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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 76th/77 Meetings of the JK Expert Appraisal Committee held on 30th November/04th December & 11th December, 2021 through video Conferencing issued vide No.EAC/JK/21/11651-11664 dated 13-12-2021 & No.EAC/JK/21/11761-11773 dated 15-12-2021, the 70th Meeting of the JK Environment Impact Assessment Authority was held on 18th December, 2021 at 1100 Hrs. 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.

Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of Shri Ghulam Mohammad Pinchoo S/O Mohammad Rajab Pinchoo R/O Faisal Colony Jawbara Awantipora, Pulwama, JK UT for Minor Mineral Block No – 27, Al – Mah Village Upstream Vishu Nallah, Mah, Qaimoh, Kulgam, JK UT Area 9.21 Ha.(Reduced Area 8.21ha.). under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/57331/2020.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B1 category for Minor Mineral Block No – 27, Al – Mah Village Upstream Vishu Nallah, Mah, Qaimoh, Kulgam, JK UT Area 9.21ha.(Reduced Area 8.21ha.).

LOI has been issued on 05-08-2020, which has been extended on 21-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 31-08-2020. The Terms of Reference were issued to the project on 27-12-2020 and public hearing of the project was conducted on 08-05-2021. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 17-11-2020 and area of the project has been reduced by the Geology & Mining Department on 30-10-2021.

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 project had earlier been discussed during 19th meeting held on 17.11.2020 during which the Committee recommended ToRs in favour of the project subject to condition that the mining block is relocated to exclude green area and to tap materials south of the Pillar-C of the mining block to appropriately train the nalla. The PP has got the mining block resized thereby reducing its area from 9.21 Ha to 8.21 Ha by partially excluding the active water channel. The green patch observed on Google image during previous meeting was not found existing in the block as per features observed on the latest Google image of 10/2021, and has vanished probably due to illegal mining. The PP has submitted title verification of the mining block from the competent Authority which rules out possibility of any private cropland within the block. The Committee, as such, observed that the mining block needs to be further resized by excluding the remaining active water channel / water creeks.
- b) The Committee while examining the mining block on Google Earth platform, observed features indicative of heavy illegal mining in the block. The same needs clarification from the Multi Dept. District level Task Force (MDLTF) Cell for fixing responsibility in this regard.
- c) In view of over exploitation and extensive illegal mining observed on the Google image, the Committee is apprehensive of availability of enough minable reserves that can be retrieved without further damaging the ecology of the river system. Therefore, the G&M Dept. needs to physically verify the availability of material on site and convey their firm estimate of minor mineral reserves that can be retrieved without violating norm of not excavating beyond 1 m below NSL in absence of replenishment data in the DSR and accordingly, issue a 'fit for mining certificate' for the mining block.
- d) The examination of mining block on Google Earth platform also revealed features that are suggestive of irrigation off-take points in the vicinity of the mining block. The RQP representing the case contested the existence of any such irrigation facility in the vicinity of the block.
- e) Therefore, the Committee desired project proponent to obtain field verification of the observations made by the Committee as discussed herein above, by the concerned Xen Irrigation Dept. In case, it is found that such irrigation facilities are not actually existing as claimed by the RQP, same needs to be recorded by the concerned hydraulic engineer with consent of local PRI, with seal and signature, certifying therein that there are no irrigation off- take points within 200m of the mining block boundary, preferably on the back side of Colour Google image of the area depicting the mining block boundary and Kuhls/canals off-take points.
- f) Further, a joint inspection Committee similar to the one already constituted by District Administration for block No.26 earlier, comprising of representatives of Revenue, G&M Dept., Irrigation & Flood Control Dept. and Fisheries Dept. needs to be constituted to inspect and report technical feasibility of allowing further mining in the said mining block, also certifying therein, that the mining activity in the block would not cause any adverse

- environmental impact on the existing irrigation facilities, flood protection works and fisheries potential of the nalla.
- g) The Committee also observed two rectangular features suggestive of Forest/Horticulture nurseries in the close vicinity of the mining block. The consultant failed to indicate the same in the site appreciation note and also could not clarify the same during deliberations. Therefore, necessary clarification / specific NOC shall have to be obtained by the PP w.r.t the two nurseries from the concerned department's viz. Forest/Horticulture Dept. or local PRI/private owners, as the case may be.
 - h) The PP shall also submit revised PFR/EIA after recalculating the targeted mineral production by excluding the active water channel.
 - i) The compliance to specific ToR condition relating to photographs of display screen of Air Quality Monitoring Station displaying the dates of collection of data is missing in EIA report which needs to be submitted.
 - j) Project cost has been underestimated by the consultant as it does not include cost of EMP, CER and therefore needs to be revised.
 - k) EMP/CER budget needs to be revised with appropriate budget.
 - l) 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.
 - m) 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 did not approve the case in the present form. However, the Project Proponent, if he so desires, may again approach the JKEIAA for reconsideration of the case after complying with the observations/requirements as detailed 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.02.

Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of Shri Nazir Ahmad Wani S/O Ab Wahid Wani R/O Shumnag District Kupwara. JK UTfor Bed Mining Project – Area 10.00ha. located at Minor Mineral Block No.: - 10, Shartmuqam Bridge to Check Drugmullah Upstream Nallah Pohru, Village - Shath Muqam, Tehsil - Kupwara & District - Kupwara, and JK UT (Reduced area 1.13ha) (ADS). under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/226351/2021 & SIA/JK/MIN/60956/2021.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B2 category for Bed Mining Project – Area 10.00ha. located at Minor Mineral Block No.: - 10, Shartmuqam Bridge to Check Drugmullah Upstream Nallah Pohru, Village - Shath Muqam, Tehsil - Kupwara & District - Kupwara, and JK UT (Reduced area 1.13ha) LOI has been issued on 20-08-2020, which has been extended on 05-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 28-10-2020. The Terms of Reference were issued to the project on 14-05-2021. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 24-04-2021/23-09-2021 and area of the project has been reduced by the Geology & Mining Department on 23-08-2021.

