.

In accordance with the provisions of EIA Notification 2006 published by MoEFCC vide Notification No. S.O. 1533 dated 14/09/2006, the Baranj Opencast Coal Mining Project (in Kiolni, Manora Deep, Baranj I-IV Captive Coal Blocks) of M/s Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. (M/s KPCL) has got the earlier EC (dated 18/05/2006 secured by M/s KECML) transferred in its name for production capacity of 2.50 MTPA in a total lease area of 1457.20 ha from MoEF&CC vide its letter dated 06/07/2015. Subsequently, EC for expansion in production from 2.5 MTPA to 3.00 MTPA capacity in a lease area of 1457.20 ha was secured by M/s KPCL vide EC letter dated 11/09/2023. Further, EC for further expansion from 3.00 to 3.50 MTPA within the same lease area was granted to M/s KPCL by MoEF&CC vide its letter dated 20.02.2025

Now, in view of the surge in demand for Power in the country and Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. being a significant Power producing company, there is an urgent need for enhanced coal supply to its Bellary Thermal Power Station of 1700 MW (2X500 MW & 1X700 MW) capacity. The Baranj Opencast Mining Project is being operated by M/s Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd (M/s KPCL) for supplying coal to its power plant at Bellary. As such, considering the potentiality of the block having sufficient coal reserves, it has been envisaged to enhance / expand the capacity of coal production further from existing level of 3.5 MTPA to 5.00 MTPA from the mine within the existing lease area/EC sanctioned land area of 1457.20 ha to meet this surged demand for power production.

In compliance of the requirements of provisions of EIA Notification 2006 published by MoEF&CC vide Notification No. S.O. 1533 dated 14/09/2006 and its subsequent amendments, the process of securing Environmental Clearance for the proposed expansion in production capacity from existing level of 3.50

MTPA to 5.00 MTPA within the existing sanctioned EC ML area, has been initiated with the application for grant of Terms of Reference (ToR) on 05.07.2025. The same has since been apprised by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC- Coal Mining) of MoEF&CC on 22nd July, 2025 and after due recommendations of the EAC, the formal ToR has been issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India vide its letter no. F- 11015/400/2005 – IA. II(M) dated 09/08/2025 (ToR Identification no. TO25A0101MH5125910N).

As directed in the aforesaid ToR, the present EIA/EMP Report has been prepared in compliance of the conditions stipulated therein and, in the format, as prescribed by the MoEF&CC, Government of India for submission to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board so as to conduct the Public Consultation, including public hearing (through its Regional Office, Chandrapur), as per the provisions/procedure contained in the EIA Notification, 2006.

- 5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY:** Project does not fall in the Critically Polluted Area (CPA), where the MoEF&CC's vide its OM dated 13th January, 2010 has imposed moratorium on grant of Environment Clearance. In this regard, the distance map and an email of Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Chandrapur as has been secured and submitted to MoEF&CC wherein, it is mentioned that the project is located in the Bhadrawati Taluka of Chandrapur District, which does not fall in CEPI area. The same has been duly recorded in the ToR dated 09/08/2025 issued by MoEF&CC. There is 84.41 Ha of forest land involved in the project for which Stage – II Clearance has already been secured and the details of the approval already obtained.

No National Park, Biosphere Reserve or Migratory Corridors of Fauna is present inside the Project Site or within 15 Kms area of the Project Site. The boundary of Eco-Sensitive Zone of Tadoba-Andheri Tiger Reserve notified vide Notification No. S.O. 3249(E) dated 11th Sept. 2019 is located at a distance of about 12.60 Kms in East direction from the Block. The boundary of Core Zone of TATR is located at a distance of about 22.52 Kms in North-East direction from the Project.

However, based on the survey of Flora Fauna carried out, the necessary Wildlife Conservation Plan for this area has been prepared. The main drainage is through Konda Nala, flowing from North-East to South-West of the property. Further, towards south, another highly convoluted ephemeral seasonal nallah appears to channelize the water flow in an east to west direction. There are three Nallas, namely Nalla-1 in North East, Nalla- 2 in the North West and Nalla-3 in Southwest, within the block that need to be diverted, out of which Nalla-2 has already been diverted by the prior allottee.

