

**STATE EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (SEAC)**  
**::MEGHALAYA::**

Silviculture Building Adjacent to 'SYLVAN' House,  
Lower Lachumiere, East Khasi Hills, Shillong – 793001.

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**MINUTES OF 70<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STATE EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE, MEGHALAYA  
SHILLONG HELD ON 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023, FOR ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL OF NON-  
COAL MINING PROJECTS**

**Members of the Committee present:**

Sl.No	Name	Designation	Signature
1	Shri. Nababrata Bhattacharjee	Chairman SEAC	-Sd-
2	Shri. Millanburg R. Sangma	Member	
3	Dr. Highland Kayang	Member	-Sd-
4	Shri. Gideon Lamborlang Kharkongor	Member	-Sd-
5	Shri. Pynbiang Singh Nongbri	Member	-Sd-
6	Dr. Shiva Shankar Chaturvedi	Member	-Sd-
7	Dr. (Mrs) Van Jennifer Joan Wallang	Member	
8	Shri Arpiyush Ch.Sangma, MFS Member Secretary	Member Secretary SEAC	-Sd-

The 70<sup>th</sup> meeting of State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), Meghalaya, Shillong, held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 from 11:00 A.M. on ward in the Conference Hall, office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &HoFF, Meghalaya, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong – 793001, through offline method. At the outset the Chairman Shri. Nababrata Bhattacharjee, welcomed all the members of the Committee present and called the meeting to order. He requested the Member Secretary to initiate the discussion as per the agenda circulated vide letter No.ML/SEAC/Meeting/Vol-V/1/2023/16 dated Shillong, the 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, accordingly. All proposed mining areas are cross checked through google earth.

**1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 69<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> August2023.**

The minutes were confirmed.

**2. Action taken report as per the decision taken in the 65<sup>th</sup> Meeting.**

As per the decision taken in the 69<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the State Expert Appraisal Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023, (2) two proposals for Environmental Clearance, (3) three ADS and (1) one proposal deferred for site visit were recommended to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Meghalaya.



## ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

### I. Proposal No.SIA/ML/MIN/426580/2023 submitted by Shri. Abstainbirth D. Shira

The Project Proponent, Shri.Abstainbirth D. Shira submitted online application vide proposal No. SIA/ML/MIN/426580/2023 for Environmental Clearance for mining of Brick Earth for an area of 0.80 hectares. The proposal for mining of brick earth is for making bricks for construction purposes. The project falls under Schedule 1(a) of category B2 of EIA Notification 2006. The mining lease area is located at Rongreng Baiza, East Garo Hills District, Meghalaya and toposheet No.G46M10 within the following GPS Coordinates

Pillar No	GPS Coordinates	
	Latitude	Longitude
1	25° 32' 31.67"N	90° 34' 48.68"E
2	25° 32' 31.78"N	90° 34' 50.70"E
3	25° 32' 27.54"N	90°34' 51.52"E
4	25° 32' 27.15"N	90° 34' 49.36"E

The proposed land is on lease for a period of 10 years vide Deed of Lease which was executed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 and certified by the Public Notary, East Garo Hills Meghalaya.

The applied area is a Non Forest Land which was confirmed by the Divisional Forest Officer, East & North Garo Hills (T) Division, Williamnagar vide letter No.B/16/IV/0/2032, dated Williamnagar, the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019 which supersedes the status of land certificate issued vide the office letter No.B/16/IV/1070-76, dated Williamnagar, the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and Letter of Intent vide letter No.B/50/III/1522 dated Williamnagar, the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The Project Proponent also obtained the 'No Objection Certificate' issued by the District Agriculture Officer, East Garo Hills, Williamnagar vide letter No.EGH/AGRI/N.O.C/2023-24/461 dated Williamnagar, the 6<sup>th</sup> Octoberr 2023.

