



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)/ ParyavaranBhawan, Transport Nagar, Gladni, Jammu-180006 (Nov-Apr)

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MINUTES OF THE 36TH MEETING OF JK ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY HELD ON 06-05-2021 AT 1400 HRS. THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCING

In pursuance to the Minutes of the 37th Meeting of JK Expert Appraisal Committee held on 22nd April, 2021 conveyed vide endorsement No.EAC/JK/20/6970-982 dated 03.05.2021, the 36th Meeting of JK Environment Impact Assessment Authority was held on 06th May, 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 Environment clearance in favour of Shri Raman Kumar S/o Shri Krishan Dutt R/o Arnas District Reasi JK UT for Mineral Block-14 at River Ans, Downstream Narloo Bridge(Plan No.V) Tehsil-Thakrakote, District Reasi JK UT over an area of 9.51 ha under proposal No.**SIA/JK/MIN/57161/2020**

Deliberations:

The project has been discussed/appraised in the JKEAC meeting. The consultant has given a detailed presentation on the project during which he informed that Letter of Intent was issued to the project by J&K G&M Dept. on 20/07/2020 and the ToRs were issued for preparation of the EIA/EMP by JKEIAA on 27/12/2020 and the project has been conceived at a cost of Rs.97.56 lakh. He informed that the Public Hearing of the project was conducted by JKPCB on 26/02/2021. He presented the NOCs of Forest and Fisheries departments. However, the Committee desired that NOCs from other stakeholder departments need to be submitted as per approved checklist issued by the JKEIAA. The Committee observed that since the site is lying in close vicinity of Salaal Dam, the project proponent shall have to obtain a NOC from the Salaal Dam Authority specifically with respect to title of land. The consultant presented compliance of terms of Reference and the Committee observed that while the Consultant had complied with standard Terms of Reference, he has failed to present compliance to the specific terms of reference issued by the JK Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority vide letter No. JKEIAA/2020/339/1550-53 dated 27/12/2020. The Committee asked consultant to submit compliance of the specific ToRs issued by JKEIAA for considering the case for further appraisal.

In view of above deliberation, the Expert Appraisal Committee recommended that project proponent/Consultant be asked to ensure compliance to specific Terms of Reference issued by the JK Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority vide letter No.JKEIAA/2020/339/1550-53 dated:27/12/2020, besides, submitting NOCs from the other stakeholder departments/agencies like; Salaal Dam Authority, Irrigation & Flood Control Department.

Decision:

The JKEIAA agrees with recommendations of the JKEAC that project proponent/Consultant shall submit compliance to specific Terms of Reference issued by Environment Impact Assessment Authority vide letter No.JKEIAA/2020/339/1550-53 dated:27/12/2020 besides, submitting NOCs from other stake holder agencies/ Department as recommended by JKEAC herein above.

AGENDA ITEM NO.02.

Grant of Environment clearance in favour of Shri Vikesh Kumar S/o Shri Agya Pal R/o Arnas, District Reasi JK UT for Minor Mineral Block-11 at River Ans, Downstream Narloo Bridge 9 Plan No.II Tehsil-Mahore District Reasi JK UT over an area of 9.90 ha under proposal No.**SIA/JK/MIN/57162/2019.**

Deliberations:

The project has been discussed/appraised in the JKEAC meeting. The consultant has informed Committee that case is identical to and falls in close vicinity of the project discussed under agenda item No.1 and further informed that he had not submitted compliance to the Specific Terms of Reference issued by the JK Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority Vide Letter No. JKEIAA/2020/340/1546-49 dated:27/12/2020. The Committee asked the consultant to submit compliance of the specific ToRs issued by JKEIAA for considering the case for further appraisal. The Committee observed that since the mining block is in the close vicinity of the Salaal Dam, the project proponent shall have to obtain NOCs from the other stake holder departments/agencies like; Salaal Dam Authority, Irrigation & Flood Control Department as in the case dealt with earlier. In view of the above deliberations, the Expert Appraisal Committee recommended that the project proponent/Consultant be asked to ensure compliance to Specific Terms of Reference issued by the JK Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority vide letter No.JKEIAA/2020/340/1546-49 dated:27/12/2020 besides, submitting NOCs from the other stake holder departments/agencies like; Salaal Dam Authority, Irrigation & Flood Control Department.

Decision:

The JKEIAA agrees with recommendations of the JKEAC that project proponent/Consultant shall submit compliance to specific Terms of Reference issued by Environment Impact Assessment Authority vide letter No. JKEIAA/2020/339/1550-53 dated:27/12/2020 besides, submitting NOCs from other stake holder agencies / Department as recommended by JKEAC herein above.