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 project had earlier been discussed during 38th meeting held on 24.04.2021 during which the committee recommended TORs to the project subject to title verification by the competent revenue authority and after recalculation of the targeted mineral production by excluding the active water channel.
- b) The project was again discussed during 61st meeting held on 23.09.2021 during which the committee rejected the case for grant of EC. The PP, however was allowed to approach the JKEIAA again after submitting following compliances:-
 - i. Resizing the block by excluding the entire water channel and to maintain safe distance to the piers of bridge.
 - ii. Submission of clarification from R&B Dept. w.r.t bridge piers presumably under construction in the close vicinity of the mining block.
- c) The PP has got the mining block further resized from 3.50 Ha to 1.13 Ha by excluding the entire active water channel and maintaining safe distance to the bridge piers.
- d) The PP also presented the NOC from the concerned Xen, R&B Dept. in compliance to item ii.
- e) It was also noted that the Xen Irrigation Dept. has issued NOC subject to restricting mining depth at max. 0.60m only and the Committee, during 61st JKEAC Meeting had also desired that the PP must restrict the mining depth to 0.60m only.
- f) The Committee, however, observed that the consultant has not yet updated the Prefeasibility report by recalculating the targeted mineral production at 1.13 Ha block size with mining depth of 0.60m and therefore desired that the PP should submit the updated /revised PFR, prior to grant of EC.
- g) The Committee further observed features on Google Image, indicative of an off-take point of irrigation kuhls in the vicinity of the mining block and desired project proponent to obtain field verification of same by the concerned Xen Irrigation Dept. In case, it is found that such irrigation facility is not existing, same needs to be recorded by the concerned hydraulic engineer with consent of local PRI, with seal and signature, certifying therein that there are no irrigation off-take points within 200m of the mining block boundary, preferably

on the back side of Colour Google image of the area depicting the mining block boundary and Kuhls/canals off- take points, prior to grant of EC.

- h) Submission of 'non-involvement in illegal mining certificate' from MDLTF Cell, prior to grant of EC.
- i) G&M Dept. needs to revisit the economic viability of the revised mining block in view of drastic reduction in the mining block size from 10 Ha to 1.13 Ha as the same could lead to illegal mining practices to fill the viability gap, if adequate monitoring is not ensured by enforcement agencies.
- j) Clear cut NOC from Revenue Dept. submitted w.r.t. title of the land as state land has been submitted.
- k) Cluster certificate has also been submitted for consideration under B2 category.
- l) EMP/CER budget be revised as suggested in remarks column prior to grant of EC as Hume pipes are no longer required while restricting mining to dry shoal area only.
- m) Project cost has been underestimated by the consultant as it does not include cost of EMP/CER etc. and therefore needs to be revised, prior to grant of EC.
- n) Revised mining plan not submitted yet. Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, revised area surface plan, area targeted mineral production and replenishment and its denovo approval by the competent authority prior to grant of EC.
- o) Mining depth of 2.5m & bulk density of 2.3 adopted in the instant mining plan were not agreed by the committee. Mining depth be restricted to max. 0.60m in aggregate and bulk density of 2.0 only be adopted for calculating the production targets in absence of actual field measurements.

Recommendations of the JKEAC:

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

- a) Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of JKEAC Meeting.
- b) Compliance of observations made herein above under deliberations, prior to grant of EC.
- c) Submission of revised PFR with revised area of 1.13 Ha and mining depth of 0.60m and recalculated targeted mineral production, prior to grant of EC.
- d) Submission of field verification report from concerned Xen, Irrigation Dept. with seal and signature with local PRI on board, certifying therein that there are no irrigation off-take points within 200m of the mining block, preferably on the back side of Colour Google image, prior to grant of formal EC.
- e) Securing of 'non-involvement in illegal mining certificate' from MDLTF Cell, prior to grant of EC.
- f) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments which need to be monitored by the enforcement agencies and concerned dept.
- 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 13500 MT.
- i) Condition that the 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 due deliberations, the JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the JKEAC to grant Environment clearance to 1.13 ha of the project subject to following conditions:-

- a) Revalidation of Lol by the Geology and Mining Department.
- b) Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of JKEAC Meeting.
- c) Compliance to the observations made by JKEAC during deliberations herein above prior to grant of EC.
- d) Submission of revised PFR and revised calculation of targeted mineral production on the basis of revised area of 1.13 Ha and mining depth of 0.60m, prior to grant of EC.
- e) Submission of field verification report from concerned Xen, Irrigation Dept, certifying that there are no irrigation off-take points within 200m of the mining block boundary, prior to grant of formal EC.
- f) The MDLTF Cell headed by the concerned Dy. Commissioner shall submit a report to JKEIAA, within a period of six weeks or prior to 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.
- g) 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.
- h) Revision of EIA, EMP/CER Budget as suggested by JKEAC prior to grant of EC.
- i) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments which need to be monitored by the enforcement agencies and concerned dept.
- j) No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- k) While issuing EC, Member Secretary shall specifically mention revised geographical coordinates for revised area conveyed by G&M Dept.
- l) Validity of only three years from the date of commencement of the mining operations duly certified by the District Mineral Officer concerned with intimation to the JKEIAA and JKPCB in view of non-availability of replenishment data.

Agenda Item No.03.

Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of ShriRiyaz Ahmad Sofi S/O Habib-Ullah Sofi R/O Waskhura Ganipora Handwar J K UT for Minor Mineral Block No – 02, Shedipora – Rukhmachwari (Bakahakar) Bridge to Kachiwara Downstream, Talri Nallah Village Bahakar Rajwar District Kupwara, JK UT, (Reduced area 7.83ha.) (ADS) UT under proposal No. SIA/JK/MIN/58521/2020.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B1 category for Minor Mineral Block No – 02, Shedipora – Rukhmachwari (Bakahakar) Bridge to Kachiwara Downstream, Talri Nallah Village Bakahakar Rajwar District Kupwara, JK UT, (Reduced area 7.83ha.)

LOI has been issued on 29-07-2020, which has been extended on 14-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 17-09-2020. The Terms of Reference were issued to the project on 18-01-2021 and public hearing of the project was conducted on 30-06-2021. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 09-01-2021/23-09-2021 and area of the project has been reduced by the Geology & Mining Department on 06-08-2021.

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 the NOCs (conditionally) in favour of the project.

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- a) The project had earlier been discussed during 23rd meeting held on 09.01.2021 during which the committee recommended TORs to the project subject to condition that boundaries of the mining block are redefined/redrawn so as to exclude land outside the nallah bed (including land parcels bearing tree cover) besides obtaining a certificate from the concerned Revenue Authority (Tehsildar Concerned) to the effect that the mining block covers only the river bed and does not include any land outside the river bed including proprietary land.
- b) The project was again discussed during 61st meeting held on 23.09.2021 during which the Committee rejected the case for grant of EC. The PP, was however allowed to again approach the JKEIAA, if he so desires, with following compliances:-
 - i. To exclude the area outside nalla bed.
 - ii. To obtain certificate from Revenue Authority to the effect that the mining block covers only Nalla bed and does not include any land outside the river bed including proprietary land.
 - iii. To propose mitigation measures to address the concerns of locals raised during public hearing w.r.t lowering down of the water table due to mining activity.
 - iv. Non-involvement report in illegal mining activity from MDLTF Cell.
- c) The compliance to item i has not been submitted. Though the PP has resized the block to maintain safe distance to the bridge, he has failed to exclude the areas outside the nallah bed.
- d) The compliance to item ii has also not been made.
- e) With respect to item iii, the PP has proposed some measures w.r.t the points raised during public hearing especially the concerns relating to the water availability in the nearby well. But the Committee was not satisfied with the proposals made in this regard.
- f) In spite of considerable concern /apprehension shown by the locals during public hearing in regard to depletion of ground water due to proposed mining,

the project proponent / Consultant has failed in enunciating any engineering mitigation measures to protect the water table from further depletion.

