

राज्य स्तर पर्यावरण समाघात निर्धारण प्राधिकरण, उत्तराखण्ड, 653, इन्दिरानगर कालोनी, सीमाद्वाररोड, देहरादून- 248006 (पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली द्वारा गठित)

दूरभाष: 0135-2763576

ईमेल: seiaa.seac.uk@gmail.com



State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, 653, Indiranagar Colony, Seemadwar Road, Dehradun- 248006 (Constituted by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Government of India.)  
Phone No- 0135-2763576  
Email- seiaa.seac.uk@gmail.com

E.C.No-152-01(70)/2019

Dated- 21-07-2020

To,

Shri. Gopal Ram, S/o Shri Laccham Ram,  
Village - Bheruchaubatta Tehsil & District - Bageshwar.

Mob.8477957777

Sub: Environmental Clearance under EIA notification dated 14.09.2006 for Extraction of Soapstone in Village - Bheruchaubatta Tehsil & District - Bageshwar.

Sir,

This has reference to your proposal SIA/UK/MIN/53214/2020 dated 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 submitted to the SEIAA for grant of Environmental Clearance for extraction of Soapstone with proposed production capacity 30,000 Tonnes/Annum. The mine lease area is located at Village - Bheruchaubatta Tehsil & District - Bageshwar with an area of 4.156 Ha. It was observed that the ToR has been issued by the SEAC vide No. 75/SEAC dated 1-06-2019 and the public hearing was conducted 23-01-2020. The project proponent has now submitted final EIA report consisting of 11 chapters. The proposal was considered by the State Expert Appraisal Committee in its meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2020. The details of the project, as per the documents submitted by the project proponent, and also as informed during the above meeting are as under: -

S.No	Details	Reply																			
1	New or Ongoing Site	New Site																			
2	Letter of Intent (Valid up to)	1957/MII-1/26-Soapstone/16, Dated 22-12-2016, for a period of Twenty five (25) years. (For Six Months)																			
3	Mine Plan (Valid up to)	5 Years from date of Lease Deed Registration, NO. 1939/Mu.Kh.-Mining plan-111/bhu.khani.e./2017-18, dated 17 February 2018																			
4	No. of Pits	1 pit																			
5	Thickness of Soil	0.5m from surface																			
6	Maximum Explorable Depth	12m																			
7	Balanced Undistributed Agriculture land (in Hac.)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Details of applied Area/demarcated</th> <th colspan="4">NONE-FOREST LAND, AS CATEGORIZED AS BELOW-</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Ag. Category-1(ka) Land</th> <th>Pub. Utility Land</th> <th>Categor y-5 Land</th> <th>Total Land</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>03.713 Hac.</td> <td>0.053 Hac.</td> <td>0.390 Hac.</td> <td>4.156 Hac.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>03.713 Hac.</td> <td>0.053 Hac.</td> <td>0.390 Hac.</td> <td>4.156 Hac.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Details of applied Area/demarcated	NONE-FOREST LAND, AS CATEGORIZED AS BELOW-				Ag. Category-1(ka) Land	Pub. Utility Land	Categor y-5 Land	Total Land		03.713 Hac.	0.053 Hac.	0.390 Hac.	4.156 Hac.	Total	03.713 Hac.	0.053 Hac.	0.390 Hac.	4.156 Hac.
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8	Total Mineable Reserve	Total 1,42,000 Tonnes in five year; EC proposed on 30,000 Tonnes/Year																			
9	Estimate Quantity	EC proposed on 30,000 Tonnes/Annum																			
10	Method of mining	Opencast Semi-mechanized Method																			
11	Mining Shall be Carried Out	1334.9m to 1259m RL																			
12	Height and Width of Benches	3*3m																			
13	Slopes and Ultimate face Slope	Face slope 70° & overall pit slope 45°																			
14	River/Nallah (Name)	None																			
15	Project Cost	₹ 35 Lacs.																			
16	CER Cost	4 % of Project cost																			
17	Cluster Certificate	Submitted, there are six other mine lease falls in the aerial																			

		distance of 500 meter in the periphery of the above mine site and the total of cumulative area of all mine lease area are as follows:-															
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		Which is >5 Ha.															
18	Ecological Sensitivity Map	Submitted & No National Park/Reserve Forest/Sanctuary exist within 10 Km radius of proposed mining Area is mentioned by DFO, Bageshwar.															
19	Coordinates	Latitude : 29° 51' 48.45" to 29° 51' 52.54" N Longitude : 79° 50' 53.73" to 79° 50' 37.81" E															

