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Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

**J&K ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY**

**(at) DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND REMOTE SENSING**

S.D.A. Colony, Bemina, Srinagar-190018 (May-Oct)/ Paryavaran Bhawan, Transport Nagar, Gladni, Jammu-180006 (Nov-Apr)

Email: jkseiaa@gmail.com, website:www.parivesh.nic.in



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

In pursuance to the Minutes of the 61<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the JK Expert Appraisal Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2021 through video Conferencing issued vide No.EAC/JK/20/9438-450 dated 27-09-2021, the 56<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the JK Environment Impact Assessment Authority was held on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 at 1100 Hrs. through video conferencing.

The following attended the meeting:-

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Lal Chand, IFS (Retd.)                        | Chairman, JKEIAA         |
| 2. Er. Nazir Ahmad (Retd. Chief Engineer)            | Member, JKEIAA           |
| 3. Dr. Neelu Gera, IFS, Pr.CCF/Director, EE&RS, J&K. | Member-Secretary, JKEIAA |

Following are the deliberations & decisions of the meeting:-

### Agenda Item No.01.

Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of Shri Aajaz Ahmad Magray S/O Shri Gh. Mohi-ud-Din Magray, R/o Kandi Khass, Handwara, Kupwara JKUT for Minor Mineral Block No. 07, Mughalpora Bridge to Bumhama (Exit Point) D/Stream, Pohru Nallah, District - Kupwara, reduced area 7.3ha under proposal No.[SIA/JK/MIN/58321/2020](#).

**Brief Summary:** This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B1 category for Minor Mineral Block No. 07, Mughalpora Bridge to Bumhama (Exit Point) downstream, Pohru Nallah, District - Kupwara, reduced area 7.3 ha. LOI has been issued on 25.08.2020, which was later extended on 15.04.2021 and was valid up to 31.08.2021. Mining plan has been approved on 17.09.2020. The case was earlier discussed by JKEAC on 05.12.2020. The said block was reduced by Geology & Mining Department on 26.08.2021. The Terms of Reference were granted on 23.12.2020 and public hearing of the project was conducted on 30.06.2021.

As per summary of appraisal report, District Survey Report has not been formulated as per guidelines and needs to be revised for including replenishment data etc. Status of NOCs in appraisal report shows that stakeholder departments have issued conditional NOCs in favour of the project. However, the NOC of Revenue Department is ambiguous as the status of land has not been mentioned.

### Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- a) The project had earlier been discussed during 21<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 05.12.2020 during which the committee recommended TORs to the project subject to

relocation/resizing/reducing the minor mineral block to achieve a distance of 500 m from the bridge and excluding the active water channel area (10%).

- b) The consultant has failed to point out the presence of irrigation structures, intake/watercourse and presence of cropland within the boundaries of proposed block in the appreciation note. The consultant has also failed in addressing the concerns of public representatives in public hearing in respect of depleting water table and consequent adverse effect on crops / horticulture.
- c) The consultant has also failed to address the concerns as above in the EMP.
- d) The mining block boundaries are also in conflict with the NOC issued by Irrigation & Flood Control Department as the intake structure of irrigation Kuhl is located at a distance of 20m from the mining block as against the minimum 250m stipulated in the NoC.
- e) The NoC from Revenue Department has also not taken the note of presence of cropland within the boundaries of mining block and the ownership/title of the same.
- f) Illegal mining activity detected in the mining block as per features on Google image of June, 2020 which needs clarification from the Multi Dept. District Level Task Force (MDDLTF) Cell prior to grant of formal EC.
- g) The compliance to specific ToR condition relating to photographs of display screen displaying the date of collection of data missing in EIA report.

#### **Recommendations of the JKEAC:**

In view of the above deliberations and insight gained during the above cited appraisal process, the Committee rejected the case for grant of EC in the present form. The PP, however may again approach the JKEIAA for grant of EC after incorporating necessary mitigation measures relating to lowering down of the water table, potential damage to irrigation structures namely intake and water conductor and addressing the concerns raised in the Public Hearing by the local population, besides recommendations in the deliberations of JKEAC.

#### **Decision of JKEIAA:**

After deliberation on observations made by JKEAC, the JKEIAA upheld recommendations of the Committee to reject the case for grant of Environment clearance in the present form. The JKEIAA also agreed that project proponent may however again approach JKEIAA for grant of Environment clearance after revalidation of LOI and incorporating necessary mitigation measures, and revised documents as recommended by JKEAC.

