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

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MINUTES OF THE 54th MEETING OF JK ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY HELD ON 08th SEPTEMBER, 2021 THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING

In pursuance to the Minutes of the 59th Meeting of JK Expert Appraisal Committee held on 04th September, 2021 conveyed vide endorsement NO:EAC/JK/20/9187-199 Dated: 06.09.2021, the 54th Meeting of JK Environment Impact Assessment Authority was held on 08th September, 2021 through video conferencing.

The following attended the meeting: -

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| 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 and 02.

Grant of Environmental clearance for Minor Minerals (RBM) at Block No. 28, Area (9.89) Ha located at Army camp Aghama D/Stream Nallah Rambaira, Tehsil: Chitragam, District- Shopian U.T J& K in favour of Feroz Ah. Wani S/O Gh. Mohammad Wani under proposal NO **SIA/JK/MIN/66641/2020 // SIA/JK/MIN/54931/2020**

and

Grant of Environmental clearance for Minor Minerals (RBM) at Block No. 30, Area (8.21) Ha, located at Irrigation Scheme Nowpora D/Stream Nallah Rambaira, Tehsil: Chitragam, District- Shopian & U.T J& K in favour of Feroz Ah. Wani S/O Gh. Mohammad Wani under proposal NO **SIA/JK/MIN/66645/2020 // SIA/JK/MIN/54946/2020**

Brief Summary: These cases pertain to grant of Environment Clearance under B1 category for proposed RBM (River Bed Mineral) Mining project at Block No. 28, Area (9.89) Ha located at Army camp Aghama D/Stream Nallah Rambaira, Tehsil: Chitragam, District- Shopian U.T J& K and at Block No. 30, Area (8.21) Ha, located at Irrigation Scheme Nowpora D/Stream Nallah Rambaira, Tehsil: Chitragam, District- Shopian & U.T J& K. LOI in both cases has been issued on 02/04/2020, which was later extended on 15-04-2021 and was valid up to 31-08-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 09/06/2020. These cases were earlier discussed by JKEAC on 13-08-2020. As per summary of appraisal report, Approved Mine Plans /Mine closure Plans, District Survey Report was not formulated as per guidelines and needs to be revised. Status of NOCs in appraisal report shows that NOCs have been issued conditionally by Irrigation, Flood Control, Fisheries and PHE Departments.

Deliberations/Specific Observations of JKEAC.

- a) The projects have earlier been discussed in 11th meeting held on 13.08.2020 during which the committee recommended TORs for mining block 28, 29 and block 30 as a cluster situation because all the three mining blocks of single project proponent were closely located and represented by same consultant. While, the mining block 28 and 30 are under consideration under agenda 1 and 2 in the instant meeting, the case relating to mining block No.29 was under scrutiny in JKEIAA Office and is now in the pipeline.
- b) In order to take a holistic view of the entire cluster, the Committee examined all the three mining blocks on Google Earth platform and observed that the supply channel of the nearby kuhl /canal is originating from the centre of the mining block No.29 with mining blocks 28 and 30 lying on its either side upstream and downstream respectively.
- c) Illegal mining activity was detected in the mining blocks as per features on Google image of May, 2021 which needs clarification from the Multi Dept. District level Task Force (MLDTF) Cell in order to fix responsibility for illegal mining in the area.
- d) The Committee observed that the test reports of the baseline data are bearing date of issue as 30/10/2020 and are in the name of new consultant viz. Atmos Sustainable Solutions Pvt. Ltd. when the said consultancy did not exist as authorized consultancy of the project proponent in the year 2020. In fact, the project proponent changed the consultant from M/S Oceano Environment Engineering Solutions to M/S Atmos Sustainable Solutions Pvt. Ltd. probably in the month of August, 2021. Mr. Gilbert was asked to explain this but he could not give any satisfactory explanation which questions the very credibility of the baseline data so projected as well as the NABEL Accredited Lab M/S J.P. Test & Research Centre, Gaziabad, UP.
- e) The compliance to specific ToR condition No.20 relating to photographs of display screen displaying the date of collection of data was also found missing in EIA report.
- f) In the concluding part of the Public Hearing Report, the authorities have reported as under: -

“From the above discussion during both the sessions of Public Hearing, it can be construed that people were opposing mining activities because of their apprehension about damage to the irrigation canals by excavation. They were also apprehensive of its impact on their horticulture and agricultural activities, loss of land, unemployment among the local population, use of mechanical equipment for mining during night hours, environmental/ecological degradation. The above-mentioned issues raised by the public should be taken care of before granting environmental clearance.”

