



STATE ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

:: MEGHALAYA ::

‘Silviculture Building’, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong -793001

Email: ms.seiaamegh@gmail.com

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEIAA, MEGHALAYA,

HELD ON 13th February, 2024, AT 1:00 PM,

VENUE: OFFICE CHAMBER OF THE CHAIRMAN.

Members present in the Meeting:

1. Shri. T.T.C. Marak, IFS (Retd.) Chairman, SEIAA
2. Dr. H.J. Syiemlieh, Professor, Dept. of Geography, NEHU Member, SEIAA
3. Shri. W.S. Manner, IFS, CCF, SF & E Member Secy. SEIAA

Proceedings:

The Meeting was chaired by Shri T.T.C. Marak, Chairman, SEIAA. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members and then invited the Member Secretary to present the agenda points for discussion.

Agenda 1: Action taken Report - The Member Secretary informed about the action of the decisions taken in the last SEIAA’s meeting held on 22nd December, 2023 and circulated the Minutes of the said meeting. The meeting approved the actions taken and confirmed the proceedings.

Agenda 2: Grant of Environmental Clearance (EC)

2.1 Proposal No.SIA/ML/MIN/203657/2021 submitted by M/s Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt. Ltd.

The Project Proponent, M/s Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt. Ltd. submitted online application vide proposal No.SIA/ML/MLN/203657/2021 for Environmental Clearance for mining of Shale for an area of 4.9 hectares. The proposal is for mining of shale which will be used in the cement plant of the applicant located at Chattak, Sunamganj District, Bangladesh. The project falls under Schedule I (a) of category B2 of EIA Notification 2006. The mining lease area is located at Shella, East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya and toposheet No.78 O/12 within the following GPS Coordinates;

Pillar No.	GPS Coordinates	
	Latitude	Longitude
1	25°11'01.2253"N	91°37'51.6742"E
2	25°10'57.9720"N	91°37'51.4662"E
3	25°10'58.6791"N	91°37'34.0041"E
4	25°11'01.9171"N	91° 37'34.1591"E

The proposed land belongs to the project proponent vide the permission for transfer of land issued by the Revenue Department, Government of Meghalaya vide letter No. RDS.25/99/Pt-1/177 dated Shillong, the 17th September, 2004.

The applied area for is a Forest Land which was confirmed by the Conservator of Forests (T), Khasi & Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya vide letter No.MFG.16/18/PCCF(T)/Vol-II/6601 dated Shillong, the 3rd August, 2018. However, the company has subsequently submitted its proposal for diversion of 5.156 ha (i.e., 4.9 ha for mining lease + 0.256 ha for access road to the mine) of forest land for non-forest purposes to the Forest Department of which permission was also granted vide letter No.3-MG C 005/2023-SHI/1243-44 dated, the 27th July, 2023 issued by the Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India subject to fulfilment of the given conditions.

The project proponent obtained a cluster certificate from the Mining Engineer, Directorate of Mineral Resources, Meghalaya, Shillong vide letter No.DMR/MM/81/2020/17 date Shillong, the 11th March, 2021 which states that since the Mining Lease was granted on the 5th April, 2002 and executed on the 30th August, 2002, hence in the light of MOEF &CC Notification 1st July,2016 of the Appendix XI of 15th January, 2016 notification relating to paragraph (6) insertion, the above Lease, being granted prior to 9th September 2013, the cluster consideration may not arise. Hence, the Environment Management Plan is not required.

The project proponent submitted the Mining Plan with Progressive Mine Closure Plan approved by the Mining Engineer, Directorate of Mineral Resources, Meghalaya, Shillong vide letter No.DMR/MM/81/2020/09 dated Shillong, the 30th September 2020. The Mining Plan has been prepared to extract shale-siltstone at the rate of 120000 TPA with a project cost of ₹5.82 crores and the operations will be open cast, mechanized method of mining.

