



Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest &amp; Climate Change

**J&K ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY****(at) DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND REMOTE SENSING**

S.D.A. Colony, Bemina, Srinagar-190018 (May-Oct)/ Paryavaran Bhawan, Transport Nagar, Gladni, Jammu-180006 (Nov-Apr)

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**MINUTES OF THE 29<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE JK ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY HELD ON 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2021 at 10:30 Hrs. IN THE CONFERENCE HALL OF DIRECTORATE OF ECOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT & REMOTE SENSING DEPARTMENT, PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, TRANSPORT NAGAR, NARWAL, GLADNI, JAMMU.**

The following attended the meeting:-

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Lal Chand, IFS (Retd.)                 | Chairman, JKEIAA         |
| 2. Er. Nazir Ahmad (Retd., Chief Engineer)    | Member, JKEIAA           |
| 3. Dr. Neelu Gera, IFS Pr.CCF/Director, EE&RS | Member-Secretary, JKEIAA |

In pursuance to the Minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of JKEAC held on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 conveyed vide endorsement No.EAC/JK/20/5855-868 dated 23-03-2021, The 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of JK Environment Impact Assessment Authority was held 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 at 10:30 Hrs. in the Conference Hall of Directorate of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing Department, Paryavaran Bhawan, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Gladni, Jammu.

Following are the deliberations and decisions of the meeting:-

**AGENDA ITEM NO.1.**

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Sai Mines R/o Logate, District-Kathua, JK UT for River bed Mining Project of Minor Mineral in Block No.13, M-Chillan Asthal Bridge Upstream Veshaw Nalla, District-Kulgam, JK UT over an area of 9.32ha. under proposal No. **SIA/JK/MIN/60775/2021.**

**Deliberations:**

The case has been discussed/appraised by the JKEAC on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. The consultant has given a detailed presentation during which detailed deliberations have been held on the various aspects of the project like mining depth, replenishment study, active water channel and surface plan. While examining mining block on Google Earth platform it was observed that a patch of cropland exist within the designated mining block as revealed by the Google Image of October, 2017 and January, 2018. Therefore, the Committee has opined that PP should get title verified from the concerned revenue authority. JKEAC has observed that bid amount of auction as per Lol is only 18.95 lakhs, which is comparatively much less than what the Govt. earned in case of mining blocks of identical size and material through e-auction. The Committee unanimously opined that the consultant should add a separate

comprehensive chapter on cost benefit analysis of allowing mining activity in this mineral block as the environmental and social costs outweigh the low revenue being earned against exploitation of the mineral wealth.

In view of the above deliberations, the Committee unanimously recommended the project for grant of ToRs enabling consultant prepare EIA/EMP and to conduct the Public Hearing subject to title verification of the mining block by the concerned revenue authority and subject to exclusion of the private land, if any, involved due to change of nallah course and revision of the project cost.

**Decision:**

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of JKEAC to grant ToRs for further action as required under rules subject to title verification of mining block by concerned revenue authority, exclusion of private land involved, if any, due to change of nallah course and revision of the project cost.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.2.**

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Sai Mines R/o Logate, District -Kathua, JK UT for River bed Mining Project of Minor Mineral Block No-24, Poonch River Downstream Kalai Bridge Kalai area, District-Poonch, JK UT over an area of 9.11 Ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/59984/2021.

**Deliberations:**

The case has been discussed/appraised by the JKEAC on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. The consultant has given a detailed presentation during which detailed deliberations have been held on the various aspects of the project like mining depth, replenishment study, active water channel and surface plan. The mining block was examined on the Google Earth image of January 2021 and the Committee observed signs of large-scale illegal mining in the mining block. The past images Google Earth platform also showed traces of cultivation in the nallah bed, thus necessitating title verification. JKEAC has also observed that the bid amount earned as per Lol is only 19.00 lacs, which is comparatively much less than what Govt. earned in case of mining blocks of identical size and material through e-auctioning. The Members unanimously opined that the consultant should add a separate comprehensive chapter on cost benefit analysis of allowing mining activity in this mineral block, as the environmental and social costs seem to outweigh the low revenue being earned by the Govt. against exploitation of the mineral wealth. While examining the KML file of the mining block on the time scale of Google Image, it was observed that sand mining may have been carried out illegally post auctioning / allotment of the contract, which raises apprehensions about illegal mining activities which PP needs to clarify.