The SEAC after due consideration of relevant documents submitted by the project proponent and additional clarification furnished in response to its observations have recommended the grant of Environmental Clearance for the project mentioned above subject to compliance with the EMP and other stipulated conditions. Accordingly after due examination and deliberation the SEIAA hereby accords necessary Environmental Clearance for the project under category B-2 of EIA notification 2006 (as amended from time to time) subject to the strict compliance with the specific and general conditions mentioned below:-

#### 1- General Conditions

1. No blasting or drilling shall be permitted during mining operation and only hand held tools shall be permitted.
2. The mining/extraction of mineral and progressive mine closure should be done as per the approved mine plan.
3. The proponent should provide eco-friendly toilets for the workforce.
4. The mine site should have well demarcated safety zone i.e. mining operation will not be carried out in the vicinity of 100 m from nearby bridges, educational institution or structures of historical importance.
5. The proponent shall undertake afforestation activities in the buffer zone as well as near project site. The afforestation will be done after consultation with local state Forest Department and state Horticulture Department for plantation of wild and horticulture plants respectively. Minimum 5000 plants will be planted in nearby Van Panchayat first and second year followed by their maintenance in the next three years.
6. The mining operation would provide local employment and bring economic benefit to local population.
7. Photography of the proposed mining site (preferably using Drone) should be done and submitted to SEIAA along with half-yearly compliance report.

#### 2- Conditions for operation phase

1. The project proponent should advertise with basic details at least in two widely circulated local newspapers, within seven (7) days of the receipt of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Dehradun and a copy of the same be sent to the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India located at 25 Subhash, Road Dehradun.
2. The legal status of the mining lease area shall remain unchanged and the Environment Clearance shall remain co-terminus with lease period. The mined lease area shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
3. The mining/extraction of soapstone shall not be done without approved mine plan from designated authority. The mine plan should be revised every 5 years and no fresh mine plan shall be prepared without site inspection by designated authority.
4. The boundary of the mined lease area shall be demarcated on ground by erecting pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, DGPS coordinates, forward and back bearing, and distance from adjoining pillars etc. This demarcation will be ensured by the Revenue Department. A bench mark will be established to monitor depth of the mining. A safety zone of 7.5 mt (surrounding the mine site) shall be left free from mining.
5. The mining shall be carried out by **open cast Semi mechanized** without adopting drilling and blasting operation. The use of hand held mechanically driven equipment is permitted. The use of any electrically driven machinery shall remain prohibited and only hand held tools shall be used for extraction of the mineral.