AGENDA ITEM NO.03.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/s Aggarwal Mines R/o 328, Defence Colony Pathankot, Punjab for River Bed Mining project of Minor Mineral in Block No.06, Anji Khad Upstream Kayala Bridge, District Reasi, JK UT (Plan-VI) over an area of 9.95 ha under proposal No.**SIA/JK/MIN/61095/2021.**

Deliberations:

The project has been discussed/appraised in the JKEAC meeting. The consultant gave a detailed Power Point presentation on the project during which detailed deliberations were held on the various aspects of the project like Lol, mining depth, replenishment study, active water channel and surface plan. The consultant informed that the Lol was granted on 09/09/2020 and Mining plan was approved on 14/01/2021 at a project cost of Rs. 228.28 lakh. The Committee examined the mining block on Google Earth platform during which it was observed that a bridge with piers/abutments

exists at a distance of 200 m from mining block. Accordingly, it was desired that the block be reduced in size to keep a safe distance of 500 m from the bridge. The Committee desired that the specific ToRs in all cases hence forth must include an appreciation note to be formulated by the Consultant on the mining block, which would give detailed account of mining block, all areas of interest like bridges, active channel, green patches if any besides, environmental setting of its surrounds supported with site photographs of all important features based on field inspection by the consultant. In the mean time, TORs were recommended subjectively. In view of the above deliberations, the committee unanimously recommended the case for grant of terms of Reference subject to condition that the mining block size is reduced to maintain a safe distance of 500 m from the bridge.

Decisions:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee to grant of terms of Reference subject to condition that size of mining block is reduced to maintain a safe distance of 500 m from the bridge. JKEIAA also agrees with recommendation of JKEAC regarding submission of appreciation/status note indicating salient features of the mining block and environmental settings.

AGENDA ITEM NO.04.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/s Kesri Nandan Mines R/o Logate Kathua for Minor Mineral Block No.03 in Naj Nallah Upstream Naj Bridge, District Kathua, JK UT(Plan-I) over an area of 8.97 ha under proposal No.**SIA/JK/MIN/61553/2021.**

Deliberations:

The project has been discussed/appraised in JKEAC meeting. The consultant has given a detailed presentation on the project during which detailed deliberations have been held on various aspects of the project like Lol, mining depth, replenishment study, active water channel and surface plan. The consultant informed that Lol was granted on 09/09/2020 and mining plan was approved on 17/02/2021 at a project cost of Rs.171.48 lakh. The Committee examined mining block on Google Earth platform during which it was observed that the pillar coordinate C bearing geo-coordinates 32°37'8.15" N and 75°35'46.37" E falls within the available territorial forest boundary. The Consultant was asked to clarify this. In response to this, the consultant informed that the Divisional Forest Officer concerned has issued a No Objection certificate in favour of the mining block. The Committee examined the NOC and observed that the DFO has not mentioned the nearest pillar coordinate of the forest boundary while issuing the NOC. Therefore, the Committee desired that a fresh clarification should be sought from the Forest Department in which coordinates and distance from nearest pillar coordinate of the forest boundary from the pillar coordinate-C of mining block should be mentioned. The Committee also observed the mining block on the Google Earth platform using the KML/KMZ file of the mining block provided by the consultant. It was observed that a bridge exists at a distance of 460 m from the mining block. Accordingly, it was desired that the block be reduced in size to keep a safe distance of 500 m from bridge. The Committee took cognizance of the complaint/representation filed by Sh. Umakant Basotra, Chairman, Municipal Council, Billawar, Bikram Andotra, Member, District Development Council, Billawar and other concerned elected Members of the Council on the proposed mining activity in the region and desired comprehensive and specific reports from the respective Heads of various stake holder Departments in this regard. In this connection, esteemed Member, Engineer B. B Sharma informed the Committee that Billawar area faces grave scarcity of drinking water and all attempts to explore groundwater in the region have failed in the past meaning thereby that the area is mainly dependent on surface water only. It was opined that the concerned departments need to categorically underline the impact of mining

activity on surface water availability in the region besides, impact on the socio-economic condition of the locals. The consultant informed that joint NOC has been issued by the stake holder departments under the chairmanship of concerned Dy. Commissioner. However, the Committee desired clarification from HoDs concerned in view of representation from the local public representatives. A few members were of the opinion that ToRs may be subjectively considered with conditions and prior NOCs from the stake holder department. However, in view of the fact that some serious environmental issues concerning livelihood of the local people have been raised in the representation, the Chairman and other members were of the opinion that prior clarification from the Heads of the concerned stake holder departments must be sought on the said issues before proceeding further in the matter. In view of the above deliberations, the Committee recommended that the Project Proponent be asked to obtain detailed report from the Heads of Irrigation & Flood Control Dept. Geology & Mining Dept. and PHE Dept. in the light of representation by the local public representatives, besides, Forest Department in accordance with deliberations recorded herein above.

