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MEMBER SECRETARY

STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT
ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY – TAMIL
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ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

Lr. No.SEIAA-TN/F.No. 7653/EC/I(a)/4470/2020, dated:18.12.2020

To

The Executive Engineer, PWD/WRD
Mining and Monitoring Division
Mining Monitoring Division
Subramniyapuram
Trichy - 20

Sir,

Sub: SEIAA - TN – Proposed Sand quarry in River Cauvery lease over an extent of 4.90.0 Ha at S.F.No. 294(P) in Nanjai Ediyur Village, Mohanur Taluk, Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu by the Executive Engineer, PWD/WRD - Environmental Clearance Issued – Regarding.

Ref: 1. Online proposal No.SIA/MIN/154781/2020 Dated: 28.05.2020
2. Your Application for Environmental Clearance dated. 17.07.2020
3. Minutes of the 172nd SEAC Meeting held on 05.09.2020
4. Site Inspection report submitted by DEE, Namakkal Dated: 01.10.2020
5. Minutes of the 182nd SEAC Meeting held on 17.10.2020
6. Minutes of the 416th SEIAA Meeting held on 14.12.2020

1. Preamble:-

The proposal is for obtaining environmental clearance for quarrying 121514cu.m of Sand in Cauvery River at S.F.No. 294(P) in Nanjai Ediyur Village, Mohanur Taluk, Namakkal District. The mine lease area is 4.90.0 Ha.




MEMBER SECRETARY
SEIAA-TN

The proposed mining area is reported as laying in Latitude and Longitude in Topo sheet no 58 I/4 as follows:

Sl. No.	Latitude	Longitude
1.	11°5'24.43"N	78°1'44.01" E
2.	11°5'32.31"N	78°1'45.08" E
3.	11°5'31.43"N	78°1'51.61" E
4.	11°5'23.55"N	78°1'50.54" E

No forest land is involved. No head works, bridges and cross masonries are reported within 500 meters around the quarrying site in the river. Mine working will be manual mining and the ultimate depth will be 1m from River natural present bed level for a period of 2 Years. In order to maintain safety and stability of river, a minimum 15% of the river width from the toe /heel of bank of the river will be left intact. Water requirement will be 6.0 KLD for drinking purposes 2.0 KLD which will be sourced through Water canes in the nearby area and dust suppression and green belt development for 4.0 KLD which will be sourced through openwells. The proponent has submitted the mining plan approved by the Deputy Director, Geology and Mining, Namakkal District vide. Rc.No: 834/Mines/2019 dated: 27.01.2020

The precise area communication has been approved by the District Collector, Namakkal in letter Rc.No.834/Mines/2019 dated: 21.11.2019.

The existing details of river bed, while approving the mining plan prepared by the PWD and scrutinized by the Geology and Mining Department is:

R.L. u/s: 67.95km


R.L. d/s: 68.150km

It is seen from the data and the document furnished that the project cost is Rs. 5.5 Lakhs and EMP cost is Rs.3.2 Lakhs.

The proponent has furnished sworn affidavits in the Non judicial stamp paper stating the following:

1. I swear to state that within 10kms radius of the mines which I have applies for environmental Clearance; none of the following are situated as per the general conditions of EIA Notification, 2006.
 - i. Protected areas notified under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.




MEMBER SECRETARY
SEIAA-TN

- ii. Critically polluted areas as notified by the central pollution control board constituted under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
 - iii. Eco – Sensitive areas identified by the Forest Department/State Govt.
 - iv. Interstate boundaries and International Boundaries within 10km radius from the boundary of the proposed site.
2. I will complete the following Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) activities before commencement of the quarrying activities in additions to CSR and EMP.

