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**MEMBER SECRETARY**

**STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT**  
**ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY – TAMIL NADU**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE**

**Lr. No.SEIAA-TN/F.No.7322/EC/I(a)/ 4308/2020, dated: 03.09.2020**

**To**

The Executive Engineer, PWD/WRD,  
Mining and Monitoring Division,  
Thanjavur District-613001

**Sir,**

**Sub:** SEIAA - TN – Proposed Sand quarrying in Coleroon River over an extent of 2.25.0Ha at S.F.No.1(P) in Kothangudi Village, Kumbakonam Taluk, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu by M/s. The Executive Engineer, PWD/WRD - Environmental Clearance Issued – Reg.

**Ref:** 1. Online proposal No.SIA/MIN/131106/2019 Dated: 28.11.2019  
2. Your Application for Environmental Clearance dated: 16.12.2019  
3. Minutes of the 147<sup>th</sup> SEAC Meeting held on 06.03.2020  
4. Minutes of the 162<sup>nd</sup> SEAC Meeting held on 01.07.2020  
5. Minutes of the 390<sup>th</sup> SEIAA Meeting held on 25.08.2020

**1. Preamble:-**

The proposal is for obtaining environmental clearance for quarrying 26462cu.m of Shoals & 22500cu.m of Sand in Coleroon River at S.F No. 1(P) Kothangudi Village, Kumbakonam Taluk, Thanjavur District. The mine lease area is 2.25.0 Ha.

The proposed mining area is reported as laying in Latitude and Longitude in Topo sheet no 58 M/08 as follows:



  
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Sl. No.	Latitude	Longitude
1.	11°01'02.94"N	79°19'08.51"E
2.	11°01'07.37"N	79°19'06.62"E
3.	11°01'09.27"N	79°19'11.17"E
4.	11°01'04.77"N	79°40'13.09"E

No forest land is involved. No head works, bridges and cross masonries are reported within 300 meters around the quarrying site in the river. Mine working will be manual mining and the ultimate depth will be 1m from River natural present bed level for a period of 3 Years. In order to maintain safety and stability of river, a minimum 15% of the river width from the toe /heel of bank of the river will be left intact. Water requirement will be 2.0 KLD for drinking purposes which will be sourced through Water canes in the nearby area and dust suppression and green belt development for 4.0 KLD which will be sourced through openwells. The proponent has submitted the mining plan approved by the Assistant Director, Geology and Mining, Thanjavur District vide, Rc.No. 352/Mines/2018 dated: 12.09.2019.

The precise area communication has been approved by the District Collector, Tiruchirappali in letter Rc.No. 352/Mines/2018 dated: 17.06.2019.

The existing details of river bed, while approving the mining plan prepared by the PWD and scrutinized by the Geology and Mining Department is:

R.L. u/s: 21.46 mt.	R.L. d/s: 21.366 mt.
R.L. at beginning: 21.46 mt.	R.L. at end: 21.366 mt.
Starting Mile at: 55/7+5 km.	Ending Mile at: 56/0 km

It is seen from the data and the document furnished that the project cost is Rs. 66.5 Lakhs and EMP cost is Rs. 3.67 Lakhs.

The proponent has furnished sworn affidavits in the Non judicial stamp paper stating the following:

1. I swear to state and confirm that within 10km area of the quarry site, we have applied for Environmental Clearance, none of the following is situated.
  - i. Protected areas notified under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
  - ii. Critically polluted areas as notified by the Central Pollution Control Board constituted under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
  - iii. Eco-sensitive areas as notified

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- iv. Interstate boundaries within 5km radius from the boundary of the proposed site.
2. I will complete the following Corporate Environment responsibility (CER) activities before commencement of the quarrying activities.