6. Soapstone mining shall be carried out during sunrise to sunset period only. It shall not involve felling of trees and clearance of vegetation. There shall be no permanent construction at the site except temporary erection of first aid room, office, store, drinking water shed, rest shelter etc.
7. The process of mining and quantity of extractable mineral and subsequently progressive mine closure shall be as per the approved mine plan. The mining operation shall be carried out from **upper level to lower level** by formation of benching pattern. The maximum height of benches shall not exceed 1.5 mt and ultimate pit slope shall be kept at 45 degrees.
8. The maximum permissible depth for mining of soapstone shall not exceed 6 meters or depth of ground water table whichever is less. During first five years of mining lease the depth of mining shall not exceed 3 meters. Mining beyond 6 meters shall be granted after site visit by SEAC.
9. **Extraction of minor mineral is permitted from 1<sup>st</sup> October of every year to 15<sup>th</sup> June of the subsequent year. It shall be ensured that no mining activity is carried out during the monsoon season. Workers should be advised and protected against flash flood during 1<sup>st</sup> June to 15<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> Oct to 31<sup>st</sup> Oct during which there may be rains in the hills.**
10. Reclamation of the mine lease area shall be through back filling, stabilization and cultivation. The waste and top soil generated during mining shall be temporarily stacked in external dump which will be subsequently vacated and back filled in mined out pits. The waste generated in the area will be backfilled during rains and land made suitable for cultivation. Back filling shall be done in a retreating manner from **upper level to lower level**. Mining activity and back filling shall be done simultaneously once space is available.
11. No disturbance to natural drainage system around the mining lease area shall be done. No mixing of wastes is allowed. The dump site shall be kept away from the nearby nallahs/water bodies and maintained at a distance of at least 100 meters. The external dump shall be protected against slide/slip by adopting suitable mechanical and vegetative measures. Proponent should construct a retaining wall, along the nallah side, with suitable height to protect soil erosion. The construction of toe wall, check dam and planting of grass species/soil binding dwarf species in dump yard shall be done.
12. The project proponent shall undertake transportation of mineral from pit head to read head manually or by mule. Further it shall strictly adhere to the norms of Transport Department in refraining from use of polluting and less fuel-efficient vehicles for transporting extracted minerals to final destination. There shall be no over loading of vehicles as against standard norms fixed by Central Government/State Government/Hon'ble Courts from time to time.
13. The project proponent shall regulate and maintain record of the quantity of soapstone extracted during a season. The monitoring shall be ensured by Mines Department/District Administration from time to time.
14. There shall be no labour camp in the mining lease area for the labour engaged in mining of soapstone. The labour engaged in mining shall be provided free fuel wood/alternate source of energy to avoid any pressure on adjoining forest land
15. **Proponent should submit surface water quality and ambient air quality monitoring report as committed in EMP, with suitable parameters.**
16. Under corporate social responsibility proponent should develop community services such as drinking water, education, housing, sanitation, health, safety and medical facilities, public transportation and communication, social welfare etc.
17. The proponent shall erect eco-friendly mobile toilets for the workforce at site and shall ensure disposal of solid waste as per the existing provisions/rules/guidelines.
18. Minimum 5000 plants will be planted in nearby Van Panchayat first and second year followed by their maintenance in the next three years. The species selection shall be site specific and cater to the demand of the Van Panchayat. The Divisional Forest Officer, Bageshwars shall ensure the compliance. Besides this the proponent shall develop 5 meter wide dense plantation of shrubs around the mining site.
19. The Geology and Mining department shall identify an agency for regular/periodical monitoring of quality of ground water of existing hand pumps and tube wells in the vicinity of the mining site.
20. The project proponent shall formulate a transparent and unbiased procedure for engagement of laborers for sustainable extraction of the minerals from the mining lease area. The project proponent shall ensure that maximum local labour be engaged and hence opportunities of employment be provided. The project proponent shall follow all safety measures for labour force engaged in accordance with relevant Acts/Rules.
21. The project proponent shall prepare the plan of mining in conformity with the mine lease conditions and the Rules prescribed in this regard thereby clearly delineating the 'No Work Zone' in the mine lease area i.e. at least 100 mt distance from Nallahs/Water Bodies, bridges, educational institution or structures of historical importance.
22. **Effective safeguard measures, such as regular water sprinkling shall be carried out in critical areas prone to air pollution and having high levels of particulate matter such as loading and unloading point and all transfer points. It shall be ensured that the Ambient Air Quality parameters conform to the norms prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board in this regard.**

23. The project proponent shall provide protective respiratory devices to workers working in dusty areas and they shall also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects. Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the project shall be carried out and records maintained.
24. The proponent shall provide eco-friendly mobile toilets for the workforce at site and shall ensure disposal of solid waste as per the existing provisions/rules/guidelines.
25. The project proponent shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project
26. Photography of the proposed mining site as well as the plantation sites undertaken by the project proponent showing GPS coordinates should be done (preferably using Drone) and submitted to SEIAA and regional office of MoEF&CC, Govt of India at Dehradun along with half-yearly compliance report.
27. Project proponent will strictly comply with EMP/EIA.
28. Project proponent will have to submit EMP/EIA report to Mining Department (Lessee) and Pollution Control Board before getting work order/Consent to Established or Operate.
29. The project proponent shall submit half yearly compliance report of stipulated conditions of Environment Clearance in soft copy through PARIVESH PORTAL given link: <https://parivesh.nic.in>.