The project proponent obtained a cluster certificate from the Divisional Mining Officer, East Garo Hills , Williamnagar vide letter No.DMO-W/MP/15/2019/74 dated Williamnagar, the 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 which states that there is no mining plan lying within 500 metres from the applied mining lease area .The project proponent submitted the Mining Plan with Progressive Mine Closure Plan approved by the the Divisional Mining Officer, East Garo Hills District, Meghalaya, vide letter No.DMO-W/MP/78/2019/68, dated Williamnagar, the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The Mining Plan has been prepared to extract brick earth at an average





annual production of 2500MTPA with a project cost of Rs.5.75 lakh and the operations will be open cast, semi-mechanized method of mining

The mineable reserve is of the order of 40,320 MT. The production period of this mining plan will be around 12,500 MT in 5 years. Balance reserves is  $40,320 - 12,500 = 27,820$  MT. If the production target is 2500MT, the balance reserves will be sufficient for  $27,820 / 2,500 = 11.12$  years. Thus, total life of mine is  $5 + 11.12$  years or say 16.12 years.

### **Recommendation**

After due screening and examination of all the documents submitted by the Project Proponent and deliberation as well as observation using kml file through google earth, the committee unanimously recommended for grant of Environment Clearance with the following conditions.

1. Curtain drains to be constructed to intercept the surface water runoff if any, including debris etc. overflowing to the adjoining land/agricultural field etc. during the mining operation; Monitoring Agency is to take necessary action as per relevant section(s) of Water (Prevention & Control of pollution) Act, 1974.
2. GPS coordinates of each pillar should be carved/painted clearly on the pillars with red colour.
3. A board highlighting the name of project and project proponent, location name, total area of the mine, date of issue of EC by SEIAA and CTO & CTE by MSPCB should be installed at the entrance to the mining site and should be clearly visible.



## II. Proposal No.SIA/ML/MIN/420945/2023 submitted by Shri. Pleasureful Ahnam

The Project Proponent, **Shri. Pleasureful Ahnam** submitted online application for Environmental Clearance vide proposal No:SIA/ML/MIN/420945/2023 for Mookasnor Boulder Stone Mine for mining of boulder stone for an area of 1.45 hectares. The proposal is for mining of boulder stone to be used for construction of buildings & making/dressing of roads. The project falls under Schedule 1(a) of category B2 of EIA Notification 2006. The mining lease area is located at Mookasnor, Wahiajer Village, West Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya. and toposheet Survey of India No.83C/2 within the following GPS Coordinates:

Pillar No	GPS Coordinates	
	Latitude	Longitude
1	25° 31'30.91''N	92° 10'38.86''E
2	25° 31'31.73''N	92° 10'37.32''E
3	25° 31'32.13''N	92° 10'35.62''E
4	25° 31'30.83''N	92° 10'35.38''E
5	25° 31'28.71''N	92° 10'35.47''E
6	25° 31'26.73''N	92° 10'35.01''E
7	25° 31'24.40''N	92° 10'36.27''E
8	25° 31'25.74''N	92° 10'37.29''E
9	25° 31'27.17''N	92° 10'37.48''E
10	25° 31'29.23''N	92° 10'38.03''E

The proposed land is on lease for a period of 20 years vide Deed of Lease which was executed on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 and certified by the Public Notary, Government of Meghalaya.

The applied area is a Non Forest Land which was confirmed by the Divisional Forest Officer, Jaintia Hills Territorial Division, Jowai vide letter No.JH/IR/EC/2022-23/985/B/1134, dated Jowai, the 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 and Letter of Intent vide letter No.JH/P.A/M.L/L.S/2022-23/B/842 dated Jowai, the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 respectively.

The project proponent obtained a cluster certificate from the Divisional Mining Officer, Directorate of Mineral Resources, Meghalaya, Jowai vide letter No.DMO-J/79/MM/Mining



Plan/2022-23/25 dated Jowai, the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 which states that there is one (1) approved mining plans lying within 500 metres from the applied mining lease area. Hence the applied mining area does not fall under cluster category since the total area of four mines is summed up to 2.35 hectares.

The project proponent submitted the Mining Plan with Progressive Mine Closure Plan approved by the Divisional Mining Officer, Directorate of Mineral Resources, Meghalaya, Jowai vide letter No.DMO-J/79/MM/Mining Plan/2022-23/24 dated Jowai, the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023. The Mining Plan has been prepared to extract boulder stone at the rate of 20,060 TPA with a project cost of Rs.16.00 lakhs and the operations will be open cast, semi-mechanized method of mining.

The mineable reserves of boulder stone are of the order of 357630 MT. The production in the period of the mining plan will be around 100260MT in 5 years. Therefore, the balance reserves will be  $(357630 - 100260)$  or 257370MT. If the production target is 20060MT, the balance reserve will be sufficient for  $(257370/20060)$  or 12.83 years. Thus, the total life of the mine is  $5+12.83=17.83$  or say 18 years.