Decisions:

The JKEIAA agrees with recommendations of the JKEAC that Project Proponent be asked to obtain detailed report from the Heads of Irrigation & Flood Control Dept. Geology & Mining Dept. and PHE Department in light of representation by the local public representatives, besides, Forest Department in accordance with deliberations recorded herein above. Further the size of the block be reduced to ensure safe distance of 500 m from the bridge.

Agenda Item No.05.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Singh Minerals R/O Near Kali Mata Mandir Pathankot, Punjab for Minor Mineral in Block No.17, Ans River upstream Narloo Bridge, District Reasi, JK UT over an area of 8.85 ha under proposal No.**SIA/JK/MIN/61541/2021**.

Deliberations:

The project has been discussed/appraised in JKEAC meeting. The consultant has given a detailed presentation on the project during which detailed deliberations have been held on various aspects of the project like Lol, mining depth, replenishment study, active water channel and surface plan. The consultant informed that Lol was granted on 09/09/2020 and mining plan was approved on 14/01/2021 at a project cost of Rs. 251.22 lakh. The Committee examined the mining block on Google Earth platform during which it was observed that the mining block has nearly 40% area under active water channel. Accordingly, it was desired that the area under active water channel be excluded while calculating the targeted mineral production and the mining plan be accordingly corrected and approved *denovo*.

In view of the above deliberations, the committee unanimously recommended the case for grant of Terms of Reference subject to condition that the targeted mineral production is rectified in the mining plan by excluding the active water channel.

Decisions:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee to grant Terms of Reference to the project subject to condition that project area as well as targeted mineral production is rectified in the mining plan by excluding area under active water channel.

AGENDA ITEM NO.06.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/s Mahavir Mining R/o 01, Lane No.03, Shaheed Udham Singh Nagar, Pathankot, Punjab, for Minor Mineral in Block No.16 Ans River, Downstream Narloo Bridge, District Reasi, JK UT over an area of 8.20 ha under proposal No.**SIA/JK/MIN/61532/2021**.

Deliberations:

The project has been discussed/appraised in JKEAC meeting. The consultant has given a detailed presentation on the project during which detailed deliberations were held on the various aspects of the project like Lol, mining depth, replenishment study, active water channel and surface plan. The consultant informed that Lol was granted on 09/09/2020 and mining plan was approved on 14/01/2021 at a project cost of Rs. 308.86 Lakh. The Committee examined the mining block on Google Earth platform in combination with forest boundary during which it was observed that the edges of mining block apparently fall in the territorial forest boundary. Accordingly, it was desired that a categorical NOC be obtained from the Forest Department mentioning therein the forest pillar coordinates vis-à-vis nearest mining block coordinates. Besides, the area under active water channel be excluded while calculating the targeted mineral production and the mining plan be accordingly corrected and approved *denovo*.

In view of the above deliberations, the committee recommended that the project proponent be asked to obtain categorical NOC from Forest Department mentioning therein Forest pillar coordinates vis-à-vis nearest pillar coordinate of the mining block before proceeding further in the matter.

Decisions:

The JKEIAA agrees with the recommendations of JKEAC that project proponent be asked to obtain categorical NOC from Forest Department mentioning therein Forest pillar coordinates vis-à-vis nearest pillar coordinate of the mining block and exclude area under active water channel in calculation of targeted mineral production before proceeding further in the matter.

AGENDA ITEM NO.7.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Shiva Minerals R/O Focal Point Near Peer Baba Chowk, Malikpur, Pathankot, Punjab for Minor Mineral in Block No.12 Ans River, Downstream Narloo Bridge, District Reasi JK UT (Plan-III) over an area of 7.35 ha under proposal No.**SIA/JK/MIN/61528/2021**.

Deliberations:

The project has been discussed/appraised in JKEAC meeting. The consultant has given a detailed presentation on the project during which detailed deliberations were held on various aspects of the project. The consultant informed that Lol was granted on 09/09/2020 and the mining plan was approved on 14/01/2021 at a project cost of Rs.167.24 lakh. The Committee examined the mining block on Google Earth platform during which it was observed that the block is good for exploitation of the RBM. However, due to close proximity to Salaal Dam, it was desired that a categorical NOC be obtained from the Salaal Dam Authority besides, other stake holder departments like; Irrigation & Flood Control and Fisheries.

In view of the above deliberations, the committee unanimously recommended the case for grant of Terms of Reference subject to NOCs from the concerned agencies.

Decisions:

The JKEIAA up held the recommendations of the Committee grant of Terms of Reference to the project subject to NOCs from the concerned agencies indicated/ identified by the JKEAC herein above.

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/V/1186

Dated: 06 / 05 /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/Director/Member Secretary JKEIAA
Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, J&K