DIRECTION.

WHEREAS the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (hereinafter for the sake of brevity and convenience referred to as the `State Board'), is entrusted to implement the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rules made thereunder, for prevention and control of pollution within the territorial jurisdiction of West Bengal;

AND WHEREAS it is observed that number of Mines are operating within the State of West Bengal without `Consent to Operate' and also without taking any precautionary measures for controlling environmental hazards generated during mining operation;

AND WHEREAS the State Board is receiving serious public complaint against mining operation from different districts for causing environmental hazards in the surrounding areas;

AND WHEREAS during meeting with Director of Mines and Minerals on 16th. March, 2004 it has decided that henceforth Department of Mines and Minerals and also District Land and Land Reforms Officer should not issue any permission to any mining operation unless such mining unit obtain prior `Consent to Establish' of the State Board and existing mining units should also obtain `Consent to Operate' from the State Board;

HENCE, the Director, Mines and Minerals, Government of West Bengal and District Land & Land Reforms Officers of all the districts are now hereby directed not to issue any permission to any mining unit unless such unit obtain `Consent to Establish' of the State Board;

It is further directed that the Director, Mines and Minerals, Government of West Bengal and District Land & Land Reforms Officers of all the districts should issue circular to the existing Mining units to obtain `Consent to Operate' from the State Board on or before July, 2004 to avoid closure order of the State Board.

By Order,

Sd/-

( S. K. Sarkar )
Member-Secretary,
W. B. Pollution Control Board