- 6.0 GRANT OF EC & BASE LINE DATA MONITORING:** EC for the present production capacity of 3.50 MTPA within the lease area of 1457.20 ha was granted to M/s KPCL by MoEF&CC vide its letter dated 20.02.2025. The Base Line Data was collected during March 2025 to May 2025 for a period of 13 weeks (Summer Season) for the proposed expansion of existing production capacity.
- 7.0 MINING METHODOLOGY:** The Mine is being worked by Mechanized Opencast Mining Methodology by deploying Surface Miner for extraction of coal and Shovel/Dumper Combination for removal of Overburden along with Drilling & Blasting. The same methodology is proposed to be continued during the expansion period.

- 8.0 PRODUCTION, RESERVES AND LIFE OF MINE:** Total geological reserves are reported to be 156.91 MT out of which mineable reserves are 127.70 MT and extractable reserves are 104.59 MT. Percentage of extraction is 81.38%. The Project has been granted EC for a production of 3.5 MTPA and now envisages enhancement in production capacity up to 5.00 MTPA of coal along with Overburden removal of 916.14 Million Cubic meter in 16 years of operating Mine Life envisaged for this enhanced production.
- 9.0 NALA DIVERSION:** There are three nalas in the ML area namely Nala -1, Nala -2 and Nala -3. Out of these, Nala no 2 has already been diverted by prior allottee (length is 1.15 km), Nala 1 (proposed length of diversion is 4.3) and Nala 3 (proposed length of diversion is 4.7 Km) are proposed to be diverted only after prior approval from State Authority.
- 10.0 MANPOWER, WATER & POWER REQUIREMENT:** The Project shall provide employment to 567 persons besides creating many indirect employment opportunities. The water requirement submitted by the PP for the said project is 780 KLD, out of which 386 KLD will be used for industrial use, 50 KLD will be used for domestic use and remaining 50 KLD will be used for other miscellaneous purpose. The source of water shall be groundwater and NoC has been obtained from CGWA for the same vide no. CGWA/NOC/MIN/REN/1/2025/10503 valid up to 24.08.2026. The estimated connected load and maximum demand for the project for the targeted production of 5.0 MTY comes to the tune of approximately 6 MVA (max.) with Sector-A (Baranj-III group) using 1400 KVA, Sector-B (Baranj-I group) using 2164 KVA, 500KVA used each for pumping & workshop and 630KVA for colony.
- 11.0 RESETTLEMENT & REHABILITATION:** There are settlements of 7 villages viz; Chek Baranj, Baranj Mokasa, Somnala, Bonthala, Kadholi, Kesurli, Chichordi present in the block. Among these, only Chek Baranj, Baranj Mokasa, and Chichordi are required to be Rehabilitated and Resettled(R&R). The R&R activities of said village are currently under progress. Three populated villages namely Baranj Mokasa, Chek Baranj and Chichordi are situated within the mine lease area. Initially the 'Award' was declared for two villages namely Baranj Mokasa and Chek Baranj on 07/02/2013 and 06/02/2013 respectively through Govt. of Maharashtra. At Baranj Mokasa, a total 400 (including 16 Government structures) and at Chek Baranj total 140 (including 03 Government structures) households and families were enlisted as per award.

As per the planned progress of the mine it was decided to take up R&R of Baranj mokasa followed by Chek Baranj. Due to progress of mines, the process of rehabilitation and resettlement of village Baranj Mokasa were also started first, simultaneously through private negotiations from the financial year of 2010-11. At that time, the company also invested and developed a site for Rehabilitation. Total 319 Families were to get compensation for R&R benefit till 31st march 2015. Total amount of Rs. 21,11,26,119.00/- paid To PAF towards their compensation. As per requirement of the company one member of the family offered service at BOCM or got one time compensation extra in lieu of service. Total no of 145 PAF were offered for jobs at BOCM up to 31st March 2015.