As per the approved mining plan, the mineable reserves of Shale-Siltstone are of the order of 9,20,425 tonnes. The production in the period of this mining plan will be around 6, 00,000 tonnes in 5 years. The balance reserves will be $920425 - 600000 = 320425$. If the production target is 120000 tonnes per year, then the balance reserves will be sufficient for $320425/120000 = 2.67$ years. Thus, the total life of mine is $5 \div 2.67 = 7.67$ or say 8 years.

The project proponent furnished the approval for mining and export of shale and siltstone issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Department of Commerce, Government of India vide letter No.2(1)/L-2/2002/1301 dated, the 25th May, 2006.

Decision:

The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Meghalaya, in its meeting noted the recommendation in the above said SEAC's Minutes relating to this project and accepted the recommendation of the SEAC and unanimously resolved to grant Environmental Clearance to this project.

Accordingly, on recommendation of the SEAC and as per the EIA Notification- 2006 and its subsequent amendments, the SEIAA in the meeting unanimously grant Environmental Clearance to this project, with the terms and conditions as stipulated in "Standard EC Conditions for Non-Coal mining sector" issued vide Ministry' O.M No.22-24/2018-IA-III dtd. 08.01.2019 and with the following conditions:

- 1) A settling Tank is to be constructed, at a suitable site within the mining area for collection of debris, sediment, silt, fragmented stones etc carried by surface water channelized through the Curtain drain. The deposited debris, spoils etc are to be removed/cleared, both from the tank and drain as and when required. Overflowing water that flows downhill shall be dispersed but precautions to be taken, that spoils etc. generated from mining are not carried along.
- 2) Garland drains is to be constructed along the periphery of the mining lease boundary to capture the storm water run-off from the mining area, all drains will link to a settling tank with compartments to check and arrest siltation in the mine water prior to discharge.
- 3) Curtain Drain is to be constructed properly to intercept the surface water from flowing into the mining area and water flowing out of the mine channelized to the Settling tank.
- 4) If any debris etc. overflows to adjoining land/agricultural field etc. during the mining operation Monitoring Agency is to take necessary action as per relevant section(s) of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act,1974.
- 5) In annual EMP budget under GREENBELT, creation of plantations including nursery cost, fencing etc the notified norms of Forest and Environment Department, Govt of Meghalaya is to be followed strictly, including financial cost. Budget under said head stands revised accordingly.
- 6) To increase the allocation for plantation and maintenance to a minimum of Rs. 1 lakh per annum and increase the number of saplings to be planted. The Nurseries for the approved species as given in the EIA report should be created before commencement of the mining plan and the types of species should be according to the Forest Department Plantation Norms (Amended in 31.03.2023) & plantation should be done in the 1st and 2nd year of the planed period.
- 7) CER should be included in the capital cost and it should be increased to a minimum of Rs. 1 lakh annually.

- 8) Boundary pillars with the height not less than 2.5 feet above the ground level and 1.5 feet below ground and minimum 8 inches on all face of pillar should be erected.
- 9) GPS coordinates of each pillar should be carved/painted clearly on the pillars with red colour.
- 10) A board highlighting the name of project and project proponent, location name, total area of the mine, date of issue of EC by SEIAA and CTE & CTO by MSPCB should be installed at the entrance to the mining site and clearly visible.
- 11) Fencing of the boundary of site with minimum two strands of barbed wire or ordinary split bamboo fencing is to be erected all around the periphery of the approved mining area.
- 12) Storing and collection of water through rainwater harvesting for dust sprinkling and recharging of the aquifers.
- 13) The Green Belt shall be created within the Safety Zone area during the first year of the project and if there are any sorts of vegetation in the said area, they shall be preserved and not damaged.

Member Secretary shall prepare the draft Environment Clearance for this project and circulate the same to all Members of the Authority for views/comments/corrections, if any, and then after approval of the Chairman, the Member Secretary shall issue the final Environment Clearance.

