

# **DISASTER MANAGEMENT & RISK ASSESSMENT**

**“SOAPSTONE MINING ”  
AT  
VILLAGE- BAJETA, TEHSIL-MUNSYARI,  
DISTRICT- PITHORAGARH,  
STATE- UTTARAKHAD  
(AREA- 17.967 Ha)**

*Submitted by*

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### **1.0 Disaster Management and risk assessment:**

The mining is proposed in a Hilly agricultural field. The mining will go up to the economical depth of 18m and thereafter backfilling will commence to restore the topography of the area. The mining faces shall be dressed properly because any hanging boulders/loose material may create fatal accidents to the laborers while working in the pit.

The area lies seismic zone V, therefore precautionary measures shall be adopted. Tin shaded wooden houses shall be constructed in place of cemented houses in and around the area & lessee shall provide the sufficient amount of funds for these activities. In the land slide prone zone area, fast growing soil binding species shall be planted & cemented bunds shall be made at the lower side so that minimum damage could be observed during land slide period.

#### **Some of the aspects to be included in emergency plan are as follow:**

- Organisation-details of command structure, working systems, implementation procedures, and emergency control centre & have of incident controller, site main controller, their duties & other key personnel.
- Communication centers & persons involved call signs & list of telephone numbers.
- Availability of special emergency equipment e.g. heavy lifting gear, bulldozers, trucks, special firefighting equipment.
- Details of voluntary organizations with names of organizers, telephone numbers, resources etc. Humanitarian arrangements e.g. transport evacuation centers, emergency feeding, treatment of injured, first aid, ambulances etc.
- No other accidents like subsidence of flood, tailing dam failure etc. shall be observed during mining in hilly region.

### **1.2 Care & maintenance during temporary discontinuance:**

During monsoon period (i.e. from June to September) every year mining operations shall be temporarily discontinued and all the quantities inter-burden shall be temporarily backfilled into mining pits leveled it & make it use for agriculture purpose. The backfilled mining pits shall be properly fenced to avoid any in advert entry of any livestock. Local person shall be employed to supervise the area & broken walls, broken check dams, etc shall be repaired immediately.

### **2.0 Economic repercussions of closure of mine and manpower retrenchments:**

All the workers to be employed are contractor labours. Any industry will provide direct and indirect employment. The local residents will earn tremendous amount of money due to mining activities. It will change their life style. Due to closure of mine, it will create very negative impact on the economy of the workers for their survival. Those earning good money will get some occupation for survival of their families. The literate workers will move here and there for the search of job. In the overall view the closure of mine will give very bad impact on the society and surrounding areas.

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- 2.1 Mining shall be carried out through contractor in the proposed area & likely to be continued in the same manner. So no retrenchment of manpower is envisaged. Status of joining the family business back on the event of closure of mine & will depend on the circumstances prevailing at that time. However, chances of joining the family business back will not be so bright.
  - 2.2 The compensation to given will depend on the labour laws prevalent at that time. Since 80% employees will be contract. They will not be compensated. Other will get benefit of compensation as per labor laws, while the staff will get only notice pay.
  - 2.3 There are some satellite occupations connected to mining operations at present with in a distance of 5km. e.g. workshop/truck repair shops, tyre shops, general stores, small restaurants, fruit shops, tea shops etc. Such business at the time of closure is likely to get closed down, however the effect of single mine closure may not be fell at all.
  - 2.4 Since the lessee will hand over the lease area to State Govt. there are no chances of continued engagement in the backfilled/reclaimed status. Once the lease is determined then all the remnant activities will come to an end barring the period of reclamation period.
  - 2.5 The closure of mine will have grave repercussion on the expectations of society since the obvious advantages received will cease & the closure will directly affect their livelihood. Land owners will cease to get compensation in lien of surface rights. The local habitant in general will feel insecure as their education, health standards & life expectancy will be badly affected.