In view of the above deliberations, the Committee unanimously recommended that the G&M Dept. be asked to constitute an interdepartmental Committee comprising of representatives of G&M Dept., Soil Conservation Dept., Irrigation & Flood Control Dept., Fisheries Dept and the local Police to ascertain and fix responsibility for illegal mining in the block obtaining necessary feedback from the local panchayat representatives and putting same on record. In case, the PP was found to be involved in illegal mining without a valid Environmental Clearance, the same be brought on record for treating the case under violation category under relevant guidelines. The Committee recommended to TOR to the project enabling consultant prepare EIA/EMP subject to the non-involvement of PP in the process of any illegal activity and a clear land title (involving no private land).

**Decision:**

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of JKEAC that G&M Dept. shall constitute a committee comprising of officials as proposed by JKEAC to fix responsibility for the illegal mining, besides ascertaining views of local panchayat representatives and take further appropriate action as per rules, under intimation to JKEIAA. Meanwhile, JKEIAA approved grant of ToRs in favour of the project proponent for further action as required under rules subject to the non-involvement of PP in any illegal mining activity and a clear land title (involving no private land)

**AGENDA ITEM NO: 03**

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Sai Mines R/O Logate, District- Kathua, JK UT for River bed Mining Project of Minor Mineral Block No-02, River Suran Upstream Sher-e-Kashmir Bridge Part-II, Village-Mangnar & Kunoyian, Tehsil & District-Poonch, JK UT over an area of 7.47 ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/59661/2021

**Deliberations:**

The case has been discussed/appraised by the JKEAC on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. The consultant has given a detailed presentation during which detailed deliberations have been held on the various aspects of the project like mining depth, replenishment study, active water channel and surface plan. The mining block was examined on the Google Earth image of January 2021 and the Committee found the block good for grant of ToR. JKEAC has also observed that the bid amount earned as per Lol is only 30.35 lacs, which is comparatively much less than what Govt. earned in case of mining blocks of identical size and material through e-auctioning. The Committee unanimously opined that the consultant should add a separate comprehensive chapter on cost benefit analysis of allowing mining activity in this mineral block as the environmental and social costs seem to outweigh the low revenue being earned by the Govt. against exploitation of the mineral wealth within the identified/auctioned mining block.

In view of the above deliberations, the Committee unanimously recommended the project for grant of ToRs enabling consultant prepare EIA/EMP and to conduct the Public Hearing

subject to title verification of the mining block by the concerned revenue authority as state land and subject to exclusion of the private land if any involved due to change of nallah course and subject to revision of project cost.

**Decision:**

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of JKEAC to grant ToRs to project proponent for further action as required under rules, subject to title verification of mining block by the concerned revenue authority as state land, exclusion of the private land involved, if any, due to change of nallah course and revision of project cost.

**AGENDA ITEM NO: 04.**

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Kapil Agarwal S/o Sh. Jugesh Agarwal R/o H.No.179 Panjpir Mandir Anandpur Pathankot Gurdaspur, Punjab for Riverbed Mining Project of Minor Mineral in Block No.07, G-Ching Adigan Bridge Upstream Veshaw, District-Kulgam, JK UT over an area of 8.91 ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/60753/2021.

**Deliberations:**

The case has been discussed/appraised by the JKEAC on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. The consultant has given a detailed presentation during which detailed deliberations have been held on the various aspects of the project like mining depth, replenishment study, active water channel and surface plan. The mining block was examined on the latest available Google Earth image of September, 2018 and the Committee found block fit for grant of ToRs.

JKEAC has further observed that the bid amount earned as per Lol is only 18.02 lacs, which is comparatively much less than what Govt. earned in case of mining blocks of identical size and material through e-auctioning. The Committee unanimously opined that the consultant should add a separate comprehensive chapter on cost benefit analysis for allowing mining activity in this mineral block as the environmental and social costs seem to outweigh the exceedingly low revenue being earned by the Govt. against exploitation of the mineral wealth within the identified/auctioned mining block.

In view of the above deliberations, the Committee unanimously recommended to grant ToRs to the project enabling the consultant to prepare the EIA/EMP and to conduct the Public Hearing subject to title verification of the mining block by the concerned revenue authority and subject to exclusion of the private land if any involved due to change of nallah course and revision of project cost.

**Decision:**

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of JKEAC to grant ToRs to the project proponent for further action as required under rules, subject to title verification of mining block by concerned revenue authority as state land, exclusion of the private land involved, if any, due to change of nallah course and revision of project cost.