CER Activity	Project Cost (Rs In Lakh)	CER Cost 2% of Project Cost (Rs.in Lakh)
	5.5	
Total Cost Allocation	5.5	

3. There are Quarries located within 500m from the periphery of our quarry

Proposed Quarries

Sl.No	Name of the Owner	Village & S.F.No	Extent (in Ha)	Remarks
1.	The Executive Engineer	Nanjai Edaiyur Village & Mohanur	4.90.0	
Total Extent			4.90	

Existing Quarries

Sl.No	Name of the Owner	Village & S.F.No	Extent (in Ha)	Lease Status
Total Extent			Nil	

Abandoned or Expired Quarries

Sl.No	Name of the Owner	Village & S.F.No	Extent (in Ha)	Lease Status
Total Extent			Nil	



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4. There will not be any hindrance or disturbance to the people living on route/ nearby my quarry site while transporting the mined out materials and due to quarrying activities.
5. There are no habitation/ villages located within 300 meters radius from the periphery of my quarry.
6. I swear afforestation will be carried out during the course of quarrying operation and maintained.
7. The required insurance will be taken in the name of the laborers working in my proposed quarry.
8. The existing road from the main road to the quarry is in good condition and the same will be maintained and utilized for transportation of materials.
9. I will not engage any child labour at my mines and am aware that engaging child labor is punishable under law.
10. All the type of safety/ protective equipments will be provided to all the laborers working in my quarry.
11. No permanent structures, temples etc are located within 500m from the periphery of my quarry.
12. The quarrying activity has not yet commenced and it will be carried out only after obtaining environmental clearance.

The proposal was considered and examined by the SEAC based on the project documents furnished and the explanation made before the Committee in its 182nd Meeting held on 17.10.2020, the committee decided to recommend the proposal for grant of Environmental Clearance to SEIAA subject to the following conditions in addition to normal conditions;

The proposal was placed before the SEIAA in its 416th meeting held on 14.12.2020 and based on the project documents furnished, the Authority discussed in detail and unanimously accepted the recommendations of SEAC and decided to grant Environmental Clearance subject to the conditions as recommended by the SEAC and subject to General Conditions in addition to normal conditions:-




MEMBER SECRETARY
SEIAA-TN



Validity:

This Environmental Clearance is granted to Mining of Sand Quarry for the production quantity of 121514cu.m of Sand in Cauvery River for the period of 2 Years from the date of execution of the Mining Lease period.


Environment Clearance is subject to strict adherence of conditions below:**1. Administrative:**

1. The project authorities should advertise with basic details at least in two widely circulated local newspapers, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned, within 7 days of the receipt of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and a copy of the clearance letter is available with the State Pollution Control Board and also at the web site of the SEIAA,TN at <http://seiaa.tn.gov.in> and a copy of the same is being sent to the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India located at Chennai.
2. Mining activity should be reviewed by the District Collector after one year and decide for further extension.
3. The District Collector shall ensure that the DSR (District Survey Report) shall be, as per EIA Notifications 2016 as amended in 15.01.2016 and the copy of the revised/approved DSR may be sent to SEIAA for record.
4. The proponent fulfils the conditions imposed by the Hon'ble Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, in the order in W.P.(MD) Nos. 4251, 7960, 14577, 15121, 8655, 13836, 16150, 15343, 11376, 17143 and 17531 of 2017 and connected Miscellaneous Petitions, dated:16.02.2018.
5. Quarry lease area should be demarcated on the ground with pucca stone or concrete pillars to show the natural bed level and the depth of mining allowed. Boundary pillars at the interval of 50m each on all the four sides of the quarry site with red flags on every pillar and also in site pillars marking the level and depth up to one metre downwards shall be erected before commencement of quarrying.
6. The katcha roads between the bank of the river and the mining area shall be formed with locally available bio-degradable materials such as Sugar cane leaves etc.