- g) However, with respect to item No. iv, the PP has submitted compliance by producing the report from the MDLTF Cell indicating that the PP is not involved in illegal mining in the block.
- h) Earlier, during the 61st JKEAC meeting, the Committee had opined that interest of the public can be best served by not allowing mining activity in the area as agriculture is the mainstay and source of livelihood of majority of people residing here.
- i) The depletion of water table and its adverse effect on local crops has also been clearly brought out by the Tehsildar concerned through his communication dated 31/08/2021.

Recommendations of the JKEAC:

In view of the above deliberations and insight gained during the above cited appraisal process, the Committee did not approve the case.

Decisions of JKEIAA:

After due deliberations, the JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the JKEAC to reject the case.

Agenda Item No.04.

Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of Shri Ajaz Ahmad Magray R/o Gh. Mohi-Ud-Din Magray R/o Kandi Khass Handwara District Kupwara JK UT for Minor Mineral Block No.07, Mughalpora Bridge to Bumhama (Exit Point) D/Stream, Pohru Nallah, District - Kupwara, JK UT(Reduced area 7.3ha.) (ADS) under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/58321/2020.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B1 category for Minor Mineral Block No.07, Mughalpora Bridge to Bumhama (Exit Point) D/Stream, Pohru Nallah, District - Kupwara, JK UT(Reduced area 7.3ha.)

LOI has been issued on 25-08-2020, which has been extended on 15-04-2021 and was valid up to 31-08-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 17-09-2020. The Terms of Reference were issued to the project on 23-12-2020 and public hearing of the project was conducted on 30-06-2021. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 05-12-2020/23-09-2021 and area of the project has been reduced by the Geology & Mining Department on 26-08-2021.

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 the NOCs (conditionally) in favour of the project.

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- a) The project had earlier been discussed during 21st meeting held on 05.12.2020 during which the Committee recommended TORs to the project subject to

- relocation/resizing/reducing the minor mineral block to achieve a distance of 500 mts. from the bridge and excluding the active water channel area (10%).
- b) The project was again discussed during 61st meeting held on 23.09.2021 during which the Committee rejected the case for grant of EC. However, the Consultant was allowed to resubmit the case after making the following compliances:-
 - i. Clarification from Xen Irrigation in regard to potential damage to irrigation structures like irrigation offtake point existing within 200m.
 - ii. Addressing the diverse concerns raised in the Public Hearing by the representatives of local population especially w.r.t lowering down of water table.
 - iii. Submission of clarification from Tehsildar on presence of cropland within the boundaries of mining block.
 - iv. Submission of clarification from MDLTF Cell on illegal mining activity.
 - c) The consultant informed that one irrigation off-take point does exist but is at a distance of 250m from the mining block. However, the Committee desired that the Xen Irrigation Dept. should issue site specific NOC indicating presence or absence of offtake 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 consent of local PRI, with seal and signature, certifying therein, that there are no irrigation off-take points within 200m of the mining block boundary, preferably on the back side of Colour Google image of the area depicting the mining block boundary and Kuhls/canals off-take points, prior to grant of EC.
 - d) The mitigation measures presented by the consultant which also includes restricting mining depth to max. 0.60m as prescribed by the concerned Xen, Irrigation Dept. and the same needs to be followed in letter and spirit.
 - e) The Tehsildar concerned has intimated that title of the land is state land and no private land exists within the mining block.
 - f) The PP has also submitted report on illegal mining from MDLTF Cell indicating that the PP is not involved in the illegal mining in the block.
 - g) The PP shall ensure that the active water channel does not get disturbed during haulage of material for which enough No. of Hume pipes of appropriate specification shall be laid for crossing over the water creek.
 - h) The compliance to specific ToR condition relating to photographs of display screen displaying the date of collection of data is missing in EIA report which needs to be submitted, prior to grant of EC.
 - i) Project cost has been underestimated by the consultant as it does not include cost of EMP/ CER etc. which needs to be revised, prior to grant of EC.
 - j) EMP/CER needs to be revised with appropriate budget as suggested in remarks column, prior to grant of EC.
 - k) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, revised area, surface plan, area targeted mineral production and replenishment and its denovo approval by the competent, prior to grant of EC.
 - l) Bulk density of 2.5 adopted in the instant mining plan was not agreed by the committee. Mining depth be restricted to max. 0.60m in aggregate and bulk

density of 2.0 only be adopted for calculating the production targets in absence of actual field measurements.

Recommendations of the JKEAC:

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

- a) Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of JKEAC Meeting.
- b) Compliance of observations made herein above under deliberations, prior to grant of EC.
- c) Submission of field verification report from concerned Xen, Irrigation Dept. with seal and signature with local PRI on board, certifying therein that there are no irrigation off-take points within 200m of the mining block, preferably on the back side of Colour Google image, prior to grant of formal EC.
- d) Submission of revised EIA/EMP as per deliberations, prior to grant of EC.
- e) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments which need to be monitored by the enforcement agencies and concerned dept.
- f) The condition that No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers is used in mining and no water course disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- g) Maximum targeted mineral production of 52500 MT.
- h) Revised geographical coordinates as per revised area are conveyed by G&M Dept. to JKEIAA for incorporation in the EC letter.
- i) Validity of only three years from the date of commencement of the mining operations duly certified by the District Mineral Officer concerned with intimation to the JKEIAA and JKPCB in view of non-availability of replenishment data.

Decisions of JKEIAA:

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

- a) Revalidation of Lol by the Geology and Mining Department.
- b) Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of JKEAC Meeting.
- c) Compliance to the observations made by JKEAC during deliberations herein above prior to grant of EC.
- d) Submission of field verification report from concerned Xen, Irrigation Dept, certifying that there are no irrigation off-take points within 200m of the mining block boundary, prior to grant of formal EC.
- 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) 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.

- g) Mining depth be restricted to max. 0.6m in aggregate and bulk density of 2.0 be adopted for calculating mineral production subject to maximum production of 52500 MT.
- h) Revision of EIA, EMP/CER Budget as suggested by JKEAC prior to grant of EC.
- i) The PP shall ensure that the active water channel does not get disturbed during haulage of material for which enough No. of Hume pipes of appropriate specification shall be laid for crossing over the water creek.
- j) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments which need to be monitored by the enforcement agencies and concerned dept.
- k) No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- l) While issuing EC, Member Secretary shall specifically mention revised geographical coordinates for revised area conveyed by G&M Dept.
- 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.

