

Minutes of the 107th SEAC Meeting held on 11th April 2018

107- F. 6481/2017	Proposal for issue of Environmental Clearance for the proposed Sand Quarrying in River Palar over an extent of 5.76.0 ha at S.F. No. 395 (P), Pattu Village, Gudiyatham Taluk, Vellore District - Regarding.
	<p>The Executive Engineer, PWD, Mining & Monitoring Division, Villupuram has applied for Environmental Clearance on 28.11.2017 for the proposed Sand Quarry in River Palar over an extent of 5.76.0 ha at S.F. No. 395 (P), Pattu Village, Gudiyatham Taluk, Vellore District for quarrying of 57600 cu.m of Sand for a period of 1 year.</p> <p>The subject was placed before the 99th SEAC Meeting held on 11.12.2017. In the meeting, the Executive Engineer, PWD was requested to make a presentation on the proposals of the PWD. Based on the presentation the SEAC decided to defer the proposal for want of clarity on the following aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. There is contradiction in the data presented by the Executive Engineer regarding ground water table: in one place it is said to be 8m during summer and 7 m during rainy season. In another place in the report it is said to be 6-8 feet (1.8m – 2.4m). The data on water table is very crucial to decide the permissible sand mining depth. When the EE was asked to clarify regarding this contradiction, he said he will verify the data and inform the SEAC the correct data.2. The depth of sand available is stated to be 10'8" - 14' in one place in the report and in another place it is stated that the maximum sand resource available is 3m. This is also a contradiction on the important data related to the sand availability. When this was raised to the EE, he clarified that he will verify the data and present correct data to the SEAC in another few days. <p>Based on the EE submission regarding the data required for appraisal of the</p>

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project, the SEAC decided to defer the proposal for want of data on the above 2 items. Once the EE submits the required information and data, the SEAC will appraise the project.

The above details was communicated to the Project Proponent vide SEIAA office letter dated 15.12.2017. The Project Proponent has furnished above said details on 03.04.2018.

The subject was placed before the 107th SEAC Meeting held on 11.04.2018. In the meeting, the Executive Engineer, PWD was requested to make a presentation on the proposals of the PWD. Based on the presentation, the clarification for the points raised in the 99th SEAC meeting are as follows:

1. The water table depth varies from 2 m in rainy season to 7.2 m in summer season.
2. The thickness of sand bed varies from 3m to 4m.

Considering the above clarifications and the DSR submitted by the proponent, the SEAC decided to recommend the proposal for the grant of Environmental Clearance subject to following conditions in addition to the normal conditions.

1. As informed by the proponent only manual mining operation along with transportation by carts for Sand mining shall be carried out.
2. The proponent shall fix flag posts at boundaries for the proposed mining area covering an extent of 480m X 120 or 5.76.0 ha. There should be no deviation/ violation with respect to the area demarcated for quarrying.
3. The depth of sand quarrying shall be restricted to 1m from the theoretical bed level.
4. To prevent dust pollution, suitable working methodology needs to be adopted taking wind direction into consideration.
5. At no cost the impact of sand mining should interfere with the habitation and cultivation in the nearby area along the river bed.
6. The mining area must be demarcated leaving atleast 50m from the river embankment on either side.

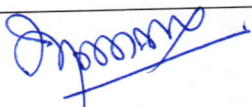

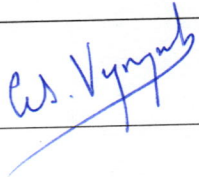
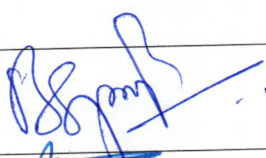
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none">7. To ensure safety measures along the boundary of the quarry site, security guards are to be engaged during the entire period of mining operation.8. Wherever irrigation channels take off from the river within the boundary of the mining project, the mining operation should not affect the flow of water in the irrigation channels.9. 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.10. 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.11. 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.12. The mining operation should be above the ground water table.13. 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.14. Adequate statutory manpower to be deployed for complying with the provisions as per Mines Safety Regulations (MCDR, 2017 & MMR, 1961).15. For the sand quarry at Pattu Village, Gudiyatham Taluk Vellore District, 57600 cu.m of Sand is to be mined. The committee accordingly decided to permit 100% manual mining with in a lease period of 1 Year at the
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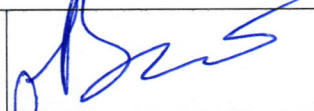
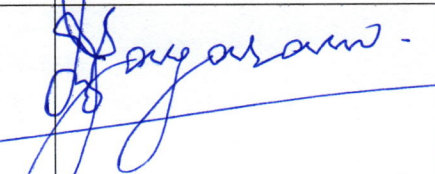
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	<p>project site.</p> <p>16. During the sand mining work, appropriate progressive mine closure activities must be implemented to restore the river bed to its original status for ensuring the free flow.</p> <p>17. It is observed from the data presented that the ground water level is at 2 m during the rainy season (during October, November, December), while during the other month the ground water level is found at a depth of 7.2m. Due to the above observation quarrying of sand in this area is to be restricted to summer months.</p> <p>The recommendation for the grant of EC is also subject to the condition that the proponent Executive Engineer / WRD, Mining and Monitoring Division, Villupuram Division 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.</p>		
S.No	Name	Designation	Signature
1	Dr. K. Thanasekaran	Member	
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	

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8	Shri. P. Balamadeswaran	Co-opt Member	
9	Shri. M.S. Jayaram	Co-opt Member	

Member-Secretary, SEAC


Chairman, SEAC

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