CER Activity	Project Cost (Rs. In Lakhs)	CER Cost 2.0% of project cost (Rs. In Lakhs)
Developing Library facilities to Government High School, Kothangudi Village	7.75	0.155
Total cost Allocation	7.75	0.155

3. The following quarries are located within the radius of 500m from the periphery of my quarry.

## Existing quarries

S.No.	Name of the applicant/ Lessee	Name of the Village & S.F.No.	Extent in Hectare	Lease status
Nil				

## Abandoned/ expired quarries

S.No.	Name of the applicant/ Lessee	Name of the Village & S.F.No.	Extent in Hectare	Lease status
1.	The Executive Engineer, PWD/WRD, Thanjavur	Kothangudi, S.F.No.1	8.00.0Ha	Lease expired on 31.03.2017
Nil				

## Proposed quarries

S.No.	Name of the applicant/ Lessee	Name of the Village & S.F.No.	Extent in Hectare	Lease status
Nil				

4. We declare that we shall commence the quarry operation only after obtaining the necessary EC from SEIAA.
5. There will not be hindrance or disturbance to the people living no enrouted / nearby our quarry site while transporting the mineral our material and due to quarrying activities.
6. I swear that afforestation will be carried out during the course of mining operation and maintained.
7. The required insurance will be taken in the name of the labourers working in our quarry site.
8. The existing road from the main road the main road to quarry is in good condition and the same will be maintained and utilized for transportation of Sand.



  
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9. I will not engage any child labour in my quarry site and I aware that engaging child labour is punishable under the law.
10. All types of safety / protective equipments will be provided to all the labourers working in our quarry.
11. No permanent structures, temple, Church, Mosque, Historical Monuments, etc., are located within 500m radius from the periphery of our quarry.

I ensure to do all the social and Environment commitment as mentioned in the Mining Plan to the best of my knowledge.

The proposal was considered and examined by the SEAC based on the project documents furnished and the explanation made before the Committee in its 162<sup>nd</sup> Meeting held on 01.07.2020. The SEAC has recommended for the grant of Environmental Clearance for the said quarry project.

The proposal was placed before the SEIAA in its 390<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 25.08.2020 and based on the project documents furnished, the Authority decided to issue Environmental Clearance to the said project under the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 subject to strict compliance of the terms and conditions as follows:-


**Validity:**

This Environmental Clearance is granted to Mining of Sand Quarry for the production quantity of 26462cu.m of Shoals & 22500cu.m of Sand in Coleroon River for the period of Three Years from the date of execution of the Mining Lease period.

**Environment Clearance is subject to strict adherence of conditions below:**

**1. Administrative:**

1. The project authorities should advertise with basic details at least in two widely circulated local newspapers, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned, within 7 days of the receipt of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and a copy of the clearance letter is available with the State Pollution Control Board and also at the web site of the SEIAA, TN at <http://seiaa.tn.gov.in> and a copy of the same is being sent to the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India located at Chennai.

  
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2. Mining activity should be reviewed by the District Collector after one year and decide for further extension.
3. The District Collector shall ensure that the DSR (District Survey Report) shall be, as per EIA Notifications 2016 as amended in 15.01.2016 and the copy of the revised/approved DSR may be sent to SEIAA for record.
4. The proponent fulfils the conditions imposed by the Hon'ble Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, in the order in W.P.(MD) Nos. 4251, 7960, 14577, 15121, 8655, 13836, 16150, 15343, 11376, 17143 and 17531 of 2017 and connected Miscellaneous Petitions, dated:16.02.2018.
5. Quarry lease area should be demarcated on the ground with pucca stone or concrete pillars to show the natural bed level and the depth of mining allowed. Boundary pillars at the interval of 50m each on all the four sides of the quarry site with red flags on every pillar and also in site pillars marking the level and depth up to one metre downwards shall be erected before commencement of quarrying.
6. The katcha roads between the bank of the river and the mining area shall be formed with locally available bio-degradable materials such as Sugar cane leaves etc.
7. A display Board shall be erected in local vernacular language at each of the following places.
  - At the river banks of mining site
  - In nearest village by which sand transportation will be carried out.
  - At the entrance of the village road from the Main Road (i.e) SH/NH/Union Road etc., The information as Annexed should be given in Bold and visible letters
8. A copy of the Environment Clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to the concerned Panchayat, Town Panchayath/Panchayath union, Municipal Corporation, Urban Local Body and the Local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal. The clearance letter shall also be put on the website of the proponent and also kept at the site, for the general public to see.
9. Provision shall be made for the housing the construction labour nearby the site with all necessary infrastructure and facilities such as fuel for cooking, toilets, safe drinking water, etc. The housing may be in the form of temporary structures to be



