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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),

Email: jkseiaa@gmail.com, website: www.parivesh.nic.in



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

In pursuance to the Minutes of the 78th Meeting of the JK Expert Appraisal Committee held on 18th December, 2021 through video Conferencing issued vide No.EAC/JK/21/11899-11911 dated 22-12-2021, the 71st Meeting of the JK Environment Impact Assessment Authority was held on **3rd January, 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 Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Kesri Nandan Mines Head Office Logate, Tehsil & District Kathua, JK UT for River Bed Mining Project of Minor Mineral Block -31, from SIDCO Bridge Upstream Nallah Rambiar, Aripora Tehsil Chitragam & District Shopian, JK UT area 9.08ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/66398/2021.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to grant of Terms of Reference under B1 category for River Bed Mining Project of Minor Mineral Block-31, from SIDCO Bridge Upstream Nallah Rambiar, Aripora Tehsil Chitragam & District Shopian, JK UT area 9.08ha.

LOI was issued on 08-06-2020, which was extended on 18-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan was approved on 07-08-2020.

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 appraisal report shows that stakeholder departments have issued NOCs (conditionally) in favour of the project. The NOC of Revenue Department is ambiguous (Not clearly stated as State land)

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- While observing the Google image of 05/2021, the Committee found a bridge at a distance of 285 m which demands resizing of the mining block to maintain safe distance of 500m from the civil structure.
- Heavy illegal mining activity was detected in the mining block as per features on Google image of May, 2021 which requires appropriate action by the competent authority
- 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. The Committee, therefore, was of the opinion that further mining operations in the block shall not be compatible with safe environmental practices.

- d) Features indicative of one irrigation Kuhl off-take point originating from within the mining block and another in immediate vicinity of the block was observed on Google image of May,2021. The concerned Xen Irrigation Dept. has also indicated that the main water conductor of Sugan Kuhl lies in the vicinity of the block.
- e) Active water channel detected in the mining block.
- f) The Committee further opined that resizing of the mining block for maintaining safe distance to the bridge and irrigation off-take points, besides, excluding the active water channel would hardly leave any area for conduct of safe mining operations that would not harm the environment.
- g) The NOC from Revenue Dept. does not mention the title of the land under mining block.
- h) Bulk density of 2.3 adopted in the instant mining plan was not agreed by the committee.

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 rejection of Terms of Reference.

Decisions of JKEIAA:

After due deliberations, the JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the JKEAC to reject the case for grant of Terms of Reference.

AGENDA ITEM NO.02.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of Shri Ashiq Hussain Khan S/O Shri Mohd. Maqbool Khan R/o Danokandi Marg, Tehsil D.H.Pora, Kulgam, JK UT for Minor Mineral Block No-05, E- Nehama Bridge Downstream, Vishu Nallah, Village Nehama, D.H. Pora, Kulgam, JK UT (reduced area 1.39ha.) under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/69048/2021, SIA/JK/MIN/62965/2021 & SIA/JK/MIN/57779/2020.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to grant of Terms of Reference under B1 category for Minor Mineral Block No-05, E- Nehama Bridge Downstream, Vishu Nallah, Village Nehama, D.H. Pora, Kulgam, JK UT (reduced area 1.39ha.)

LOI was issued on 16-07-2020, which was extended on 05-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan was approved on 31-08-2020. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 19-01-2021/10-07-2021 and area of the project was reduced by the Geology & Mining Department on 27-09-2021.

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

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- a) The case was discussed during the 23rd meeting held on 09/01/2021 during which the Committee recommended rejection of ToRs to the project encompassing an original area of 4.31 Ha for the reasons which among others included its close proximity to the bridge

and lack of scope for its relocation/reduction in size to maintain a safe distance of 500mts from the bridge.