The mine was suspended on 31st march, 2015 and the process of R&R stopped. After re-allocation to KPCL, the list of 446 PAF were notified for the process of R&R in agreement between KPCL and Maharashtra Govt. dated 15/06/2016. After agreement the list of 11 house with 20 PAF added by Hon'ble SDM of Warora. Out of 446 Awarded PAF, 288 PAF had withdrawn their R&R Compensation amounting to Rs 40.26 Cr. Out of 935 PAF not covered under Award, 324 PAF had withdrawn 25% of house valuation, 283 PAF had withdrawn 75% of House Valuation and 249 PAF got R&R Compensation after the sale deed.

However, the R&R process was not started due to some figures of PAF and no. of houses changed to double or triple in figure in this time gap. A survey was conducted by SDM Warora, and the notice served to the PAF to submit a proper document in to the Tehsildar office, Bhadrawati and the hearing started 15th Nov, 2022. A list of applicable PAPs for R&R was published by Tahsildar Bhadrawati. Total no. of 1381 PAPs was indentified including 446 awarded PAPs for R&R.

The progress of the mines was getting too slow due to lack of land, however service was offered to 61 PAF and locals under contractor served for the KPCL. 'The KPCL' has priority to settle Baranj Mokasa first and compensate for every 'PAF' who is legally enlisted or found as genuine. Village Chek Baranj will be next. So, the 'final list of PAF' from the Collector is awaited. On receipt of the same the necessary action as per directives of Collector will be implemented.

12.0 BASE LINE ENVIRONMENT: The Base Line Environmental quality data for various components of environment viz. Air, Noise, Water, Soil and Socio-Economic were generated during March 2025 to May 2025 for a period of 13 weeks. covering 10 Kms around the Baranj Opencast Coal Mining Project. Other environmental data on Flora and Fauna, Land Use Pattern, Forest etc. were also generated through field surveys and also collected from different State Government Departments.

- **Air Environment:** The Base Line Environmental quality data for various components of environment viz. Ambient Air Quality, Ambient Noise Levels, Surface as well as ground Water Quality, Land and Socio-Economic have been generated during March 2025 to May 2025 in the Study Area covering 10 Kms around the Baranj Opencast Coal Mining Project. Other environmental data on Flora and Fauna, Land Use Pattern, Forest etc. have also been generated through field surveys and also collected from different State Government Departments. The entire job of Base Line data generation has been completed by a NABL accredited laboratory viz. M/s Nilawar Laboratory, Nagpur. Baseline Ambient Air Quality Monitoring was carried out during March to May, 2025 at 13 Stations consisting 2 Sampling Stations within the Core Zone (Project Area) and 11 Sampling Stations in Buffer Zone (10 Kms around Core Zone). Parameters of twelve air pollutants viz. PM10, PM2.5, Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x), Ozone (O₃), Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Heavy Metals were monitored. These parameters were included for representing present baseline status (before the proposed expansion) of ambient air quality within the Study Area.

Results & Discussion:: On the basis of observation, the parameter wise result of monitored parameters are discussed below compared with National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

- **Particulate Matter (PM10):** The PM10 concentration covering all the air quality monitoring stations i.e. A-1 to A-13 were observed in the range of 31.1 to 84.9 µg/m³. Almost all the stations have PM10 concentrations less than permissible limit i.e. 100 µg/m³ as prescribed by MoEF&CC for industrial, residential, rural and other area.
- **Particulate Matter (PM2.5):** The PM2.5 concentration covering all the air quality monitoring stations A-1 to A-13 were observed in the range of 13.3 to 42.2 µg/m³ as against the NAAQ Standards of MoEF&CC prescribed limit of 60 µg/m³ for industrial, residential, rural and other areas.
- **Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂):** The SO₂ concentrations covering all sampling stations A-1 to A-13 were in the range of 12.1 to 34.9 µg/m³. All monitored stations have SO₂ concentrations well within the stipulated (annual 24 hours) limit of 80 µg/m³ as prescribed for industrial, residential, rural and other areas under revised NAAQ Standards of MoEF&CC.