**AGENDA ITEM NO: 05.**

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Kapil Agarwal S/o Sh. Jugesh Agarwal R/o H.No.179 Panjpir Mandir Anandpur Pathankot Gurdaspur Punjab for River bed Mining Project of Minor Mineral in Block No.28, A2-Mah Village Downstream Veshaw Nalla, District-Kulgam, JK UT over an of area of 8.89 ha. under proposal No.**SIA/JK/MIN/60746/2021.**

**Deliberations:**

The case has been discussed/appraised by the JKEAC on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. The consultant has given a detailed presentation during which detailed deliberations have been held on the various aspects of the project like mining depth, replenishment study, active water channel and surface plan. The mining block was examined on the latest available Google Earth image of Nov., 2020 and Committee has observed more than 50% of the block under active water channel. The Committee asked the consultant to exclude the active water channel and calculate the minable minerals of the remaining area at 1m mining depth and to get the mining plan approved *denovo*.

In view of the above deliberations, the Committee unanimously recommended the project for grant of ToRs enabling consultant prepare EIA/EMP and conduct Public Hearing subject to title verification of the mining block by the concerned revenue authority as state land and exclusion of the active water channel as per deliberations.

**Decision:**

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee to grant ToRs to project proponent for further action as required under rules, subject to title verification of mining block by concerned revenue authority as state land and exclusion of the active water channel as recommended by the JKEAC.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.6**

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Umesh Kumar Sharma S/O Shri Shiv Narayan Sharma R/O B-33568 Gurudaswara Saroop Nagar, Ludhiana, Punjab for Minor Mineral Block 1/8, in Ans River, Downstream Kotranka Bridge, Village Kotranka, District Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir, Area 8.14ha. under proposal No.**SIA/JK/MIN/60790/2021**

**Deliberations:**

The case has been discussed/appraised by the JKEAC on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. The consultant has given a detailed presentation during which detailed deliberations have been held on the various aspects of the project like mining depth, replenishment study, active water channel and surface plan. The mining block was examined on the multi date Google Earth image of May, 2020, and Dec., 2020 and Committee has observed features indicative of illegal mining especially after May, 2020. The consultant was asked to exclude the active water channel and calculate the minable minerals of the remaining area at 1m mining depth and to get the mining plan approved *denovo*.

In view of the above deliberations, the Committee unanimously recommended that the G&M Dept. be asked to constitute an interdepartmental Committee comprising of representatives of G&M Dept., Soil Conservation Dept., Irrigation & Flood Control Dept., Fisheries Dept and the local Police to ascertain and fix responsibility for illegal mining in the block obtaining necessary feedback from the local panchayat representatives and putting same on record. In case, the PP was found to be involved in illegal mining without a valid Environmental Clearance, the same be brought on record for treating the case under violation category under relevant guidelines. In the meantime, the Committee recommended the project for grant of ToRs enabling consultant prepare EIA/EMP and conduct Public Hearing subject to title verification of the mining block by the concerned revenue authority and also subject to exclusion of the private land involved if any, due to change of nallah course, revision of project cost and exclusion of the active water channel.

**Decision:**

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of JKEAC that G&M Dept. shall constitute a committee comprising of officials as proposed by JKEAC to fix responsibility for illegal mining, besides ascertaining after recording views of local panchayat representatives and take further appropriate action as per rules, under intimation to JKEIAA. Meanwhile, JKEIAA approved grant of ToRs in favour of project proponent for further action as required under rules, subject to exclusion of private land involved if any due to change of nallah course, revision of project cost and exclusion of active water channel.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 07.**

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Hem Chand Singh S/o Sh. Rohitash Singh R/o H.No.06 Kashish Enclave 3K Road Ludhiana Punjab for River bed Mining Project of Minor Mineral in Block No.11, K-Mirhama Upstream VishuNalla, District-Kulgam, JK UT over an area of 9.21ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/60760/2021.

**Deliberations:**

The case has been discussed/appraised by the JKEAC on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. The consultant has given a detailed presentation during which detailed deliberations have been held on the various aspects of the project like mining depth, replenishment study, active water channel and surface plan. The mining block has been examined on the available multi date Google Earth images and the Committee observed features indicative of a small patch of cultivated land around 0.25 ha inside the mining block on archive images.