- b) The case was again listed for discussion during the 47th meeting held on 10/07/2021 during which the Committee again rejected the case though the mining block had been resized from 4.31 Ha to 1.70 Ha, for grant of Terms of Reference in view of anticipated /potential adverse environmental fallout of mining activity on availability of water for irrigation and water supply schemes in the area.
- c) However, the PP has again approached the JKEIAA after further resizing the mining block to 1.39 Ha as indicated in the letter dated 27/09/2021 issued by Joint Director, G&M Dept., Kashmir, supported by a revised surface plan for 1.39 Ha.
- d) The Committee while observing the freshly resized mining block on the latest available Google image of Sept. 2018, observed that the off-take point of the irrigation scheme is still existing at a distance of less than 200m which is not in tune with national guidelines on the issue.
- e) The Consultant informed that the off-take point of irrigation works is far enough from the mining block near the bridge. But, the features on image did not substantiate his claim. The Committee observed that in the previous meeting it had been pointed out that an irrigation off-take point was existing in close vicinity of the block and the consultant was duty bound to obtain necessary clarification from the concerned Xen Irrigation Dept. on this account. The consultant has however failed to obtain necessary clarification in this regard.
- f) The PP has, however, obtained NOCs from the Irrigation Department which is in a generalized format and does not throw any light on the presence of irrigation off-take point or otherwise in the location identified.
- g) Heavy illegal mining activity was detected in the resized mining block as per features on Google image of Sep, 2018 which needs appropriate action by the competent authority, if it has also been continuing post 2018.
- h) The heavy mining activity has greatly depleted the mining block and hardly any reserves of minor minerals are available which can be extracted without damaging the environmental setting of the nalla. The Committee, therefore, was of the opinion that further mining operations in the block shall not be compatible with safe environmental practices.

Recommendations of the JKEAC:

In view of the above deliberations and insight gained during the above cited appraisal process, the Committee rejected the case for grant of Terms of Reference.

Decisions of JKEIAA:

After due deliberations, the JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the JKEAC to reject the case for grant of Terms of Reference.

AGENDA ITEM NO.03.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of Shri Jagdish Singh S/O Shri Vijay Singh P.O Malakpur, Tehsil: Malakpur, District: Gurdaspur, Punjab for Minor Mineral Block 16/P, Kulgam Bridge, Upstream VishuNalla, District Kulgam, JK UT area 4.55ha. (ADS) under proposal No. SIA/JK/MIN/60972/2021.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to grant of Terms of Reference under B1 category for Minor Mineral Block 16/P, Kulgam Bridge, Upstream VishuNalla, District Kulgam, JK UT area 4.55ha. LOI was issued on 16-07-2020, which was extended on 18-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan was approved on 04-12-2020. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 20-03-2021.

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

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- a) The case was discussed during the 30th meeting held on 20/03/2021 during which the Committee unanimously recommended that the project proponent be asked to obtain title verification of the area falling under the designated mining block for enabling the committee to proceed further in the matter as the mining block revealed cropland on the achieve Google images of 2003 to 2013.
- b) The PP has again approached the JKEIAA after obtaining title verification of the land under the block, as State land.
- c) Features indicative of off-take point of irrigation Kuhl originating from the mining block itself observed on Google image of Aug, 2019. The concerned Xen, Irrigation division has not indicated any such feature inside the mining block but has prescribed a safe distance of 750m from any such structure for the mining activity as per the NOC issued. However, as per National guidelines on the subject, the Irrigation off-take point has to be at least 200m away.
- d) Clear cut NOC from Fisheries Dept. has not been submitted.
- e) Mining depth of 2.5 m & bulk density of 2.3 adopted in the instant mining plan were not agreed by the committee.

Recommendations of the JKEAC:

In view of the above deliberations and insight gained during the above cited appraisal process, the Committee rejected the case for the grant of Terms of reference.

Decisions of JKEIAA:

After due deliberations, the JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the JKEAC to reject the case for grant of Terms of Reference.

AGENDA ITEM NO.04

Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of M/S Shiva Minerals Address- Focal Point near Peer Baba Chowk Malikpur, Pathankot, Punjab for Minor Mineral in Block No.12, ANS River Downstream Narloo Bridge, District-Reasi (Plan-III), JK UT area 7.35ha under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/61528/2021.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B1 category for Minor Mineral in Block No.12, ANS River Downstream Narloo Bridge, District-Reasi (Plan-III), JK UT area 7.35ha.

LOI has been issued on 29-09-2020, which has been extended on 18-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 14-01-2020. The Terms of Reference were

issued to the project on 08-05-2021 and public hearing of the project was conducted on 18-09-2021. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 22-04-2021. 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 NOCs in appraisal report shows that stakeholder departments have issued NOCs (conditionally) in favour of the project. The NOC from Revenue Department is awaited.