- **Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x):** The NO_x concentrations covering all sampling stations A-1 to A-13 were observed in the range of 14.9 to 42.8 µg/m³. All monitored stations have NO_x concentrations well within the stipulated (annual 24 hours) limit of 80 µg/m³ as prescribed for industrial, residential, rural and other areas under NAAQ Standards of MoEF&CC.
- **Heavy Metals:** Representative samples from all sampling stations were collected and analyzed for heavy metals i.e. Lead, Arsenic & Nickel. The concentrations of heavy metals were observed below detectable limit at all the stations.

In summary, the ambient air quality of the study area and its buffer zone showed that the concentrations of all monitored parameters were within the stipulated standards of MoEF&CC.

- **Surface & Ground Water Environment:** Baseline Water quality monitoring was carried out from 8 ground water and 8 surface water monitoring stations located in the study area. In summary, overall quality of water samples indicated that the water quality of all the sources is satisfactory of the area are not polluted except the surface water samples which showed bacteriological contamination possibly from surface run-off.
- **Noise Environment:** Similarly, baseline ambient noise levels were monitored at 16 locations. Daytime Noise levels: The daytime Max. noise Levels in Core zone of Baranj Opencast Coal Mining Project were observed in the range of 55.0 to 61.5 dB(A) whereas in buffer zone noise levels were observed in the range of 48.1 to 74.0 dB (A). Night time Noise levels: The Night time Max. noise Levels in Core zone of Baranj Opencast Coal Mining Project were observed in the range of 45.0 to 50.7 dB(A) whereas in buffer zone noise levels were observed in the range of 39.2 to 59.8 dB (A). All values are well within the permissible limits
- **Flora & Fauna:** The floral and faunal assemblage in the study area is also provided in the report. National Park, Wildlife sanctuary. The Ordnance Factory boundary falls within 3 Km on the south side of the mine lease area.
- **Land Environment:** The land use pattern of the study area (10 km radius around the mine site) has been estimated by using satellite image.
- **Soil Environment:** Soil samples were collected from four selected locations in the study area during May 2025 to assess the existing soil quality around the Baranj Opencast Coal Mining Project lease area. The samples collected from the sites show that the soil texture is Silty Sand, pH ranges from 7.32 to 7.95. Amount of primary nutrients like Organic matter (0.29 to 1.12 %), the Available Nitrogen 35.7 to 136.5 kg/ha kg/ha is lower in range, while Available Potassium 130.9 to 336.5 kg/ha and Available Phosphorus 19.5 to 60.5 kg/ha is high, suggesting that nitrogen and organic matter are the main limiting factors, while phosphorus and potassium are relatively sufficient.
- **Socio-Economic Environment:** Socio-economic survey has been conducted in all the villages identified in the study area. Survey was carried by using probability census method. The unit of population like, literate, illiterate, employed, unemployed, males and females were included in the survey. The survey was conducted with the help of pre- designed set of interview schedule to assess opinion of the population regarding the project and to know their expectations. Based on primary and secondary data available with various Govt. Departments, like census data, PHC records, literatures, and published information analysis has been done. Probability sampling methods has been used for sample collection during survey. The details of the study & suggested measures for their upliftment have been described in Chapter- 3 and 4.

13.0 ANTICIPATED IMPACTS & MITIGATION MEASURES: To predict the expected impacts of various activities on the different environmental parameters, a detailed survey of the factors are performed and identification of probable impacts are done by different techniques.

