



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)

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**MINUTES OF THE 43rd MEETING OF JK ENVIRONMENT IMPACT
ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY HELD ON 26th June 2021 AT 1100HRS.
THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING**

In pursuance to the Minutes of the 45th Meeting of JK Expert Appraisal Committee held on 14th June, 2021 conveyed vide endorsement No.EAC/JK/20/7776-787 dated 23.06.2021, the 43rd Meeting of JK Environment Impact Assessment Authority was held on 26th June, 2021 through video conferencing.

The following attended the meeting:-

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| 1. Mr. Lal Chand, IFS(Retd.) | Chairman, JKEIAAA |
| 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 Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Sai Mines at Logate Tehsil & District Kathua, JK UT for River Bed Mining in Block No.2/5, Nowshera Tawi River Downstream Muradpur Bridge (Naria area) Rajouri, JK UT (Part-X) Lease area-9.40 Hectare under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/63064/2021

Deliberations:

The project case has been discussed/appraised in the JKEAC Meeting. The consultant has given a detailed Presentation on the project, during which various aspects of the project including Lol, Mining plan approval, minable reserves at 1m depth, haulage route etc. were discussed. The Chairman informed the Committee Members that as per Sand Mining monitoring and enforcement guidelines of 2020, the extraction should not exceed 60% of the mine lease area in general. The matter was deliberated threadbare and it was desired that while calculating targeted mineral production and formulating mining plan, the project proponent shall ensure that the area for removal of minerals shall not exceed 60% of the mine lease area, and any deviation or relaxation in this regard shall be adequately supported by the scientific report. It was therefore decided that a specific ToR shall be included in this regard so that the mining plan and PFRs are tuned up to match this prescription of the Sand Mining monitoring and enforcement guidelines of 2020. The

mining block was examined on the Google Earth image using the KML file emailed by the consultant and it was observed that the same is traversing through the active water channel. Therefore, the Committee desired that the Consultant shall have to plan an alternative haulage route. The Committee also observed features indicative of illegal mining within and outside the mining block and desired constitution of the interdepartmental Committee to fix responsibility in this regard. The Committee reiterated that the mining depth shall be restricted to maximum of 1m in aggregate in view of non-availability of replenishment data in the District Survey Report.

In view of the above deliberations, the Committee recommended grant of Terms of Reference to the project subject to the condition that: -

1. Project proponent obtains a detailed report and NOC from the stake holder departments to the effect that the mining activity will not have any adverse impact on irrigation canals /kuhls and there shall be no adverse impact on the availability of drinking water in the villages downstream of the mining block.
2. The mining block be realigned along the flow of nallah to enable channelizing of the nallah bed or alternatively resizing of the mining block to exclude the active water channel.
3. Haulage route does not traverse through the active water channel.
4. Mining plan be revised with calculation of minor mineral production at maximum 1m depth in aggregate in the light of deliberations of the JKEAC and its de-novo approval by the competent authority prior to grant of ToR or as decided by the JKEIAA.

Decision:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee to grant Terms of Reference (Annexure – A) to the project subject to fulfillment of following conditions:

1. Project proponent obtains a detailed report and NOC from the stake holder departments of I&FC and PHE/Jal Shakti depts. to the effect that the mining activity shall not have any adverse impact on irrigation canals /kuhls and availability of drinking water in the villages downstream of the mining block is not impacted in any way.
2. Mining block realigned/resized to exclude the active water channel and haulage route does not traverse through the active water channel.
3. That mining plan is revised in accordance with Sand Mining monitoring and enforcement guidelines of 2020 with calculation of minor mineral production at maximum 1m depth in aggregate and its de-novo approval by the competent authority. The revised mining plan be submitted prior to appraisal for grant of EC.
4. An interdepartmental Committee comprising of officers from G&M Dept., Irrigation & Flood Control Dept., Fisheries Dept., Soil Conservation Dept. and SSP concerned is constituted to fix responsibility for the illegal mining activity in the area after recording statements from the local public representatives.

Agenda Item No.02.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Sai Mines at Logate Tehsil & District Kathua, JK UT for Riverbed Mining Project of Minor Mineral in Block No 3/8, Nowshera Tawi River Downstream (Nowshera Jabba) Bridge (Beri Pattan Area) Rajouri, JK UT (Plan-VIII), over an Area of 7.68 Ha. under proposal No. SIA/JK/MIN/63065/2021.

