

STATE EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (SEAC): ASSAM
3RD FLOOR, STATE POLLUTION CONTROLBOARD, ASSAM,
BAMUNIMADAM, GUWAHATI- 781021

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Minutes of the 7th Meeting (2nd Sitting) of the State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) held on 28th March, 2024 from 2.00 PM to 5.00 PM in the Conference Hall, 3rd floor, Pollution Control Board, Assam.

List of the Hon'ble Members / Officials present in the meeting:

Sl no.	Name	Designation	Signature
1	Sri Jatindra Sarma, IFS (Retd.)	Chairman	Sd/-
2	Sri. Arup Barpujary	Member	Sd/-
3	Shri Shantanoo Bhattacharyya	Member	Sd/-
4	Dr. Bijoy Sankar Goswami	Member	Sd/-
5	Dr. Rahul Mahanta	Member	Sd/
6	Dr. S.K. Dutta	Member Secretary	Sd/-

At the very outset, the Member Secretary, SEAC welcomed the Hon'ble Chairman, SEAC and all the Members of the Committee. He briefed the house about the agenda for the meeting as circulated and requested the esteemed members for their thorough participation and deliberation to expedite the process of disposal of the pending cases.

As per the agenda, the august committee duly reviewed the Minutes of the Meetings (1st Sitting and 2nd Sitting) held on 23th February' 2024 and ratified the minutes.

As per the agenda for the 2nd Sitting, the august Committee duly deliberated, discussed and made appraisal and furnished their opinion / views which were unanimously accepted, as pointed out against each of the agenda items, quoted here under:

1. EC for Boulagog P.P. Land Stone Mining Permit Area by Jitu Amsi (SIA /AS /MIN / 450331 /2023) SEIAA. 3584/2023

The proposal was discussed in the 4th SEAC Meeting (1st Sitting) held on 28.12.2023 and deliberated upon. The decision taken in the meeting is reproduced below.



“ Resolution 4/21:

- The Project Area as allotted is measuring 1.11 Ha with the Mining area approved being 1.11 Ha with the recommended quantity of 20,000 cu.m of Stone in 2 (Two) years as per the approved Mining Plan. The Mining Plan was prepared by the Registered Qualified Person (RQP) Dr Abhijit Bora and the proposed mining area was visited by the RQP while the same was approved by the Director, Geology and Mining, Govt of Assam vide letter dated 18.06.2022. The DFO, Hamren Division had recommended for the grant of the EC for the proposal allowing extraction / mining vide letter dated 21.06.2022. Status of land had also been furnished by the Circle Officer on 24.02.2023.
- Necessary documents submitted in support of the proposal regarding ownership, possession of land in question, NOC by the land owner are examined and appraised. During scrutiny it came to light that the area in question was mined showing extraction of 30,000 cum of stone by M/S Melo SDR (J/V) in 2 (Two) years time required for the use by the Railway Department. The DFO had furnished the information as sought for with a clarification vide letter dated 28.10.2022 that no cluster mining is taking place in the area within radius of 500m from proposed area.
- Due discussions and deliberations are held by the SEAC. Upon deliberation on the issue of mining in the area by the proponent in the past and to ascertain the status of the area it was decided that a sub-committee is formed and a detail study / inspection of the site is made to find out mitigation measures taken to ameliorate the surrounding environment, green belt raised as a part of ECR activity etc and furnish report in due course for further needful action by the Committee. ”

The sub-Committee so constituted as envisaged under the provisions made under para 5 (d) of the EIA Notification, 2006 relating to the screening, appraisal by the SEAC comprising of 2 Hon'ble Members to furnish their report on physical verification report with due suggestions etc on the likely impact on the surrounding environment due to mining in the proposed area. The sub-Committee conducted field verification on 20.02.2024. Necessary report as submitted to this effect was placed in the meeting for appraisal by the SEAC.

It is revealed from the report of the sub-Committee that apparently mining in the area had taken place in the past few years back at behest of Indian Railways. Presently mining is feasible as the area is required to be cleared owing to its terrain which is unfit for agricultural purposes and make it suitable for livelihood generation for future and the sub-Committee advised for resorting plantation of suitable species around the area.

