

## Minutes of the 93<sup>rd</sup> SEAC Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017

<b>93<sup>rd</sup> - 02</b> <b>F.No.</b> <b>6420/2017</b>	Proposal for re-issue of Environmental Clearance for the proposed Sand Quarrying in River Thenpennai in Lower Pennaiyar Basin over an extent of 21.37.5 ha at S.F. No. 203 (P), Vadakku Nemili Village, Thirukoilur Taluk, Villupuram District - Regarding.
	<p>The project proponent has already been issued Environmental Clearance vide Lr.No.SEIAA-TN/F.No.3581/EC/1(a)/1807/2015 Dated:27.03.2015 with validity of 2 Years lease for sand quarrying operation in the River Thenpennai in Lower Pennaiyar Basin over an extent of 21.37.5 ha at S.F. No. 203 (P), Vadakku Nemili Village, Thirukoilur Taluk, Villupuram District. The EC validity expired on 26.03.2017.</p> <p>Now, project proponent submits fresh application seeking for re-issue of Environmental Clearance dated 28.06.2017. The project proponent submits that no quarrying operation has been done since the issue of EC. They are also requesting for 80% machinery operation &amp; 20% manual operation for sand mining.</p> <p>In this regard, the project proponent was addressed to furnish certain additional details vide Lr No. SEIAA-TN/F.No. 6420/2017 dated: 03.07.2017.</p> <p>The subject was placed before the 92nd SEAC Meeting held on 11.07.2017. In the meeting, the Executive Engineer, PWD was requested to make a presentation on the proposals of the PWD. The members discussed with the Executive Engineer about the details of the proposals including the ecological aspects of the mining operation which were not satisfactorily complied.</p>

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The committee members concluded that more information and data are needed from PWD to make a decision regarding the EC. Accordingly, the committee directs the PWD to furnish the following data and information to the SEAC to consider the request of PWD. The data and information should be site specific and separately furnished for each quarry.

- I.
  - 1) The details of the location to cover land use and ecologically sensitive areas.
  - 2) Details of wells in the vicinity, ground water tables and other surface water bodies in the vicinity.
  - 3) Thickness of Sand and its variation covering the entire area; similarly the width of the sand bed.
  - 4) Agricultural land if any, surrounding the quarry site.
  - 5) The composition of sand and other minerals present in the river bed.
  - 6) Details of the river bed.
- II. The list of quarries which were covered in the report of the committee constituted by the Government of Tamil Nadu, headed by Thiru. Rajesh Lakhoni, IAS.
- III. Reclamation of the sand area after mining needs to be submitted.
- IV. Justification for usage of more poclains in individual sand mining areas to be given.
- V. Adequate safety measures in the quarrying area with respect to poclains to be deployed.
- VI. Adequate plan for traffic management for the loaded vehicles passing through nearby habitation.
- VII. The impact of dust pollution and noise on the habitations nearby.

The committee directed the PWD to submit a comprehensive report detailing the above points. The SEAC will consider the revised proposals as and when received by them, for issue of EC.

The subject was placed before the 93<sup>rd</sup> SEAC Meeting held on 11.08.2017. In

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the meeting, the Executive Engineer, PWD was requested to make a representation on the proposals of the PWD highlighting the mining projects with emphasis on the information and data requested by the SEAC during the meeting on 11.07.2017. A power point presentation of the quarries was made along with ecological features related to the mining projects. The PWD also submitted a report covering the ecological aspects in this regard.

Based on the presentation and the ecological profile, the SEAC recommends the following amendment with respect to the request of the PWD regarding the use of poclains in the mining projects. Maximum number of poclains to be used was decided based on the quantity of sand in each of the quarries yet to be mined. The number of poclains will have a bearing on number of total machineries that will be put on the site, the implications of the movement of the vehicles on river bed and river banks, physical features and the flora and fauna of the river bed and banks. Considering the above, the Committee formulated the following criteria in deciding the number of poclains:

1. Upto one lakh m<sup>3</sup> sand yet to be mined – maximum 2 poclains
2. One lakh - Two lakh m<sup>3</sup> sand yet to be mined – maximum 3 poclains
3. Two lakh - Four lakh m<sup>3</sup> sand yet to be mined – maximum 4 poclains
4. Four lakh - Seven lakh m<sup>3</sup> sand yet to be mined – maximum 5 poclains

For the sand quarry project at Vadakku Nemili Village, Villupuram District, 213750 cu.m of sand is to be mined. As per the above criteria, the maximum

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number of poclains permitted is 4 Nos.

The Environmental Clearance is subject to the fulfilment of the following additional conditions by the PWD:



1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. It is reported that Vadakku Nemili Village is located at 500m and a hamlet within about 100m is located. On the Southern side, a sugar cane field is located. It is reported that there are 25 wells closer to the sand mining site. Even in the river bed certain patches have been used for agricultural purposes whenever there is no flow in the river. The mining operation should not lead to depletion of water in the wells.
5. 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

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	<p>the road that should be fully covered with tarpaulin.</p> <p>6. The pathway used by all machineries should be properly constructed and maintained by the PWD in order to avoid pollution.</p> <p>7. The mining operation should be above the ground water table.</p> <p>8. 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.</p> <p>9. Adequate statutory manpower to be deployed for complying with the provisions to use heavy machineries as per Mines Safety Regulations (MCDR, 2017 &amp; MMR, 1961).</p>
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S.No	Name	Designation	Signature
1	Dr. K. Thanasekaran	Member	
2	Dr. A. NavaneethaGopalakrishnan	Member	
3	Dr.K.Valivittan	Member	
4	Dr.Indumathi M. Nambi	Member	
5	Dr. G. S. Vijayalakshmi	Member	
6	Dr. M. Jayaprakash	Member	
7	Shri V. Sivasubramanian	Member	
8	Shri V. Shanmugasundaram	Member	
9	Shri B. Sugirtharaj Koilpillai	Member	

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10	Dr. P.Balamadeswaran	Co-opt Member	
11	Shri. M.S. Jayaram	Co-opt Member	

**Member-Secretary,  
SEAC**

  
**Chairman,  
SEAC**