Agenda Item No.05

Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of ShriKapil Agarwal S/O Shri Jugesh Agarwal, R/O H. No.179 near Panjpir Mandir Anandpur, Pathankot, Punjab for Minor mineral block 03, Mehmoodabad Bridge, Sandran Nallah Downstream District-Anantnag, JK UT(Reduced area 4.00ha.). under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/238510/2021.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B2 category for Minor mineral block 03, Mehmoodabad Bridge, Sandran Nallah Downstream District- Anantnag, JK UT (Reduced area 4.00ha.).

LOI has been issued on 18-06-2021, which has been extended on 18-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 13-09-2021. The area of the project has been reduced by the Geology & Mining Department on 27-10-2021.

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 the NOCs (conditionally) in favour of the project.

The NOC from the Irrigation Department raises concerns that the supply channel of Krerri Nowpora Kard is located in the vicinity of mining block and the extraction of river bed material shall adversely affect the functioning of irrigation facilities to the beneficiaries. Since, Kreeri Nowpora Kard Ladh is a Zamandari Khul, NOC from Tehsildar concerned may also be sought.

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- a) The project proponent has applied for grant of EC as a fresh case and the PP has on its own got the mining block resized from 8.69 Ha to 4.00 Ha for maintaining safe distance of 500m from the bridge as per letter No. 5517-19 dated 27/10/2021 issued by the Joint Director, G&M Dept.

- b) As per the communication issued by concerned Xen Irrigation Dept. the supply channel of Krerri Nowpora Kard is located in the area and extraction of bed material shall adversely affect smooth irrigation facilities to the beneficiaries. However, the Xen has desired that NOC with respect to the Zamandari Kuhl in the vicinity may be sought from the concerned Tehsildar.
- c) The Committee also observed features indicative of existence of a Khul offtake point within 200m from the mining block.
- d) In view of the apprehensions expressed by the concerned Xen Irrigation Dept. and observations on Google Earth Image, the Committee is of the considered view that mining activity in the block will adversely affect the regulation of water supply in the irrigation Khul existing in the area.
- e) Title verification of the land under the mining block not submitted by the project proponent.
- f) Extensive illegal mining activity observed in and around the mining block as per features on latest Google image of 11, 2020 which needs appropriate action by the competent authority in this regard.

Recommendations of the JKEAC:

In view of the above deliberations / observations made by the Committee here-in-above, the Expert Appraisal Committee rejected the case for grant of EC.

Decisions of JKEIAA:

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

Agenda Item No.06.

Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of Shri Vinod Kumar Shukla S/O Shri Chander Narayan Gupta R/O. Behinar, Unnao, Uttar Pradesh for Riverbed material mining, Block No. 09/A, Hall Rajpora Bridge Downstream Nalla Sasara, Pulwama, JK UT (Reduced area 1.61ha.) under proposal No. SIA/JK/MIN/238420/2021, SIA/JK/MIN/67529/2021 & SIA/JK/MIN/54923/2021.

Brief Summary:

This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B2 category for Riverbed material mining, Block No. 09/A, Hall Rajpora Bridge Downstream Nalla Sasara, Pulwama, JK UT (Reduced area 1.61ha.)

LOI has been issued on 09-06-2020, which has been extended on 18-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 10-07-2020. The area of the project has been reduced by the Geology & Mining Department on 30-10-2021.

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 Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla vide reference No.DCP/Estt/SM/NOC/512-24 dated 03/05/2021 has conveyed NOCs of Stakeholder departments under Single Window clearance system.

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- a) The case had been discussed by the Expert Appraisal Committee earlier during the 64th Meeting held on 13/10/2021 under B1 category during which the Committee did not approve the project for grant of Terms of Reference. However, the PP was allowed to again approach the JKEIAA after resizing the block to maintain safe distance to the bridges on either sides and to apply under appropriate category.
- b) The PP has now again approached the JKEIAA after getting the mining block resized from Geology and Mining Department vide letter No. 5624-26 dated 31/10/2021 with resultant area of 1.61Ha instead of 4.48 Ha for keeping a safe distance of 500 mts. from both the bridges.
- c) The Project proponent has submitted a cluster certificate issued from Joint Director Geology and Mining Department vide letter dated 12/11/2021 which mentions that no e-auctioned minor block falls within a distance of 500 mts. from the e-auctioned minor block No 09/A Pulwama covering an area of 1.61 Ha.
- d) Extensive illegal mining activity observed in and around the mining block as per features on latest Google image which needs appropriate action by the competent authority in this regard.
- e) The Committee observed that almost 60% of the area of the resized mining block comprises of active water channel. Further in rest of the 40% dry shoals, illegal mining has depleted the mineral resources to a large extent and there appears little material left for mining activity which needs 'fit for mining certificate' from the G&M Dept. mentioning therein that adequate replenishment has taken place and there is enough of RBM available in the block that can be retrieved without causing any adverse effect on the ecological and hydrological regime of the nalla.
- f) The examination of mining block on Google Earth platform revealed features that are suggestive of irrigation off-take points in the vicinity as well as in the center of the mining block. But, the NOC issued by Irrigation Dept. under Single Window System is general in nature and does not indicate the existence of any irrigation kuhl offtake point within or in the vicinity of the mining block.
- g) Therefore, the Committee desired project proponent to obtain field verification report of same from the concerned Xen Irrigation Dept., if he so desires. In case, it is found that such irrigation facility is not existing, same needs to be recorded by the concerned hydraulic engineer with consent of local PRI, with seal and signature, certifying therein, that there are no irrigation off- take points within 200m of the mining block boundary, preferably on the back side of Colour Google image of the area depicting the mining block boundary and Kuhls/canals off-take points.

Recommendations of the JKEAC:

In view of the above deliberations / observations made by the Committee here-in-above, the Expert Appraisal Committee recommended the mining block for rejection of environmental clearance. However, the PP, if he so desires, may obtain ground verification report w.r.t presence or absence of irrigation off-take points within or in close vicinity of the mining block and 'fit for mining certificate' from the G&M Dept. as

per deliberations made herein above to again approach the JKEIAA for reconsideration of the case.

Decisions of JKEIAA:

After due deliberations, the JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the JKEAC to reject the case for grant of Environment clearance. However, the PP, may obtain ground verification report w.r.t presence or absence of irrigation off-take points within or in close vicinity of the mining block and '**fit for mining certificate**' from the G&M Dept. as per deliberations of the JKEAC along with revalidated Lol to again approach the JKEIAA for reconsideration of the case.