Deliberations:

The project case has been discussed/appraised in the JKEAC Meeting. The consultant has given a detailed Presentation on the project during which various aspects of the project including Lol, Mining plan approval, minable reserves at maximum 1m depth, haulage route etc were discussed. The mining block was examined on the Multidate -multi season Google Earth images using the KML file emailed by the consultant and it was observed that more than 70% area of the designated mining block falls under active water channel. The Committee opined that it will not be ecologically feasible to permit mining in the designated mining block.

In view of the above deliberations, the Committee recommended the project for rejection of Terms of Reference. However, on the request of Project proponent, the Geology & Mining Department is free to relocate the mining block at an appropriate place and enable PP to apply for grant of ToRs afresh after formulation of a fresh mining plan prescribing mining depth of maximum 1m in aggregate in consultation with other stake holder departments.

Decision:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee for rejection of Terms of Reference to the project. The JKEIAA agreed to the recommendation of JKEAC that Geology & Mining Department is free to relocate the mining block at an appropriate place and Project Proponent apply afresh for grant of ToRs after fulfilling all conditions required under rules.

Agenda Item No.03.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Singh Minerals R/o Near Kali Mata Mandir Kolluwali Gali, Pathankot for Riverbed Mining Project of Minor Mineral in Block No 3/6, Nowshera Tawi River Downstream (Nowshera Jabba) Bridge (Bhaganoti area) Rajouri, JK UT (Part-VI) over an area of 9.32 Ha. under proposal No. SIA/JK/MIN/63073/2021.

Deliberations:

The project case was discussed/appraised in the JKEAC Meeting. The consultant gave a detailed PowerPoint Presentation on the project during which various aspects of the project including Lol, Mining plan approval, minable reserves at max. 1m depth, haulage route etc were discussed. The mining block was examined on the Multidate-multi-season Google Earth images using the KML file emailed by the consultant and it was observed that approx. 40% of the mining block area in average falls under active water channel. The Committee also observed a huge chunk of dry river bed closely adjacent to the mining block towards the North-West limits which is subjected to illegal mining activity. Therefore, the Committee opined that it would be appropriate if the mining block is slightly relocated towards north-west direction to include the dry river bed which would automatically decrease the area under active water channel. Besides, the Committee also observed features indicative of illegal mining within and outside the mining block and desired constitution of the

interdepartmental Committee to fix responsibility in this regard. The Committee reiterated that the mining depth shall be restricted only at maximum 1m aggregate in view of nonavailability of replenishment data in the District Survey Report.

In view of the above deliberations, the Committee recommended grant of Terms of Reference to the project subject to: -

1. Relocating the mining block towards north-west direction to include the dry river bed mass there which would automatically decrease the area under active water channel towards East and South West of the mining block limits.
2. Revision of mining plan with revised coordinates and recalculation of minor mineral production at maximum 1m depth in aggregate in the light of deliberations of the JKEAC and its de-novo approval by the competent authority prior to grant of ToR or as decided by the JKEIAA.
3. An interdepartmental Committee comprising of officers from G&M Dept., Irrigation & Flood Control Dept., Fisheries Dept., Soil Conservation Dept. and SSP concerned is constituted to fix responsibility for the illegal mining activity in the area after recording statements from the local public representatives.

Decision:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee to grant Terms of Reference (Annexure -A) to the project subject to fulfillment of following conditions that: -

1. The Mining block is relocated to exclude area under active water channel outside mining block limits.
2. The mining plan is revised in accordance with Sand Mining monitoring and enforcement guidelines of 2020 with recalculation of minor mineral production at maximum 1m depth in aggregate and its de-novo approval by the competent authority prior to appraisal for grant of EC.
3. An interdepartmental Committee recommended by the JKEAC is constituted to fix responsibility for the illegal mining activity in the area after recording statements from the local public representatives.

Agenda Item No.04.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Singh Minerals R/o Near Kali Mata Mandir Kolluwali Gali, Pathankot for Minor Mineral Block No. 04 in Naj Nallah Upstream Naj Bridge, District Kathua, JK UT (Plan-II) over an area of 9.06 ha. under proposal No. **SIA/JK/MIN/61939/2021**

Deliberations:

The project case was discussed/appraised in the JKEAC Meeting. The consultant gave a detailed PowerPoint Presentation on the project during which various aspects of the project including Lol, Mining plan approval, minable reserves at max.1m depth, haulage route etc were discussed. The mining block was examined on the Google Earth image using the KML file emailed by the consultant and it was observed that the same is lying in the vicinity of Billawar Town. Therefore, the Committee opined that the reservations expressed by the local public representatives in the complaint received earlier also apply to this project. The Committee desired that the copy of complaint along with its Geological/Technical Note on

the area should be sent to the Geology & Mining Dept. by JKEIAA for examination and appropriate necessary action. It was therefore, opined that detailed report /NOC from the stake holder departments shall have to be obtained prior to grant of EC. The Committee reiterated that the mining depth shall be restricted to maximum 1m aggregate in view of nonavailability of replenishment data in the District Survey Report.