#### **Agenda Item No.02.**

**Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of Shri Reyaz Ahmad Sofi S/O Shri Habib-Ullah Sofi R/O Waskhura Ganipora, Handwara JK UT for Minor Mineral Block No. 02, Shedipora, Rukhmachwari (Bakahakar) Bridge to Kachiwara Downstream, Talri Nallah Village Bakahakar Rajwar District Kupwara JK UT reduced area 7.83ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/58521/2020.**

**Brief Summary:** This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B1 category for Minor Mineral Block No. 02, Shedipora, Rukhmachwari (Bakahakar) Bridge to Kachiwara

Downstream, Talri Nallah Village Bakahakar Rajwar District Kupwara JK UT reduced area 7.83 ha. LOI has been issued on 29.07.2020, which was later extended on 15.04.2021 and was valid up to 31.08.2021. Mining plan has been approved on 17.09.2020. The case was earlier discussed by JKEAC on 09.01.2021. The said block was reduced by Geology & Mining Department on 26.08.2021. The Terms of Reference were granted on 18.01.2020 and public hearing of the project was conducted on 30.06.2021.

As per summary of appraisal report, District Survey Report has not been formulated as per guidelines and needs to be revised for including replenishment data etc. Status of NOC's in appraisal report shows that stakeholder departments have issued conditional NOC's in favour of the project. However, the Revenue Department shows adverse report for the project.

#### **Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:**

- a) The project had earlier been discussed during 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on 09.01.2021 during which the committee recommended TORs to the project subject to condition that boundaries of the mining block are refined/redrawn so as to exclude land outside nallah bed (including land parcels bearing tree cover) besides obtaining a certificate from the concerned Revenue Authority (Tehsildar Concerned) to the effect that the mining block covers only the river bed and does not include any land outside the riverbed including proprietary land. The concerned Revenue Authority has not responded to this fact.
- b) The consultant has also failed in addressing the concerns of public representatives in public hearing in respect of depletion water table and consequent adverse effect on crops / horticulture.
- c) Public has strongly objected to any kind of mining in the area for the reasons of depletion of the water level in the area.
- d) The sense of the public opinion gathered from the public hearing gives an impression that people in general are already aggrieved due to lowering down of the water table and its consequent effects on irrigation / cropping / horticulture and that mining in the present instance would further aggravate the situation. The concerns of the local population are also reflected in a letter issued by the local Revenue authority. Since agriculture is the mainstay and source of livelihood of majority of people residing in the area, the JKEAC is of the opinion that the interest of the public can be best served by not allowing the mining activity in the area.
- e) The consultant has also failed to address the concerns as above in the EMP.
- f) Illegal mining activity detected in the mining block as per features on Google image of 04, 2019 which needs clarification from the Multi Dept. District level Task Force (MDDLTF) Cell.
- g) The compliance to specific ToR condition relating to photographs of display screen displaying the date of collection of data missing in EIA report.

#### **Recommendations of the JKEAC:**

In view of the above deliberations and insight gained during the above cited appraisal process, the Committee rejected the case for grant of environment clearance in the present form. The PP, however may again approach the JKEIAA for grant of EC after incorporating the necessary mitigation measures relating to lowering down of the water table and

addressing the concerns raised in the Public Hearing by the local population, besides recommendations of JKEAC.

**Decision of JKEIAA:**

After deliberation on observations made by JKEAC, the JKEIAA upheld recommendations of the Committee to reject the case for grant of Environment clearance in the present form. The JKEIAA also agreed that project proponent may however again approach the JKEIAA for grant of Environment clearance after revalidation of LOI and incorporating necessary mitigation measures along with revised documents as recommended by JKEAC.

**Agenda Item No.03.**

**Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of Shri Nasir Ahmad Mir S/o Shri Abdul Gani Mir R/O Bumhama, District Kupwara JK UT for Minor Mineral Block-8 Bumhama to Parepora D/stream, Pohru Nallah Village Bumhama Tehsil & District Kupwara, JK UT Area 8.29ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/58854/2020.**

**Brief Summary:** This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B1 category for for Minor Mineral Block-8 Bumhama to Parepora D/stream, Pohru Nallah Village Bumhama Tehsil & District Kupwara, JK UT Area 8.29ha. LOI has been issued on 29/07/2021, which was later extended on 15.04.2021 and was valid up to 31.08.2021. Mining plan has been approved on 17.09.2020. The case was earlier discussed by JKEAC on 09.01.2020. The Terms of Reference were granted on 18.01.2020 and public hearing of the project was conducted on 30.06.2021.