After due discussions and deliberations **the Committee recommended the project proposal for grant of EC by the SEIAA** approving extraction of **20,000** cum of stone @ 10,000 cu m / year from the proposed mining site within a period of 2 (two) years subject to the conditions that (a) mining shall be confined and



limited to the area falling within GPS coordinates; (b) there shall not be use of explosives for mining activity without prior approval and permission from the competent authority and (c) plantation activities are to be carried out in and around the project area in plot(s) of land measuring around 0.50 Ha (as to be identified and raised / established) preferably of the species comprising of commercial value / Horticultural Crops as means of livelihood generation for future as also a post reclamation and mitigation measure.

The preferred species of plants suitable for the area are: Asor (*Aquillaria malaccensis*), Chandan (*Santalum album*), Mahogany (*Swetenia mahgonii*), Nemu tenga (*Citrus limon*) etc etc.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Hamren Division shall ensure due vigilance in the mining area to avert any kind of irregularities during the mining period. Further, the DFO is to ensure that mining shall be allowed only within the approved mining site and not beyond the limits of the same. Accordingly, the DFO shall ensure marking the boundary of the mining site on the ground fixing permanent concrete pillars, painted yellow, with the coordinates depicted therein on the pillars / posts, following the GPS coordinates mentioned in the approved mining plan.

2. EC for mining of Ordinary Earth from the “Borkhat Village Ordinary Earth Mining Permit Area” under Kamrup East Forest Division, Basistha, Guwahati proposed by Clean Air Realtors Private Limited (SIA/AS/MIN/421590/2023) SEIAA. 3387/2022

This is a proposal for Ordinary Earth mining in patta lands covering an area of 4.21 ha proposed by Clean Air Realtors Private Ltd represented by Sri Pravat Kalita, MD for filling, leveling and other construction work. The mining plan is prepared by Sri Prabal Kr Goswami and approved by the Director, Geology and Mining, Govt of Assam vide letter dated 02.03.2023. The DFO, Kamrup East Division, Guwahati has recommended for grant of the EC vide letter dated 06.03.2023 for the approved quantity of 1,91,756 Cu M @ 95,878 Cu M per year for 2 (two) years.

The proposal was discussed in the 3rd SEAC Meeting (2nd Sitting) held on 01.12.2023 and the proceedings of the decisions taken is reproduced below:

“The proposed project area is on patta land under Dag No. 105, 50, 43, 244 of patta No. 2, 24, 29 & 30 in two different blocks under Sonapur Revenue Circle. Necessary JVR is conducted on 9th Feb. 2023. The mining plan approved by the DGM, Assam communicated vide letter dated 2nd March 2023 is deliberated. Recommendations of the concerned DFO vide letter dated 1st March 2023 & 6th March 2023 are also discussed. Required land documents i.e copy of Jamabandi etc. have not been furnished except record of Dag No 43 & patta No. 29 which is also classified as agriculture land.

The committee after necessary deliberation asked the proponent to furnish all detail documents relating to the Patta land involved along with the Non-Agricultural Land certificate issued by the competent Revenue Authority for further processing the proposal.”

On receipt of the replies furnished by the Proponent, the matter was listed for presentation by the Project Proponent. The Proponent was eager to make a presentation on the entire project which the committee welcomed. The Proponent himself preferred to make the presentation to acquaint the committee adequately about the uniqueness of the project in view of the climate resilience activities to adequately set up as a model for posterity of human being.

Due discussions are held and the committee desired to have specific additional information / clarification for consideration and further advancement of the case for grant of the EC by the SEIAA.