Agenda Item No.07.

Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of M/S Sai Mines, Address-Logate Kathua, JKUT for Riverbed Mining Project of Minor Mineral in Block No.30, A-Chowgam Bridge Downstream Viethvethri Nalla, District-Kulgam, JK UT, Area 3.27ha. (Reduced area 1.01ha.) (ADS) under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/197867/2021.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B2 category for Riverbed Mining Project of Minor Mineral in Block No.30, A-Chowgam Bridge Downstream Viethvethri Nalla, District-Kulgam, JK UT , Area 3.27ha. (Reduced area 1.01ha.)

LOI has been issued on 18-07-2020, which has been extended on 18-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 04-12-2020. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 21-11-2021 and area of the project has been reduced by the Geology & Mining Department on 05-11--2021.

As per summary of appraisal report, District Survey Report has not been formulated as per guidelines and needs to be revised for including replenishment data etc., Status of NOC's in appraisal report shows that Dy. Commissioner, Kulgam vide letter No.DCK/Acctts/2021-22/12-26/98-21 dated 03-04-2021 has conveyed NOCs of Stakeholder departments.

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- a) The case had been discussed by the Expert Appraisal Committee earlier during the 66th Meeting held on 21/11/2021 during which the Expert Appraisal Committee did not approve the project. However, the PP, had been allowed to approach JKEIAA after getting the mining block resized by the competent authority to maintain safe distance of 500mts from the bridges upstream and downstream of the mining block, obtaining fit for mining certificate and securing a non-involvement in illegal mining certificate from competent authority and to apply under appropriate category.
- b) The PP has now again approached the JKEIAA with the mining block resized from Geology and Mining Department vide letter No 5766/68 dated 05/11/2021 covering an area of 1.01 ha instead of 3.27 Ha by maintaining safe distance of 500 mts. from the bridges.
- c) The PP has also submitted a copy of letter No. 517-18 dated 16/11/2021 from DMO concerned addressed to the Joint Director, G&M Dept. wherein it has been

mentioned that the resized block is fit for mining and having good potential for RBM. The PP needs to obtain the said certificate from the Joint Director, G&M Dept., Kashmir, prior to grant of EC.

- d) The report from the Multi dept. District Level Task Force Cell to the effect that the PP is not involved in it is still awaited and needs to be submitted, prior to grant of EC. In case it is reported that the PP is involved in illegal mining, the process for grant of EC shall be liable to be aborted.
- e) The examination of mining block on Google Earth platform revealed features that are suggestive of irrigation off-take points in the vicinity of the mining block. The Committee desired clarification from the concerned Xen Irrigation Dept. but there was no one present to clarify the doubt as the NOC issued by the concerned Dept. was found to be in a generalized format and not specific to the ground realities.
- f) Therefore, the Committee desired project proponent to obtain field verification report of same from the concerned Xen Irrigation Dept. In case, it is found that such irrigation facility is not existing, same needs to be recorded by the concerned hydraulic engineer with consent of local PRI, with seal and signature, certifying therein, that there are no irrigation off-take points within 200m of the mining block boundary, preferably on the back side of Colour Google image of the area depicting the mining block boundary and Kuhls/canals off-take points, prior to grant of EC.
- g) The Committee while observing the mining block on Google Earth Image, found that the mining block encompasses two large shoals on either side of the active water channel with a small triangular shoal on the right side downstream of the block. It was therefore, desired that the PP shall have to further resize the mining block to 0.60 Ha only by restricting mining only to two large shoals with separate haulage routes on either side of the water channel. Accordingly, the PP shall get the mining block resized and recalculate the minable reserves besides revising the haulage routes, prior to grant of EC.
- h) Drastic reduction in mining area is bound to affect the economic viability of mining operations. The same needs to be re-ascertained by the G&M Dept. as the viability gap, if it exists, is likely to open doors to illegal mining and further degradation of environment.
- i) Revision of the mining plan with mine closure plan, revised mining depth, revised mining block area, revised surface plan, targeted mineral production and replenishment and its denovo approval by the competent authority prior to grant of EC.
- j) EMP Budget needs to be revised with appropriate budget as suggested in the remark's column of EMP table herein above, prior to grant of EC.
- k) Mining depth be restricted to max. 1m in aggregate and bulk density of 2.0 only be adopted for calculating the production targets in absence of actual field measurements.

Recommendations of the JKEAC:

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

- a) Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of JKEAC Meeting.
- b) Submission of compliance to the observations made herein above under deliberations, prior to grant of EC.
- c) Securing of “Non-involvement in illegal mining” certificate from the Multi Dept. District level Task Force (MDLTF) Cell, prior to grant of formal EC.
- d) Submission of field verification report from concerned Xen, Irrigation Dept. with seal and signature with local PRI on board, certifying therein that there are no irrigation off-take points within 200m of the mining block, preferably on the back side of Colour Google image, prior to grant of formal EC.
- e) Further resizing of the block to 0.60 Ha and revision of PFR with revised haulage routes as per deliberations prior to grant of EC.
- f) Securing a formal ‘fit for mining certificate’ from the G&M Dept., prior to grant of EC.
- g) Maximum targeted mineral production of 12,000 MT.
- 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) Condition that No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers is used in mining and no water course disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- j) Condition the geographical coordinates as per revised area 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 Environment clearance to 0.60ha of the project subject to following conditions:-

- a) Revalidation of Lol by the Geology and Mining Department.
- b) Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of JKEAC Meeting.
- c) Compliance to the observations made by JKEAC during deliberations herein above prior to grant of EC.
- d) Further resizing of the block to 0.60 Ha and revision of PFR with two separate haulage routes on either side of the water channel as per deliberations prior to grant of EC.
- e) Securing a formal ‘fit for mining certificate’ from the G&M Dept., prior to grant of EC.
- f) Submission of field verification report from concerned Xen, Irrigation Dept, certifying that there are no irrigation off-take points within 200m of the mining block boundary, prior to grant of formal EC.

- g) The MDLTF Cell headed by the concerned Dy. Commissioner shall submit a report to JKEIAA, within a period of six weeks or before execution of lease of minor mineral block, whichever is earlier, that PP is not involved in the illegal mining activity, failing which the EC is liable to be revoked.
- h) 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 12,000 MT.
- j) Revision of EIA, EMP/CER Budget as suggested by JKEAC prior to grant of EC.
- k) Reassessing the economic viability of the project by the Geology and Mining Department keeping in view further resizing of the block.
- l) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments which need to be monitored by the enforcement agencies and concerned dept.
- 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.08.

Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of M/S Singh Minerals R/O Near Kali Mata Mandir, Kollu Wali Gali, Pathankotfor Minor Mineral Block No. 04 in Naj Nallah Upstream Naj Bridge, District Kathua (Plan-II) JK UTarea 9.06 ha. (ADS) under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/61939/2021.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to grant of Environment Clearance under B1 category for Minor Mineral Block No. 04 in Naj Nallah Upstream Naj Bridge, District Kathua (Plan-II) JK UTarea 9.06 ha.

LOI has been issued on 22-09-2020, which has been extended on 18-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 17-02-2021. The Terms of Reference were issued to the project on 13-07-2021 and public hearing of the project was conducted on 23-09-2021. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 14-06-2021/03-11-2021.

As per summary of appraisal report, District Survey Report has not been formulated as per guidelines and needs to be revised for including replenishment data etc., Status of NOC's in appraisal report shows that Addl. Dy. Commissioner, Kathua has conveyed NOCs of Stakeholder departments.

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- a) The case had been discussed by the Expert Appraisal Committee earlier during the 45th Meeting held on 14/06/2021 for grant of ToRs and 69th meeting held

03/11/2021 during which the committee did not agree to recommend the case for grant of EC. However, the PP was allowed to approach JKEIAA for reconsideration of the case after complying with following requirements / observations:-

- i. The Concerned Dy. Commissioner needs to constitute a committee comprising of Xen Irrigation, Xen Flood Control, Tehsildar concerned and the representatives of PRI to visit the site to know the actual ground conditions vis-à-vis the apprehensions expressed in the public hearing and the representations against mining activity in the area.
 - ii. Clarification w.r.t presence of Irrigation offtake points within 200m from the mining block from Xen Irrigation Dept. with PRI on board.
 - iii. Title verification from Revenue Authority.
- b) The Xen. Irrigation, Flood control, PHE Division Kathua and Tehsildar, Billawar have conducted a joint inspection of the Minor Mineral Blocks in the area, in presence of Local Panchayat representatives. The Committee has reported that no hydraulic structures/Irrigation canals/kuhls/ offtake points shall be damaged during the mining operations & there shall be no scarcity of ground water in Minor Mineral Block no. 04, 08 & 09.
 - c) The Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Kathua has also issued a detailed NOC mentioning therein that there is no irrigation structure/ network existing within 200m upstream or downstream of the block.
 - d) The NOC from Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Kathua while issuing a fresh detailed NOC mentions that there is no PHE infrastructure existing in block identified by the concerned mining department officials.
 - e) The PP has failed to submit the title verification from the competent revenue authority which needs to be submitted prior to grant of EC.
 - f) 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.
 - g) The ToR condition relating to submission of photographs of display screen of the air quality monitoring station showing data with dates of collection of the baseline data has not been submitted in the EIA report and the same need to be submitted prior to grant of EC.
 - h) Mining depth of 2.00 m and Bulk density of 2.25m in mining plan not agreed by the Committee. Mining depth be restricted to max. 1m in aggregate and bulk density of 2.0 only be adopted for calculating the production targets in absence of actual field measurements.

Recommendations of the JKEAC:

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

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

- c) Submission of title verification by the concerned revenue authority should be submitted by the PP prior to grant of EC.
- d) All genuine concerns raised during public hearing would be addressed by the PP.
- e) 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.
- f) Compliance to the specific ToR condition relating to photographs of display screen displaying the date of collection of data within six months of grant of formal EC.
- g) 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 108,700 MT.
- i) Condition the geographical coordinates as per revised area to be conveyed by G&M Dept. are mentioned in the EC letter by JKEIAA.
- j) Validity of only three years from the date of commencement of the mining operations duly certified by the District Mineral Officer concerned with intimation to the JKEIAA and JKPCB in view of non-availability of replenishment data

Decisions of JKEIAA:

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

- a) Revalidation of Lol by the Geology and Mining Department.
- b) Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure B to the Minutes of JKEAC Meeting.
- c) Compliance to the observations made by JKEAC during deliberations herein above prior to grant of EC.
- d) Submission of title verification by the concerned revenue authority should be submitted by the PP prior to grant of EC.
- e) All genuine concerns raised during public hearing should be addressed by the PP.
- f) 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.
- g) 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 108,700 MT.
- h) Revision of EIA, EMP/CER Budget as suggested by JKEAC prior to grant of EC.
- i) 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.
- j) Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the NOCs of the stakeholder departments which need to be monitored by the enforcement agencies and concerned dept.

- k) No JCBs/ Excavators/ Bulldozers to be used in mining and no water course to be disturbed while transporting minor minerals.
- l) While issuing EC, Member Secretary shall specifically mention revised geographical coordinates for revised area conveyed by G&M Dept.
- 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.

Agenda Item No.9.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of ShriKapil Aggarwal S/O Jugesh Aggarwal R/O 179, Near Panjpir Mandir Anandpur, Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Punjab for Minor Mineral Block 14, ANG/II/14 Anag Bridge Lidder Nallah Upstream, District Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir Area 7.47 ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/63366/2021.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to Grant of Terms of Reference under B1 category for Minor Mineral Block 14, ANG/II/14 Anag Bridge Lidder Nallah Upstream, District Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir Area 7.47 ha.

LOI has been issued on 31-07-2020, which has been extended on 18-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 26-04-2021. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 08-10-2021.

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 the NOCs (conditionally) in favour of the project. However, NOC of revenue department is not submitted and NOC of irrigation department is ambiguous.

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- a) The consultant informed that the mining block has been resized from 9.23 Ha to 7.47 Ha to maintain safe distance of 500m distance from the bridge.
- b) Heavy illegal mining activity was observed in the mining block as per features on Google image of Oct, 2021 which requires appropriate action by the competent authority.
- c) 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) Flood protection works and irrigation offtake points of Kuhl were also observed on Google image of Oct, 2021 located in close vicinity /adjacent to the block.
- e) Title verification documents of the land under mining block was also not available.
- f) Further, the proposed mining block was observed being crisscrossed by active water channels at multiple locations. Mining in the block, besides having implications for existing irrigation network in the area, would also require crossing the active water channels multiple times for evacuation of the mined

material or adopting multiple haulage routes which would affect the surveillance / monitoring of the mining operations and would contribute to further degradation of the existing environment in the area.

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 ToRs to the project.

Decisions of JKEIAA:

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

Agenda Item No.10.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of Shri Karanvir Singh S/O Shri Surinder Singh R/O- 3, Shaheed Udham Singh Nagar Pathankot, Punjab for River Bed Mining Project of Minor Mineral Block -09, Downstream Nallah Rambiarra from Batapora Bridge, Tehsil & District Shopian, JK UT area 9.94ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/66172/2021 & SIA/JK/MIN/56411.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to Grant of Terms of Reference under B1 Category for River Bed Mining Project of Minor Mineral Block -09, Downstream Nallah Rambiarra from Batapora Bridge, Tehsil & District Shopian, JK UT area 9.94ha.