As per summary of appraisal report, District Survey Report was not formulated as per guidelines and needs to be revised for including replenishment data etc. Status of NOCs in appraisal report shows that stakeholder departments have issued conditional NOCs in favour of the project. However, the NOC of Revenue Department is ambiguous as the status of land has not been mentioned.

**Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:**

- a) The project had earlier been discussed during 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on to 09-01-2021 during which the Committee desired that the active water channel shall have to be excluded from the mining activity and the title to be got properly verified from revenue authorities.
- b) The NOC from revenue authority is ambiguous and title is not properly verified from it.
- c) Active water channel is not excluded from the mining Block as recommended by the JKEAC in the previous 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
- d) The PP shall resize the block and restrict the mining activity to dry shoals only as lie on left bank of the river and PP shall restrict the area at the "D" (50m towards E and 150m towards C) of the block, besides leaving 20m buffer for the existing agriculture field between B and C.
- e) The NOC from Irrigation Dept. prohibits excavation at least 250 feet upstream and downstream side of head of kuhl and concrete boundary pillars shall be erected at all the defined points of Auction Block. They have also prescribed that the mining should be restricted to the depth of only 0.6m owing to the reason that there is general water level depletion noticed in the area.

- f) Maximum targeted mineral production should be restricted to 40000MT
- g) The Haulage Route prescribed by the consultant/PP was found to be crossing water channel as well as irrigation kuhl hence the PP was asked to explore an alternate route on the left side (towards village Bumhama) of the mining block in consultation with the local PRI and also provide adequate budget for maintenance of haulage route.
- h) The compliance to specific ToR condition relating to photographs of display screen displaying the date of collection of data missing in EIA report.
- i) The conditions of NOC of stockholder department need to be adhered to in letter and spirit.
- j) Mining depth be restricted to 0.60m in aggregate in view of non-availability of replenishment data in the DSRs formulated by the G&M Dept.
- k) In absence of actual measurements, a nominal Bulk density of 2.0 be adopted.

**Recommendations of the JKEAC:**

In view of the above deliberations / observations made by the Committee herein above, the Expert Appraisal Committee recommends the project for grant of Environment Clearance subject to the following:

- a) Revision of documents as per deliberations recorded herein above.
- b) Compliance with Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of the JKEAC Meeting.
- c) Revision of geographical coordinates and mining plan in conformance with the deliberations above and denovo approval by the competent authority prior to grant of EC or as decided by JKEIAA.
- d) Revision of EMP / CER Budget as suggested in the remark's column of EMP/CER table in the deliberations of JKEAC.
- e) Mining be strictly restricted to aggregate depth of 0.60m only and to the area as specified hereinabove.
- f) The mineral production is restricted to 40000 MT.
- g) Clear title verification from concerned Revenue Authority prior to grant of EC.
- h) Provision of haulage route be kept as per the deliberation of JKEAC prior to grant of EC.
- i) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stake holder departments especially conditions laid by the fisheries Department, PHE, and Irrigation and Flood Control Department which needs to be monitored by the enforcement agencies and concerned department.
- j) No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- k) Validity of only three years from the date of commencement of the mining operations duly certified by the District Mineral Officer concerned with intimation to the JKEIAA and JKPCB in view of non-availability of replenishment data

**Decision of JKEIAA:**

After thorough deliberations JKEIAA upheld recommendations of JKEAC for grant of Environmental Clearance subject to fulfillment of following conditions: -

- a) The EC, if issued shall be valid only after the revalidation of Letter of Intent by the Geology and Mining Department.
- b) Full compliance of Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of JKEAC Meeting.
- c) The MLDTF Cell headed by the concerned Dy. Commissioner reports that the PP is not involved in the illegal mining activity and the same needs to be submitted within a period of six weeks or before execution of lease of minor mineral block, whichever is earlier.
- d) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, surface plan, targeted mineral production and replenishment data and its approval by the competent authority to be submitted within 3 months of issue of conditional E.C. Besides compliance to the TOR condition relating to photographs of display screen displaying the date of collection of data.
- e) Revision of EMP / CER Budget as suggestions/recommendations of the Committee.
- f) Mining be strictly restricted to aggregate depth of 0.60m only below NSL and restricted within area specified by the JKEAC.
- g) Bulk density of 2 be adopted for calculation of quantity and mineral production is restricted to 40000 MT.
- h) Geology and Mining Department to ensure clear title verification from concerned Revenue Authority prior to grant mining lease, under information to JKEIAA.
- i) Provision of haulage route be kept as per the deliberation of JKEAC prior to grant of EC.
- j) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments especially conditions laid by the fisheries Department, PHE, and Irrigation and Flood Control Department. Concerned departments & enforcement agencies shall monitor and take action for any violation under intimation to JKEIAA & JKEAC.
- k) No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- l) Validity of only three years from the date of commencement of the mining operations duly certified by the District Mineral Officer concerned with intimation to the JKEIAA and JKPCB in view of non-availability of replenishment data