In view of the above deliberations, the Committee recommended grant of Terms of Reference to the project subject to the conditions that: -

1. Project proponent obtains a detailed report and NOC from the stake holder departments of I&FC and PHE/Jal Shakti depts. to the effect that the mining activity shall not have any adverse impact on irrigation canals /kuhls and availability of drinking water in the villages downstream of the mining block is not impacted in any way.
2. The haulage route does not traverse through the active water channel.
3. The mining plan is revised with calculation of minor mineral production at maximum 1m depth in aggregate in the light of deliberations of the JKEAC and its de-novo approval by the competent authority prior to grant of ToR.
4. The local public representatives of Billawar Town who had submitted a complaint earlier on the subject are consulted during the Public Hearing and their views are recorded and their concerns addressed appropriately.

Decision:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee to grant Terms of Reference to the project subject to fulfillment of following conditions: -

1. The project proponent obtains a detailed report and NOC from the stake holder departments to the effect that the mining activity will not have any adverse impact on irrigation canals /kuhls and there shall be no adverse impact on the availability of drinking water in the villages downstream of the mining block.
2. Haulage route does not traverse through the active water channel.
3. Mining plan is revised in accordance with Sand Mining monitoring and enforcement guidelines of 2020 with calculation of minor mineral production at maximum 1m depth in aggregate and its de-novo approval by the competent authority prior to appraisal for grant of EC.
4. Local public representatives of Billawar Town who had submitted a complaint earlier are consulted during the Public Hearing and their concerns are recorded and addressed in clear terms.
5. The Member Secretary, JKEIAA shall forward the representation made by the local public representatives against mining in the area to the Geology & Mining Dept. for examination and further appropriate action.
6. An interdepartmental Committee comprising of officers from G&M Dept., Irrigation & Flood Control Dept., Fisheries Dept., Soil Conservation Dept. and SSP concerned is constituted to fix responsibility for the illegal mining activity in the area after recording statements from the local public representatives.

Agenda Item No.05.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of Shri Kishori Lal S/o Shri Kuldeep Singh R/o Makwal, Tehsil & District- Kathua., JK UT for Minor Mineral Block No. 07 in Bhini River Downstream Kishanpur Road Bridge, District Kathua, JK UT (Plan-II) over an area of 8.79 Ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/62463/2021.

Deliberations:

The project case was discussed/appraised in the JKEAC Meeting. The consultant gave a detailed PowerPoint Presentation on the project during which various aspects of the project including Lol, Mining plan approval, minable reserves at max.1m depth, haulage route etc were discussed. The mining block was examined on the Google Earth image using the KML file emailed by the consultant and it was observed that the same is lying in the vicinity of Billawar Town. Therefore, the Committee opined that the reservations expressed by the local public representatives in the complaint received earlier also apply to this project. It was therefore, opined that detailed report /NOC from the stake holder departments shall have to be obtained prior to grant of EC. The Committee observed that the mining block has been identified across the Nalla and it is apprehended that the haulage route may traverse active water channels that are frequently changing course. The Committee reiterated that the mining depth shall be restricted to max. of 1m in aggregate in view of nonavailability of replenishment data in the District Survey Report. Besides, the Committee expressed its apprehensions on haulage route apparently traversing through active water channel due to frequent change of course by the Nala.

In view of the above deliberations, the Committee recommended grant of Terms of Reference to the project subject to conditions that: -

1. The project proponent obtains a detailed report and NOC from the stake holder departments to the effect that the mining activity will not have any adverse impact on irrigation canals /kuhls and there shall be no adverse impact on the availability of drinking water in the villages downstream of the mining block.
2. The haulage route does not traverse through the active water channel.
3. The mining block is resized / relocated or realigned along the flow of nallah.
4. Mining plan be revised with coordinates and calculation of minor mineral production at maximum 1m depth in aggregate in the light of deliberations of the JKEAC and its de-novo approval by the competent authority prior to grant of ToR
5. The local public representatives of Billawar Town who had submitted a complaint earlier are consulted during the Public Hearing and their views are recorded and concerns addressed appropriately.