- g) The NOCs presented by the consultant were found to be of general nature / not specific to the mining blocks under consideration. While examining the pertinent mining blocks 28,29 and 30 forming cluster on the Google Image of May, 2021, the Committee observed that the irrigation supply channels are emanating from the mining block 29 and any mining in this block as well as adjacent to it (Block 28 & 30) would contravene the conditions specified by the Irrigation & Flood Control Dept. which prohibit excavation in an area lying between 100m upstream and 100m downstream from the existing irrigation structures/kuhls/headworks. The mining activity is bound to lower down or depress Nala bed rendering it impossible to

channelize the water to the existing kuhls/canals, thus adversely affecting agricultural / horticultural activities, the mainstay of livelihood of the people living in the area.

- h) The Committee also observed that the stakeholder departments are issuing NOCs of general nature without giving due considerations to the facts and circumstances specific to each mining block and therefore, it was unanimously desired that the JKEIAA should take up the matter with all the Dy. Commissioners and HoDs of the concerned stakeholder departments so that NOCs in favour of mining block are issued after fully assessing the impact of proposed mining activity on the natural and manmade assets lying within these mining blocks.

Recommendations of JKEAC.

In view of the above deliberations and insight gained during the above cited appraisal process, the Committee recommended the cases of mining block No, 28 and 30 in the cluster for rejection of grant of Environmental Clearance unless and until fool proof technical measures are proposed for implementation on ground to ensure that there is no interruption in flow of water for irrigation and other consumptive use by the local community, which in fact shall have to be specifically certified and technically vetted by the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Dept. and Chief Engineer, PHE Department. In view of the recommendations made w.r.t the cluster of which mining block No.29 forms a part, the Committee desired that the case relating to mining block No.29 may be returned as 'rejected' from this end whenever it is received from JKEIAA.

Decisions of JKEIAA.

After thorough deliberations, JKEIAA upheld recommendations of JKEAC for rejection of Environment clearance to mining blocks No, 28 and 30 in the cluster in view of apprehension of damage to irrigation canal expressed by public in PH. These cases shall be reconsidered only after mitigating measures by Irrigation & PHE Depts are vetted by respective CE's for implementation on ground to ensure that there is no interruption in flow of water for irrigation and other consumptive use by the local community.

JKEIAA also upheld recommendations of JKEAC for rejection of EC to mining block No.29 which is part of this cluster.

The Member Secretary, JKEIAA shall take up the matter with all the Dy. Commissioners and HoDs of the concerned stakeholder departments to ensure that the NOCs in favour of particular mining block are issued after fully assessing the impact of proposed mining activity on the natural and manmade assets lying within these mining blocks and also suggest the mitigative measures wherever there are any reservations.

Agenda Item No.03.

Grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) for RBM (River Bed Mineral) Minor Mineral Block Mining Project, Area of 3.81 ha., Block- 24, at Jothana Di Khad at Village Janal Plan I, District-Kathua (Jammu & Kashmir) favoring M/S KesariNandan village- Logate, Kathua, Jammu and (J&K) kesrinandanmines@gmail.com. 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 River Bed Mining Project, Area of 3.81 ha., Block- 24, at Jothana Di Khad at Village Janal Plan I, District-Kathua (Jammu & Kashmir). LOI has been issued on 05.08.2020, which was later extended on 15-04-2021 and was valid up to 31-08-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 26/11/2020. As per summary of appraisal report, Approved Mine Plan /Mine closure Plan, District Survey Report, EMP/CER was not formulated as per guidelines and needs to be revised. Status of NOCs in appraisal report shows that NOCs have been issued conditionally by Irrigation, Flood Control, Fisheries Departments. NOC's have not been issued by Wildlife Protection Dept, Pollution Control Board, Revenue Dept., PHE (Jalshakti) Dept, Soil and Water Conservation Dept.

Deliberations/Specific Observations of JKEAC.

