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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),

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## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

In pursuance to the Minutes of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the JK Expert Appraisal Committee held on 22nd January, 2022 through video Conferencing issued vide No. EAC/JK/22/12478-12490 dated 01-02-2022, the 75<sup>th</sup> of the JK Environment Impact Assessment Authority was held on 05<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 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 Amit Gupta S/O Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta R/o- 21/06, Trikuta Nagar, JK UT for RBM (River Bed Mineral) Minor Mineral Block Mining Project, Block-1/7 Area 9.12ha. Ans River, Downstream Kotranka Bridge (Kotranka Area), Rajouri (Plan-II) In Distt Rajouri JK UT under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/61173/2021.**

**Brief Summary:** This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B1 category for RBM (River Bed Mineral) Minor Mineral Block Mining Project, Block-1/7 Area 9.12ha. Ans River, Downstream Kotranka Bridge (Kotranka Area), Rajouri (Plan-II) In Distt Rajouri JK UT.

LOI has been issued on 08-08-2020, which has been extended on 21-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 16-02-2021. The Terms of Reference were issued to the project on 14-05-2021 and public hearing was conducted on 25-09-2021. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 24-04-2021 and 17-11-2021.

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 the appraisal report shows that stakeholder departments have issued NOCs(conditionally) in favour of the project. Fisheries Dept. has reported that the mining block falls under reserved Trout beat. During Public Hearing the people have questioned the title of the land and have stated that block falls under Khasra No. 967 which is Kacharai land whereas the revenue department has issued NOC stating the said block as state land.

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

- a) The project had earlier been discussed during 38th meeting held on 24.04.2021 during which the Committee recommended ToRs in favour of the project subject to joint inspection by the interdepartmental committee to fix responsibility for illegal mining in the mining block.
- b) The project came under appraisal for grant of EC during the 72nd meeting held on 17/11/2021 during which the Committee observed that the project proponent has obtained clarification from the Multi departmental District Level (MDLTF) cell, stating that the PP is not involved in any kind of illegal mining activity in the said mining block. However, the Committee did not consider the case for grant of EC and desired prior compliance to following observations:
  - i. District Administration to examine the issues relating to land title of the mining block and to report whether it is a Kacharai land or a state land.
  - ii. Clarification from the concerned Xen Irrigation Dept.w.r.t presence or absence of irrigation off-take points within 200m from the mining block substantiated with a colour Google Image of the area depicting same and duly certified by the concerned Hydraulic Engineer with local PRI on board.
  - iii. Compliance to specific ToR condition relating to photographs of display screen of Air Quality Monitoring Station displaying the dates of collection of data.
  - iv. Categorical certificate from Fisheries Dept. stating whether the mining activity should or should not be allowed in the block to safeguard fish faunal habitat as the Block 1/7 Kotranka area falls under Reserved Trout beat.
  - v. Revision of EMP, CER budget.
  - vi. Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, surface plan, targeted mineral production and replenishment and its denovo approval by the competent authority.
- c) During deliberations in the instant meeting, the Committee observed as:
  - i. With respect to item i. the project proponent has not submitted title re-verification in view of issues raised w.r.t title of land under the block during the public hearing.
  - ii. Letter dated 25/11/2021 with Google image of the mining block obtained from Xen Irrigation dept. in compliance to observation made under serial ii supra, does in no way clarify whether any offtake point of irrigation kuhl does or does not exist within 200m and therefore, the issue remains open till unambiguous clarification is received from the Irrigation Dept.
  - iii. Compliance to serial No.iii, supra is also awaited.
  - iv. Compliance to serial No. iv. Supra has been received in the form of letter dated 24/11/2021 from the Asst. Director, Fisheries Dept. stating therein that the mining activity shall not have any adverse impact on fish fauna provided the mining activity is restricted to dry shoals only besides other conditions conveyed earlier. The Committee opined that mining activity is required to be restricted only to dry shoals and the Fisheries Dept. must clearly spell out technical opinion whether to allow or prohibit mining activity in a block falling under a reserved trout beat.
  - v. Compliance to serial no. v has also not been done.
  - vi. Compliance to serial no. vi has also not been done.