- ⇒ In order to estimate the ground level concentrations due to the emission from the proposed increase in production, EPA approved Industrial Source Complex AERMOD View Model has been employed.
- ⇒ Highest predicted 24 Hourly Ground Level Incremental Concentrations of PM10, PM2.5, SO2 and NOx are 10.9 µg/m3, 7.83 µg/m3, 2.54 µg/m3, 5.33 µg/m3 respectively, which will be occurring near the source within the mine lease area as indicated in Chapter – 4 of this report.
- ⇒ The mining operations may cause surface water pollution due to wash off from dumps and soil erosion. Proper control measures which are essential to prevent the flow of suspended matter from the mine and dump have been suggested.
- ⇒ It is proposed to liquidate the reserves by conventional benching method of opencast with shovel-dumper combination for overburden removal and use of surface miner for coal removal. Out of the 1457.20 Ha of mining lease area, 1101 Ha will be used for excavation out of which 911.00 Ha shall be reclaimed by concurrent internal dumping and remaining 190.00 Ha of void will be converted into water body. Total OB generation will be of the order of 916.14Mm3 (including topsoil) out of which 101.68 shall be stacked in two external dumps having a height of 60 m and the balance 814.46 shall be utilised in internal backfilling. Plantation in 1184.99 Ha will be done which covers safety zone, green belt, external OB dump area and infrastructure around including road and undisturbed land etc. Thus, 81.32 % the Mining lease area shall be biologically reclaimed and 14.70 % area will be utilized as water reservoir and balance 3.98 % land will remain as undisturbed land.
- ⇒ About 38.40 Mm3 top soil is likely to be generated. It is proposed to systematically utilize the generated soil for plantation on backfilled areas and also on external dump areas.
- ⇒ M/s KPCL proposes to develop about Afforestation shall be done progressively covering an area of 1184.99 Ha at the end of mining with 29,62475 saplings under plantation and greenbelt development programme in progressive manner during the life of the mine. This will include, reclaimed external OB dump 240 ha, internal dump 911 ha and greenbelt of 33.99 ha. Density of the plantation will be 2500 saplings per ha. Void of 190 ha will be converted into a water body of 45 m depth. Till date, 8,78,500 trees covering 361.64 ha have already been planted. As per the MoEF& CC guidelines, it is proposed to plant local tree species @ 2500 trees/ ha in consultation with the Forest Department.
- ⇒ Under CSR activities it is proposed to undertake activities as per the felt needs of surrounding villages like improvement of sanitation facilities, roads, drinking water, health, education etc. Further it is also proposed to distribute fruit saplings (like Guava, Mango, Jamun, Chikoo, pomegranate etc.) to the students of various schools and to the nearby villagers. The students will be encouraged to plant these saplings at their backyards and in school premises. They will be also encouraged to maintain and nourish these trees. Various awareness programmes shall be undertaken.
- ⇒ The quantity of explosive used for blasting is unlikely to create any strong vibration. Impact due to vibration on the surface structures is not anticipated due to the controlled blasting

techniques. In order to check the ground vibration and to keep them within set limit, delay blasting shall be undertaken. Delay detonators with 5 to 10 millisecond delay interval shall be used.

- ⇒ The transport of coal will be carried out to the desired destination of end use through rail. However, initially the coal will be transported to the Majri railway siding through road network which is about 7 Km from the mining lease. The available road network is adequate to handle the additional transport road. The transport route will be strengthened and is being maintained by KPCL on regular basis and water sprinkling will be carried out thrice a day besides undertaking avenue plantation on the available places on the route.
- ⇒ The impact on socio economic of surrounding area will be positive, as mine will directly employ about 567 workers during proposed expansion. Preference will be given to the local resident of the area for employment as per the eligibility. There will be significant employment generation in secondary and tertiary sectors.
- ⇒ There will be negligible impacts on bio diversity of the area beyond what is already present due to traffic on the State Highway. On the other hand, there will be positive impact due to the plantation activities, which are proposed by KPCL on areas surrounding surface infrastructure for the proposed OC mine.

14.0 ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN: A Comprehensive Environment Management Plan including development of Green Belt over 1184.99 Ha area has been suggested. Plantation of about 2962475 native species of is envisaged over a period of 16 years of Mine Life.