### **Recommendation**

After due screening and examination of all the documents submitted by the Project Proponent and deliberation as well as observation using kml file through google earth, the committee unanimously recommended for ADS (As per verification from google earth, it was observed the proposed mining site appears to be in very close proximity with the neighbouring cultivated lands. Hence, Project Proponent is to obtain a written no objection certificated from concerned owners.



### III. Proposal No.SIA/ML/MIN/437975/2023 submitted by Shri. Tomen Marak

The Project Proponent, **Shri. Tomen Marak** submitted online application vide proposal No. SIA/ML/MIN/437975/2023 for Environmental Clearance for Rongsanggre Stone Mine for mining of boulder stone for an area of 0.81 hectares. The proposal is for mining of boulderstone use for construction purposes, hence the project fall under Schedule 1(a) of category B2 of EIA Notification 2006. The area is located at located at Rongsanggre, P.O New Bhaitbari, P.S Phulbari, West Garo Hills District, Meghalaya and toposheet No. G46M2 with the following GPS Coordinates:

Pillar No	GPS Coordinates	
	Latitude	Longitude
1	25° 47' 34.84"N	89° 59' 47.70"E
2	25° 47' 34.12"N	89° 59' 49.34"E
3	25° 47' 35.63"N	89° 59' 50.94"E
4	25° 47' 37.45"N	89° 59' 50.40"E
5	25° 47' 37.65"N	89° 59' 47.83"E
6	25° 47' 35.73"N	89° 59' 47.31"E

The proposed land is on lease for a period of 9 years 11 months vide Deed of Lease which was executed on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 and certified by the Sub-Registrar, Tura, Meghalaya.

The applied area is a Non Forest Land which was confirmed by the Divisional Forest Officer, West & South-West Garo Hills (T) Division, Tura vide letter No.B/16/VII/NOC/MMMCR/3388-90 dated Tura, the 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 and Letter of Intent vide letter No.B/16/VII/358, dated Tura, the 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2023 respectively.

The project proponent obtained a cluster certificate from the Divisional Mining Officer, East Garo Hills, Williamnagar vide letter No.DMO-W/MP/15/2023/14 dated Williamnagar, the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 which states that there is no approved mining plan lying within 500 metres from the applied mining lease area. Hence, the Environment Management Plan is not required.

The project proponent submitted the Mining Plan with Progressive Mine Closure Plan approved by the Divisional Mining Officer, East Garo Hills District, Williamnagar vide letter No.DMO-W/MP/90/23/281 dated Williamnagar, the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023. The Mining





Plan has been prepared to extract boulder stone at the rate of 36393.9 TPA with a project cost of Rs.84.7 lakhs and the operations will be open cast, mechanized method of mining.

As per the approved mining plan, the estimated life of the mine is 6 years.

### **Recommendation**

After due screening and examination of all the documents submitted by the Project Proponent and deliberation as well as observation using kml file through google earth, the committee unanimously recommended for ADS (As per verification, from google earth from google earth it was observed the proposed mining site appears to be worked out/operated within part of the proposed area. Hence, Project Proponent is to obtain a written justification from concerned department like Mining & Geology/DMR /DC in approving the mining lease.



#### IV. Proposal No.SIA/ML/MIN/173863/2020 submitted by Smt. Merilla Sangma

The Project Proponent, **Smt. Merilla Sangma** submitted online application vide proposal No. SIA/ML/MIN/173863/2020 for Environmental Clearance for Sonamite Brick Earth Mine (M/S M.A.S. Bricks Factory) for mining of brick earth for an area of 0.35 hectares. The proposal is for mining of brick earth for construction purposes; hence the project fall under Schedule 1(a) of category B2 of EIA Notification 2006. The area is located at located at Sonamite, PO: Garobadha, West Garo Hills District, Meghalaya and Survey of India toposheet No. 78 O/2 and 78 K/14 with the following GPS Coordinates:

Pillar No	GPS Coordinates	
	Latitude	Longitude
1	25° 34' 06.7"N	90° 01' 16.6"E
2	25° 34' 07.7"N	90° 01' 18.4"E
3	25° 34' 11.2"N	90° 01' 16.6"E
4	25° 34' 11.1"N	90° 01' 15.4"E

The proposed land is on lease for a period of 10 years vide Indenture of Lease which was executed on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023 and certified by the Sub-Registrar, South West Garo Hills, Meghalaya.