In view of the above deliberations, the Committee unanimously recommended the project for grant of ToRs enabling the consultant to prepare the EIA/EMP and to conduct the Public Hearing subject to title verification of the mining block by the concerned revenue authority.

**Decision:**

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of JKEAC to grant ToRs to project proponent for further action as required under rules, subject to title verification of the mining block by the concerned revenue authority as state land and excluding patch of land under cultivation, if any.

**AGENDA ITEM NO: 08.**

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Arshdeep Singh S/o Balraj Singh R/o Faziabad Gurdaspur, Punjab for Riverbed Mining Project of Minor Mineral in Block No.19, Mendhar River Upstream Chajjla Bridge Part-III, District-Poonch, JK UT over an area of 6.41ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/59760/2021.

**Deliberations:**

The project case was discussed/appraised in the JKEAC Meeting held on 13th March, 2021. The consultant gave a detailed presentation on the project during which detailed deliberations were held on the various aspects of the project like Lol, mining depth, replenishment study, active channel and surface plan. The mining block was examined on the Google Earth image of Dec., 2020 and Committee has observed a bridge at a distance of 300m. The Committee has desired that the mining block be relocated/reduced to maintain a safe distance of 500m from the bridge. Besides, in view of non-availability of any replenishment data, the mining depth be restricted to 1m only. The Committee also desired that the project cost be revised. The Committee has unanimously opined that the consultant should add a separate comprehensive chapter on cost benefit analysis of allowing mining activity in this mineral block as the environmental and social costs seem to outweigh the exceedingly low revenue being paid to Govt. against huge exploitation of the mineral wealth.

In view of the above deliberations, the Committee has recommended project for grant of ToRs enabling consultant prepare EIA/EMP and conduct Public Hearing subject to title verification of the mining block by the concerned revenue authority and subject to exclusion of the active water channel and revision of project cost.

**Decision:**

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of JKEAC to grant ToRs to project proponent for further action as required under rules, subject to title verification of the mining block by the concerned revenue authority as state land, reduce size to maintain distance of 500 m from bridge, restrict mining depth to 1 m only and exclusion of the active water channel.

**AGENDA ITEM NO: 09.**

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Singh Minerals R/o Near Kali Mata Mandir Kollu Wali Gali, Pathankot, for River bed Mining Project of Minor Mineral Block No-22,

Poonch River Upstream Sher-e-Kashmir Bridge (Bhainch Area), Village-Dalera & Bhainch, Tehsil & District-Poonch, JK UT over an area of 8.54ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/59983/2021.

**Deliberations:**

The project case was discussed/appraised in the JKEAC Meeting held on 13th March, 2021. The consultant gave a detailed presentation on the project during which detailed deliberations were held on the various aspects of the project like Lol, mining depth, replenishment study, active channel and surface plan. The mining block has been examined on the Google Earth image of January 2021 and the Committee has observed signs of large-scale illegal mining in the mining block. The past images of Google Earth platform viz. Nov.2005 and Dec., 2009 showed cultivated land within the designated mining block boundary thus necessitating title verification. Image of Dec.,2009 showed stone crushers installed in the close vicinity of the mining block. It was further observed that due to illegal mining activity, more than 50% of the mining block falls under active water channel. It was observed that the bid amount earned against auctioning the block as per Lol is only 20.07 lakhs, drastically much less than what the Govt. earned in case of mining blocks of identical size and material through auctioning. The Committee unanimously opined that the consultant should add a separate comprehensive chapter on cost benefit analysis of allowing mining activity in this mineral block as the environmental and social costs seem to outweigh the low revenue being earned by the Govt. against exploitation of the mineral wealth.

In view of the above deliberations, the Committee unanimously recommended that the G&M Dept. be asked to constitute an interdepartmental Committee comprising of representatives of G&M Dept., Soil Conservation Dept., Irrigation & Flood Control Dept., Fisheries Dept and the local Police to ascertain and fix responsibility for illegal mining in the block obtaining necessary feedback from the local panchayat representatives and putting same on record. In case, the PP was found to be involved in illegal mining without a valid Environmental Clearance, the same be brought on record for treating the case under violation category under relevant guidelines. In the meantime, the Committee recommended the project for grant of ToRs enabling consultant prepare EIA/EMP and conduct Public Hearing subject to title verification of the mining block by the concerned revenue authority and subject to exclusion of the private land if any involved due to change of nallah course and also subject to revision of project cost and exclusion of the active water channel.