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

In view of the above deliberations and insight gained during the above cited appraisal process, the Committee did not approve the case for grant of EC in the present form. The PP, if he so desires, may again approach the JKEIAA after ensuring compliance to all the observations made by the Committee herein above and in the previous meeting.

### **Decisions of JKEIAA:**

After due deliberations, the JKEIAA upheld recommendations of the JKEAC to reject the case for grant of Environment clearance in the present form. However, project proponent, may resubmit the case to JKEIAA after ensuring compliance to all the observations made here-in-above.

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

**Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of Shri Varun Chaudhary S/O Shri Ramesh Lal R/O KhorSalarian, District Samba. JK UT for RBM (River Bed Mineral) Minor Mineral Block, Block No 14, Mining Project, Bhini River, Down Stream Naj Bride Billawar (Plan-IX), Tehsil-Billawar, District- Kathua, JK UT, area 8.98ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/60107/2021.**

### **Brief Summary.**

This case pertains to grant of Terms of Reference under B1 category for RBM (River Bed Mineral) Minor Mineral Block, Block No 14 Mining Project, Bhini River, Down Stream Naj Bride Billawar (Plan-IX), Tehsil-Billawar, District- Kathua, JK UT, area 8.98ha.

LOI has been issued on 14-02-2020, which has been extended on 31-12-2021 and is valid up to 13-02-2022. Mining plan has been approved on 06-07-2020. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 15-02-2021.

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 the appraisal report shows that stakeholder departments have issued NOCs (conditionally) in favour of the project, except for Revenue and PHE Department.

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

- a) The project had earlier been discussed during 26<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 15.02.2021 during which the Committee desired the project proponent to obtain prior clarification from the Forest department indicating therein that the mining block does not fall in forest land.
- b) The PP has now submitted NOC from the Forest Dept. indicating therein that the mining block falls in a non-forest area which is 3.10 km from the demarcated forest boundary. However, the Committee found that the NOC does not indicate the geo-coordinates of the forest boundary pillar nearest to the mining block and therefore, desired that the PP should obtain detailed clarification vis-à-vis the actual demarcation line at the time of applying for EC.
- c) Title verification of the mining block is awaited.
- d) Active water channel detected in the mining block which needs to be excluded from the mining block.
- e) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, surface plan, targeted mineral production and replenishment and its denovo approval by the competent authority.

- f) Mining depth be restricted to max. 1m in aggregate and bulk density be based on actual ground measurements for calculating the production targets in absence of actual field measurements.
- g) Comprehensive chapter on haulage route and consent of PRI with respect to haulage of material need to be obtained.
- h) The Committee observed that the PP has only authorized the M/S Gaurang Consultants. However, the PFR has been submitted by M/S Cognizance Research India Ltd. Therefore, the PP needs to clarify same and authorize consultants accordingly.

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

In view of the above deliberations and insight gained during the above cited appraisal process, the Committee recommended the case for the grant of Terms of reference as per Annexure-A and subject to conditions/observations recorded under deliberations herein above.

#### **Decisions of JKEIAA:**

After due deliberations, the JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the JKEAC to grant Terms of Reference to the project subject to conditions/observations made by JKEAC under deliberations here-in-above.

#### **Agenda Item No.03.**

**Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of Shri Jagdish Singh S/O Shri Vijay Singh R/o Malakpur, District-Pathankot, JK UT for Riverbed Mining Project Of Minor Mineral Block 02, ANG/SA/02 Mehmoodabad Bridge Upstream Sandran Nalla, District-Anantnag, JK UT1.10ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/241681/2021 &SIA/JK/MIN/59441/2020.**

**Brief Summary:** This case pertains to grant of Environment clearance under B2 category for Riverbed Mining Project of Minor Mineral Block 02, ANG/SA/02 Mehmoodabad Bridge Upstream Sandran Nalla, District-Anantnag, JK UT1.10ha.