MEMBER SECRETARY
SEIAA-TN

7. A display Board shall be erected in local vernacular language at each of the following places.
 - At the river banks of mining site
 - In nearest village by which sand transportation will be carried out.
 - At the entrance of the village road from the Main Road (i.e) SH/NH/Union Road etc., The information as Annexed should be given in Bold and visible letters
8. A copy of the Environment Clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to the concerned Panchayat, Town Panchayath/Panchayath union, Municipal Corporation, Urban Local Body and the Local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal. The clearance letter shall also be put on the website of the proponent and also kept at the site, for the general public to see.
9. Provision shall be made for the housing the construction labour nearby the site with all necessary infrastructure and facilities such as fuel for cooking, toilets, safe drinking water, etc. The housing may be in the form of temporary structures to be removed after the completion of the project. The proponent shall ensure that First Aid Box is available at site.
10. Taluk level Task Force Committee convened by Tahshildar should inspect the site to satisfy that the pre-conditions as above for commencing the mining operations are satisfactorily followed, and minute their field inspection, as per G.O.Ms.No.135 Industries (MMA-1) Dept. dt. 13.11.2009.
11. The distance of the sand mining should commence from at a distance of 500 meter from the solid apron with proposed area mining. The proponent shall fix flag posts at boundaries for the proposed mining area covering an extent of 4.90.0 Ha. There should be no deviation/ violation with respect to the area demarcated for quarrying.
12. The proposed area of sand mining should start from 500m downstream of the irrigation structure.
13. The river bund needs to be protected during mining and transportation activities.
14. The dust emanating during transportation activity need to be controlled due to unpaved road conditions as a result of re-suspension of dust arising in and around the site.


MEMBER SECRETARY
SEIAA-TN

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15. Necessary caution needs to be taken regarding environment and ecological damage and protection as per the norms
16. The depth of sand quarrying shall be restricted to 1m from the theoretical bed level.
17. To prevent dust pollution, suitable working methodology needs to be adopted taking wind direction into consideration.
18. At no cost the impact of sand mining should interfere with the habitation and cultivation in the nearby area along the river bed.
19. The mining area must be demarcated leaving atleast 50m from the river embankment on either side.
20. Contouring of the river bed has to be taken to ascertain the relative levels of sand in the river and also to suggest the depth of sand mining.
21. To ensure safety measures along the boundary of the quarry site, security guards are to be engaged during the entire period of mining operation.
22. Wherever irrigation channels take off from the river within the boundary of the mining project, the mining operation should not affect the flow of water in the irrigation channels.
23. The entire sand mining operation should be as per the guidelines for sustainable sand mining issued in 2016 by the MoEF & CC, Gol, New Delhi.
24. The entire sand mining operation should be as per the guidelines for nforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining issued in 2020 by the MoEF& CC, GOI, New Delhi.
25. Around all the sand mining projects agricultural activities are seen. In addition the surroundings present thick greeneries. The mining operation should not affect the greeneries and the agricultural activities.
26. The approach road and loading of the sand in the vehicles, movement of the vehicle should be planned and implemented in such a way that there is no noise and dust pollution in the nearby habitation. We recommend that PWD should maintain at least a safe distance of 300m from the habitations while planning the approach road and the loading operation. Wherever necessary and near the habitation in particular dust suppression measures to be adopted. While the loaded vehicle move on the road that should be fully covered with tarpaulin.




MEMBER SECRETARY
SEIAA-TN

27. The pathway used by all machineries should be properly constructed and maintained by the PWD in order to avoid pollution.
28. The mining operation should be above the ground water table.
29. The conditions stipulated above need to be monitored and reviewed on fortnightly basis by the Taluk Level Task Force headed by Tahsildhar. At least two representatives from reputed research organizations like NIT, Trichy, Anna University Department, Trichy, Annamalai University and Bharathidasan University should be included in the task force. The committee should send the monthly monitoring report to SEIAA which will be scrutinized by SEAC.
30. Adequate statutory manpower to be deployed for complying with the provisions to use heavy machineries as per Mines Safety Regulations (MCDR, 2017 & MMR, 1961).
31. All the condition imposed by the Deputy Director, Geology of Mining, Namakkal vide Rc.No. 834/Mines/2019 dated: 27.01.2020 & District Collector, Namakkal in the precise area communication vide Rc.No.834/Mines/2019 dated: 21.11.2019 in the mining plan approved should be strictly followed.
32. As informed by the proponent only manual mining operation along with transportation by bullock carts for Sand mining shall be carried out.
33. During the sand mining work, appropriate progressive mine closure activities must be implemented to restore the river bed to its original status for ensuring the free flow.
34. Taluk level Task Force is to submit inspection report to the District Collector who is the Chairman of District Level Task Force, who would examine the report and after satisfying himself would give approval to start mining.
35. The recommendation for the issue of Environmental Clearance is subject to the outcome of the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi in O.A No.186 of 2016 (M.A.No.350/2016) and O.A. No.200/2016 and O.A.No.580/2016 (M.A.No.1182/2016) and O.A.No.102/2017 and O.A.No.404/2016 (M.A.No.758/2016, M.A.No.920/2016, M.A.No.1122/2016, M.A.No.12/2017 & M.A.No. 843/2017) and O.A.No.405/2016 and O.A.No.520 of 2016 (M.A.No. 981 /2016, M.A.No.982/2016 & M.A.No.384/2017).