The applied area is a Non Forest Land which was confirmed by the Divisional Forest Officer, West & South-West Garo Hills (T) Division, Tura vide letter No.B/16/VII/NOC/MMMCR/2816-18 dated Tura, the 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2019 and renewed Letter of Intent vide letter No.B/16/VII/3940, dated Tura, the 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2022 respectively.

The project proponent obtained a cluster certificate from the Divisional Mining Officer, East Garo Hills, Williamnagar vide letter No.DMO-W/MP/15/2019/96 dated Williamnagar, the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 which states that there is no approved mining plan lying within 500 metres from the applied mining lease area. Hence, the Environment Management Plan is not required.

The Project Proponent also obtained the 'No Objection Certificate' issued by the District Agriculture Officer, South West Garo Hills, Ampati vide letter No.AGRI/SWGH/DAO/NOC-22/2023-24/96 dated Ampati, the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

The project proponent submitted the Mining Plan with Progressive Mine Closure Plan approved by the Divisional Mining Officer, East Garo Hills District, Williamnagar vide



letter No.DMO-W/MP/39/2019/185 dated Williamnagar, the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The Mining Plan has been prepared to extract brick earth at the rate of 7,32,000 Bricks/Year or 2447 cum of Earth Clay is needed every year with a project cost of Rs.42 lakhs and the operations will be open cast, mechanized method of mining.

As per the approved mining plan, the estimated life of the mine is 5 years.

### **Recommendation**

After due screening and examination of all the documents submitted by the Project Proponent and deliberation as well as observation using kml file through google earth, the committee unanimously recommended for grant of Environment Clearance with the following conditions.

1. Curtain drains to be constructed to intercept the surface water runoff if any, including debris etc. overflowing to the adjoining land/agricultural field etc. during the mining operation; Monitoring Agency is to take necessary action as per relevant section(s) of Water (Prevention & Control of pollution) Act, 1974.
2. GPS coordinates of each pillar should be carved/painted clearly on the pillars with red colour.
3. A board highlighting the name of project and project proponent, location name, total area of the mine, date of issue of EC by SEIAA and CTO & CTE by MSPCB should be installed at the entrance to the mining site and should be clearly visible.



**V. Proposal No.SIA/ML/MIN/77002/2020 submitted by Shri. Albert Steven Diengdoh**

The Project Proponent Shri. **Albert Steven Diengdoh**, submitted online application vide proposal No. SIA/ML/MIN/77002/2020 for Environmental Clearance for Limestone Mine for an area of 3.6 hectare. The proposal is for mining of limestone to supply to lime kilns and for construction purposes. The project falls under Schedule 1(a) of category B2 of EIA Notification 2006. The mining lease area is located at **Bagli, Khonjoy village, South West Khasi Hills District** Meghalaya and toposheet Survey of India No.78O/4 within the following GPS Coordinates:

<b>Pillar No</b>	<b>GPS Coordinates</b>	
	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
<b>1</b>	25° 12' 47.24''N	91° 3' 18.68''E
<b>2</b>	25° 12' 49.75''N	91° 3' 21.52''E
<b>3</b>	25° 12' 52.52''N	91° 3' 25.61''E
<b>4</b>	25° 12' 47.24''N	91° 3' 27.99''E
<b>5</b>	25° 12' 45.49''N	91° 3' 23.87''E
<b>6</b>	25° 12' 43.83''N	91° 3' 19.91''E

The proposed land is on lease for a period of 15 years which was executed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015certified by the Sub-Registrar, South West Khasi Hills, Mawkyrwat.

The applied area is a Non Forest Land which was confirmed by the Divisional Forest Officer, Khasi Hills Territorial DivisionShillong vide letter No.KH/8/NOC/Limestone/41/Pt/IV/611, dated Shillong, the 7<sup>th</sup>May, 2018and letter of Intent vide letter No.T/WSW/ML/LS/AS Diengdoh/324 dated Nongstoin, the 19<sup>th</sup>June 2020 from the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry & Territorial Division, West & South West Khasi Hills, Nongstoin.