LOI has been issued on 21-07-2020, which has been extended on 28-12-2021 and is valid up to 31-03-2022. Mining plan has been approved on 02-11-2020. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 09-01-2021 and area of the project has been reduced by the Geology & Mining Department on 21-08-2021.

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 NOC's in the appraisal report shows that stakeholder departments had issued NOCs (conditionally) in favour of the project.

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

- a) The project had earlier been discussed during the 23rd meeting held on 09/01/2021 during which the Committee recommended Terms of Reference for the project subject to condition that the mining block be reduced in size so as to maintain a safe distance of 500mts from the bridge.

- b) Now the PP has applied under B2 category after resizing the mining block to 1.10 Ha from 3.27 Ha, thereby maintaining a safe distance of more than 500 m to the civil structure.
- c) The Cluster certificate has been submitted by the PP in favour of the mining block for consideration under B2 category.
- d) The Committee further observed that mining reserves have greatly depleted due to heavy illegal mining and hardly any reserves of minor minerals are available which can be extracted without damaging the environmental setting of the nalla. Therefore, the Committee desired that the PP should obtain a 'fit for mining certificate' from the G&M Dept. to the effect that adequate replenishment has taken place and there is sufficient material to be exploited without endangering the ecological and hydrological regime of the nalla.
- e) Heavy illegal mining activity was detected in the mining block as per features on Google image of Nov, 2020 for which clarification shall be obtained from the MDLTF Cell for fixing responsibility and to indicate whether the PP is involved in the mining activity.
- f) Features indicative of one irrigation offtake point in immediate vicinity of the block was observed on Google image of Nov, 2020. Therefore, the Committee desired project proponent to obtain field verification of the observations by the concerned Xen Irrigation Dept. In case, it is found that such irrigation facilities are not actually existing, same needs to be recorded by the concerned hydraulic engineer with consent of local PRI, with seal and signature, certifying therein that there are no irrigation off-take points within 200m of the mining block boundary, preferably on the back side of Colour Google image of the area depicting the mining block boundary and Kuhls/canals off-take points.
- g) NOC issued by the stakeholder departments are on a generalized format. The NOCs do not indicate presence or absence of irrigation/water supply scheme infrastructure within 200m and thereby making it difficult for the Committee to take an informed decision. Therefore, the stakeholders need to issue categorical and clear NOC/objection keeping in view the national guidelines on sustainable sand mining.
- h) Active water channel detected in the mining block needs to be excluded while calculating the revised targeted mineral production.
- i) Project cost has been underestimated by the consultant as it does not include cost of EMP, CER and therefore needs to be revised.
- j) EMP budget needs to be revised with appropriate budget.
- k) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, targeted mineral production and replenishment and its denovo approval by the competent authority.

**Recommendations of the JKEAC:**

In view of the above deliberations and insight gained during the above cited appraisal process, the Committee did not recommend the case for grant of environmental clearance in the present form.

However, the PP, if he so desires, may again approach the JKEIAA after submitting compliances to the observations made herein above under deliberations.

### **Decisions of JKEIAA:**

After due deliberations, the JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the JKEAC to reject the case for grant of Environment clearance in the present form. However, project proponent, may resubmit the case to JKEIAA after ensuring compliance to all the observations made by the Committee here-in-above.

### **Agenda Item No.04.**

**Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of Shri Umesh Kumar Sharma S/O Shri Shiv Narayan Sharma R/O B-33568, Gurudaswara Saroop Nagar, Ludhiana Punjab JK UT for Minor Mineral Block 1/8, in Ans River, Downstream Kotranka Bridge, Village Kotranka, District Rajouri, JK UT, Revised Area 4.05 ha. (ADS) under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/60790/2021.**

**Brief Summary:** This case pertains to grant of Environment clearance under B1 category for Minor Mineral Block 1/8, in Ans River, Downstream Kotranka Bridge, Village Kotranka, District Rajouri, JK UT, Revised Area 4.05 ha.