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- a) The case had been discussed by the Expert Appraisal Committee earlier during the 37th Meeting held on 22/04/2021 during which the ToRs were granted to the project, subject to a categorical NOC from the Salal Dam Authority besides, other stake holder departments like; Irrigation & Flood Control and Fisheries.
- b) The PP has not submitted any NOC from Salal Dam Authority which needs to be submitted, prior to grant of EC.
- c) The PP has submitted all other NOCs from the stakeholder departments though in generalised format.
- d) Illegal mining activity is observed in and around the mining block as per features on latest Google image of 12, 2020 which needs clarification from the Multi Dept. District level Task Force (MDLTF) Cell and fixing of responsibility besides reporting whether the PP is involved in it, prior to grant of EC. In case the PP is found to be involved in illegal mining, the process of EC shall be liable to be aborted.
- e) The Committee also desired that the PP should address all the genuine concerns of the locals raised during the public hearing.
- f) The compliance to specific ToR condition relating to photographs of display screen displaying the dates of collection of data is missing in EIA report which needs to be submitted to JKEIAA office prior to grant of EC.
- g) Project cost has been underestimated by the PP as it does include the Cost of EMP and CER, hence needs to be revised prior to grant of EC.
- h) EMP Budget needs to be revised with appropriate budget as suggested in the remark's column of EMP prior to grant of EC.
- i) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, revised surface plan, targeted mineral production and replenishment and its denovo approval by the competent authority prior to grant of EC.
- j) 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:

- a) 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: -
- b) Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of JKEAC Meeting.
- c) Submission of compliance to the observations made herein above under deliberations, prior to grant of EC.
- d) Securing of "Non-involvement in illegal mining" certificate from the Multi Dept. District level Task Force (MDLTF) Cell, prior to grant of formal EC. Compliance of specific ToR

condition relating to photographs of display screen displaying the dates of collection of data as detailed herein above, prior to grant of EC.

- e) Submission of revised EIA/EMP with compliance as indicated herein above.
- f) Addressing all the genuine concerns of the locals raised during the public hearing.
- g) Maximum targeted mineral production of 88200MT.
- h) 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.
- i) No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- j) Condition the geographical coordinates as per LOI to be 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 of Environment clearance to the project subject to:-

- a) Revalidation of Lol by the Geology and Mining Department.
- b) Standard and Specific Conditions as stipulated by JKEIAA/JKEAC
- c) Compliance to the observations made by JKEAC during deliberations herein above prior to grant of EC.
- d) 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.
- 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) Categorical NOC from Salal Dam Authority.
- g) Title verification of the mining block from the concerned revenue authority.
- h) 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.
- i) 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 88200MT.
- j) Revision of EIA, EMP/CER Budget as suggested by JKEAC prior to grant of EC.
- k) Addressing all the genuine concerns of the locals raised during the public hearing.
- l) 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.
- m) No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- n) While issuing EC, Member Secretary shall specifically mention revised geographical coordinates for revised area conveyed by G&M Dept.
- o) 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 Shri Naseem Raja S/O Shri Abdul Satar Bhat R/O H. No- 80, Thanamandi, Azmat Abad, Rajouri JK UT for River Bed mining of Minor mineral Block 2/1, Nowshera Tawi River Downstream Muradpur Bridge (Chatyari), Tehsil Nowshera District Rajouri, JK UT, area 2.45ha. under proposal No. SIA/JK/MIN/233536/2021/ & SIA/JK/MIN/61180/2021.

Brief Summary:

This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B2 category for River Bed mining of Minor mineral Block 2/1, Nowshera Tawi River Downstream Muradpur Bridge (Chatyari), Tehsil Nowshera District Rajouri, JK UT, area 2.45ha.

LOI was issued on 06-09-2020, which was extended on 18-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan was approved on 15-10-2020. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 29-04-2021 and area of the project has been reduced by the Geology & Mining Department on 10-09-2020.

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 appraisal report shows that stakeholder departments have issued NOCs (conditionally) in favour of the project. NOC from Irrigation and Flood control Division mentions that old supply channel /Head site of Sangpur Khul falls near the above-mentioned Mineral block. To avoid any disturbance to the source of irrigation Khul, there should be no extraction at least to 500 to 700 mtrs away from the upstream of old supply channel/Head site of Sangpur Khul.