Decision:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee to grant Terms of Reference (Annexure – A) to the project subject to fulfillment of conditions that: -

1. The project proponent obtains a detailed report and NOC from the stake holder departments of I&FC and PHE, Jal Shakti to the effect that the mining activity will not have any adverse impact on irrigation canals /kuhls and there shall be no adverse

impact on the availability of drinking water in the villages downstream of the mining block.

2. Mining plan is revised in accordance with Sand Mining monitoring and enforcement guidelines of 2020 with calculation of minor mineral production at maximum 1m depth in aggregate and its de-novo approval by the competent authority prior to appraisal for grant of EC.
3. That mining block is resized / relocated or realigned along the flow of nallah and haulage route does not traverse through the active water channel.
4. Local public representatives of Billawar Town who had submitted a complaint earlier are consulted during the Public Hearing and their concerns are recorded and addressed in clear terms.
5. The Member Secretary, JKEIAA shall forward the representation made by the local public representatives against mining in the area to the Geology & Mining Dept. for examination and further appropriate action.

Agenda Item No.06.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Mahavir Mining R/O 01 Lane No 03 Saheed Udham Singh Nagar Tehsil & Distt- Pathankot, Punjab for Minor Mineral Block No. 9 in Bhini River Downstream Kishanpur Road Bridge, District Kathua, JK UT over an area of 9.15 Ha. under proposal No. SIA/JK/MIN/62477/2021.

Deliberations:

The project case was discussed/appraised in the JKEAC Meeting. The consultant gave a detailed PowerPoint Presentation on the project during which various aspects of the project including Lol, Mining plan approval, minable reserves at 1m depth, haulage route etc were discussed. The mining block was examined on the Google Earth image using the KML file emailed by the consultant and it was observed that the same is lying in the vicinity of Billawar Town. Therefore, the Committee opined that the reservations expressed by the local public representatives in the complaint received earlier also apply to this project. It was therefore, opined that detailed report /NOC from the stake holder departments shall have to be obtained prior to grant of EC. The Committee reiterated that the mining depth shall be restricted to maximum of 1m in aggregate in view of non-availability of replenishment data in the District Survey Report. Besides, the Committee expressed its apprehensions on haulage route apparently traversing through active water channel due to frequent change of course by the Nala.

In view of the above deliberations, the Committee recommended grant of Terms of Reference to the project subject to the condition that: -

1. The project proponent obtains a detailed report and NOC from the stake holder departments to the effect that the mining activity will not have any adverse impact on irrigation canals/kuhls and there shall be no adverse impact on the availability of drinking water in the villages downstream of the mining block.
2. Haulage route does not traverse through the active water channel.
3. Mining block is resized / relocated or realigned along the flow of nallah.

4. Mining plan be revised with coordinates and calculation of minor mineral production at maximum 1m depth in aggregate in the light of deliberations of the JKEAC and its de-novo approval by the competent authority prior to grant of ToR.
5. The local public representatives of Billawar Town who had submitted a complaint earlier are consulted during the Public Hearing and their views are recorded and their concerns addressed appropriately.

Decision:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee to grant Terms of Reference (Annexure – A) to the project subject to fulfillment of following conditions: -

1. Project proponent obtains a detailed report and NOC from the stake holder departments of I&FC and PHE, Jal Shakti to the effect that the mining activity will not have any adverse impact on irrigation canals /kuhls and there shall be no adverse impact on the availability of drinking water in the villages downstream of the mining block.
2. That mining block is resized / relocated or realigned along the flow of nallah and haulage route does not traverse through the active water channel.
3. Mining plan is revised in accordance with Sand Mining monitoring and enforcement guidelines of 2020 with calculation of minor mineral production at maximum 1m depth in aggregate and its de-novo approval by the competent authority prior to grant of ToR.
4. The local public representatives of Billawar Town who had submitted a complaint earlier are consulted during the Public Hearing and their views are recorded and their concerns addressed appropriately.
5. The Member Secretary, JKEIAA shall forward the representation made by the local public representatives against mining in the area to the Geology & Mining Dept. for examination and further appropriate action.

Agenda Item No.07.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Shiva Minerals R/O Focal Point Near Pir Baba Chowk, Malikpur, Pathankot for Minor Mineral Block No. 11 in Bhini River Downstream Naj Bridge, District Kathua, JK UT over an area 9.85 Ha. under proposal No. SIA/JK/MIN/62488/2021.