LOI has been issued on 06-08-2020, which has been extended on 27-12-2021 and is valid up to 31-03-2022. Mining plan has been approved on 05-01-2020. The Terms of Reference were issued to the project on 30-03-2021 and public hearing of the project was conducted on 28-07-2021. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 13-03-2021 and 05-11-2021. The area of the project has been reduced by the Geology & Mining Department on 07-11-2021.

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 the appraisal report shows that stakeholder departments have issued NOCs(conditionally) in favour of the project. As per NOC issued by the Fisheries Dept. the Block 1/8 Kotranka area falls under Reserved Trout Beat.

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

- a) The case had been discussed earlier during the 29th Meeting held on 13/03/2021 during which the Committee recommended ToRs to the project subject to report of Multi Dept. Committee on illegal mining, exclusion of active water channel and title verification of the mining block.
- b) The case was appraised for grant of EC during the 69<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 05/11/2021 during which committee desired prior compliance to following observations:-
  - i. Fresh Clarification from Fisheries Dept. to safeguard fish faunal habitat as the Block 1/8 Kotranka area falls under Reserved Trout beat.
  - ii. Clarification from the concerned Xen Irrigation Dept.w.r.t presence or absence of irrigation off-take points within 200m from the mining block substantiated with a colour Google Image of the area depicting same and duly certified by the concerned Hydraulic Engineer with local PRI on board.
  - iii. Revision of EMP, CER budget.
  - iv. Compliance to specific ToR condition relating to photographs of display screen of Air Quality Monitoring Station displaying the dates of collection of data.
  - v. Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, surface plan, targeted mineral production and replenishment and its denovo approval by the competent authority.

- c) During deliberations in the instant meeting, the Committee observed:
  - i) Compliance to serial No. i. Supra has been received in the form of letter dated 22/11/2021 from the Asst. Director, Fisheries Dept. stating therein that the mining activity shall not have any adverse impact on fish fauna provided the mining activity is restricted to dry shoals only besides other conditions conveyed earlier.
  - ii) The Committee opined that mining activity is always required to be restricted only to dry shoals and the Fisheries Dept. must clearly spell out technical opinion whether to allow or prohibit mining activity in a block falling under a reserved trout beat, prior to grant of EC.
- d) Letter dated 25/11/2021 with Google image of the mining block obtained from Xen Irrigation dept. in compliance to observation made under serial ii supra, shows that offtake point of irrigation kuhl lies in close vicinity. The PP has got the mining block resized by G&M Dept. to maintain a safe distance of 200m from the offtake point leaving the resultant mining block of 4.05 Ha only.
- e) The Committee desired that the PHE dept. should also certify that no PHE infrastructure exists within 200mts of the mining block, prior to grant of EC.
- f) EMP budget though revised needs further refinement as per remarks column herein above, prior to grant of EC.
- g) Compliance to serial No.iv, supra is also awaited and same needs to be submitted prior to grant of EC.
- h) Compliance to serial No.v, supra is also awaited and same needs to be submitted prior to grant of EC.

**Recommendations of the JKEAC:**

In view of the above deliberations and insight gained during the above cited appraisal process, the Committee recommended the case for grant of environmental clearance subject to:

- a) Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of JKEAC Meeting.
- b) Submission of compliance to the observations made herein above under deliberations, prior to grant of EC.
- c) Revision of mining plan as detailed above, prior to grant of EC.
- d) Submission of field verification report from concerned Xen, PHE Dept. with seal and signature with local PRI on board, certifying therein that there are no PHE infrastructure existing within 200m of the mining block, preferably on the back side of Colour Google image, prior to grant of formal EC.
- e) Securing of 'non-involvement in illegal mining certificate' from MDLTF Cell, prior to grant of EC.
- f) Submission of photographs of display screen of air quality monitoring stations showing dates of baseline data collection prior to grant of EC.
- g) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments which need to be monitored by the enforcement agencies and concerned dept.
- h) No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- i) Maximum targeted mineral production of 48600 MT.

- j) Condition the geographical coordinates as per revised area conveyed by G&M Dept. are mentioned in the EC letter by JKEIAA.
- 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.