  
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- removed after the completion of the project. The proponent shall ensure that First Aid Box is available at site.
10. Taluk level Task Force Committee convened by Tahshildar should inspect the site to satisfy that the pre-conditions as above for commencing the mining operations are satisfactorily followed, and minute their field inspection, as per G.O.Ms.No.135 Industries (MMA-1) Dept. dt. 13.11.2009.
  11. The distance of the sand mining should commence from at a distance of 500 meter from the solid apron with proposed area mining 150 x 150 m. The proponent shall fix flag posts at boundaries for the proposed mining area covering an extent of 2.25.0Ha. There should be no deviation/ violation with respect to the area demarcated for quarrying.
  12. The proposed area of sand mining should start from 500m downstream of the irrigation structure.
  13. The river bund needs to be protected during mining and transportation activities.
  14. The dust emanating during transportation activity need to be controlled due to unpaved road conditions as a result of re-suspension of dust arising in and around the site.
  15. Necessary caution needs to be taken regarding environment and ecological damage and protection as per the norms
  16. The depth of sand quarrying shall be restricted to 1m from the theoretical bed level.
  17. To prevent dust pollution, suitable working methodology needs to be adopted taking wind direction into consideration.
  18. At no cost the impact of sand mining should interfere with the habitation and cultivation in the nearby area along the river bed.
  19. The mining area must be demarcated leaving atleast 50m from the river embankment on either side.
  20. Contouring of the river bed has to be taken to ascertain the relative levels of sand in the river and also to suggest the depth of sand mining.
  21. To ensure safety measures along the boundary of the quarry site, security guards are to be engaged during the entire period of mining operation.

22. Wherever irrigation channels take off from the river within the boundary of the mining project, the mining operation should not affect the flow of water in the irrigation channels.
23. The entire sand mining operation should be as per the guidelines for sustainable sand mining issued in 2016 by the MoEF & CC, GOI, New Delhi.
24. Around all the sand mining projects agricultural activities are seen. In addition the surroundings present thick greeneries. The mining operation should not affect the greeneries and the agricultural activities.
25. The approach road and loading of the sand in the vehicles, movement of the vehicle should be planned and implemented in such a way that there is no noise and dust pollution in the nearby habitation. We recommend that PWD should maintain at least a safe distance of 300m from the habitations while planning the approach road and the loading operation. Wherever necessary and near the habitation in particular dust suppression measures to be adopted. While the loaded vehicle move on the road that should be fully covered with tarpaulin.
26. The pathway used by all machineries should be properly constructed and maintained by the PWD in order to avoid pollution.
27. The mining operation should be above the ground water table.
28. The conditions stipulated above need to be monitored and reviewed on fortnightly basis by the Taluk Level Task Force headed by Tahsildhar. At least two representatives from reputed research organizations like NIT, Trichy, Anna University Department, Trichy, Annamalai University and Bharathidasan University should be included in the task force. The committee should send the monthly monitoring report to SEIAA which will be scrutinized by SEAC.
29. Adequate statutory manpower to be deployed for complying with the provisions to use heavy machineries as per Mines Safety Regulations (MCDR, 2017 & MMR, 1961).
30. All the condition imposed by the Deputy Director, Geology of Mining, Thanjavur & District Collector, Thanjavur in the precise area communication vide Rc.No.352/Mines/2018 dated 17.06.2019 should be strictly followed.