LOI has been issued on 20-04--2020, which has been extended on 18-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 09-06-2021.

As per summary of appraisal report, District Survey Report has not been formulated as per guidelines and needs to be revised for including replenishment data etc.,

Status of NOC's in appraisal report shows that stakeholder departments have issued NOCs (conditionally) in favour of the project. However, NOC of revenue department is ambiguous and doesn't state the title of the land under the block as state land.

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- a) Illegal mining activity was observed in the mining block as per features on Google image of Sep, 2018 and the Committee desired to know whether such illegal mining activity has been continuing in the mining block. It was desired that the PP shall have to obtain clarification from the Multi Dept. District level Task Force (MDLTF) Cell to fix responsibility for the illegal mining and to rule out involvement of the PP in illegal mining, if the same is still continuing.
- b) In view of depleted condition of the material in the block, the Committee desired that the PP should obtain a 'fit for mining certificate' from the G&M Dept. mentioning therein that adequate replenishment has taken place and that further mining will not cause any adverse on the ecological and hydrological regime of the nalla.
- c) The NOC from Revenue Dept. does not mention the title of the land under mining block. The same needs to be submitted at the time of appraisal for grant of EC.
- d) Active water channel/s have been observed crisscrossing the mining block. These need to be excluded from the mining area for calculating the revised targeted mineral production.

- e) 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.
- f) Bulk density of 2.3 adopted in the instant mining plan was not agreed by the committee. Bulk density be based on actual ground survey for calculating the production targets in absence of actual field measurements.
- g) Since, the norms on sand mining prescribe that Mining shall not be undertaken in a mining lease 200 meter upstream and downstream of water supply / irrigation scheme and 50 meters from a reservoir and canal, the PP shall obtain a specific NOC, with special reference to supply channel of Zawora canal, from the concerned Executive Engineer, Irrigation and / Flood control Divisions in light of above stated norms indicating presence or absence of irrigation off-take points within 200m from the mining block.
- h) Detailed chapter on haulage route/s proposed by the proponent after obtaining due consent of the owners of land and PRI also be made essential part of the documentation.

Recommendations of the JKEAC:

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

Decisions of the JKEIAA:

After due deliberations, the JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee to grant Terms of Reference to the project subject to the conditions/observations recorded under deliberations made by the JKEAC.

Agenda Item No.11.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of ShriKaranvir Singh S/O ShriSurinder Singh R/O- 3, Shaheed Udham Singh Nagar Pathankot, Punjab for River Bed Mining Project of Minor Mineral Block -16, Upstream Nallah Rambiarra from Rang Kadal, Tehsil & District Shopian, JK UTarea 4.20 ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/66205/2021 & SIA/JK/MIN/56308/2021.

Brief Summary:

This case pertains to Grant of Terms of Reference under B1 Category for River Bed Mining Project of Minor Mineral Block -16, Upstream Nallah Rambiarra from Rang Kadal, Tehsil & District Shopian, JK UTarea 4.20 ha.

LOI has been issued on 02-04-2020, which has been extended on 18-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 09-06-2021. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 11-10-2021.

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 the NOCs (conditionally) in favour of the project. However, NOC of revenue department is ambiguous and doesn't state the title of the land under the block as state land.

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- a) While observing the Google image of 09/2018, the Committee observed a bridge at a distance of 300 m which requires resizing of the mining block to maintain a safe distance of 500m to the civil structure.
- b) Heavy illegal mining activity was also observed in the mining block as per features on Google image of Sep, 2018 which need appropriate action by the competent authority.
- c) 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) Active water channel also observed in the mining block.
- e) Title verification of the land not presented by the consultant.
- f) Features indicative of supply channels of off-take points of irrigation facility were observed on Google image of Sep, 2018 originating from within the mining block.
- g) While observing the Google image of 09/2018, the committee observed an Electric transmission tower within the mining block towards the Pillar coordinate D and another in close vicinity of the block. The Committee further opined that resizing of the mining block for maintaining safe distance to the bridge and electric transmission tower, besides, excluding the active water channel would hardly leave any area for conduct of safe mining operations that would not harm the environment.
- h) A school was also observed located in close vicinity of the mining block.
- i) Bulk density of 2.3 adopted in the instant mining plan 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 grant of ToRs to the project.

Decisions of JKEIAA:

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

Agenda Item No.12.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Mahavir Mining R/o 01 Lane No.03 Shaheed Udham Singh Nagar. for Minor Mineral in Block No.16, ANS River Downstream Narloo Bridge, District-Reasi, Area 8.20ha. (ADS). under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/61532/2021.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to Grant of Terms of Reference under B1 Category for Minor Mineral in Block No.16, ANS River Downstream Narloo Bridge, District-Reasi, Area 8.20ha.

LOI has been issued on 09-09-2020, which has been extended on 18-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 14-01-2021. The case was earlier discussed by the JKEAC on 22-04-2021.

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., NOC's of stakeholder departments have not been included in the project proposal

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 the committee desired project proponent to obtain categorical NOC\ from Forest Dept., mentioning therein Forest pillar coordinates vis-à-vis nearest pillar coordinate of the mining block before proceeding further in the matter. Besides, the PP was also asked to exclude the active water channel.
- b) The PP has now again approached the JKEIAA for considering the project after obtaining NOC from DFO concerned, Mahore Forest Division vide letter no 731 dated 09/07/2021 in which coordinates of the mining block and the nearest coordinate of the forest boundary pillar have been given besides, stating that Minor mineral block is located approximately 15mts. away from the demarcated forest boundary.
- c) The Committee observed that the coordinates provided in the NOC fall on the left side of the mining block whereas the point of conflict was located on the right side (village Matlote side). Therefore, it was desired that the PP should obtain a fresh clarification from the forest Dept. on the issue and get rectified coordinates of the pertinent area where the forest boundary appears to be traversing the mining block.

Recommendations of the JKEAC:

In view of the above deliberations/observations made by the Committee here-in-above, the Expert Appraisal Committee did not recommend the case for grant of ToRs in the present form. However, the PP may again approach JKEIAA after obtaining necessary clarification from Forest Department and necessary rectification in boundaries of mining block, if required to avoid the area under forest.

Decisions of JKEIAA:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee to reject the case for grant of Terms of Reference in the present form. However, the project proponent may again approach JKEIAA after revalidation of Lol and obtaining necessary clarification from Forest Department as well as rectification in boundaries of mining block, if required, to avoid the area under forest.

Agenda Item No.13.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Sai Mines R/O Logate, Kathua, JK UT for River Bed Material in Block No- 02, Tanda Seri Khad, District - Reasi, JK UT Area 8.16 ha. for JK UT under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/63800/2021.