2.2 Proposal No.SIA/ML/MIN/43 6477/2023 submitted by Smti. Dolly Khonglah.

The Project Proponent, Smti. Dolly Khonglah submitted an online application vide proposal No.SIA/ML/MJN/436477/2023 for re-appraisal and grant of fresh Environmental Clearance for Amsyndui Low Grade Limestone Deposit for an area of 0.35 hectare. The proposal is for mining of limestone and will be used in kilns for manufacturing lime to be used as building materials. The project falls under Schedule I(a) of category B2 of EIA Notification, 2006. The mining lease area is located at Amsyndui, Nongtalang Elaka, West Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya and toposheet Survey of India No.83 C/4 within the following GPS Coordinates:

Pillar No.	GPS Coordinates	
	Latitude	Longitude
1	25°13'22.40"N	92°05'29.10"E
2	25°13'22.14"N	92°05'30.72"E
3	25°13'21.92"N	92°05'31.28"E
4	25° 13'21.90"N	92°05'31.90"E
5	25°13'21.28"N	92°05'31.75"E
6	25°13'20.80"N	92°05'31.50"E
7	25°13'20.50"N	92°05'30.20"E
8	25°13'21.20"N	92°05'27.60"E

The proposed land is on lease for a period of 6 years vide Deed of Lease which was executed on the 16th August, 2015 and certified by the District Registrar, Amlarem Meghalaya. The project proponent also submitted an affidavit declaring that she is the bonafide person to take over the lease (Second Party/Lesse).

The project proponent submitted corrigendum from the Deputy Commissioner, West Jaintia Hills District, vide letter No.GEN-185/MiningPlan/KK/2017/358 dated Jowai, the 2nd August, 2018 and Letter of Intent from the Divisional Forest Officer, Jaintia Hills Territorial Division, Jowai vide letter No.JH/DKIML/LS/2022-23/Pt-II/935/B/559 dated Jowai, the 5th July, 2022.

The project proponent submitted the Mining Plan with Progressive Mine Closure Plan approved by the Director of Mineral Resources, Meghalaya vide letter No.DMR/MM/ML/33/2017/1337 dated Shillong, the 25th September 2017. The Mining Plan has been prepared to extract limestone with a production of 14150 TPA with a project cost of Rs.16 lakhs and the operations will be semi-mechanized, open cast method of mining.

As per the approved mining plan the mineable reserve is 88102 Tonnes. Production upto 31st March is 59,432 Tonnes. Thus, 59432 Tonnes of the total mineable reserve was worked out already and the rest quantity of mineable reserve i.e., 88102-59432) = 28670 Tonnes. 28300 Tonnes would be exhausted in further 2 years with average annual production of 14150 Tonnes. 370 Tonnes would be mining loss. Therefore, the life of the mine will be 2years (2years in plan period).

The project has already been awarded Environmental Clearance by the Deputy Commissioner, West Jaintia Hills District, Jowai cum Chairman, District Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Meghalaya vide letter No.GEN-185/MiningPlan/KK/2017/275 dated Jowai the 19th December, 2017 and also obtained a detail statement of royalty from the Divisional Forest Officer, Jaintia Hills Territorial Division, Jowai vide letter No. JH/DK/ML/LS/2022-23/Pt.II/935/B/1456 dated Jowai, the 18th October, 2023.

Decision:

The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Meghalaya, in its meeting noted the recommendation of the SEAC relating to this project and accepted the recommendation of the SEAC and unanimously resolved to grant Environmental Clearance to this project for a period of 1(one) year.