- a) The project had earlier been discussed during 28th meeting held on to 10/03/2021 under B1 category owing to cluster situation with mining block No.25 during which the case was rejected for grant of TORs as a water irrigation channel was seen running across the width of the mining block to irrigate the adjacent croplands on either side. Therefore, the Committee had asked for clarification from the stakeholders viz. the land owners/ panchayat representatives cultivating lands situated on the two banks of the channel. The PP presented the requisite NOC from the local panchayat and he was asked to email its copy after the deliberations for record and reference.
- b) The Committee had also asked for a detailed technical report from the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department before the project was considered for grant of ToRs.
- c) The PP has now submitted letter No. 293-95 dated 04/06/2021 from G&M Dept. whereunder it has been reported that the mining block does not form a cluster as the adjacent mining block No.25 has been rejected. As such the PP has now again approached this forum for consideration of the case under B2 category but without responding to the concern w.r.t irrigation channel crossing across the mining block.
- d) The NOCs have been submitted under Single Window Clearance System including NOC from the Irrigation Dept which are of general nature and the specific issue of the irrigation channel passing through the mining block has not been taken view of while issuing the NOC. Besides, the explicit report from the Chief Engineer or any of his authorized officer during previous deliberations is not forth coming. The Committee opined that even if the project falls under B2 category now, the concerns relating to the irrigation channel running across the mining block need to be addressed as per earlier deliberations on the subject.
- e) Bulk density of 2.25 in mining plan not agreed by the Committee. A nominal bulk density of 2 to be used in absence of actual measurements in field.
- f) Mining depth be restricted to max. 1m in aggregate in absence of replenishment data in the DSR formulated by the G&M Dept.
- g) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, bulk density, surface plan, targeted mineral production and replenishment and its denovo approval by the competent authority.

Recommendations of JKEAC.

In view of the above deliberations and insight gained during the above cited appraisal process, the Committee recommended the case for rejection of Environmental Clearance in the present form and desired the project proponent 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. The PP will also get the land under mining block verified for its title from Revenue Dept. in view of the apprehensions expressed in NOC of the Irrigation Dept. Besides, the PP shall also obtain pending NOCs from other stake holder departments as deliberated herein above.

Decisions of JKEIAA.

After thorough deliberations, JKEIAA upheld recommendations of the Committee for rejection of Environmental Clearance in the present form. However, PP may apply afresh after revalidation of Lol and fulfillment of conditions recommended by JKEAC.

Agenda Item No.04.

Grant of Environmental Clearance for River Bed Mining Project of Minor Mineral Block-20 (Revised Area-4.83 Ha), at Nallah Sylhed, Village Jagal, Tehsil; Mendhar, District; Poonch, J&K in favour of Ms. Talib Hussain S/O Noor Din Chisti. R/O Tehsil Haveli & District Poonch, Jammu & Kashmir under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/212713/2021// SIA/JK/MIN/60118/2021.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B2 category for Riverbed material mining Project of Minor Mineral Block-20 (Revised Area-4.83 Ha), at Nallah Sylhed, Village Jagal, Tehsil; Mendhar, District; Poonch, J&K.LOI has been issued on 21-7-2020, which was later extended on 15-04-2021 and was valid up to 31-08-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 15.12.2020. As per summary of appraisal report, Approved Mine Plan /Mine closure Plan, District Survey Report, EMP/CER was not formulated as per guidelines and needs to be revised. Status of NOCs in appraisal report shows that Dy. Commissioner concerned under single window clearance system under vide letter No: DCP/PA//1121-31 Dated 15/02/2021 conveyed NOCs which have been issued conditionally by Irrigation, Flood Control, Fisheries and Forest, PHE Departments. Wildlife Department and Pollution Control Board have not issued NOC's.

Deliberations/Specific Observations of JKEAC.

- a) The project had earlier been discussed during 26th meeting held on 15.02.2021 during which the committee granted TORs to the project subject to resizing of the mining block to keep safe distance of 500m to the nearby bridge/causeway and restriction of mining depth at max.1m. On the request of project proponent, the G&M Dept. has resized the mining block from 6.25 ha to 4.83ha vide letter dated 28/04/2021 and the project proponent has applied under B2 category owing to revised area less than 5ha.
- b) Illegal mining activity detected in the mining block as per features on Google image of May, 2021 needs clarification from the Multi Dept. District Level Task Force (MLDTF) Cell. In case it is reported that the PP has been involved in the mining activity in the designated mining block without valid EC, the EC be withdrawn.
- c) The NOCs have been submitted under Single Window Clearance System with terms and conditions which need to be adhered to in letter and spirit.