### 3- Entire Operation


- 1) The Environmental Clearance is being granted for mining/extraction of Soapstone in the approved Mine Lease Area. Legal status of the mining lease area shall remain unchanged and the Environmental Clearance is being granted only for the lease period. The mined lease area shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- 2) The maximum permissible depth for mining of Soapstone shall not exceed 6 meter or depth of ground water table whichever is less. During first five years of mining lease the depth of mining shall not exceed 3 meters. Mining beyond 6 meters shall be granted after site visit by SEAC. However, Authority may also visit the site in operational phase, whenever it is found to be necessary.
- 3) **Extraction of minor mineral is permitted from 1<sup>st</sup> October of every year to 15<sup>th</sup> June of the subsequent year. It shall be ensured that no mining activity is carried out during the monsoon season. Workers should be advised and protected against flash flood during 1<sup>st</sup> June to 15<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> Oct to 31<sup>st</sup> Oct during which there may be rains in the hills.**
- 4) Reclamation of the mine lease area shall be through back filling, stabilization and cultivation. The waste and top soil generated during mining shall be temporarily stacked in external dump which will be subsequently vacated and back filled in mined out pits. The waste generated in the area will be backfilled during rains and land made suitable for cultivation. Back filling shall be done in a retreating manner from **lower level to upper level**. Mining activity and back filling shall be done simultaneously once space is available.
- 5) The dump site shall be kept away from the nearby nallahs/water bodies and maintained at a distance of at least 100 meters. The external dump shall be protected against slide/slip by adopting suitable mechanical and vegetative measures. The construction of toe wall, check dam and planting of grass species/soil binding dwarf species in dump yard shall be done as given in mining plan.
- 6) The project proponent shall undertake transportation of mineral from pit head to road head manually or by mule. Further it shall strictly adhere to the norms of Transport Department in refraining from use of polluting and less fuel-efficient vehicles for transporting extracted minerals to final destination. There shall be no over loading of vehicles as against standard norms fixed by Central Government/State Government/Hon'ble Courts from time to time.
- 7) The project proponent shall regulate and maintain record of the quantity of Soapstone extracted during a season. The monitoring shall be ensured by Mines Department/District Administration from time to time.
- 8) There shall be no labour camp in the mining lease area for the labour engaged in mining of Soapstone. The labour engaged in mining shall be provided free fuel wood/alternate source of energy to avoid any pressure on adjoining forest land.
- 9) The project proponent shall formulate a transparent and unbiased procedure for engagement of labourers for sustainable extraction of the minerals from the mining lease area. The project proponent shall ensure that maximum local labour be engaged and hence employment opportunity provided. The project proponent shall follow all safety measures for labour force engaged in accordance with relevant Acts/Rules.
- 10) The project proponent shall provide protective respiratory devices to workers working in dusty areas and they shall also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects. Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the project shall be carried out and records maintained.
- 11) The project proponent shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

- 12) The above environmental safeguards shall be implemented in letter and spirit. The project proponent shall establish Environment Monitoring Cell and also submit six monthly compliance reports to this Authority and regional office of MoEF&CC, Govt of India at Dehradun.
- 13) The SEIAA reserves the right to include additional safeguard measures if found necessary and also to take action including revoking of the EC granted under provision of EIA Notification 2006. This EC is being granted subject to compliance of Hon'ble Court Orders issued from time to time.
- 14) Any appeal against this Environment Clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under section of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
- 15) If it is found that if conditions laid down by the Authority are violated, the Authority may suspend or cancel this Environmental Clearance.

**4- Specific Conditions:- (To be followed by Director Industry, Geology and Mining Unit, Govt. of Uttarakhand).**

- 1- Mining and Geology department of the State Government should recalculate the maximum production levels and inform the Authority accordingly.
- 2- A study shall be carried out at least in over a year through mines and geology department to avoid over exploitation of mineral, which may adversely affect the dynamics of site. A copy of said study report shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at Dehradun and SEIAA, Uttarakhand.
- 3- The Geology and Mining unit of Industry Department shall identify an agency for regular/periodical monitoring of quality of ground water of existing hand pumps and tube wells in the vicinity of the mining site.
- 4- Digital processing of the entire lease area using remote sensing technique should be done by Geology and Mining department regularly and report should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Regional office at Dehradun and SEIAA, Uttarakhand.

In view of the COVID-19 scenario, social distancing at work-place shall be maintained, and such after necessary safeguard shall be ensured as directed by Government of India, Government of Uttarakhand and concerned District Magistrate from time to time.

  
(Sushanta Kumar Pattnaik)  
Member Secretary,  
SEIAA, Uttarakhand  
O/C

**No.-01(70)/2019 dated- as above**

**Copy for information and necessary action to-**

- 1) Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Gol, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Vayu Wing, New Delhi.
- 2) Principal Secretary, Environment and Forests, Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.
- 3) APCCF, Regional office (Central) MOEFCC, 25 Subhash Road, Dehradun.
- 4) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)/Chief Wild Life Warden, Dehradun.
- 5) **District Magistrate, Bageshwar.**
- 6) Director, Industry, Geology and Mining Unit, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Bhopal pani, The unit shall comply the Specific Conditions and submit the report to SEIAA Uttarakhand
- 7) **Divisional Forest Officer, Bageshwar.**
- 8) Member Secretary, UEPPCB, Dehradun.
- 9) Guard File.

  
(Sushanta Kumar Pattnaik)  
Member Secretary,  
SEIAA, Uttarakhand  
O/C