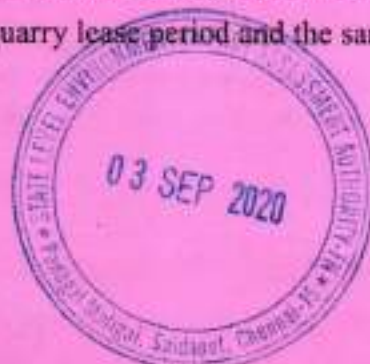
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31. As informed by the proponent only manual mining operation along with transportation by bullock carts for Sand mining shall be carried out.
32. During the sand mining work, appropriate progressive mine closure activities must be implemented to restore the river bed to its original status for ensuring the free flow.
33. Taluk level Task Force is to submit inspection report to the District Collector who is the Chairman of District Level Task Force, who would examine the report and after satisfying himself would give approval to start mining.
34. The recommendation for the issue of Environmental Clearance is subject to the outcome of the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi in O.A No.186 of 2016 (M.A.No.350/2016) and O.A. No.200/2016 and O.A.No.580/2016 (M.A.No.1182/2016) and O.A.No.102/2017 and O.A.No.404/2016 (M.A.No.758/2016, M.A.No.920/2016, M.A.No.1122/2016, M.A.No.12/2017 & M.A.No. 843/2017) and O.A.No.405/2016 and O.A.No.520 of 2016 (M.A.No. 981 /2016, M.A.No.982/2016 & M.A.No.384/2017).
35. The Project proponent shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc.
36. The CER fund 2% from the total project cost should be spend as per Office Memorandum of MoEF& CC dated 01.05.2018 before obtaining the CTO from TNPCB
37. The water level in the existing bore wells and dug wells should be monitored for fluctuation.
38. Loading and transport of sand shall not be entertained between 5.00 pm to 7.00 am.
39. The project proponent is allowed to engage bullock carts to transport the sand.
40. During the sand mining work, appropriate progressive mine closure activities must be implemented to restore the river bed to its original status for ensuring the free flow.
41. Quarrying in river bed should not be done during the days of rain and the days of flood. The total quantity of sand permitted in the Environmental Clearance should not be exceeded in any case as against the mining plan.

  
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42. There shall be no quarrying of sand in any river bed or adjoining area or any other area which is located within 500m radial distances from the location of any bridge, water supply system, infiltration well or pumping installation of any of the local bodies or Central or State Government Department or the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board head works or any area identified for locating water supply and schemes by any of the above – mentioned Government Departments or other bodies.
43. Mining activity and the compliance of all the above conditions shall be monitored by the Taluk level Task Force once in a month by physical inspections and the status of compliance should be recorded by the committee in the Register maintained at the site.
44. At the end of mine closure, the Proponent shall immediately remove all the sheds put up in the quarry and all the equipment in the area at the time of closure of the operation of sand quarry. All the roads /path ways shall be leveled to let the river assume its normal course without any artificial obstruction to the extent possible.
45. Transport density study to be done and report to be submitted.
46. The Proponent shall submit within 3 months their policy towards Corporate Environment Responsibility which should inter-alia address (i) Standard operating process/ procedure to bring into focus any infringement/ deviation/ violation of environmental or forest norms / conditions, (ii) Hierarchical system or Administrative order of the Department to deal with environmental issues and ensuring compliance of EC conditions and (iii) System of reporting of non-compliance/violation of environmental norms to the Head of the Department or the State Government or stakeholders.
47. The project proponent shall ensure that there are no other quarries within a radius of 1 km. from the boundary of the proposed quarry site and that the combined extent of such quarries does not exceed 25 ha.
48. The project proponent shall ensure that there are no bridges, culverts, cross masonaries, water head works or any other civil structures within 500 mts., of the proposed quarry site.
49. The quarrying activity shall be stopped if the entire quantity is quarried even before the expiry of the quarry lease period and the same shall be monitored by the District Authorities.



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50. After restoration of the road, the proponent should submit the detailed report of the road maintenance including cost along with photographs to SEAC within one month of the completion of the project.
51. Base line studies to be conducted for the entire area.
52. The site will be assessed for Environmental impact by the District Administration at the end of first year to continue operation thereafter.
53. The District Administration will also ensure the process of further extraction (Manual/ Machineries) in the site for the second and third Year, is based on site reality and rate of replenishment, etc.
54. The project proponent shall obtain Consent to establish before starting any work and Consent to operate after complying with the conditions imposed for adherence before starting from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and effectively implement all the conditions stipulated therein.
55. No change in mining technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
56. No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of mineral sand (minor mineral) should be made.
57. The project proponent shall ensure that the plan of mining is in conformity with the mine lease conditions and the Rules prescribed in this regard, clearly showing the no work zone in the mine lease i.e. the distance from the bank of river to be left unworked, distance from the bridges etc.
58. The project proponent shall ensure that wherever deployment of labour attracts the Mines Act, the provision thereof shall be strictly followed.
59. The project proponent shall obtain necessary prior permission of the competent authorities for drawal of requisite quantity of water (surface water and groundwater), if any, required for the project.
60. EC is given only on the factual records, documents and details furnished by the EE/PWD particularly in respect of
  - Aerial distance of the nearest village is as mentioned in the proposal from the mining site boundary.
  - No structure is located within 500 m from the quarry site boundary.
61. It shall be ensured that the distance between two mining blocks should be **more**

