

Agenda No. 128-14 :
(File No. 6731/2019)

Existing coloured Granite Quarry at SF No. 58 over an extent of 22.50 Ha in Kodarankulam Village, Ambasamudram Taluk, Thirunelveli District, in the state of Tamil Nadu by Tamil Nadu Minerals Ltd – For Terms of Reference Under Violation notification dated 8th March 2018 and 14th March 2017 of MoEF & CC..

(SIA/TN/MIN/ 27281/2018) dated: 22.08.2017.

The proposal was placed in the 128th SEAC Meeting held on 15.04.2019. The project proponent gave detailed presentation. The salient features of the project as presented by the proponent are as follows:

The Government of Tamil Nadu granted colour granite quarrying lease over an extent of 22.50.0 ha S.F.No.58 of Kodarankulam Village, Ambasamudram Taluk, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu vide G.O. (3D) No.29, Industries (MME.1) Department, dated: 25.02.2011 for the period of 30 years from 29.02.2011 to 28.02.2041.

The Mining Plan for Colour Granite quarry in Kodarankulam S.F.No.58, Ambasamudram Taluk, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu State was approved by the Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Chennai vide letter No. 792/MM2/2008, dated: 22.02.2011.

The Scheme of Mining-I pertaining to the year 2016-2017 to 2020-2021 was submitted vide this office Lr. No.10904/ML2/2015, dated: 11.09.2015 and subsequently the Modified Scheme of Mining -I pertaining to the year 2016-17 to 2020-2021 was submitted for this area vide this office Lr. No.10904/ML2/2015, dated: 31.05.2017 and it is under process at the Department of Geology & Mining.

The modified Scheme of Mining shall be deemed to have been approved and such approval shall be subject to final decision whenever communicated vide Rule 18(5) of GCDR 1999.

The Project falls under category 'B2' as the total extent of the quarry is less than 25 ha. As the Kalakadu Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve falls within 10 km radius of this project.

MoEF& CC had directed that "the mine leases which continue to operate without obtaining EC after 15.01.2016 shall be considered as violation cases and the same shall be dealt with in accordance with the violation policy under Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 as amended" vide MoEF & CC letter No. Z-11013/24/2017-IA.II(M), dated. 03.04.2017. Hence, this project comes under violation.

As per MoEF & CC notification dated: 14.03.2017, form – I, ToR and feasibility report is submitted to MoEF & CC, Delhi for prescribing ToR. Meanwhile, the said proposal was transferred from MoEF & CC to SEIAA, Tamil Nadu as it is coming under 'B1' category vide Proposal No. SIA/TN/MIN/27281/2018, Transferred to SEIAA, TN on 02.06.2018

This project pertains to mining of granite blocks with peak yearly production capacity of about 90,174M³ of ROM of granite and 13,526M³ of recoverable granite.

This project site has well established connection facilities. The site is approachable from 3KM south of Adayakarungulam Village. The nearest Railway Station is Ambasamudram: 2.76KM NW and the nearest Airport is Tuticoin: 67.20KM NE. The area exhibits almost hilly undulating terrain.

The area is marked in the Survey of India Topo sheet No. 57-H/6. The area lies in the Eastern Longitude from 77° 24' 42.64" to 77° 25' 13.92" and Northern Latitude from 8° 41' 41.13" to 8° 41' 57.31". The Altitude of the area is above 123m from MSL.

The lease area does not include any forest land. No ecologically sensitive features like national parks, biospheres, sanctuaries, elephant corridors, Tiger reserves, flight paths of migrating fauna, etc occur in core & buffer areas of the project. The area does not come under CRZ category.

Mineable reserves have been computed as 29,85,890 M³ of ROM (4,47,884M³ at the rate of 15% recovery). The life of the mine is anticipated to be 33 years based on the proposed peak production of 90,174 M³ of ROM (13,526 M³ of 15% reserves).

Open cast semi mechanized quarrying with 10m bench height and bench width 6m has been followed. Primary splitting of rock mass from the parent sheet rock is adopted using diamond wire cutting along the horizontal as well as two vertical sides along the width direction and the third vertical face behind the front face.

The split blocks are toppled and removed from the pit to the dressing yard using hydraulic excavator. Removing the defective portion and dressing into the dimensional blocks are done manually using feather, wedges, and chiselling respectively by the experienced skilled labours or by innovative machines. The defect free, dimensional stones of different sizes are marketed.

Blasting will be done only for removal of small portion of over burden using gun power and safety fuse detonator in the holes drilled by Jack hammer.

In the post mining stage, out of the total lease area of 22.50.0Ha, Greenbelt will be developed in 1.00.0 Ha and the total waste generated during Scheme of Mining 4,10,619M³ which is temporarily dumped in the North portion of the lease area. The available top will be used for reclamation and plantation purposes. The mine pit will be utilized as a water reservoir or may be used for fishi-culture at the time of ultimate pit limit or at the end of the life of quarry.

The total water requirement is about 1.5KLD, comprising 0.5KLD for drinking and domestic purpose, 0.3 KLD wire saw cutting purpose, 0.3KLD for dust suppression and 0.4KLD for green belt development. Total water required for the mine will be met from vendors of Kodarankulam Village.

. Total manpower required will be 35 on direct basis. Indirectly more than 20 persons can derive benefits in allied services like logistics, loading / unloading, repair works, trading etc.

The SEAC noted the following:

1. The Proponent, M/s. Tamil Nadu minerals has applied for Tor to SEIAA-TN for the Existing colour Granite Quarry over an extent of 22.50.0 ha at S.F.No.58 of Kodarankulam Village, Ambasamudram Taluk, Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu For Terms of Reference Under Violation notification dated 8th March 2018 and 14th March 2017 of MoEF & CC.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B1" of Item 1(a) "Mining of Minor Mineral Projects" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.

Based on the presentation made by the proponent and the documents furnished, the committee decided to recommend for the grant of Standard ToR for mining projects as

specified by MoEF & CC subject to the above conditions in addition to the Additional TOR specified (Annexure-II) by the SEAC to deal with the violation aspects of the mining projects. The public hearing shall be conducted as per the directions of Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Madras in W.P. No. 11189 of 2017.

In addition to the above, the proponent shall submit the following details:

1. The report for green belt developed with necessary photographs.
2. The proponent shall furnish the photographs for fencing around the project site.
3. The proponent shall furnish the proposal for CER.
4. Contour map for the 1 Km radius surrounding the site, village map, FMB & A Register may be furnished.
5. The comprehensive study shall be carried out to evaluate the impact of mining operations on the environment through expertise in the field of hydrogeology, ecology, mining and environment.
6. Conduct Hydro geological study and furnish the report along with EIA.
7. The proponent furnish in affidavit undertaking inter-alia includes commitment of the Project Proponent not to repeat any such violation in future as follows as per MoEF & CC, Office Memorandum No. F.No.3-50/2017-IA.III(Pt.) dated:30.05.2018
8. "I/We, the applicant / the Project Proponent, commit to comply with all the statutory requirements and judgments of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated the 2nd August 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.114 of 2014 in the matter of the common cause versus Union of India and Ors. Before grant of ToR/ EC and I am also to commit, not to repeat any such violation in future. In case of any violation of the above the ToR/Environmental Clearances shall be liable to be terminated forthwith".
9. The District Survey Report as per the MoEF & CC notification, S.O.3611(E) dated 25.07.2018 for the Tirunelveli District has to be submitted along with the EIA report.