Earlier approved cost for implementing EMP (Capital and Recurring both): Capital Cost Rs 2690 Lakhs & Recurring Cost Rs 100 Lakhs. For the proposed enhancement in production capacity a provision of additional Rs. 215 lakhs under capital head and a Recurring cost of Rs. 20 lakhs have been made.

15.0 CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: M/s KPCL proposes to undertake a number of activities under the Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative during the operation of Baranj Opencast Coal Mining Project. The capital CSR budget has been worked out as per the expressed felt needs of villagers during Rapid Rural Appraisal. As indicated, the mine is already in operation @ 3.50 MTPA with valid EC & CTO, the existing provision is Rs. 81 lakhs under Capital Head and Rs. 34 Lakhs per annum under revenue head. The mine is now proposing to enhance the production capacity up to 5.00 MTPA and hence an additional provision of Rs. 72.70 lakhs under capital head and Rs.25.23 lakhs per annum under revenue head have been kept for undertaking CSR Activities during the operational life with enhanced capacity. The provision made as above will be spent in core and buffer villages of study area. The financial provision under capital head for the proposed expansion project for CSR activities shall be spent in the first five years with an amount of Rs. 1.53 Crores. In addition, for the proposed expansion project, about Rs 59 lakhs would be spent as recurring expenditure for CSR activities.

16.0 CORPORATE ENVIRONMENT RESPONSIBILITY: In addition to the CSR, KPCL proposes to undertake a number of activities as one time measure to take care of the commitments made during the Public Hearing under the Corporate Environment Responsibility Initiative during the operation of Baranj Opencast Coal Mining Project. A budgetary provision Rs. 3.25 Crs has been allocated in the existing project and as the project is envisaging further expansion in its production capacity, an additional provision @ 0.75 % of the additional capital amounting to Rs. 3.50 Crs has been provisioned which is proposed to be utilized for the implementation of the commitments made during the Public Hearing.

- 17.0 OVERALL JUSTIFICATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT:** Baranj Opencast Coal Mining Project gives downstream integration of supply chain providing leverage on supply of coal from own source which ultimately helps in increased efficiency and flexibility of Steel/Power generation in case of increased demand in future. Additionally, the cost of coal production is less than the CIL Market Rate which will further benefit the power consumers. Considering the Demand / Supply Position of coal, extraction of coal from Baranj Opencast Coal Mining Project is economically beneficial for the national economy. Further, the Project shall be creating additional employment opportunities, peripheral development of the mining area and also contributing to the State Exchequer. Considering the overall scenario, implementation of the Baranj Opencast Coal Mining Project is justified.
- 18.0 EXPLANATION ON HOW ADVERSE EFFECTS ARE MITIGATED:** The EIA/EMP Report has established the Base Line Environment of the Project Area and has assessed anticipated impacts of the Project on the overall ecology & environment. Accordingly, general as well as specific mitigation measures for management of the Key Environmental Parameters have been suggested. Further, specific measures towards monitoring and implementation of the Environment Management Plan along with details of the funds required towards implementation of the Pollution Control Measures are also included in the Report. By implementing the suggested Environment Management Plan adverse effects of the Project can be mitigated.

APPEAL

In compliance with the environmental procedure the environmental clearance application is made. Necessary scientific studies have been undertaken as per the guidelines set by the Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change (MoEF & CC). The suggestions/recommendations of all the experts, competent authorities, and government officials are being sought for the impacts of the proposed project. Views and guidance of the local residents, community based organizations, social organizations are extremely important in order to devise a full proof Environment Management Plan for the proposed mining project and also mitigate the damages caused due to the project. Allocation of necessary funds, manpower and machinery will be made to for the protection and conservation of all the components of environment. It is ensured that all mandatory clearances will be sought from respective competent authorities before operating the proposed Baranj Opencast Coal Mining Project (Expansion in capacity from 3.50 MTPA to 5.00 MTPA) by M/s Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. M/s. KPCL is committed to implement the suggestions for the improvement of the environment and assure that every attempt will be made for the conservation and protection of the natural resources to the maximum extent.