### **Decisions of JKEIAA:**

After due deliberations, the JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the JKEAC to grant Environment clearance to the project subject to:-

- a) Standard and Specific Conditions as stipulated by JKEIAA/JKEAC.
- b) Submission of compliance to the observations made by JKEAC here-in-above prior to grant of EC.
- c) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, surface plan, and its approval by the competent authority within a period of three months from the date of issuance of E.C.
- d) Mining depth be restricted to max. 1m in aggregate and bulk density of 2.0 be adopted for calculating mineral production subject to maximum production of 48600 MT.
- e) Revision of EIA, EMP/CER Budget as suggested by JKEAC prior to grant of EC.
- f) Submission of field verification report from concerned Xen, PHE Dept. with seal and signature, certifying therein that there are no PHE infrastructure existing within 200m of periphery of mining block, prior to grant of formal EC.
- g) The MDLTF Cell headed by the concerned Dy. Commissioner shall submit a report to JKEIAA, within a period of six weeks or before execution of lease of minor mineral block, whichever is earlier, that PP is not involved in the illegal mining activity, failing which the EC is liable to be revoked.
- h) Compliance to the specific ToR condition relating to photographs of display screen displaying the date of collection of data within six months of grant of formal EC.
- i) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments which need to be monitored by the enforcement agencies and concerned dept.
- j) No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- k) While issuing EC, Member Secretary shall specifically mention revised geographical coordinates for revised area conveyed by G&M Dept.
- 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.05.**

**Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of M/S 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: 3.11 ha. Ari Nallah Ari Area Mendhar River, Tehsil-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: 3.11 ha. Ari Nallah Ari Area Mendhar River, Tehsil - Mehdhar, District-Poonch JK UT.

LOI has been issued on 09-09-2020, which has been extended on 15-04-2021 and is valid up to 31-03-2022. Mining plan has been approved on 24-11-2020. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 22-09-2021.

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 the appraisal report shows that stakeholder departments have issued NOCs (conditionally) in favour of the project. Dy. Commissioner, Poonch vide reference 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 61<sup>st</sup> meeting held on to 22/09/2021 during which the Committee rejected the case for grant of EC as the off-take point of irrigation kuhls were found within and in close vicinity of the mining block and the Committee had desired the PP to propose prior mitigation measures against potential damage to irrigation off-take kuhls, keeping in view the fact the Irrigation & Flood Control Dept. while issuing NOC under Single Window System, had put a condition that no mining activity should be carried out within 50m from the offtake points of irrigation structures, if any.
- b) The PP has again approached the JKEIAA after obtaining a fresh NOC dated 25/11/2021 indicating that no irrigation canal is lying within 200m of the mining block.
- c) The active water channel needs to be excluded while computing the minable reserves and the PFR should also be revised accordingly.
- d) The Committee also desired that the PP should obtain prior consent of the PRI for undertaking mining activity in the mining block.
- e) Mining depth of 3.0 m & bulk density of 2.25 adopted in the instant mining plan were not agreed by the committee. Mining depth be restricted to max. 1m in aggregate and bulk density of 2.0 only be adopted for calculating the production targets in absence of actual field measurements.

**Recommendations of the JKEAC:**

In view of the above deliberations / observations made by the Committee here-in-above, the Expert Appraisal Committee recommended the project for grant of EC subject to: -

- a) Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of JKEAC Meeting.
- b) Submission of compliance to the observations made herein above under deliberations, prior to grant of EC.
- c) Revision of Prefeasibility Report by recalculating minable reserves, prior to grant of EC
- d) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, surface plan, targeted mineral production and replenishment and its denovo approval by the competent authority prior to grant of EC.
- e) Mining depth of 1m and bulk density of 2.00m in aggregate in view of non-availability of replenishment data in the DSRs formulated by the G&M Dept.