Accordingly, on recommendation of the SEAC and as per the EIA Notification- 2006 and its subsequent amendments, the SEIAA in the meeting unanimously grant Environmental Clearance to this project, with the terms and conditions as stipulated in "Standard EC Conditions for Non-Coal mining sector" issued vide Ministry' OM No.22-24/2018-IA-III dtd. 08.01.2019 and with the following conditions:

- 1) A retaining wall of adequate height not less than 6 ft above the ground level and 4-6 ft below the ground level is to be constructed within mining site for stacking of Over Burden (OB). to ensure that no debris etc. overflows to adjoining land/agricultural field.
- 2) A settling Tank is to be constructed, at a suitable site within the mining area for collection of debris, sediment, silt, fragmented stones etc carried by surface water channelized through the Curtain drain. The deposited debris, spoils etc are to be removed/cleared, both from the tank and drain as and when required. Overflowing water that flows downhill shall be dispersed but precautions to be taken that spoils etc. generated from mining are not carried along.
- 3) Garland drains is to be constructed along the periphery of the mining lease boundary to capture the storm water run-off from the mining area, all drains will link to a settling tank with compartments to check and arrest siltation in the mine water prior to discharge.
- 4) Curtain Drain is to be constructed properly to intercept the surface water from flowing into the mining area and water flowing out of the mine channelized to the Settling tank.
- 5) In annual EMP budget under GREENBELT, creation of plantations including nursery cost, fencing etc the notified norms of Forest and Environment Department, Govt of Meghalaya is to be followed strictly, including financial cost. Budget under said head stands revised accordingly.
- 6) To increase the allocation for plantation and maintenance to a minimum of Rs. 1 lakh per annum and increase the number of saplings to be planted. The Nurseries for the approved species as given in the EIA report should be created before commencement of the mining plan and the types of species should be according to the Forest Department Plantation Norms (Amended in 31.03.2023) & plantation should be done in the 1st and 2nd year of the planed period.
- 7) Boundary pillars with the height not less than 2.5 feet above the ground level and 1.5 feet below ground and minimum 8 inches on all face of pillar should be erected.
- 8) GPS coordinates of each pillar should be carved/painted clearly on the pillars with red colour.
- 9) A board highlighting the name of project and project proponent, location name, total area of the mine, date of issue of EC by SEIAA and CTE & CTO by MSPCB should be installed at the entrance to the mining site and clearly visible.
- 10) Fencing of the boundary of site with minimum two strands of barbed wire or ordinary split bamboo fencing is to be erected all around the periphery of the approved mining area.
- 11) Storing and collection of water through rainwater harvesting for dust sprinkling and recharging of the aquifers.

- 12) The Green Belt shall be created within the Safety Zone area during the first year of the project and if there are any sorts of vegetation in the said area, they shall be preserved and not damaged.

Member Secretary shall prepare the draft Environment Clearance for this project and circulate the same to all Members of the Authority for views/comments/corrections, if any, and then after approval of the Chairman, the Member Secretary shall issue the final Environment Clearance.

Agenda 3: Grant of Term of Reference (ToR)

3.1 Proposal No. SIA/ML/MIN/70391/2021 submitted by Shri. Dominic Pohrmen (M/s Amsyndui Limestone Mine).

The Project Proponent, Shri. Dominic Pohrmen submitted an online application for Term of Reference vide proposal No.SIA/ML/MIN/70391/2021 for Amsyndui Limestone Mine for mining of Lime stone for an area of 4.50 hectares. The proposal is for mining of lime stone to be used in kilns for manufacturing of lime used as building materials. The project falls under Schedule 1(a) of category B1 of EIA Notification 2006. The mining lease area is located at Amsyndui, Elaka- Nongtalang, West Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya and toposheet Survey of India No.83C/4 within the following GPS Coordinates:

Pillar No.	GPS Coordinates	
	Latitude	Longitude
1	25°13'32.1" N	92°05'10.7" E
2	25°13'32.5" N	92°05'12.2" E
3	25°13'33.1" N	92°05'12.8" E
4	25°13'33.2" N	92°05'13.9" E
5	25°13'32.2" N	92°05'15.8" E
6	25°13'33.9" N	92°05'18.3" E
7	25°13'35.3" N	92°05'22.6" E
8	25°13'38.8" N	92°05'20.6" E
9	25°13'37.9" N	92°05'14.8" E
10	25°13'36.2" N	92°05'9.7" E

The proposed mining area belongs to the project proponent vide Gift Deed executed on the 28th June 2018 at Amlarem certified by the Sub-Registrar, Civil Sub Division, Amlarem, West Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya.