- d) Mining depth of 2m mentioned in the PFR is not agreed. The Mining depth be restricted to max.1m in aggregate in view of non-availability of replenishment data in the DSRs formulated by the G&M Dept.
- e) The bulk density of 2.25 is not agreed. However, a nominal bulk density of 2 may be used in absence of actual measurements in field.
- f) EMP needs to be revised with appropriate budget as suggested in the remark's column of EMP table above.
- g) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, surface plan, area, targeted mineral production and replenishment and its denovo approval by the competent authority prior to grant of EC or as decided by JKEIAA.

Recommendations of 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 these Minutes of Meeting.
- b) Explicit report from the Multi Dept. District level Task Force (MLDTF) Cell to the effect that the PP is not involved in illegal mining /mining activity without a valid EC, 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 or as decided by JKEIAA.
- d) Mining depth of max.1m in aggregate in view of non-availability of replenishment data in the DSRs formulated by the G&M Dept.
- e) Bulk density of 2 in absence of actual measurements.
- f) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments especially conditions laid by the Fisheries Department which need to be monitored by the enforcement agencies and concerned dept.
- g) No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- h) Maximum targeted mineral production of 57900 MT.
- i) Condition the revised geographical coordinates as per revised area 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 thorough deliberations JKEIAA upheld recommendations of JKEAC for grant of Environmental Clearance subject to fulfillment of following conditions:

- EC shall be valid only after the revalidation of Letter of Intent by the Geology and Mining Department.
- Full compliance of Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of JKEAC Meeting.
- The MLDTF Cell headed by the concerned Dy. Commissioner reports that the PP is not involved in the illegal mining activity and the same needs to be submitted within a

period of six weeks or before execution of lease of minor mineral block, whichever is earlier.

- Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, surface plan, targeted mineral production and replenishment data and its approval by the competent authority to be submitted within 3 months of issue of conditional E.C.
- Mining depth not to exceed 1m below NSL in aggregate in view of non-availability of replenishment data in the DSRs formulated by the G&M Department.
- Bulk density of 2 shall be adopted for calculation subject to Maximum mineral production of 57900MT.
- PP shall Strictly adhere to and implement terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments, which shall be monitored by Concerned enforcement agencies and depts. Any violation of terms & conditions shall be reported to concerned authorities including JKEIAA & JKEAC.
- No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- While issuing EC, Member Secretary shall specifically mention revised geographical coordinates for revised area conveyed by G&M Dept.
- 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 JKPC in view of non-availability of replenishment data.

Agenda Item No.05.

Grant of Environmental clearance for Minor Minerals (RBM) at Block No. 15, Area (9.16) ha, located at Bhini River Downstream Naj Bridge Bilawar (Plan-X), Tehsil Bilawar, District Kathua U.T J& K in favour of Shri Kishori Lal S/O Kuldeep Singh. under proposal No. SIA/JK/MIN/54889/2020.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B1 category for 'River Bed Material' Minor Mineral at Block No. 15, Area (9.16) ha, located at Bhini River Downstream Naj Bridge Bilawar (Plan-X), Tehsil Bilawar, District Kathua U.T J& K. LOI has been issued on 14/02/2020, which was later extended on 15-04-2021 and was valid up to 31-08-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 06/07/2020. As per summary of appraisal report, Approved Mine Plan /Mine closure Plan, District Survey Report, EMP/CER was not formulated as per guidelines and needs to be revised. NOCs have been issued conditionally by Irrigation, Flood Control, Fisheries and, PHE Departments

Deliberations/Specific Observations of JKEAC.

- a) The project had earlier been discussed during 10th meeting held on 06.08.2020 during which the committee recommended TORs to the project.
- b) The compliance to specific ToR condition No.18 relating to photographs of display screen displaying the date of collection of data missing in EIA report which needs to be complied in letter and spirit prior to grant of EC.
- c) EMP needs to be revised with appropriate budget as suggested in the remark's column of EMP table above.