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- a) The case had been discussed by the Expert Appraisal Committee earlier during the 39th Meeting held on 29/04/2021 during which the committee did not recommend the case for ToRs and sought prior: -
 - i. Reduction /resizing of the mining block to maintain a safe distance of 500mts from the bridge.
 - ii. NOC from the Irrigation & Flood Control Department and local panchayat in view of presence of irrigation canal headway inside the mining block.
 - iii. Recalculation of targeted mineral production as per revised area.
- b) The PP has got the mining block resized from 7.37 Ha to 2.45 Ha by the Geology and Mining Department vide letter dated 10/09/2021 to maintain a safe distance of 500 Mtrs. from the Bridge.
- c) The PP has also submitted a communication from Xen, Flood Control and Irrigation Department issued vide letter No. 1631-33 dated 27/08/2021, where under, the concerned Xen. has intimated that the source of old supply channel / Head site of Sangpur Kuhl falls near the above-mentioned Mineral block, and further, saying that in order to avoid any disturbance to the source of irrigation Kuhl, there should be no extraction at least 500 to 700 Mtrs. from the upstream of old supply channel/Head site of Sangpur Kuhl.
- d) The Committee while examining the mining block on Google Earth platform observed features that are suggestive of irrigation off-take point at approx. 120m upstream of the mining block and another off-take point downstream of the block. However, the project proponent pleaded that the off-take point was more than 200m away from the mining

- block and that the feature observed, pertain to Zamadari Kuhl for which he also presented a NOC issued by the concerned Sarpanch.
- e) The Committee however, did not accept the assertion made by the project proponent and desired that a fresh clarification be sought from the Irrigation Dept. with respect to the location of the off-take point of Sangpur Kuhl vis-a vis mining block.
 - f) Therefore, the Committee desired project proponent to obtain field verification of the observations made by the Committee as discussed hereinabove, by the concerned Xen Irrigation Dept. In case, it is found that such irrigation facility is not actually existing as claimed by the PP, same needs to be recorded by the concerned hydraulic engineer with consent of local PRI, with seal and signature, certifying therein that there is no irrigation off-take point 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.

Recommendations of the JKEAC:

In view of the above deliberations / observations made by the Committee herein above, the Expert Appraisal 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, for consideration of the case after complying with the above observations made here-in-above.

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, the Project Proponent, may again approach the JKEIAA after revalidation of Lol for reconsideration of the case after complying with the observations/requirements made by the JKEAC.

AGENDA ITEM NO.06.

Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of M/S Singh Minerals, R/o Near kali Mata Mandir Campbell Road Pathankot for "MINOR MINERAL (River Bed Material)" at Block No. 3/6 Basantar River Upstream NH-1A Bridge, Village Daboh Tehsil & District Samba. JK UT area 9.76ha. under proposal No. SIA/JK/MIN/59040/2019.

Brief Summary:

This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B1 category for "MINOR MINERAL (River Bed Material)" at Block No. 3/6 Basantar River Upstream NH-1A Bridge, Village Daboh Tehsil & District Samba. JK UT area 9.76ha.

LOI has been issued on 07-09-2020, which has been extended on 15-04-2021 and was valid up to 31-08-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 02-02-2018. The Terms of Reference were issued to the project on 22-03-2021 and public hearing was conducted on 09-01-2020. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 24-02-2021.

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 NOCs in appraisal report shows that stakeholder departments have issued NOCs (conditionally) in favour of the project. NOCs from Revenue, Irrigation & Fisheries Departments are awaited.

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

The project had earlier been discussed during 27th meeting held on 24/02/2021 during which the committee recommended:

- i. That the Project proponent be asked to obtain prior NOC from the PDD and I&FC department with respect to Electric Transmission Towers in close vicinity of the mining block.
 - ii. NOC from the owner department of the huge plantation lying in close vicinity.
 - iii. Revision of EMP with budget as suggested in the deliberations.
 - iv. Baseline data to be authenticated by JKPCB.
- a) The PP has submitted NOC from Executive Engineer sub Transmission division -II, JPDCL, Jammu vide letter No. 234 dated 12/04/2021, mentioning therein that the department has no objection for carrying out mining activities in the above-mentioned Mining Block, as there is no electrical utility viz. 66KV lines/poles within the block under consideration.
 - b) The NOC issued by PHE Dept. indicates presence of departmental installation on the left bank of the river and it has been mentioned that the mining activity should not be allowed within 200m from the said installation and further no extraction be allowed within 50m from the Dugwell /intake structures. The Committee while observing the installation on Google Image found that the installation exists at barely 68m approx. Therefore, the Committee desired that the mining block be resized to maintain prescribed safe distance to the installations.
 - c) While observing the mining block on the latest available Google Image, the Committee found that part of the plantation was falling within the mining block which needs to be excluded from the proposed mining block.
 - d) Since, the Committee observed PHE installation on the Google image on the left side of the block within 200m, therefore no mining activity can be allowed on this side of the bank. Accordingly, after excluding the plantation, the mining block be restricted only to the right side of the Nallah leaving only 3.65 Ha area for extraction of minerals.
 - e) The Committee also observed that the NOC issued by the DFO concerned indicates that the plantation/ Seed farm belongs to the SFRI. Therefore, the PP shall have to obtain a categorical NOC from the SFRI in this regard.
 - f) The NOC from irrigation department has not been submitted by the PP. NOC from the Flood Control Dept. is also in a generalised format. Both need to be specific to the site in question and these be obtained and submitted.
 - g) Title verification has not yet been submitted by the PP.
 - h) The compliance to specific ToR condition relating to photographs of display screen displaying the dates of collection of data are missing in EIA report which need to be submitted.
 - i) Project cost has been underestimated by the consultant as it does not include cost of Env. Clearance processing fee/ PCCs Consent fee etc. and therefore needs to be revised.
 - j) EMP/ needs to be revised with appropriate budget.
 - k) 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.