**Agenda Item No.04.**

**Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of Shri Nazir Ahamd Wani S/o Shri Abdul Wahid Wani R/o Shumnag, District Kupwara JK UT for River Bed Mining Project -located at Minor Mineral Block No.10, Shartmuqam Bridge to Check Drugmullah Upstream Nallah Pohru, Village - Shath Muqam, Tehsil& District - Kupwara, JKUT (Reduced area 3.50 ha). under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/226351/2021& SIA/JK/MIN/60956/2021.**

**Brief Summary:** This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B2 category for River Bed Mining Project -located at Minor Mineral Block No.10, Shartmuqam Bridge to Check Drugmullah Upstream Nallah Pohru, Village - Shath Muqam, Tehsil& District - Kupwara, JKUT (Reduced area 3.50 ha). LOI has been issued on 28.08.2020, which was later extended on 15.04.2021 and was valid up to 31.08.2021. Mining plan has been

approved on 28.10.2020. The case was earlier discussed by JKEAC on 23.04.2020. The Terms of Reference were granted on 14.05.2021. The case was earlier discussed by JKEAC on 24.04.2021. The area has been reduced by the Geology & Mining Department on 23.08.2021.

As per summary of appraisal report, District Survey Report has not formulated as per guidelines and needs to be revised for including replenishment data etc. Status of NOCs in appraisal report shows that stakeholder departments have issued conditional NOCs in favour of the project. However, the NOC of Revenue Department is ambiguous as the status of land has not been mentioned.

#### **Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:**

- a) The project had earlier been discussed during 38<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 24.04.2021 during which the committee recommended TORs to the project subject to title verification by the competent revenue authority and after recalculation of the targeted mineral production by excluding the active water channel.
- b) The original project area was 10 ha and PP has resized the block to 3.5 ha. This has changed the category of the case from B1 to B2. Though he was advised to exclude the active water channels, it has been observed that still some active water channel is existing in the proposed mining block.
- c) The existence of foundation piers of a bridge downstream of the block at a distance of less than 500 m were noticed contrary to the claim by the concerned Tehsildar. A clarification from R&B Department be sought.
- d) Keeping in view the proximity to the piers and presence of active water, the PP was advised to resize and restrict the mining to the dry shoals of left bank only to avoid crossing of the active water channels.
- e) Illegal mining activity detected in the mining block as per features on Google image of October, 2017 which needs clarification from the Multi Dept. District level Task Force (MDDLTF).
- f) Project cost has been underestimated by the consultant as it does not include cost of EMP, Env. Clearance processing fee/ PCCs Consent fee etc. and therefore needs to be revised.
- g) Provisions earmarked for EMP/CER were noticed to be inadequate viz a viz perceived requirement at site. These need to be revised with appropriate budget as suggested in the remark's column of EMP table above.
- h) Bulk density of 2.3 mentioned in mining plan not agreed by the Committee. A nominal bulk density of 2 to be used in absence of actual measurements in field
- i) Mining depth of 2.5m mentioned in the mining plan not agreed by the committee. Mining depth be restricted to 0.60m in aggregate in view of non-availability of replenishment data in the DSRs formulated by the Geology & Mining Department.

#### **Recommendations of the JKEAC:**

In view of the above deliberations and insight gained during the above cited appraisal process, the Committee rejected the case for grant of Environment clearance in the present form. The PP, however may again approach the JKEIAA for grant of Environment clearance after resizing the block after excluding the whole water channel area and incorporating the

necessary mitigation measures relating to lowering down of the water table. He should also address the concerns raised in the Public Hearing by the local population.

**Decision of JKEIAA:**

After deliberation on observations made by JKEAC, the JKEIAA upheld recommendations of the Committee to reject the case for grant of Environment clearance in the present form. The JKEIAA also agreed that project proponent may however again approach the JKEIAA for grant of Environment clearance after revalidation of LOI, resizing the block and incorporating necessary measures and submission of revised documents as recommended by JKEAC.