- f) Maximum targeted mineral production of 37300 MT.
- g) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stockholder departments which needs to be monitored by the enforcement agencies and concerned department.
- h) No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- i) Condition the geographical coordinates as per LOI to be conveyed by G&M Dept. are mentioned in the EC letter by JKEIAA.
- 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

### **Decisions of JKEIAA:**

After due deliberations, the JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the JKEAC to grant of Environment clearance to the project subject to:-

- a) Standard and Specific Conditions as stipulated by JKEIAA/JKEAC
- b) Submission of compliance to the observations made by JKEAC here-in-above prior to grant of EC.
- c) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, surface plan, and its approval by the competent authority within a period of three months from the date of issuance of E.C.
- d) Mining depth be restricted to max. 1m in aggregate and bulk density of 2.0 be adopted for calculating mineral production subject to maximum production of 37300 MT.
- e) Revision of Prefeasibility Report by recalculating minable reserves, prior to grant of EC
- f) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stockholder departments which needs to be monitored by the enforcement agencies and concerned department.
- g) No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- h) Compliance to the specific ToR condition relating to photographs of display screen displaying the date of collection of data within six months of grant of formal EC.
- i) 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 M/S Sai Mines (Shri Karanvir Singh S/O Shri Surinder Singh 01, Lane No.3, Shaheed Udham Singh Nagar Pathankot, Punjab) for River bed material project at minor mineral Block 23, Johad Khad, Village Johad, Tehsil & District Kathua, JK UT resized Area 5.71ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/59417/2020.**

**Brief Summary:** This case pertains to grant of Environment clearance under B1 category for River bed material project at minor mineral Block 23, Johad Khad, Village Johad, Tehsil & District Kathua, JK UT resized Area 5.71ha.

LOI has been issued on 24-07-2020, which has been extended on 15-04-2021 and is valid up to 31-03-2022. Mining plan has been approved on 26-11-2020. The Terms of Reference were issued to the project on 18-01-2021 and public hearing of the project was conducted on 02-07-2021. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 09-01-2021 & 30-09-2021. The area of the project was reduced by the Geology & Mining Department on 01-11-2021.

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 the appraisal report shows that stakeholder departments had issued NOCs(conditionally) in favour of the project.

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

- a) The project had earlier been discussed during 23rd meeting held on 09/01/2021 and subsequently in 62<sup>nd</sup> Meeting held on 30/09/2021 during which the Expert Appraisal Committee rejected the case and desired the PP to:-
  - i. To resize the mining block for maintaining safe distance of 500 mts. from the Bridge.
  - ii. To obtain title verification of the land under mining block in accordance with NOC from I&FC Dept.
- b) Now the PP has again approached the JKEIAA after resizing the mining block to 5.71ha instead of its original area of 6.31ha vide letter No. 8727-28 dated 01/11/2021 to maintain a safe distance of 500 mts. from the bridge.
- c) The PP has also submitted a Title verification from the concerned Tehsildar, Kathua vide letter dated 12/11/2021 mentioning that proposed mining block is a state land.
- d) Compliance of specific TOR condition relating to photographs of display screen displaying the date of collection of data missing in EIA report which needs to be submitted prior to grant of EC.
- e) The certificate issued by the local panchayat also came under discussion and the Committee desired that the assurances given to them be honored. The genuine concerns of the locals deliberated during the public hearing should be addressed by the PP.
- f) The conditions of NOC of stockholder department need to be adhered to in letter and spirit.
- g) Mining depth of 2.5 m & bulk density of 2.25 adopted in the instant mining plan were not agreed by the committee. Mining depth be restricted to max. 1m in aggregate and bulk density of 2.0 only be adopted for calculating the production targets in absence of actual field measurements.

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

In view of the above deliberations / observations made by the Committee herein above, the Expert Appraisal Committee recommended the project for grant of EC subject to: -

- a) Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of JKEAC Meeting.
- b) Submission of compliance to the observations made herein above under deliberations, prior to grant of EC.

