

**Minutes of the 115<sup>th</sup> SEAC Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

115 <sup>th</sup> - F.No.6551/ 2018	Existing Black Granite Quarry over an extent of 1.38.0 Ha. at S.F. Nos. 109/17, 109/25A1, 109/25B, 109/26B & 109/28 of Ulagiyanallur Village, Kallakurichi Taluk, Villupuram District, by Smt. R. Bhuvaneshwari – Environmental Clearance to be issued under violation notification of MoEF & CC - Regarding.
	<p>The proponent, Smt. R. Bhuvaneshwari has applied for Environmental Clearance to SEIAA –TN on 26.06.2018 for mining of Black Granite over an extent of 1.38.0 Ha. at S.F. Nos. 109/17, 109/25A1, 109/25B, 109/26B &amp; 109/28 of Ulagiyanallur Village, Kallakurichi Taluk, Villupuram District.</p> <p>The important milestones in the development of a project are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Mining lease was granted Vide letter G.O.(3D)No.27 dated 07.09.2009 of Govt. Of Tamilnadu for 20 Years for the period from 12.10.2009 to 11.10.2029.</li><li>2. The mining plan was approved by the Department of Geology &amp; mining, Guindy, Chennai vide letter No.1141/MM5/2009, dated 20.08.2009 which was valid up to 11.09.2014.</li><li>3. The proponent has applied for the environmental clearance (ToR) vide proposal no. IA/TN/MIN/72221/2018 dated 12.01.2018 to MoEF&amp;CC. As per MoEF &amp;CC gazette notification no. S.O.804 (E) dated 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, the aforesaid application was treated under violation since the mining operation was carried out without obtaining environmental clearance.</li><li>4. As per the directions of the MOEF&amp;CC Notification No.S.O.1030 (E) dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and OM F.No. Z-11013/22/2017-IA.II(M) dated 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 &amp; 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the MoEF directed the proponent to get the project appraised in SEAC and SEIAA/TN. Accordingly, the proponent applied for Terms of Reference to SEIAA/TN on 09.04.2018 .</li><li>5. The proposal was placed in the 112<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting held on 30.05.2018. The proponent made a presentation and based on the presentation and a detailed discussion, ToR was recommended by SEAC to SEIAA-TN. The SEIAA-TN issued ToR on 05.06.2018 vide letter no. SEIAA-TN/F.No.6551/ToR-413/2018 dated 05.06.2018. The proponent was directed to prepare the EIA/EMP report as per the ToR prescribed.</li></ol>

6. The proponent completed the EIA study and submitted the EIA report to SEIAA-TN on 26.06.2018.

The Essential features of the project are as follows:

1. Mining Lease Area Extent : 1.38 Ha
2. Minerals of Mine : Black Granite
3. Land Type : Patta Land
4. Proposed production (ROM) of mine (SOM-I 2015-19) : 15835 m<sup>3</sup>
5. Ultimate depth of Mining : 17m below ground level
6. Method of Mining : Fully Mechanized
7. Topography : Plain terrain
8. Total Waste Quantity : Mining Plan (2009-2014) –  
(30687+4441=35128m<sup>3</sup>), Scheme of Mining (2015-19) –  
14250+4006=18806m<sup>3</sup>
9. Machinery Details : a. Excavator- 1 No.  
b. Rock buggy Drill Machine – 1 No.  
c. Air Compressor – 1 No.  
d. DG set (72.5 kVA) – 1No.  
e. Tippers – 2 Nos
9. Bench height : Not exceeding 6m
10. End Use : Dimensional Blocks proposed to be dispatched to consumers
11. Mode of transport : By trucks
12. Water requirement : About 3.0 KLD of water will be used
13. Source of water : Private tank water
14. Manpower (nos) : 31
15. Power requirement : The project has contracted 112 KW load electricity from TNEB.
16. Facilities at site : Mine office, Store room, First aid room, drinking water.
17. Project cost : Rs. 2.25 Crores

The environmental features surrounding the project site are as follows:

1. The nearest water body ( Mayura nadi – seasonal ) is at 95m away.



## Minutes of the 115<sup>th</sup> SEAC Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018

2. There are no hills, archaeologically important places, National parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries within 15km radius from the project site.
3. The nearest reserve forest is Kottalam malai RF which is at 3.45 km.
4. The ground water table is at 20m as per Central Ground Water Board and proposed depth of mining is 17m.
5. The nearest habitations are Ulagiyanallur and Sirumangalam which are at 1.19km and 1.18km respectively.
6. The project site is seen to be surrounded by greeneries and agricultural land.