**Decision**

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of JKEAC that G&M Dept. shall constitute a committee comprising of officials as proposed by JKEAC to fix responsibility for illegal mining, besides ascertaining views of local panchayat representatives and take further



appropriate action as per rules, under intimation to JKEIAA. Meanwhile, JKEIAA approved grant of ToRs in favour of project proponent for further action as required under rules subject to title verification by the concerned revenue authority, exclusion of private land involved, if any, due to change of nallah course, revision of project cost and exclusion of active water channel.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.10.**

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of M/S Aggarwal Mines R/o 328 Defense Colony Chhatwal, Tehsil & District-Pathankot, Punjab for River bed Mining Project of Minor Mineral in Block No.17, Mendhar River Upstream Chajjla Bridge Part-1, District-Poonch, JK UT over an area of 6.57ha. under proposal No.SIA/JK/MIN/59967/2021.

**Deliberations:**

The project case was discussed/appraised in the JKEAC Meeting held on 13th March, 2021. The consultant gave a detailed presentation on the project during which detailed deliberations were held on the various aspects of the project like Lol, mining depth, replenishment study, active channel and surface plan. The mining block was examined on the Google Earth image of Dec., 2020 and the Committee has observed signs of large-scale illegal mining in the mining block. The past images of Google Earth platform viz. Dec.2003 showed a small patch of presumably cultivated land within the designated mining block boundary thus prompting title verification. Image of Dec.,2020 shows stone crusher installed in the close vicinity of the mining block. It was further observed that due to illegal mining activity, more than 30% of the mining block falls under active water channel. The Committee unanimously opined that the consultant should add a separate comprehensive chapter on cost benefit analysis of allowing mining activity in this mineral block as the environmental and social costs seem to outweigh the exceedingly low revenue being paid to Govt. against huge exploitation of the mineral wealth.

In view of the above deliberations, the Committee unanimously recommended that the G&M Dept. be asked to constitute an interdepartmental Committee comprising of representatives of G&M Dept., Soil Conservation Dept., Irrigation & Flood Control Dept., Fisheries Dept and the local Police to ascertain and fix responsibility for illegal mining in the block obtaining necessary feedback from the local panchayat representatives and putting same on record. In case, the PP was found to be involved in illegal mining without a valid Environmental Clearance, the same be brought on record for treating the case under violation category under relevant guidelines. In the meantime, the Committee recommended the project for grant of ToRs enabling consultant prepare EIA/EMP and conduct the Public Hearing subject to title verification of the mining block by the concerned revenue authority and also subject to exclusion of the private land if any involved due to change of nallah course and revision of project cost and exclusion of the active water channel.

**Decision:**

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of JKEAC that G&M Dept. shall constitute a committee comprising of officials as proposed by JKEAC to fix responsibility for the illegal mining, besides ascertaining views of local panchayat representatives and take further appropriate action as per rules, under intimation to JKEIAA. Meanwhile, JKEIAA approved grant of ToRs in favour of the project proponent for further action as required under rules subject to title verification of mining block by the concerned revenue authority, exclusion of the private land involved, if any, due to change of nallah course, revision of project cost and exclusion of active water channel.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.11.**

Grant of Environment Clearance in favour of M/S HARPAL SINGHS/O SH. SANT SINGHR/O-CHATHA FARM, JAMMU for MINOR MINERAL (River Bed Material)" at Block No-5/22 (47), JadKhad Downstream Jourian Bridge, Village- Dok Khalsa, Tehsil- Akhnoor, Jammu JK UT over an area of 8.65 ha. under proposal No:SIA/JK/MIN/60162/2019

**Deliberations:**

The JKEIAA deliberated on the issue and observed that the Revenue Authorities have already certified vide letter No:DCJ/SQ/EC-Harpal/2020-21/3484 dated:04-03-2021, that land under Khasra No:1215 under mining block No:5/22 having an area of 8.65 ha, is State Land. The case has not been appraised by JKEAC for want of authentication of geo-coordinates as mentioned in the Lol, issued by G&M Department.

Accordingly, the authority decides, that JKEAC shall appraise the project on the basis of geo-coordinates given in Lol. Meanwhile, Project Proponent is directed to get the geo-coordinates of Khasra No:1215 under mining block No:5/22 given in Lol certified by the Revenue Authority and submit the same with JKEIAA/JKEAC

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/2016/02/11/652-56

Dated:26/03/2021

Copy by email to:

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

  
(Staff Officer) 26/03/2021

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