- d) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, surface plan, area targeted mineral production and replenishment and its denovo approval by the competent authority prior to grant of EC or as decided by JKEIAA.
- e) Mining depth be restricted to max.1m in aggregate in view of non-availability of replenishment data in the DSRs formulated by the G&M Dept.
- f) Bulk density of 2.3 mentioned in EIA report and mining plan not agreed by the Committee. A nominal bulk density of 2 to be used in absence of actual measurements in field.
- g) The Committee observed the mining block on Google Earth Image in conjunction with digital forest boundary and found the mining block traversing through forest land in the form of three small patches in the centre of the Nallah. However, NOC has been issued by concerned DFO along with other stake holder departments under Single Window System headed by the concerned Dy. Commissioner. The NOC of the DFO was upheld by the Committee.
- h) Conditions of NOCs issued by stake holder departments need to be adhered to in letter and spirit.
- i) The project proponent shall take adequate care to ensure that inflow of water to the existing dug well is not interrupted and that any depletion in yield on account of mining activity shall be made good by the project proponent at his own cost under the control and supervision of the PHE Dept.

Recommendations of 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 these Minutes of Meeting.
- b) Revision of EIA report with compliance of specific ToR condition No.18 relating to photographs of display screen displaying the date of collection of data before grant of formal 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 or as decided by JKEIAA.
- d) Revision of EMP budget as suggested in the remark's column of EMP table above.
- e) Mining depth of max.1m in aggregate in view of non-availability of replenishment data in the DSRs formulated by the G&M Dept.
- f) Bulk density of 2 in absence of actual measurements.
- g) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments especially conditions laid by the Fisheries Department, PHE and Irrigation and Flood Control Dept. 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 109900 MT.
- j) Mining depth be restricted to max. 1m in aggregate in view of non-availability of replenishment data in the DSRs formulated by the G&M Dept.

- k) Condition, the mining activity shall have no effect on the recharge of dug wells downstream.
- l) Condition the geographical coordinates as per Lol issued by G&M Dept. are mentioned in the EC letter by JKEIAA
- m) 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 thorough deliberations JKEIAA upheld recommendations of JKEAC for grant of Environmental Clearance subject to fulfillment of following conditions: -

1. The EC, if issued shall be valid only after the revalidation of Letter of Intent by the Geology and Mining Department.
2. Full compliance of Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of JKEAC Meeting.
3. Revision of EIA report with compliance of specific ToR condition No.18 relating to photographs of display screen displaying the date of collection of data before grant of formal EC.
4. Revision of EMP budget as suggested in the remark's column of EMP table by JKEAC.
5. Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, surface plan, targeted mineral production and replenishment data and its approval by the competent authority to be submitted within 3 months of issue of conditional E.C.
6. Mining depth not to exceed 1m below NSL in aggregate in view of non-availability of replenishment data in the DSRs formulated by the G&M Department.
7. Bulk density of 2 shall be adopted for calculation subject to Maximum mineral production of 109900 MT.
8. PP shall Strictly adhere to and implement terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments, which shall be monitored by Concerned enforcement agencies and depts. Any violation of terms & conditions shall be reported to concerned authorities incl. JKEIAA & JKEAC...
9. No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
10. A clear certificate from concerned authority that mining activity shall have no effect on the recharge of dug wells downstream.
11. While issuing EC, Member Secretary shall specifically mention revised geographical coordinates for revised area conveyed by G&M Dept.
12. 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.6.

Grant of Environmental Clearance for River Bed Mining Project of Minor Mineral Block-16 (Area-1.52 Ha), Aboora Bridge to Pandit Stone Crusher, Downstream FerozPoraNallah, Tehsil; Tangmarg, District; Baramulla, J&K. in favour of Ms. Shakeel Ahmad Malik S/O Ab. Gani Malik. under proposal No. SIA/JK/MIN/59776/2021, SIA/JK/MIN/225626/2021

Brief Summary: This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B2category for Minor Mineral (River Bed Material) Block-16 (Area-1.52 Ha), Aboora Bridge to Pandit Stone Crusher, Downstream FerozPoraNallah, Tehsil; Tangmarg, District; Baramulla, J&K. LOI has been issued on 16/08/2021, which was later extended on 15-04-2021 and was valid up to 31-08-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 19/06/2020. As per summary of appraisal report, Approved Mine Plan /Mine closure Plan, District Survey Report, EMP/CER was not formulated as per guidelines and needs to be revised. NOC issued under single window clearance system by Adl. Dy. Commissioner, Baramulla vide No. ADCB/Reader/2021-22/186-98 dated 04/05/2021, Status of NOCs in appraisal report shows NOC has been issued conditionally by, Fisheries, Forests, Wildlife, PCB and PHE Departments.