Brief Summary:

This case pertains to Grant of Terms of Reference under B1 Category for River Bed Material in Block No- 02, Tanda Seri Khad, District - Reasi, JK UT Area 8.16 ha.

LOI has been issued on 20-07-2020, which has been extended on 18-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 11-05-2021.

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 except revenue department have issued the NOCs (conditionally) in favour of the project.

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- a) Title verification has not been submitted by the PP which needs to be obtained.
- b) Active water channel if any, needs to be excluded from the mining block while calculating the targeting mineral production.
- c) Detailed chapter on haulage route/s proposed by the proponent after obtaining with due consent of the owners of land and PRI also be made essential part of the documentation.
- d) 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.
- e) Bulk density of 2.5 adopted in the instant mining plan was not agreed by the committee. Mining depth be restricted to max. 1m in aggregate and bulk density be based on actual ground measurements.

Recommendations of the JKEAC:

In view of the above deliberations / observations made by the Committee herein above, the Expert Appraisal Committee recommended the project for grant of ToRs for preparation of EIA/EMP subject to Standard and Specific Conditions as per Annexure A to these Minutes of Meeting and compliance to observations made herein above.

Decisions of JKEIAA:

After due deliberations, the JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee to grant Terms of Reference to the project subject to revalidation of LoI and compliance of observations made by the Committee here-in-above.

Agenda Item No.14

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of Shri Karanvir Singh S/O Shri Surinder Singh R/O- 3, Shaheed Udham Singh Nagar Pathankot, Punjab for Minor Mineral Block 11, ANG/SA/11 Larkipora Bridge Upstream Bringi Nallah, Village Larkipora, District Anantnag, JK UT Area 8.12 ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/63360/2021.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to Grant of Terms of Reference under B1 Category for Minor Mineral Block 11, ANG/SA/11 Larkipora Bridge Upstream Bringi Nallah, Village Larkipora, District Anantnag, JK UT Area 8.12 ha.

LOI has been issued on 31-07-2020, which has been extended on 18-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 26-04-2021.

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 the NOCs (conditionally) in favour of the project.

NOC from Irrigation Department mentions that the Zaldoora Ladi channel is located in the area and extraction of the bed material shall adversely affect the irrigation facilities to the beneficiaries. Hence, NOC from concerned Tehsildar may be also be sought.

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- a) The project proponent has got the block resized from Joint Director Geology and Mining Department vide letter No 5301-03 dated 01/10/2021 covering an area of 8.12 ha instead of 10 ha for maintaining safe distance of 500 mts from the nearby bridge.
- b) The communication from the Irrigation Department mentions that the Zaldoora Ladi supply channel is located in the area and extraction of the bed material shall adversely affect the irrigation facilities to the beneficiaries and as such NOC from Tehsildar concerned may also be sought as Zaldoora Ladi is a Zamandari Kuhl.
- c) The NOC issued by the concerned Xen, Irrigation Dept. is self-contradictory because on the one hand, he issues the NOC but, on the other hand, states that mining operations in the block shall adversely affect the irrigation facilities to the beneficiaries.
- d) The Committee also observed features on Google Image, indicative of an off-take point of irrigation kuhls in the vicinity of the mining block.
- e) Title verification has not yet been submitted by the PP.
- f) Illegal mining activity was observed in and around the mining block as per features on latest Google image of 10, 2021 which need appropriate action by the competent authority.
- g) 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.
- h) Mining depth of 2.5 and bulk density of 2.1 adopted in the instant mining plan were not agreed by the committee.

Recommendations of the JKEAC:

In view of the above deliberations/observations made by the Committee herein above, the Expert Appraisal Committee rejected the case for grant of ToRs to the project.

Decisions of JKEIAA:

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

Agenda Item No.15.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of Shri Ranbir Singh S/O Shri Gulwant Singh R/O Sheikhpur Bagh, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Punjab for River Bed Mining Project of Minor Mineral Block -38, Downstream Nallah Rambiarra from Achan Heff Bridge, Tehsil Chitragam & District Shopian, JK UT area 5.67ha.(Cluster situation) under proposal No. SIA/JK/MIN/66786/2021.

Brief Summary: This case pertains to Grant of Terms of Reference under B1 Category (Cluster situation) for River Bed Mining Project of Minor Mineral Block -38, Downstream Nallah Rambiarra from Achan Heff Bridge, Tehsil Chitragam & District Shopian, JK UT area 5.67ha.

LOI has been issued on 20-05-2021, which has been extended on 18-09-2021 and was valid up to 30-11-2021. Mining plan has been approved on 09-06-2020.

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 the NOCs (conditionally) in favour of the project. NOC of Irrigation Division mentions Offtake point of Rawthpora canal and Nickloora Minor. NOC from Revenue Department does not mention the title of the land.

Deliberations/specific observations of JKEAC:

- a) While observing the mining block on Google Earth image using KML file submitted by the consultant, it was found that a bridge is located within 295m from the mining block and another foot bridge exists within the mining block.
- b) The NOC from the Irrigation Department mentions Offtake point of Rawthpora canal and Nickloora Minor in the vicinity. The Committee also further observed features on Google Image, indicative of an off-take point of irrigation Kuhls in the vicinity of the mining block.
- c) Illegal mining activity is observed in and around the mining block as per features on latest Google image of 10, 2021 which need appropriate action by the competent authority.
- d) The Committee further observed that mining reserves have greatly depleted due to heavy illegal mining and hardly any reserves of minor minerals are available which can be extracted without damaging the environmental setting of the nalla. The Committee, therefore, was of the opinion that further mining operations in the block shall not be compatible with safe environmental practices.
- e) NOC from Revenue Dept. has been submitted but it does not mention the Title of the land.
- f) Mining depth of 3.00 and 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 / observations made by the Committee herein above, the Expert Appraisal Committee recommended the project for rejection of ToRs.

Decisions of JKEIAA:

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

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/VII/4966-86

Dated:21/12/2021

Copy by email to:

1. Mr. Lal Chand, IFS (Rtd.), Hon'ble Chairman, JKEIAA, for information.
2. Er. Nazir Ahmad (Rtd. Chief Engineer), Hon'ble Member, JKEIAA, for information.
3. Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Mining Department, J&K Government for favour of information.
4. Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, J&K Government, Civil Secretariat, Jammu for favour of kind information.
5. Dr. Neelu Gera, IFS PCCF/Director, EE&RS, Member Secretary, JKEIAA, for information
6. Director, Geology & Mining Department, J&K Government, Jammu for information and necessary action.
7. Deputy Commissioner, _____ 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)


21/12/2021
(Staff Officer)

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