

SOP for carrying out feasibility studies for mixing of ash with OB/ backfilling in operational mines in case of opencast/underground mines, as the case may be

1.The matter of filling of fly ash in the voids of working areas of opencast mines has been examined by different coal companies in consultation with various stakeholders such as CMPDIL, CIMFR, DGMS etc. Accordingly, the same was deliberated in the Central Level Working Group (CLWG). With regards to fly ash dumping in the working open cast mines, it was concluded that mixing of OB and Fly ash in specified proportions is very difficult and if it is not mixed in specified proportion, it possesses the problem of factor of safety. This is in addition to the problems faced by the coal companies to accommodate their own OB. Therefore, duly considering the safety and practicality aspects of the working areas of opencast mines, it is concluded that these mines will not be allocated for dumping of fly ash in the working areas of opencast mines by mixing it with OB. However, if any mine owner is proposing for dumping the fly ash in the working areas of opencast mines by mixing it with the OB, received from its own TPP (both the mine and the TPP belong to the same company/owner), same may be allowed.

2. Closed open cast mines and the closed or abandoned voids of the working open cast mines, subject to the condition that it is isolated and fly ash dumping is not interfering/ affecting the general working of the mines, are considered for allocation for fly ash dumping.

3. In case of the working underground mines, where the proposed extraction of coal is by caving, the filling of fly ash, in general, may not be possible. However, if the coal companies / TPPs desire to undertake a scientific study to this effect, the same shall be allowed.

4. In case of the working underground mines, where the proposed extraction of coal is by stowing, the same shall be allowed. In this respect, the TPPs shall make a provision to provide the coal companies with bottom ash, if demanded by the coal companies.

5.Scientific studies for filling of ash in mine voids of working UG and Opencast mines is under the scope of the TPPs to which the void has been allotted. This shall be undertaken in accordance with applicable guidelines issued by MoEFCC/CPCB/SPCB and other agencies. The fly ash disposal should comply with the requirement of OM dated 28.08.2019 issued by MoEFCC including obtaining requisite permission from DGMS, which will be obtained by TPPs.

6.In case of the working U/G mines, the transport of fly ash from the TPP to the mine facility should be the responsibility of the concerned TPP. The mine owner shall be responsible for the filling/ stowing of the ash from the mine facility to the underground. The safety aspect with respect to the stowing of the fly ash shall be the responsibility of the Mine Owner.