Deliberations/Specific Observations of JKEAC.

- a) Illegal mining activity detected in the mining block as per features on Google image of May, 2021 needs clarification from the Multi Dept. District Level Task Force (MLDTF) Cell prior to grant of EC.
- b) Archive images right from 2003 to 2013 show presence of cropland within the identified mining block boundaries. But the NOCs issued under Single Window Clearance System indicate title verification by the concerned Tehsildar. Same needs to be submitted before grant of EC for record and reference.
- c) All the pending NOCs be furnished prior to grant of EC. The conditions of NOC of stakeholder departments need to be adhered to in letter and spirit.
- d) Budget for surveillance equipment has not been provided and the Committee has accordingly recommended it as per budget in similar projects discussed earlier.
- e) EMP needs to be revised with appropriate budget as suggested in the remark's column of EMP table above.
- f) PFR needs to be rectified for errors.
- g) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, surface plan, area, targeted mineral production and replenishment and its denovo approval by the competent authority prior to grant of EC or as decided by JKEIAA.
- h) Mining depth be restricted to max.1m in aggregate in view of non-availability of replenishment data in the DSRs formulated by the G&M Dept.
- i) Bulk density of 2.25 not agreed. A nominal bulk density of 2 be used in absence of actual measurements in field.

Recommendations of 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 these Minutes of Meeting.
- b) Explicit report from the Multi Dept. District Level Task Force (MLDTF) Cell to the effect that the PP is not involved in illegal mining /mining activity without a valid EC, prior to grant of EC.
- c) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, revised area, surface plan, targeted mineral production and replenishment and its denovo approval by the competent authority prior to grant of EC or as decided by JKEIAA.

- d) Revision of EMP as suggested in the remark's column of EMP table above.
- e) Revision of PFR with surveillance budget as recommended in table herein above.
- f) Mining depth of max. 1m in aggregate in view of non-availability of replenishment data in the DSRs formulated by the G&M Dept.
- g) Bulk density of 2 in absence of actual measurements.
- h) Prior submission of Title Verification Report from the concerned Tehsildar in view of presence of cropland within mining block boundary observed on the Google Images upto October, 2013.
- i) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments especially conditions laid by the Fisheries Department and I&FC Dept 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) Maximum targeted mineral production of 18200MT.
- l) Condition the revised geographical coordinates as per revised area conveyed by G&M Dept. are mentioned in the EC letter by JKEIAA
- m) 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 thorough deliberations JKEIAA upheld recommendations of JKEAC for grant of Environmental Clearance subject to fulfillment of following conditions: -

1. The EC, if issued shall be valid only after the revalidation of Letter of Intent by the Geology and Mining Department.
2. Full compliance of Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of JKEAC Meeting.
3. The MLDTF Cell headed by the concerned Dy. Commissioner reports that the PP is not involved in the illegal mining activity and the same needs to be submitted within a period of six weeks or before execution of lease of minor mineral block, whichever is earlier.
4. Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, surface plan, targeted mineral production and replenishment data and its approval by the competent authority to be submitted within 3 months of issue of conditional E.C.
5. Revision of EMP budget as suggested in the remark's column of EMP table by JKEAC.
6. Revision of PFR with surveillance budget as suggested in the remark's column of EMP table by JKEAC
7. Mining depth not to exceed 1m below NSL in aggregate in view of non-availability of replenishment data in the DSRs formulated by the G&M Department.
8. Bulk density of 2 shall be adopted for calculation subject to Maximum mineral production of 18200MT.
9. Prior submission of Title Verification Report from the concerned Tehsildar in view of presence of cropland within mining block boundary observed on the Google Images up to October, 2013.

10. PP shall Strictly adhere to and implement terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments, which shall be monitored by Concerned enforcement agencies and depts. Any violation of terms & conditions shall be reported to concerned authorities incl. JKEIAA & JKEAC...
11. No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
12. While issuing EC, Member Secretary shall specifically mention revised geographical coordinates for revised area conveyed by G&M Dept.
13. 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 JKPCCL in view of non-availability of replenishment data.

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

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

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

No: JKEIAA/2016/02/VI/2582-85

Dated: 10/09/2021

Copy by email to:

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


Staff Officer)

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