The project proponent obtained a cluster certificate from the Mining Engineer, Directorate of Mineral Resources, Meghalaya, Shillong vide letter No.DMR/MM/226/2018/12 dated Shillong, the 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 which states that there are four approved mining plan lying within 500 metres from the applied mining lease area. Hence the applied mining area falls under cluster category since the total area of total nine mines is summed up to 19.4 hectares.

The project proponent submitted the approved Mining Plan with Progressive Mine Closure Plan approved by the Mining Engineer, Directorate of Mineral Resources, Meghalaya, Shillong vide letter No.DMR/MM/226/2018/457, dated Shillong, the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The Mining Plan has been prepared to extract Limestone at the rate of 60,000 TPA with a project



cost of Rs.65 lakhs and the operations will be open cast, semi-mechanized method of mining. The mine has a total measured mineable reserves of 14,57,212 MT. The mine is targeted to produce 60,000 MT of limestone per annum taking the production as 240 TPD taking 250 as the total working days per annum. On this basis, the anticipated life of the mine will be 24.3 years. But after leaving residual benches to prevent a vertical face around the mined-out area, the reserves of limestone that will be blocked on the residual benches will be 1,28,882 MT. The mineable reserves therefore come to only 13,28,330 MT. Accordingly, the actual anticipated life of the mine will be 22.1 years.

The project was already awarded Term of Reference by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Meghalaya vide letter No.ML/SEIAA/MIN/SWKH/P-108/2020/1663 dated Shillong the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and submitted the final EIA/EMP for the proposed Mining of Lime stone where the project proponent complied all the points in compliance to the Term of Reference prepared by GEOGREEN ENVIRO HOUSE PVT. LTD

The public hearing was held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022 which was conducted by the Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board and presided over by Shri. W. Biam, MCS, ADC & i/c SDO Ranikor Civil Sub Division, South West Khasi Hills District.

### **Recommendation**

After due screening and examination of all the documents submitted by the Project Proponent and deliberation as well as observation using kml file through google earth and the presentation of the EIA/EMP, the committee unanimously recommended for ADS (As per verification, the project proponent has to furnish the following):

1. From google earth it shows that the road is less than 100 meters from the proposed mining site. As per the Amended Notification of MMMCR 2016, dated 21.09.2020, Amendment Rule 4.1.(b): It is stated that no mining lease and quarry permit shall be granted in respect of any land within a distance of 100 metres from any settlement, water source, bridges, dams, not involved and 200 metres restriction when blasting is involved. Hence, the Project Proponent is to obtain written justification from concerned departments like Forest & Environment, Mining & Geology/DMR in approving the mining lease, mining plan which is at variance with specifications of Meghalaya Minor Minerals Concession Rules, 2016, amended 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2020)



2. As per verification and deliberation, the proposed mining site requires an Over Burden (OB) dump site. Hence, the project proponent needs to rework on the schematic map for the OB site of the proposed mining site.





## **PROPOSALS THAT WERE DEFERRED FOR SITE VISIT IN THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF SEAC:**

### **1.Proposal No.SIA/ML/MIN/406341/2022 submitted by Smt. Wilme R. Marak (M/S Kusumkolgre Sand and Gravel Permit)**

The Project Proponent, Smt.Wilme R. Marak submitted online application vide proposal No.SIA/ML/MIN/406341/2022for Environmental Clearance for Kusumkolgre Sand and Gravel Permit for an area of 1.6 hectares. The proposal for mining of sand and gravel will be used for the construction purpose for development (Private as well as Government projects) and hence the project fall under Schedule 1(a) of category B2 of EIA Notification 2006. The area is located at Kusimkolgre, East Garo Hills District, Meghalaya and toposheet Survey of India No. G46M11within the following GPS Coordinates:

Pillar No	GPS Coordinates	
	Latitude	Longitude
1	25°31'29.21"N	90°34'55.09" E
2	25°31'31.61"N	90°35'0.05" E
3	25°31'30.51"N	90°35'5.96" E
4	25°31'28.82"N	90°35'6.27" E
5	25°31'28.87"N	90°34'59.58" E
6	25°31'29.89"N	90°34'58.70" E
7	25°31'28.74"N	90°34'55.76" E

The proposed mining area is on lease vide Lease Agreement signed between the Nokma of SimsangKusimkolgre and the Project Proponent and certified by the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April,2022.