MEMBER SECRETARY
SEIAA-TN




36. The Project proponent shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc.
37. **As per the MoEF & CC office memorandum F.No.22-65/2017-IA.III dated: 30.09.2020 and 20.10.2020 the proponent shall furnish the detailed EMP to TNPCB, mentioning all the activities as proposed in CER for Rs.11000. The CER activities shall be carried out before obtaining CTO from TNPCB.**
38. The water level in the existing bore wells and dug wells should be monitored for fluctuation.
39. Loading and, transport of sand shall not be entertained between 5.00 pm to 7.00 am.
40. The project proponent is allowed to engage Bullock cart to transport the sand.
41. During the sand mining work, appropriate progressive mine closure activities must be implemented to restore the river bed to its original status for ensuring the free flow.
42. Quarrying in river bed should not be done during the days of rain and the days of flood. The total quantity of sand permitted in the Environmental Clearance should not be exceeded in any case as against the mining plan.
43. There shall be no quarrying of sand in any river bed or adjoining area or any other area which is located within 500m radial distances from the location of any bridge, water supply system, infiltration well or pumping installation of any of the local bodies or Central or State Government Department or the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board head works or any area identified for locating water supply and schemes by any of the above – mentioned Government Departments or other bodies.
44. Mining activity and the compliance of all the above conditions shall be monitored by the Taluk level Task Force once in a month by physical inspections and the status of compliance should be recorded by the committee in the Register maintained at the site.
45. At the end of mine closure, the Proponent shall immediately remove all the sheds put up in the quarry and all the equipment in the area at the time of closure of the




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SEIAA-TN

- operation of sand quarry. All the roads /path ways shall be leveled to let the river assume its normal course without any artificial obstruction to the extent possible.
46. Transport density study to be done and report to be submitted.
 47. The Proponent shall submit within 3 months their policy towards Corporate Environment Responsibility which should inter-alia address (i) Standard operating process/ procedure to bring into focus any infringement/ deviation/ violation of environmental or forest norms / conditions, (ii) Hierarchical system or Administrative order of the Department to deal with environmental issues and ensuring compliance of EC conditions and (iii) System of reporting of non-compliance/violation of environmental norms to the Head of the Department or the State Government or stakeholders.
 48. The project proponent shall ensure that there are no other quarries within a radius of 1 km. from the boundary of the proposed quarry site and that the combined extent of such quarries does not exceed 25 ha.
 49. The project proponent shall ensure that there are no bridges, culverts, cross masonaries, water head works or any other civil structures within 500 mts., of the proposed quarry site.
 50. The quarrying activity shall be stopped if the entire quantity is quarried even before the expiry of the quarry lease period and the same shall be monitored by the District Authorities.
 51. After restoration of the road, the proponent should submit the detailed report of the road maintenance including cost along with photographs to SEAC within one month of the completion of the project.
 52. Base line studies to be conducted for the entire area.
 53. The site will be assessed for Environmental impact by the District Administration at the end of first year to continue operation thereafter.
 54. The District Administration will also ensure the process of further extraction (Manual/ Machineries) in the site for the second and third Year, is based on site reality and rate of replenishment, etc.
 55. The project proponent shall obtain Consent to establish before starting any work and Consent to operate after complying with the conditions imposed for adherence