**Agenda Item No.05.**

**Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of Shri Arshdeep Singh S/o Shri Balraj Singh R/o Faziabad Gurdaspur, Punjab for Minor Mineral in Block No.30, Suran River Downstream Bafaliaz Bridge, Bafliaz Area, District-Poonch, (Reduced area 3.42 ha.) under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/225885/2021 & SIA/JK/MIN/61309/2021.**

**Brief Summary:** This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B2 category for Minor Mineral in Block No.30, Suran River Downstream Bafaliaz Bridge, Bafliaz Area, District-Poonch, (Reduced area 3.42 ha.) LOI has been issued on 24.07.2020, which was later extended on 15.04.2021 and was valid up to 31.08.2021. Mining plan has been approved on 03.02.2020. The case was earlier discussed by JKEAC on 27.03.2021.

As per summary of appraisal report, District Survey Report has not been formulated as per guidelines and needs to be revised for including replenishment data etc. Status of NOCs in appraisal report shows that Dy. Commissioner, Poonch vide Ref No. DCP-PA-1328-39 dated: 22.05.2021 has conveyed NOCs of stakeholder departments.

**Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:**

- a) The project had earlier been discussed during 31<sup>st</sup> meeting held on to 27.03.2021 during which the Committee examined the local environmental settings of the area and found fissure and land upheavals due to unauthorized heavy mining in the area. Accordingly, it was desired that the Geology & Mining Department be asked to enquire into the matter through multi-disciplinary committee and fix responsibility for the illegal mining in the designated mineral block. In case the PP was found to be involved in the illegal mining, the case shall be treated under violation category. Besides, a footbridge was also noticed at a distance of 303mts. and the Committee desired that the block be reduced in size to keep a safe distance of 500mts from the foot bridge.
- b) The PP has submitted the MDDLTF Committee Report exonerating him from any involvement in illegal mining in the area. The multidisciplinary committee also reported that few inspected mining blocks were not replenished fully at that time and they expected replenishment post monsoon.
- c) The PP has resized the Mining Block from 5.65 ha to 3.42 ha to maintain a safe distance of 500 mts. from the footbridge. This has changed the category for the block from B1 to B2.



- d) The NOC from Irrigation and Flood control Dept. prohibits excavation at least 50Mtr. from the source of head of Kuhls and head sites of the Kuhls should not be disturbed.
- e) The conditions of NOC of stakeholder department need to be adhered to in letter and spirit.
- f) Mining depth be restricted to 1m in aggregate in view of non-availability of replenishment data in the DSRs formulated by the G&M Dept.
- g) In absence of actual measurements, a nominal Bulk density of 2.0 be adopted.

**Recommendations of the JKEAC:**

After thorough deliberations JKEIAA upheld recommendations of JKEAC for grant of Environmental Clearance subject to fulfillment of following conditions: -

- a) The EC, if issued shall be valid only after the revalidation of Letter of Intent by the Geology and Mining Department.
- b) Full compliance of Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of JKEAC Meeting.
- c) The PP shall submit the post-monsoon replenishment status from the concerned DMO prior to grant of EC and if the replenishment is complete the mining activity can be initiated accordingly.
- d) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, surface plan, targeted mineral production and replenishment data and its approval by the competent authority to be submitted within 3 months of issue of conditional E.C.
- e) Revision of EMP / CER Budget as suggested in the remark's column of EMP/CER table above.
- f) The compliance to specific ToR condition relating to photographs of display screen displaying the date of collection of data missing in EIA report.
- g) Mining be strictly restricted to aggregate depth of 1m only.
- h) Bulk density of 2 shall be adopted for calculation of quantity and mineral production is restricted to 41000 MT.
- i) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments especially conditions laid by the fisheries Department, PHE, and Irrigation and Flood Control Department. Concerned departments & enforcement agencies shall monitor and take action for any violation under intimation to JKEIAA & JKEAC.
- j) No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- k) Validity of only three years from the date of commencement of the mining operations duly certified by the District Mineral Officer concerned with intimation to the JKEIAA and JKPCB in view of non-availability of replenishment data.

**Decision of JKEIAA:**

After thorough deliberations JKEIAA upheld recommendations of JKEAC for grant of Environmental Clearance subject to fulfillment of following conditions: -

- a) The EC, if issued shall be valid only after the revalidation of Letter of Intent by the Geology and Mining Department.