The applied area is a Non Forest Land which was confirmed by the Divisional Forest Officer, East&NorthGaro Hills (T) Division,Williamnagar vide letter No. B/16/SGM/1726-1732 dated Williamnagar, the 7<sup>th</sup>April, 2022 and Letter of Intent vide No.B/16/SGM/2468 datedWilliamnagar the 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.

The project proponent has obtained a cluster certificate from the Divisional Mining Officer, East Garo Hills, Williamnagar , vide letter No.DMO- W/MP/15/2019/86 dated Williamnagar the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 where it is mentioned that that there is no other mine lying within 500 metres from the applied mining lease area. Hence, the Environment Management Plan is not required.

The project proponent submitted mining plan approved by the Divisional Mining Officer, East Garo Hills, Williamnagar , vide letter No.DMO- W/MP/86/2022/81 dated Williamnagar the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The Mining Plan has been prepared to extract sand and gravel at 13,560 CM/annum with a project cost of Rs. 16.00 Lakhs and the operations will be open cast, semi-mechanized method of mining.

As per the mining plan, the mineable reserves are 50850 Cu M which will be excavated during 5 years period at the rate of 10170 Cu M per year. Thus, life of quarry is 5 years.

The proposal was put up on the 63<sup>rd</sup> SEAC Meeting where the committee has unanimously deferred the proposal for Reconsideration as the project needs site verification as per the Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining.

The proposal was again put up on the 64<sup>th</sup> SEAC Meeting where the committee has unanimously deferred the proposal for Site Visit as the project needs further scientific review and deliberation with experts within or even outside the State Expert Appraisal committee before recommending the case to SEIAA for grant of EC. The Committee conducted an onsite inspection to the proposed Mining site on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and the field visit report has been prepared and uploaded for the same.

**Recommendation:**

After due screening and examination of all the documents submitted by the Project Proponent and deliberation as well as observation using kml file through google earth and verification on actual site visit, the committee unanimously recommended for grant of Environment Clearance with the following conditions.

1. The sand mining should be scaled low i.e., without mechanization
2. Restriction on the movement of big vehicles into the banks of the river
3. The mining activity should be confined within 3-4 meters away from Pillar No 4 which is seen to be within the river and away from Pillar No 6 which is also near the river



4. Overall, the mining activity should not go close to the river
5. Local labourers should be encouraged
6. Regular inspection by the mining authority to ensure compliance
7. Sand mining should be restricted as long as large deposits exist. In the lean period, mining should not be undertaken
8. Gravel mining too should be restricted to the shoreline/banks only
9. Downstream should be first analysed if there is the existence of a fish sanctuary etc.  
Hence limited activity should be permitted so that the river does not get polluted.



**PROPOSALS THAT WERE GIVEN ADDITIONAL DETAILS SOUGHT (ADS) IN THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF SEAC:**

**I. Proposal No. SIA/ML/MIN/69733/2021 submitted by Shri. Balnen Ch.Sangma.**

The Project Proponent, Shri Balnen Ch.Sangma submitted online application for Term of Reference vide proposal No:SIA/ML/MIN/69733/2021 for Sudap Bisik (Chiran Songma) Stone Mine for an area of 2.00 hectares. The proposal is for mining of boulder stone to be used for construction of buildings & making/dressing of roads. The project falls under Schedule 1(a) of category B2 of EIA Notification 2006. The mining lease area is located at Sudap Bisik, P.O. Dhanua, West Garo Hills District, Meghalaya and toposheet Survey of India No.78G/14 within the following GPS Coordinates:

Pillar No	GPS Coordinates	
	Latitude	Longitude
1	25° 39'22.00"N	89° 57'17.60"E
2	25° 39'25.40"N	89° 57'20.70"E
3	25° 39'23.60"N	89° 57'25.40"E
4	25° 39'19.90"N	89° 57'23.20"E

The proposed mining area is on lease for periods of 20 years vide Deed of Lease Agreement made on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at Tura certified by District Registrar, Tura, Meghalaya.

The applied area is a Non Forest Land which was confirmed by the Divisional Forest Officer, West & South-West Garo Hills (T) Division, Tura vide letter No.B/16/VII/NOC/MMMCR/3880-82 dated Tura, the 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 and Letter of Intent vide letter No.B/16/VII/3883-87, dated Tura, the 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 respectively.