Recommendations of the JKEAC:

In view of the above deliberations / observations made by the Committee hereinabove, the Expert Appraisal Committee did not agree to recommend the case in the present form. However, the PP, if he so desires, is free to again approach the JKEIAA after obtaining compliances to the observations made hereinabove.

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, the Project Proponent, may again approach the JKEIAA after revalidation of LoI for reconsideration of the case after complying with the observations/requirements made by the JKEAC.

Agenda Item No.07.

Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of Shri Parshotam Singh S/O Shri Baljit Singh R/O H.No. 56, W.No-3 Karma path Jaito Faridkot Punjab for Minor Mineral (River Bed Material) Project at Block No. (5/10) 35, Khatharwalli Khad Upstream Manoh Khathar Bridge, Village Khathar Tehsil Akhnoor, District Jammu, JK UT area 8.83ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/58653/2019.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B1 category for Minor Mineral (River Bed Material) Project at Block No. (5/10) 35, Khatharwalli Khad Upstream Manoh Khathar Bridge, Village Khathar Tehsil Akhnoor, District Jammu, JK UT area 8.83ha.

LOI has been issued on 21-07-2020, which has been extended on 15-04-2021 and was valid up to 31-08-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 12-04-2018. The Terms of Reference were issued to the project on 26-12-2020 and public hearing of the project was conducted on 11-02-2020. The case was earlier discussed in the JKEAC meeting on 1-04-2021.

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 appraisal report shows that stakeholder departments have issued NOCs (conditionally) in favour of the project. The NOC from Revenue Department is awaited.

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- a) The project had earlier been discussed during 35th meeting held on 12/04/2021 during which the committee deferred the case till receipt of fresh rectified KML/KMZ file of the mining block from the consultant.
- b) The Committee while observing the mining block on Google image observed a bridge at a distance of 300m from the mining block, and as such, desired that the mining block be resized to maintain safe distance of 500m from the bridge.
- c) Title verification has not yet been submitted by the PP which needs to be submitted.
- d) Illegal mining activity is observed in and around the mining block as per features on latest Google image of 01, 2021 which needs clarification from the Multi Dept. District level Task Force (MDLTF) Cell and fixing of responsibility besides reporting whether the PP is involved in it.
- e) The examination of mining block on Google Earth platform revealed features that are suggestive of irrigation off-take points in the close vicinity of the mining block.
- f) Therefore, the Committee desired that the Xen Irrigation Dept. should issue site specific NOC indicating presence or absence of off-take point of any irrigation canal/khul within

- 200m from the mining block. In case, it is found that such irrigation facility is not existing, same needs to be recorded by the concerned hydraulic engineer with local PRI on board, 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) The Committee also observed dug well in the vicinity for which specific NOC needs to be obtained from the stakeholder dept. in this regard.
 - h) The compliance to specific ToR condition relating to photographs of display screen displaying the dates of collection of data is missing in EIA report which needs to be submitted.
 - i) Project cost has been underestimated by the consultant as it does not include cost of Env. Clearance processing fee/ PCCs Consent fee etc. and therefore needs to be revised.
 - j) EMP/ needs to be revised with appropriate budget.

Recommendations of the JKEAC:

In view of the above deliberations / observations made by the Committee hereinabove, the Expert Appraisal Committee did not agree to consider the case for grant of EC in the present form. However, the PP, if he so desires, may again approach the JKEIAA for consideration of the case after submitting compliances to the observations made hereinabove under deliberations.

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, the Project Proponent may again approach the JKEIAA after revalidation of Lol for reconsideration of the case after complying with the observations/requirements made by the JKEAC.

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/2016/02/111/5536-55
Copy by email to:

Dated: 12 /01/2021

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, Shopian, Kulgam, Baramulla, Srinagar, Samba & Jammu 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) 12/1/2022

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