

Proceedings of the 237th State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) held on 10.02.2023 (Friday) in the Conference Hall No. 1 (Room No 311), 2nd Floor of MGSIPA at 10:30 AM, MGSIPA Complex, Sector-26, Chandigarh.

The meeting was attended by the following members:

1. Sh. Hardeep Singh Gujral,
Chairman, SEIAA
2. Sh. Kamal Kumar Garg, IAS,
Member Secretary, SEIAA
3. Dr. Adarsh Pal Vig, Member SEIAA -cum-
Chairman, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala (Through VC)

Er Nikhil Gupta, Environmental Engineer (PPCB)-cum-Deputy Director, DECC along with other supporting staff of SEIAA also attended the meeting.

Item No. 01: Confirmation of the proceedings of the 233rd, 235th and 236th meeting of the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority held on 24.01.2023, 30.01.2023 and 01.02.2023 respectively.

Environmental Engineer SEIAA informed that the proceedings of 233rd, 235th and 236th meeting held on 24.01.2023, 30.01.2023 and 01.02.2023 were circulated through email. No comments were received from any of the Member. As such, SEIAA confirmed the proceedings of the said meetings as circulated.

Item No. 02: Action taken on the proceedings of 229th, 233rd and 236th meeting of State Environment Impact Assessment Authority held on 03.01.2023, 24.01.2023, 01.02.2023 respectively.

SEIAA was apprised that requisite action is being taken on the proceedings of the 229th, 233rd and 236th meeting of State Environment Impact Assessment Authority held on 03.01.2023, 24.01.2023, 01.02.2023 respectively. SEIAA noted the same.

Item No. 237.01: Regarding Change in method of Mining from Manual to Semi-Mechanized.

1.0 Deliberations during meeting of SEAC held on 04.02.2023

During meeting, SEAC observed that the Department of Mining & Geology, Punjab has requested for allowing the use of machinery in the proposed 8 number mining sites (Vehran of District Jalandhar, Boont, Akkuwal, Hujra, Khasi Kalan of District Ludhiana, Begowal, Burj Tehal Dass & Arzi Derya Bramd Rail (1) of District SBS Nagar). The Committee observed that manual mining has been allowed while granting the EC to these sites. Further, the Committee observed that the request for allowing the use of machinery should be submitted by the project proponent through Parivesh Portal. The Assistant Geologist of the Department of Mines & Geology informed to the Committee that the EC for the mining site of Burj Tehal Dass of SBS Nagar has already expired and further there is no requirement of semi-mechanized mining in case of mining site of Hujra of District Ludhiana. The Committee after detailed deliberations decided as under:

- (i) The Project Proponent of each of 6 mining sites (Vehran of District Jalandhar, Boont, Akkuwal, Khasi Kalan of District Ludhiana, Begowal & Arzi Derya Bramd Rail (1) of District SBS Nagar) shall apply for amendment/modification in EC through Parivesh Portal.
- (ii) The Project Proponent shall submit recommendation of Department of Mines & Geology, Punjab regarding allowing semi-mechanized mining at the time of applying for amendment/modification in EC of the mining sites mentioned at Serial no. 1.
- (iii) The Project Proponent shall submit the six-monthly compliance report of the EC conditions at the time of applying of amendment/modification in EC for the mining sites mentioned at Serial no. 1.
- (iv) The Project Proponent shall also submit the current status of the mining sites by indicating the total quantity to be excavated as per EC, quantity excavated till date and remaining quantity to be mined at the time of applying for amendment/modification in EC for the mining sites mentioned at Serial no. 1.

Now, in compliance of the above, M/s Mahadev Enclave Pvt Ltd has applied through Parivesh Portal for amendment in Environmental Clearance for change in mining method from Manual to Semi-Mechanized for the following mining sites.