The applied area is a Non Forest Land which was confirmed by the Divisional Forest Officer, Jaintia Hills Territorial Division vide letter No.JH/S.Quarry/2009-10/476/B/2427, dated Jowai, the 26thFebruary 2019 and Letter of Intent vide letter No. JH/MMMCR-2016/2016-17/869/B/2641 dated Jowai, the 27thMarch 2019 respectively.

The project proponent obtained a cluster certificate from the Divisional Mining Officer, Directorate of Mineral Resources, Meghalaya, Jowai vide letter No.DMO-J/49/MM/Mining Plan/2021-22/154 dated Jowai, the 8th November 2021 which states that there are six (6) approved mining plans lying within 500 metres from the applied mining lease area. Hence the applied mining area falls under cluster category since the total area of seven mines is summed up to 27.49 hectares.

The project proponent submitted the Mining Plan with Progressive Mine Closure Plan approved by the Divisional Mining Officer, Directorate of Mineral Resources, Meghalaya, Jowai vide letter No.DMO-J/49/MM/MiningPlan/2021-22/150 dated Jowai, the 2nd November 2021. The Mining Plan has been prepared to extract lime stone at the rate of 144200 TPA with a project cost of ₹23.50 lakhs and the operations will be open cast, semi-mechanized method of mining.

As per the Mining Plan, the mineable reserve of limestone is of the order of 22, 65,000 tons. The production in the period of the mining plan will be around 7, 20,900 tons in 5 years. The balance reserves will

be $(22,65,000 - 7,20,900) = 15,44,100$ tons. If the production target is 1,44,200 tons, the balance reserve will be sufficient for $(15,44,100 / 1,44,200) = 10.70$ years. Thus, total life of the mine is $(5 + 10.70) = 15.70$ or say 16 years.

Decision:

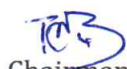
The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Meghalaya, in its meeting noted the recommendation in the above said SEAC relating to this project and unanimously resolved to grant Terms of Reference to this project after site verification.

Accordingly, on recommendation of the SEAC and as per the EIA Notification- 2006 and its subsequent amendments, the SEIAA in the meeting unanimously grant Terms of Reference to this project, with the terms and conditions as stipulated in "Standard TOR Conditions for Non-Coal mining sector" issued vide Ministry' OM No.22-24/2018-IA-III dtd. 08.01.2019 and with the following conditions vide Ministry' OM No.22-34/2018-IA-III dtd 16.01.2020;

- 1) No blasting shall be involved for extraction of limestone.
- 2) Operational Area shall be restricted at a distance of 100 meters from the Border Road and additional Pillars shall be erected along with GPS Coordinates marking the 100 meters distance from the said road.
- 3) Site photographs together with photographs and other related details of site visits by resource persons of NABET accredited consultant of project proponent, with their names and profession/designation, together with date(s) of visit, date(s) of data collection including names of instrument/machine actually used in the field, during preparation of EIA report, is to be clearly highlighted in the EIA/EMP report.
- 4) A Comprehensive Environment Management Plan and Regional Environment Management Plan is to be furnished in the EIA/EMP.
- 5) Source of data taken from external sources is to be mentioned clearly.

Member Secretary shall prepare the draft Term of Reference for this project and circulate the same to all Members of the Authority for views/comments/corrections, if any, and then after approval of the Chairman, the Member Secretary shall issue the final Term of Reference.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chairman.


Chairman
State Environment Impact Assessment Authority
Meghalaya, Shillong.