- c) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, surface plan, targeted mineral production and replenishment and its denovo approval by the competent authority prior to grant of EC.
- d) Maximum targeted mineral production of 68500 MT.
- e) Compliance of ToR condition relating to submission of photographs of display screen of the air quality monitoring station showing data with dates of collection of the baseline data in the updated EIA report, prior to grant of formal EC.
- f) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stockholder departments which needs to be monitored by the enforcement agencies and concerned department.
- g) No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- h) Condition the revised geographical coordinates as per revised area conveyed by G&M Dept. are mentioned in the EC letter by JKEIAA.
- i) 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

### **Decisions of JKEIAA:**

After due deliberations, the JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the JKEAC to grant of Environment clearance to the project subject to:-

- a) Standard and Specific Conditions as stipulated by JKEIAA/JKEAC
- b) Submission of compliance to the observations made by JKEAC here-in-above prior to grant of EC.
- c) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, surface plan, and its approval by the competent authority within a period of three months from the date of issuance of E.C.
- d) Mining depth be restricted to max. 1m in aggregate and bulk density of 2.0 be adopted for calculating mineral production subject to maximum production of 68500 MT.
- e) Compliance to the specific ToR condition relating to photographs of display screen displaying the date of collection of data within six months of grant of formal EC.
- f) Genuine concerns of the locals deliberated during the public hearing should be addressed by the PP.
- g) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments which need to be monitored by the enforcement agencies and concerned dept.
- h) No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- i) While issuing EC, Member Secretary shall specifically mention revised geographical coordinates for revised area conveyed by G&M Dept.
- 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.07.**

**Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of M/S Kesari Nandan Mines, Logate Kathua, JK UT for Minor Mineral Block-24, Jothana Di Khad at Village Janal Plan I, District - Kathua, JK UT resized Area 1.57ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/225337/2021 & SIA/JK/MIN/60441/2021**

**Brief Summary:** This case pertains to grant of Environment clearance under B2 category for Minor Mineral Block-24, Jothana Di Khad at Village Janal Plan I, District - Kathua, JK UT resized Area 1.57ha.

LOI has been issued on 05-08-2020, which has been extended on 15-04-2021 and was valid up to 31-08-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 26-11-2020. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 10-03-2021 and 04-09-2021. The area of the project was reduced by the Geology & Mining Department on 02-12-2021.

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 the appraisal report shows that stakeholder departments have issued NOCs (conditionally) in favour of the project.

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

- a) The project had earlier been discussed during 28<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 10/03/2021 and 59<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 04/09/2021 during which the Committee recommended the case for rejection of Environmental Clearance and desired the project proponent:
  - i. To obtain a site-specific NOC from Irrigation Dept to the effect that the mining activity in proposed mining block shall not adversely affect the irrigation channel existing if any.
  - ii. To obtain title verification of the mining block from Revenue Dept. in view of the apprehensions expressed in NOC of the Irrigation Dept.
  - iii. To obtain pending NOCs from other stake holder departments.
- b) The PP has now again approached the JKEIA for considering the case after getting the area of the mining block resized to 1.57 ha from its original size of 3.81 ha vide letter dated 02/12/2021 from the G&M Dept. The committee observed that neither the PP nor the G&M Dept. has specified the reasons for resizing the mining block.
- c) The PP has also submitted the revised NOC from irrigation department kathua vide letter dated 27/10/2021 mentioning that outfall of a kuhl / channel originating from left bank of river Ujh (managed by local farmers themselves) is falling on the right bank of Jothana Khad and the farmers on the left bank of the Jothana Khad use the water of this outfall by constructing a channel across the Jothana khad which passes through the proposed Minor mineral Block No. 24 and that the Irrigation Dept. would have no objection if the water supply of the farmers is not interrupted and the Kuhl/supply channel are not affected by quarrying/ excavation etc. The committee observed that the concerned Xen has clearly indicated that the supply channel of the kuhl passes through the proposed mining block and it was opined that mining activity shall have adverse impact on the availability of water for irrigation, if mining activity is allowed in the entire mining block. However, the consultant pleaded that if mining is allowed upstream and downstream of the channel keeping a safe buffer of 100m, it would not have any adverse impact on the

transmission of irrigation water and that allowing mining activity in such manner would not be against the guidelines on sand mining.