- i. Village Akuwal, Tehsil Jagraon, District Ludhiana (SIA/PB/MIN/172167/2020)
- ii. Village Khasi Kalan, Tehsil & District Ludhiana (SIA/PB/MIN/297396/2023)
- iii. Village Vehran, Tehsil Nakodar, District Jalandhar (SIA/PB/MIN/172219/2020)
- iv. Village Begowal, Tehsil Nawashehar, District SBS Nagar (SIA/PB/MIN/172593/2020)
- v. Village Arzi Derya Bramd Rail, District SBS Nagar (SIA/PB/MIN/297391/2023)

vi. Village Boont, Tehsil & District Ludhiana (SIA/PB/MIN/297378/2023)

The Project Proponent has submitted request letter, recommendation of Department of Mines & Geology, approved mining plans, MOA of M/s Mahadev Enclave Pvt Ltd, compliance of the conditions of the Environmental Clearance earlier granted to it, a copy of Environmental Clearance granted to the Project Proponent & QCI Certificate.

2.0 Deliberations during SEAC meeting held on 09.02.2023

The consultant of the Project Proponent made presentation in respect of the 6 mining sites for which amendment in EC conditions for change in method of mining from manual to semi-mechanized has been sought. It was informed that the present term of contract in respect all the 6 sites is upto 28.02.2023 for which the method of mining is required to be amended from manual to semi-mechanized. The Department of Mines & Geology has also recommended to allow semi-mechanized method of mining due to shortage of labour and other reasons given in the letter no. 376/Glg dated 06.02.2023.

The Committee was informed that NGT Monitoring Committee during their field visit to the mining site of ADB Rail-1 on 25.05.2022 and visit to the mining site of Boont on 19.10.2022 found that some of the conditions of Environmental Clearance have not been complied with. The six-monthly compliance reports as submitted by the Project Proponent also showed that compliance of some of the conditions have not been made by the Project Proponent.

Keeping in view the recommendations of the Department, request of the PP and the remaining period of the contract only upto 28.02.2023, SEAC decided to recommend for amendment in the EC conditions regarding method of mining from manual to semi-mechanized subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The Department of Mines & Geology should take necessary action as per the provisions of the contract for non-compliance of EC conditions.
- (ii) The Department of Mines & Geology shall ensure the compliance of EC conditions.
- (iii) Semi-mechanized mining shall be carried out in these sites as per the criteria decided in the 234th meeting of SEAC held on 12.12.2022.

3.0 Deliberations during 237th meeting of SEIAA held on 10.02.2023

The case was considered by SEIAA in its 237th meeting held on 10.02.2023. SEIAA observed that the SEAC has recommended the amendment in the ECs of the aforementioned 6 sites so as to permit semi-mechanized mining in these sites subject to certain conditions.

After detailed deliberations, SEIAA decided to accept the recommendations of SEAC for amendment in the EC conditions and permit semi-mechanized mining in these sites subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The Department of Mines & Geology should take necessary action as per the provisions of the contract for non-compliance of EC conditions as observed by the 5-member NGT Monitoring Committee during their field visit to the mining site of ADB Rail-1 on

25.05.2022 and visit to the mining site of Boont on 19.10.2022.

- (ii) The Department of Mines & Geology shall ensure the compliance of all EC conditions.
- (iii) Riverbed mining may be allowed in dry stretches of sand aggradations both manually and through semi-mechanized methods in rivers with bank-to-bank width of river more than 100 meter.
- (iv) The bucket capacity of the excavators to be used for mining should not exceed 1 cum and boom length should not exceed 3 meters.
- (v) The excavator used for riverbed mining and flood plain mining should only be tyre mounted.
- (vi) In case of perennial streams and creeks, only manual mining is permissible.
- (vii) The capacity of tippers to be used for transportation of minor minerals must not exceed 10 tons. In case larger capacity tippers are required, the permission of concerned department responsible for maintenance of the road should be obtained.
- (viii) Project proponent will make and regularly maintain a temporary katcha access road between the mining area to the local stockyard and to the nearest metaled road with locally available bio-degradable materials such as sugarcane waste, paddy straws etc.

In addition to the conditions as mentioned above, the project proponent shall also comply with the Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines, 2016 and the Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 as issued by the MoEF&CC, Govt. of India.