- b) Full compliance of Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of JKEAC Meeting.
- c) The PP shall submit the post-monsoon replenishment status from the concerned DMO prior to grant of EC and if the replenishment is complete the mining activity can be initiated accordingly.
- d) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, surface plan, targeted mineral production and replenishment data and its approval by the competent authority to be submitted within 3 months of issue of conditional E.C. Besides compliance to the TOR condition relating to photographs of display screen displaying the date of collection of data.
- e) Revision of EMP / CER Budget as suggested in the remark's column of EMP/CER table above.
- f) Mining be strictly restricted to aggregate depth of 1m only.
- g) The mineral production is restricted to 41000 MT.
- h) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments especially conditions laid by the fisheries Department, PHE, and Irrigation and Flood Control Department. Concerned departments & enforcement agencies shall monitor and take action for any violation under intimation to JKEIAA & JKEAC.
- i) No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- j) Validity of only three years from the date of commencement of the mining operations duly certified by the District Mineral Officer concerned with intimation to the JKEIAA and JKPCB in view of non-availability of replenishment data.

#### **Agenda Item No.06**

**Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of Shri Singh Minerals R/o Near Kali Mata Mandir Kollu Wali Gali, District Pathankot, Punjab for Riverbed Mining Project of Minor Mineral in Block No.32, Area: 3.11ha. Ari Nallah Ari Area Mendhar River, Village-Mehdhar, District-Poonch, JK UT under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/197155/2021**

**Brief Summary:** This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B2 category for Riverbed Mining Project of Minor Mineral in Block No.32, Area: 3.11ha. LOI has been issued on 09-09-2020, which was later extended on 15.04.2021 and was valid up to 31.08.2021. Mining plan has been approved on 24.11.2020.

As per summary of appraisal report, District Survey Report has not been formulated as per guidelines and needs to be revised for including replenishment data etc. Status of NOCs in appraisal report shows that Dy. Commissioner, Poonch vide Ref No. DCP-PA-1328-39 dated 22.05.2021 has conveyed NOCs of stakeholders.

#### **Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:**

- a) The perusal of Google image of 05/2021 shows that an irrigation structure is passing within and outside the Mining Block and is in conflict with the NOC issued by Irrigation & Flood Control department as the intake structure of irrigation Kuhl is located within and outside of the mining block as against the minimum distance of 50m stipulated in the NoC. The NOC from Irrigation and

- Flood control Dept. prohibits excavation at least 50 Mts. Of head of Kuhl's and head sites of the Kuhl's should not be disturbed.
- b) The consultant has failed to point out the presence of irrigation structures, intake/watercourse within the boundaries of proposed block in the appreciation note.
  - c) The consultant has also failed to address the concerns as above in the EMP.
  - d) The compliance to specific TOR condition relating to photographs of display screen displaying the date of collection of data missing in EIA report.

**Recommendations of the JKEAC:**

In view of the above deliberations and insight gained during the above cited appraisal process, the Committee rejected the case for grant of EC in the present form. The PP, however may again approach the JKEIAA for grant of EC after incorporating the necessary mitigation measures relating to potential damage to irrigation structures namely intake and water conductor, besides recommendations in the deliberations of JKEAC.

**Decision of JKEIAA:**

After deliberation on observations made by JKEAC, the JKEIAA upheld recommendations of the Committee to reject the case for grant of Environment clearance in the present form. The JKEIAA also agreed that project proponent may however again approach the JKEIAA for grant of Environment clearance after revalidation of LOI and incorporating necessary mitigation measures and submission of revised documents as recommended by JKEAC.

The Meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-  
Dr. Neelu Gera, IFS PCCF/Director,  
Member Secretary, JKEIAA, EE&RS

Sd/-  
Nazir Ahmad (Rtd. Chief Engineer)  
Member, JKEIAA

Sd/-  
Lal Chand, IFS (Rtd.)  
Chairman, JKEIAA

No: JKEIAA/2016/02/VI/2664-68

Dated:01/10/2021

Copy by email to:

1. Mr. Lal Chand, IFS (Rtd.), Chairman, JKEIAA, for information.
2. Er. Nazir Ahmad (Rtd. Chief Engineer), Member, JKEIAA, for information.
3. Dr. Neelu Gera, IFS PCCF/Director, EE&RS, Member Secretary, JKEIAA, for information.
4. The Secretary, JK Expert Appraisal Committee for information.
5. Website(s)

  
Staff Officer)  
to PCCF/Member Secretary JKEIAA  
Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, J&K