Deliberations:

The project case was discussed/appraised in the JKEAC Meeting. The consultant gave a detailed PowerPoint Presentation on the project during which various aspects of the project including Lol, Mining plan approval, minable reserves at 1m depth, haulage route etc were discussed. The mining block was examined on the Google Earth image using the KML file emailed by the consultant and it was observed that the same is lying in the vicinity of Billawar Town. The Committee observed that the mining block has been identified across the flow of Nala with huge width which has multiple active water channels of varying width. The Committee expressed its apprehensions that haulage route will always traverse through active water channel due to frequent change of course by the Nala with huge width

as observed on the multirate Google sat. images. The Committee opined that there seems no other option but to reject the mining block.

In view of the above deliberations, the Committee recommended rejection of ToRs to the project. However, on the request of project proponent, the Geology & Mining Dept. may relocate the mining block to an appropriate site where there is no or minimum impact on the local environmental settings.

Decision:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee for rejection of Terms of Reference to the project. However, as recommended by JKEAC, the Geology & Mining Dept. may relocate the mining block to an appropriate site where there is no or minimum impact on the local environmental settings and apply afresh under rules.

Agenda Item No.08.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of Shri Khursheed Ahmad Mir S/o Shri Ghulam Mohammad Mir R/o Dougham Kakapora, Pulwama, JK U.T. for Minor Mineral Block No-26, Z-Ashmiji Bridge Downstream, Vishu Nallah, Village Ashmiji Tehsil Kulgam District Kulgam, JK UT over an area of 4.24 Ha. under proposal No. SIA/JK/MIN/62585/2021.

Deliberations:

The project case was discussed/appraised in the JKEAC Meeting. The consultant gave a detailed PowerPoint Presentation on the project during which various aspects of the project including Lol, Mining plan approval, minable reserves at 1m depth, haulage route etc were discussed. The mining block was examined on the latest available Google Earth image of June 2020 using the KML file emailed by the consultant and it was observed features indicative of heavy illegal mining within and outside the mining block. The illegal mining activity was observed on the multirate images right from 2018 onwards and the entire area seems to have been devastated. The Consultant was asked to email the latest photographs and the video of the river bed condition which were subsequently received and the videographic/photographic evidence also proves that the area has been subjected to illegal mining. Therefore, the Committee desired that the Geology & Mining Dept. should be asked to constitute an interdepartmental Committee comprising of officers of the G&M Dept., Irrigation & Flood Control Dept., Fisheries Department, Soil Conservation Dept. and the SSP concerned for fixing responsibility of the illegal mining in the mining block and other areas in the vicinity after recording statements from the local public representatives. Besides, the examination of the mining block on the Google Earth also revealed that due to heavy illegal mining activity, huge pits containing water have been left everywhere and allowing continuation of mining activity could devastate the area further. Therefore, the Committee opined that ToRs should not be granted unless an explicit joint inspection report is received from the Geology & Mining Dept., Irrigation and Flood Control Dept. and the Fisheries Dept. clearly stating that allowing mining activity in the said mining block would not cause any adverse environmental impact on the irrigation kuhls and fisheries potential.

In view of the above deliberations, the Committee desired that the Geology & Mining Dept. should be asked to constitute an interdepartmental Committee comprising of officers of the G&M Dept., Irrigation & Flood Control Dept., Fisheries Department, Soil Conservation

Dept. and the SSP concerned for fixing responsibility of the illegal mining in the mining block and other areas in the vicinity after recording statements from the local public representatives. In the meantime, the Committee recommended the project for rejection of ToRs unless and until the Geology & Mining Dept. constitutes an interdepartmental Committee comprising of officers of the G&M Dept., Irrigation & Flood Control Dept., Fisheries Department, Soil Conservation Dept. and the SSP concerned for fixing responsibility of the illegal mining in the mining block and other areas in the vicinity after recording statements from the local public representatives. Besides, the above referred committee shall explicitly certify that further mining in the mining block would not cause any adverse environmental impact on irrigation kuhls and fisheries potential.

Decision:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee that TOR can't be issued in present form.

The JKEIAA agree with the recommendations of the Committee that the Geology & Mining Dept. may constitute an interdepartmental Committee for fixing responsibility of the illegal mining in the mining block and other areas in the vicinity after recording statements from the local public representatives. Besides, the above referred committee shall explicitly certify that further mining in the mining block would not cause any adverse environmental impact on irrigation kuhls and fisheries potential.

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

Sd/-
Dr. Neelu Gera, IFS,
Pr.CCF/Director, EE&RS, J&K
Member-Secretary, JKEIAA

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

Sd/-
Mr. Lal Chand, IFS(Retd.)
Chairman, JKEIAAA

No: JKEIAA/2016/02/V/1618-1622

Dated: 02 / 07 /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)
02/07/2021

to PCCF/Director/Member Secretary JKEIAA
Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, J&K