  
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- than one kilometer. Ongoing mining activity should also be taken into account in this regard.
62. A separate environmental management cell with suitable qualified personnel should be set-up under the control of a Senior Executive, who will report directly to the Head of the Organization.
63. The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures should be kept in separate account and should not be diverted for other purpose. Year wise expenditure should be reported to the Ministry of Environment and Forests and its Regional Office located at Chennai.
64. The Assistant Engineer exclusively posted to the site should write up and maintain the following registers, in addition to any other records and documents prescribed in the mining lease order.
- Daily Progress Register,
  - Inspection Register
  - Complaints Register
65. The Regional Office of the Ministry located at Chennai shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer (s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data / information / monitoring reports.
66. The project proponent shall submit six- monthly reports on the status of compliance of the stipulated environmental clearance conditions including results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, its Regional Office Chennai, the respective Zonal Office of Central Pollution Control Board, SEIAA, TN and the State Pollution Control Board. The proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the environmental clearance conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall simultaneously be sent to the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Chennai, the respective Zonal Office of Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Board.
67. The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March in Form-V as is mandated to be submitted by the project proponent to the concerned State



  
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Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently, shall also be put on the website of the company along with the status of compliance of environmental clearance conditions and shall also be sent to the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Chennai by e-mail.

68. The Environmental Clearance does not absolve the applicant/proponent of his obligation/requirement to obtain other statutory and administrative clearances from other statutory and administrative authorities.
69. This Environmental Clearance does not imply that the other statutory / administrative clearances shall be granted to the project by the concerned authorities. Such authorities would be considering the project on merits and be taking decisions independently of the Environmental Clearance.
70. The SEIAA, TN may alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.
71. The SEIAA, TN may cancel the environmental clearance granted to this project under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006, if, at any stage of the validity of this environmental clearance, if it is found or if it comes to the knowledge of this SEIAA, TN that the project proponent has deliberately concealed and/or submitted false or misleading information or inadequate data for obtaining the environmental clearance.
72. Failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
73. If the periphery of any other sand quarry is located within 1 km., from the periphery of this site and if the total extent of both the existing quarry and the quarry now cleared for Environmental Clearance exceeds 25 ha. of mining area, then this Environmental Clearance is not valid, since the activity shall become Category 'B1' project under the EIA Notification, 2006.
74. In the event of the above condition is applicable, then the proponent concerned, is to file a fresh application under EIA Notification, 2006, seeking Environmental Clearance in respect of the cluster. [A cluster of mines is defined wherein more

  
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- than one sand mining site is located within 1 km., from the periphery of another nearby sand mining site and the total area of these mining sites exceeds 25 ha. Then a EIA study report along with Public Consultation are necessitated].
75. The project proponent is allowed to engage bullock carts to transport the sand.
  76. Loading and transport of sand shall not be entertained between 5.00 pm to 7.00 am.
  77. The site will be assessed for Environmental impact by District Administration periodically and based on the assessment, decision may be taken regarding for the continuation of operation thereafter. The District Administration will also ensure the process of further extraction (Manual/Machineries) in the site should be based on site reality and rate of replenishment and other environmental parameters.
  78. The manual mining shall be encouraged as far as possible as laid down in the Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines- 2016.
  79. Any repairing or reconditioning of equipments either Minor or Major shall not be done with in the River and in the Banks.
  80. All study reports and compliance reports stipulated in the EC should be submitted in time as prescribed.
  81. Heavy Machineries/Equipments deployed for mining and related activities shall not be engaged beyond its life period as stipulated in relevant rules of GOI. Fitness Certificate shall be obtained for the Heavy Equipments/Machineries deployed for the Mining and related works obtained from the supplier/dealer approved Workshop at the end of every year.
  82. Heavy Equipments/Machineries shall be referred to Manufacturer/Dealer approved workshop for random check up at the end of every calendar month and fitness of the vehicles shall be ensured.
  83. Tipper/Lorries used for conveyance of Sand shall not be parked within the River area.
  84. The site will be assessed for Environmental impact by the District Administration at the end of first year to continue operation thereafter.
  85. The proponent shall take necessary measures to ensure that there shall not be any adverse impacts due to quarrying operation on the nearby human habitations, by way of pollution to the environment.



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