The project proponent obtained a cluster certificate from the Division Mining Officer, East Garo Hills, Williamnagar vide letter No.DMO-W/MP/15/2019/26 dated Williamnagar, the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 which states that there are five (5) approved mining plan lying within 500 metres from the applied mining lease area. Hence the applied mining area falls under cluster category since the total area of six mines is summed up to 16.8 hectares.

The project proponent submitted the Mining Plan with Progressive Mine Closure Plan approved by the Divisional Mining Officer, East Garo Hills District, Williamnagar vide



metres from the applied mining lease area. Hence the applied mining area falls under cluster category since the total area of six mines is summed up to 16.8 hectares.

The project proponent submitted the Mining Plan with Progressive Mine Closure Plan approved by the Divisional Mining Officer, East Garo Hills District, Williamnagar vide letter No.DMO-W/MP/60/2021/338 dated Williamnagar, the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The Mining Plan has been prepared to extract lime stone at the rate of 138048 TPA with a project cost of Rs.83.70 lakhs and the operations will be open cast, mechanized method of mining.

As stated in the mining plan, the anticipated life of the mine is  $258565.50/245214=1.05*5=5.27$  years.

In response to the ADS raised by the committee in the 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of the State Expert Appraisal Committee, the project proponent has furnished a written justification from Divisional Forest Officer stating that the earth cutting in the appeared worked out area has been carried out without the prior notice of the project proponent.

#### **Recommendation:**

In response to the ADS raised by the committee in the 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of the State Expert Appraisal Committee, the project proponent has submitted a forwarding letter from the Deputy Commissioner, West Garo Hills ,Tura vide letter No.TGC/42/F.E/2022/91 dated Tura, the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 enclosing an enquiry report and certificate from Divisional Forest Officer, West & South-West Garo Hills (T) Division, Tura vide letter No.B/16/VII/2659-60 dated Tura, the 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 declaring that no mining operation has been done in the proposed mining site as the earth cutting in the appeared worked out area has been carried out without the prior notice of the project proponent.. As such, the committee unanimously recommended for grant of Terms of Reference with the following conditions.

1. A settling Tank is to be constructed, at a suitable site within the mining area for collection of debris, sediment, silt, fragmented stones etc. carried by surface water channelized through the Curtain drain. The deposited debris, spoils etc. are to be removed/cleared, both from the tank and drain as and when required. Overflowing water that flows downhill shall be dispersed but precautions to be taken those spoils etc. generated from mining are not carried along.





3. Curtain Drain is to be constructed properly to intercept the surface water from flowing into the mining area and water flowing out of the mine channelized to the Settling tank.
4. If any debris etc. overflows to adjoining land/agricultural field etc. during the mining operation, Monitoring Agency is to take necessary action as per relevant section(s) of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
5. In annual EMP budget under GREEN BELT, creation of plantations including nursery cost, fencing etc the notified norms of Forest and Environment Department, Govt of Meghalaya is to be followed strictly, including financial cost. Budget under said head stands revised accordingly.
6. To increase the allocation for plantation and maintenance to a minimum of Rs. 1 lakh per annum and increase the number of saplings to be planted. The Nurseries for the approved species as given in the EIA report should be created before commencement of the mining plan and the types of species should be according to the Forest Department Plantation Norms (Amended in 31.03.2023) & plantation should be done in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the planed period.
7. CER should be included in the capital cost and it should be increased to a minimum of Rs 1 lakh annually.
8. Boundary pillars with the height not less than 2.5 feet above the ground level and 1.5 feet below ground and minimum 8 inches on all face of pillar should be erected.
9. GPS coordinates of each pillar should be carved/painted clearly on the pillars with red colour.
10. A board highlighting the name of project and project proponent, location name, total area of the mine, date of issue of EC by SEIAA and CTO & CTE by MSPCB should be installed at the entrance to the mining site and clearly visible.
11. Fencing of the boundary of site with minimum two strands of barbed wire or ordinary split bamboo fencing is to be erected all around the periphery of the approved mining area.
12. Storing and collection of water through rainwater harvesting for dust sprinkling and recharging of the aquifers.
13. A retaining wall of adequate height not less than 6 ft above the ground level and 4-6 ft below the ground level is to be constructed within mining site for stacking of Over Burden (OB), to ensure that no debris etc. overflows to adjoining land/agricultural field.



The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.



Chairman

State Expert Appraisal Committee  
Meghalaya Shillong