

F. No. IA-Z-11013/145/2026-IA-II(NCM)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(IA Division – Non-Coal Mining Sector)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003

Dated: 18th September, 2026

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Streamlining the procedure for utilization of Overburden (OB) (or) Rejects generated only from mining projects holding valid Environmental Clearance (EC) – reg.

Ministry of Mines vide OM dated 31.07.2025 and 27.03.2026 requested this Ministry to allow the disposal/sale of Overburden (or) Rejects generated during current year mining operations as well as legacy Overburden (or) Rejects. Accordingly, the matter was examined by Expert Appraisal Committee (Non-Coal Mining Sector) in its meetings held on 23–24 April, 2026, 29–30 June, 2026 and 17 July, 2026.

2. The Expert Appraisal Committee, inter-alia, observed that utilization of Overburden (or) Rejects generated during on-going mining operations as well as legacy would facilitate scientific mine management, optimum mineral resource utilization and reduction of environmental concerns due to accumulation of Overburden (or) Rejects within the lease area. However, re-handling of legacy Overburden (or) Rejects may result in additional environmental concerns such as fugitive dust emissions and wastewater generation which may be suitably addressed by updation of existing Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

3. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee (Non-Coal Mining Sector), the Ministry has decided that a Project Proponent holding a valid Environmental Clearance for a mineral mining project may utilize the Overburden (or) Rejects as per the procedure given below:

A. Ongoing Mining operations:-

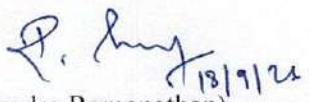
Utilization of Overburden (or) Rejects generated during the on-going mining operations within the existing EC capacity is permitted **through an amendment in the existing EC**, subject to the submission of the following documents:

- i. Approved Mining Plan or Modified/Review Mining Plan including revised mine closure plan specifically provides for utilization of the Overburden (or) Rejects.
- ii. Quantity of Overburden (or) Rejects proposed for utilization shall be duly accounted for in the approved Mining Plan.
- iii. Prior permission for utilization of the Overburden (or) Rejects has been obtained from the concerned State Government based on the approval granted by IBM under the prevailing Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules (MCR), 2016.
- iv. Details of proposed land use change in the mining project as a result of utilization of Overburden (or) Rejects generated during on-going mining operations.

B. Utilization of legacy Overburden (or) Rejects

Utilization of legacy Overburden (or) Rejects within the existing EC capacity is permitted **through an amendment in the existing EC**, subject to the submission of the following documents:

- i. Approved Mining Plan or Modified/Review Mining Plan including revised mine closure plan specifically provides for utilization of the legacy Overburden (or) Rejects.
 - ii. Quantity of legacy Overburden (or) Rejects proposed for utilization shall be duly accounted for in the approved Mining Plan.
 - iii. Prior permission for utilization of the legacy Overburden (or) Rejects has been obtained from the concerned State Government based on the approval granted by IBM under the prevailing Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules (MCR), 2016.
 - iv. Details of proposed land use change in the mining project as a result of utilization of legacy Overburden (or) Rejects.
 - v. Addendum EMP to mitigate the environmental concerns due to re-handling of legacy Overburden (or) Rejects.
4. The above O.M is issued in supersession of O.M No. Z-11013/49/2018-IA. II(M) dated 18th June, 2018 regarding mining of minerals including overburden and dump mining.
5. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(Sundar Ramanathan)
Scientist 'F'

To:

1. The Principal Secretaries, Environment Department of all the States/UTs
2. The Chairman/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
3. The Chairman/Member Secretary of CPCB
4. The Chairman/ Member Secretaries of all SPCBs/UTPCCs
5. All the Officers of IA Division

Copy for information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State (EF&CC)
3. PPS to the Secretary (EF&CC)
4. PPS to the AS(AG)/ AS(AA)
5. PPS to the JS (RA)
6. Parivesh 2.0