

Minutes of the 91st SEAC Meeting held on 17th June 2017

<p>91st -11 F.No. 4078/2015</p>	<p>Proposal for the issue of Amendment for usage of machinery in the EC issued for the Sand Quarrying in Sand quarry in River Coleroon over an extent of 19.50.0 ha at S.F. No. 116(Part), Azhangathan Village, Kattumannarkoil Taluk, Cuddalore District - Regarding.</p>
	<p>The Environmental Clearance was issued for Quarrying of River Sand in River Coleroon over an extent of 19.50.0 ha at S.F. No. 116(Part), Azhangathan Village, Kattumannarkoil Taluk, Cuddalore District subject to a special condition No. (iv) that “The Proponent shall do the sand quarrying only manually and no machineries should be used for quarrying sand within the river” vide this office letter Lr. No.SEIAA-TN/F.No.4078/EC/1(a)/2298/2014 dated:27.10.2015. The Environmental Clearance validity was for a period of three years from the date of issue.</p> <p>Based on the request of the PWD, an amendment to the EC was issued dated: 30.05.2017. The amendment pertains to the usage of poclains (maximum of 2 nos) and also to continue manual mining operation, in the place of full mining operation earlier permitted.</p> <p>The PWD represented by the Executive Engineers have further written to SEIAA-TN making a request to permit the usage of more number of poclains as per the letter dated: 10.06.2017 along with modified mining plans. The proposals received from the PWD were placed before the 91st State Level Expert Appraisal Committee Meeting held on 16th June, 2017.</p> <p>In the meeting, The Executive Engineer, PWD was requested to make a</p>

Minutes of the 91st SEAC Meeting held on 17th June 2017

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. The PWD justified its request for increase number of poclains from two to five based on local conditions and meeting the demand of the sand from the industry.

The Committee members concluded that more information and data are needed from PWD to make a decision regarding the request for increase number of poclains. Accordingly, the committee directed 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.

Minutes of the 91st SEAC Meeting held on 17th June 2017

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| | <p>IV. Justification for usage of more poclains in individual sand mining areas to be given.</p> <p>V. Adequate safety measures in the quarrying area with respect to poclains to be deployed.</p> <p>VI. Adequate plan for traffic management for the loaded vehicles passing through nearby habitation.</p> <p>VII. The impact of dust pollution and noise on the habitations nearby.</p> |
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The committee asked PWD to submit a comprehensive report detailing the above points on 17.06.2017.

Accordingly, PWD made a presentation on 17.06.2017 highlighting the mining projects with emphasis on the information and data requested by the SEAC during the meeting on 16.06.2017. A video 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

Minutes of the 91st SEAC Meeting held on 17th June 2017

formulated the following criteria in deciding the number of poclains:

1. Upto one lakh m³ of sand yet to be mined – maximum 2 poclains
2. One lakh - Two lakh m³ of sand yet to be mined – maximum 3 poclains
3. Two lakh - Four lakh m³ of sand yet to be mined – maximum 4 poclains
4. Four lakh - Seven lakh m³ of sand yet to be mined – maximum 5 poclains

For the sand quarry project at Azhangathan Village, Cuddalore District, 160544 cu.m of sand is yet to be mined. As per the above criteria, the maximum number of poclains permitted is 3 Nos.



The above amendment is subject to the fulfilment of the following 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 there are five habitations closer to the Azhangathan project but all of them are 400 -500m away from the mining area. Also there are no open wells/bore wells closer to the mining area. The mining operation should not lead to depletion of ground water table.
5. The approach road and loading of the sand in the vehicles, movement of


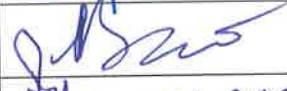

Minutes of the 91st SEAC Meeting held on 17th June 2017

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 atleast 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.

6. The pathway used by all machineries should be properly constructed and maintained by the PWD in order to avoid pollution.
7. The mining operation should be above the ground water table.
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 any two 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.
9. Adequate statutory manpower to be deployed for complying with the provisions to use heavy machineries as per Mines Safety Regulations (MCDR, 2017 & MMR, 1961).

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	

Minutes of the 91st SEAC Meeting held on 17th June 2017

5	Dr. G. S. Vijayalakshmi	Member	
6	Dr. M. Jayaprakash	Member	
7	Shri V. Sivasubramanian	Member	
8	Shri V. Shanmugasundaram	Member	
9	Shri B. SugirtharajKoilpillai	Member	
10	Dr. P.Balamadeswaran	Co-opt Member	
11	Shri. M.S. Jayaram	Co-opt Member	

**Member-Secretary,
SEAC**

**Chairman,
SEAC**