- d) The Committee, however, considered the plea of the consultant partially and recommended that the project proponent may be allowed to mine upstream part of the mining block only comprising of one Ha only, keeping a safe buffer of 100m from the channel and further desired that he would be fully accountable for any adverse fallout of mining activity in the specified area. Further, he would take all mitigation measures to ensure satisfactory transmission of irrigation water across the nalla/khad.
- e) The PP has also submitted a NOC from concerned Sarpanch mentioning that Gram Panchayat or any other villagers have no objection to the proposed mining operation in the above-mentioned block.
- f) The PP has submitted the Title verification from Tehsildar kathua mentioning the mining block as state land.
- g) Illegal mining activity detected in the mining block as per features on Google image of June., 2020 which needs clarification from competent authority and to fix responsibility thereof and to report whether the PP is involved in it, prior to grant of EC. In case the PP is reported to have been involved, the process of EC shall be aborted.
- h) Mining depth of 2.5 m & bulk density of 2.25 adopted in the instant mining plan were not agreed by the committee. Mining depth be restricted to max. 1m and bulk density to 2 in absence of actual field measurements and non-availability of replenishment data.

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

In view of the above deliberations / observations made by the Committee herein above, the Expert Appraisal Committee recommended the project for grant of EC subject to: -

- a) Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of JKEAC Meeting.
- b) Submission of compliance to the observations made herein above under deliberations, prior to grant of EC.
- c) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, surface plan, targeted mineral production and replenishment and its denovo approval by the competent authority prior to grant of EC.
- d) Maximum targeted mineral production of 20000 MT.
- e) Compliance of ToR condition relating to submission of photographs of display screen of the air quality monitoring station showing data with dates of collection of the baseline data in the updated EIA report, prior to grant of formal EC.
- f) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stockholder departments which needs to be monitored by the enforcement agencies and concerned department.
- g) No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- h) Condition the revised geographical coordinates as per revised area conveyed by G&M Dept. are mentioned in the EC letter by JKEIAA prior to grant of EC.

- i) 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

**Decisions of JKEIAA:**

After due deliberations, the JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the JKEAC to grant of Environment clearance for one hectare of area only upstream irrigation channel, subject to:-

- a) Revalidation of Lol by the Geology and Mining Department.
- b) Standard and Specific Conditions as stipulated by JKEIAA/JKEAC
- c) Submission of compliance to the observations made by JKEAC here-in-above prior to grant of EC.
- d) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, surface plan, and its approval by the competent authority within a period of three months from the date of issuance of E.C.
- e) Mining depth be restricted to max. 1m in aggregate and bulk density of 2.0 be adopted for calculating mineral production subject to maximum production of 20000 MT.
- f) Compliance to the specific ToR condition relating to photographs of display screen displaying the date of collection of data within six months of grant of formal EC.
- g) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments which need to be monitored by the enforcement agencies and concerned dept.
- h) No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- i) While issuing EC, Member Secretary shall specifically mention revised geographical coordinates for revised area conveyed by G&M Dept.
- 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.

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/VIII/5825-42**

**Dated:11/02/2022**

Copy by email to:

1. Mr. Lal Chand, IFS (Rtd.), Hon'ble Chairman, JKEIAA, for information.
2. Er. Nazir Ahmad (Rtd. Chief Engineer), Hon'ble Member, JKEIAA, for information.

3. Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Mining Department, J&K Government for favour of information.
4. Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, J&K Government, Civil Secretariat, Jammu for favour of kind information.
5. Dr. Neelu Gera, IFS PCCF/Director, EE&RS, Member Secretary, JKEIAA, for information
6. Director, Geology & Mining Department, J&K Government, Jammu for information and necessary action.
7. Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri, Poonch, Kathua & Anantnag for information.
8. Chief Engineer, PDD, Jammu/Kashmir for information and n/a.
9. Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Jammu/Srinagar for information and n/a.
10. Chief Engineer, PHE, Jal Shakti, Jammu/Srinagar for information and n/a.
11. The Secretary, JK Expert Appraisal Committee for information.
12. Website(s)



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