The project proponent made a presentation on the EIA study conducted. The members of SEAC interacted with the proponent regarding the environmental aspects of the project. The observations and recommendations of the SEAC regarding the project proposal are as follows:

1. In the presentation it was informed that there is no blasting activities involved. However in the EIA report (page no.17-21) it has been mentioned that the development of the quarry , removal of overburden will be done by blasting with explosives in drill holes by the jackhammer, further the quantities of the explosive to be used is also given. While informing about the employment potential provisions for drillers and blasters has also been indicated. Thus there is a contradiction regarding adoption of drilling and blasting activities for removing the overburden/side burden in the quarry. The proponent should clarify the above contradiction.
2. The proposed dumping area has been indicated in the plan. Since the quantity of waste generated will be of the order 85% the quantities which can be accommodated in the dumping area has not been worked out.
3. Specific mitigation augmentation for the dust pollution in the nearby nala (Mayura nadi) needs to be spelt.
4. The quarry working is proposed to a depth of 17m. As per CGWB the depth of water table is indicated at 20m. Necessary geo hydrological studies needs to be carried out and reported by undertaking geo physical

testing and also drilling in the area if needed for ascertaining the depth of water table and also the quantity of yield in the mine. The study is recommended in view of the fact that the ground water table as stated by CGWB and the maximum depth of mining proposed are very close. Therefore there is a necessity to confirm the actual ground water table condition at the specific site.

After ascertaining the correct ground water table condition during the monsoon and summer, the proponent should plan the mining activity in such a manner that at no point of time the mining would intersect the ground water table.

5. The production and dispatch of Black Granite as indicated by the proponent needs to be authenticated by the department of Mines and Geology. For the years 2012 and 2013 it has been found that the production is more than the proposed quantity as per the mine plan.
6. In chapter 4 of the EIA report, it is stated that the following environmental parameters are relevant for the proposed project: Air quality, Noise levels, Ground vibration, Water resources and Quality, Land use pattern, Soil quality, Flora and Fauna, Socio economic conditions and Occupational health. The deficiency in the description of the impact of the project on the above environmental parameters is as follows:
  - a. Air quality : The impact on air quality has been predicted for particulate matter, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> using computer modelling. The results of the computer modelling should be verified and validated using field measurements of similar projects or from relevant studies reported in literature.
  - b. Noise levels : The sources of noise have been indicated but the impact on the background noise has not been predicted scientifically based on the different source of noise.
  - c. Ground vibration : Ground vibration effect has been completely ruled out in the report. But drilling will induce vibration which might have impact on the habitations nearby. This is to be ascertained scientifically and proper mitigation recommended.



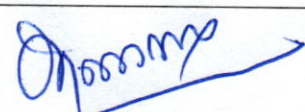
## Minutes of the 115<sup>th</sup> SEAC Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018

- d. Land Degradation : Even though land degradation is stated to be an adverse impact, there is no description of how the land degraded due to the mining activity.
- e. Soil quality : The impact on the soil quality has not been described.
- f. Flora and Fauna : The impact on flora and fauna due to the mining operation especially the land use, dust, noise and vibrations has been described but the description is very generic in nature. The proponent should describe only the impacts that are applicable to the project activity.
- g. Occupational health : As part of the occupational safety and health, a periodical comprehensive health check up must be part of the environmental management plan for taking care of the adverse impacts of noise and dust. This has not been covered in the report.



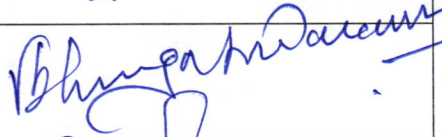

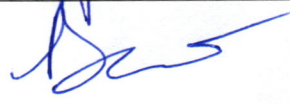
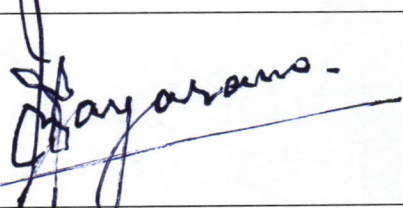
The SEAC critically analyzed the EIA report with reference to the technical points that should be covered as per the ToR issued to the proponent. The observations of the SEAC with reference to the ToR compliance is as follows:

- a. ToR conditions specified in section (F) at page no.7 of ToR have not been complied with.
- b. For a few cases the proponent has merely stated that "Proper mitigation measures will be planned ". But they have not been specified in the report.

In view of the observations presented above, the SEAC decided to defer the project proposal of the proponent **Smt. R. Bhuvaneshwari** submitted for Environmental Clearance to SEIAA –TN on 26.06.2018 for mining of Black Granite over an extent of 1.38.0 Ha. at S.F. Nos. 109/17, 109/25A1, 109/25B, 109/26B & 109/28 of Ulagiyanallur Village, Kallakurichi Taluk, Villupuram District and direct the proponent to revise the EIA/EMP report in line with the SEAC observations and submit the same to SEIAA-TN for further necessary action.

S.No	Name	Designation	Signature
1	Dr. K. Thanasekaran	Member	

**Minutes of the 115<sup>th</sup> SEAC Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

2	Dr.K.Valivittan	Member	
3	Dr.Indumathi M. Nambi	Member	
4	Dr. G. S. Vijayalakshmi	Member	
5	Dr. M. Jayaprakash	Member	
6	Shri V. Shanmugasundaram	Member	
7	Shri B. Sugirtharaj Koilpillai	Member	
8	Shri. P. Balamadeswaran	Co-opt Member	
9	Shri. M.S. Jayaram	Co-opt Member	

Member-Secretary, SEAC

Chairman, SEAC