MEMBER SECRETARY
SEIAA-TN





- before starting from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and effectively implement all the conditions stipulated therein.
56. No change in mining technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
57. No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of mineral sand (minor mineral) should be made.
58. The project proponent shall ensure that the plan of mining is in conformity with the mine lease conditions and the Rules prescribed in this regard, clearly showing the no work zone in the mine lease i.e. the distance from the bank of river to be left unworked, distance from the bridges etc.
59. The project proponent shall ensure that wherever deployment of labour attracts the Mines Act, the provision thereof shall be strictly followed.
60. The project proponent shall obtain necessary prior permission of the competent authorities for drawal of requisite quantity of water (surface water and groundwater), if any, required for the project.
61. EC is given only on the factual records, documents and details furnished by the EE/PWD particularly in respect of
- Aerial distance of the nearest village is as mentioned in the proposal from the mining site boundary.
 - No structure is located within 500 m from the quarry site boundary.
62. It shall be ensured that the distance between two mining blocks should be **more than one kilometer**. Ongoing mining activity should also be taken into account in this regard.
63. A separate environmental management cell with suitable qualified personnel should be set-up under the control of a Senior Executive, who will report directly to the Head of the Organization.
64. The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures should be kept in separate account and should not be diverted for other purpose. Year wise expenditure should be reported to the Ministry of Environment and Forests and its Regional Office located at Chennai.
65. The Assistant Engineer exclusively posted to the site should write up and maintain





MEMBER SECRETARY
SEIAA-TN

the following registers, in addition to any other records and documents prescribed in the mining lease order.

- Daily Progress Register,
- Inspection Register
- Complaints Register

66. The Regional Office of the Ministry located at Chennai shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer (s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data / information / monitoring reports.
67. The project proponent shall submit six- monthly reports on the status of compliance of the stipulated environmental clearance conditions including results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, its Regional Office Chennai, the respective Zonal Office of Central Pollution Control Board, SEIAA, TN and the State Pollution Control Board. The proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the environmental clearance conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall simultaneously be sent to the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Chennai, the respective Zonal Office of Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Board.
68. The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31st March in Form-V as is mandated to be submitted by the project proponent to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently, shall also be put on the website of the company along with the status of compliance of environmental clearance conditions and shall also be sent to the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Chennai by e-mail.
69. The Environmental Clearance does not absolve the applicant/proponent of his obligation/requirement to obtain other statutory and administrative clearances from other statutory and administrative authorities.
70. This Environmental Clearance does not imply that the other statutory / administrative clearances shall be granted to the project by the concerned




MEMBER SECRETARY
SEIAA-TN

authorities. Such authorities would be considering the project on merits and be taking decisions independently of the Environmental Clearance.

71. The SEIAA, TN may alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.
72. The SEIAA, TN may cancel the environmental clearance granted to this project under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006, if, at any stage of the validity of this environmental clearance, if it is found or if it comes to the knowledge of this SEIAA, TN that the project proponent has deliberately concealed and/or submitted false or misleading information or inadequate data for obtaining the environmental clearance.
73. Failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
74. If the periphery of any other sand quarry is located within 1 km., from the periphery of this site and if the total extent of both the existing quarry and the quarry now cleared for Environmental Clearance exceeds 25 ha. of mining area, then this Environmental Clearance is not valid, since the activity shall become Category 'B1' project under the EIA Notification, 2006.
75. In the event of the above condition is applicable, then the proponent concerned, is to file a fresh application under EIA Notification, 2006, seeking Environmental Clearance in respect of the cluster. [A cluster of mines is defined wherein more than one sand mining site is located within 1 km., from the periphery of another nearby sand mining site and the total area of these mining sites exceeds 25 ha. Then a EIA study report along with Public Consultation are necessitated].
76. The project proponent is allowed to engage Bullockcart to transport the sand.
77. Loading and transport of sand shall not be entertained between 5.00 pm to 7.00 am.
78. The site will be assessed for Environmental impact by District Administration periodically and based on the assessment, decision may be taken regarding for the continuation of operation thereafter. The District Administration will also ensure the process of further extraction (Manual/Machineries) in the site should be based on site reality and rate of replenishment and other environmental parameters.




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SEIAA-TN