The proponent is asked to furnish the following information / clarification as ADS for further processing of the proposal:

- A. *NOC from the District Commissioner for allowing Earth Cutting in the proposed Mining Site;*
- B. *Non -Agricultural Land Certificate relating to the proposed mining site under Dag. 105,50,43,44 Patta No-24,29,30 is required as issued by the competent authority in the Revenue Department. "*

The project Proponent has accordingly submitted the clarification / reply to the ADS on 02.03.2024. The records were placed before the Committee for deliberation and discussion further in the matter. The Committee felt it expedient that the Proponent submits the requisite Earth cutting permission before he undertakes any activity from the competent authority in the District Commissioner, Kamrup (M) under the condition that he shall solely be responsible for any loss or damage due to any kind of activity within the project area without proper authority.

Due deliberation is held and the Committee is pleased to recommend the proposal for 2(two) years to extract the approved quantity of 1,91,756 Cu M @ 95,878 Cu M per year of Ordinary Earth from the proposed mining site with the conditions (i) that maximum mining depth is allowed up to 3 (three) meters from the non-mined ground surface strictly following all the terms and conditions laid down in the approved mining plan; (ii) to demarcate the excavation setting out plan with reference coordinates and levels; (iii) to start the excavation from one end and proceed to another end in layers such as one metre depth layers; (iv) if the excavation depth exceeds 2.0m depth, it is necessary to protect the sides of the excavation by driving sheet piles or soldier piles. The vertical members to protect the excavation is to be driven first followed by horizontal members; (v) stack the soil away from the excavation edge to prevent soil collapsing to the excavated area.

The project Proponent accordingly has submitted an undertaking on 03.04.2024 whereby he has committed to obtain the earth cutting permission from the District Commissioner, Kamrup (M) and to submit the same to the SEAC/ SEIAA and also declared that for undertaking any activity thereon, for any damage/loss caused, the Proponent shall solely be responsible.

The Proponent further must ensure raising Green Belt around the premises in consultation with the DFO for planting suitable evergreen species of plants all along the periphery of the plot of land which need to be uploaded in the PARIVESH portal.



The preferred species of plants which need to be planted around the area of mining or adjoining areas may be: Titasopa (*Michelia champaca*), Sarua (*Streblus asper*), Mahogany (*Swetenia mahgonii*), Jati poma (*Toona ciliata*), Bogi poma (*Chukrassia tabularis*), Gomari (*Gmelina arborea*), Cham katahl (*Artocarpus chaplasha*), Hilikha (*Terminalia chebula*) etc etc

The Divisional Forest Officer, Kamrup East Division, Guwahati is required to ensure due vigilance on the mining operation to avoid occurrence of irregularities during the mining period. Further, the DFO is to ensure that mining be allowed only within the approved mining site and not beyond the limit of the same. Accordingly, DFO shall arrange to mark the boundary of the mining site on ground fixing permanent pillars, painted yellow inscribing the Geo-coordinates therein on the pillars, following the GPS coordinates mentioned in the approved mining plan.

Compliance by the proponent of all the terms and conditions stipulated in the EC shall have to be ensured by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.

3. **EC Sand, Gravel & Boulder Mahal at Huthuti River (Balagari Village) by Tameswar Basumatary (SIA/AS/MIN/415729/2023) SEIAA. 3347/2023**

The Project Area as allotted is measuring **5 ha** with the recommended quantity of **11,075 Cu m of Sand-Gravel; 4,290 Cu m of Gravel; of 8,215 Cu m of Sand and 4,790 Cu m of Boulder in 5 (five) years** as per the approved Mining Plan. The mining area is proposed by Sri Tameswar Basumatary. The Mining Plan was prepared by the Registered Qualified Person (RQP) Dr Abhijit Bora who had visited the proposed area while the same was approved by the Director, Geology and Mining, Govt of Assam vide letter dated 12.01.2023. The DFO, Chirang Division had requested for the grant of the EC for the proposal allowing extraction of mineral vide letter dated 17.01.2023.

The proposal was discussed in 57 th SEAC Meeting held on 18/03/2023 and details is as below:

“ Resolution 57/7:

The project proposal asking for mining of Sand, Gravel Boulder from the **“Sand, Gravel & Boulder Mahal at Huthuti River (Balagari Village)”** of Chirang Forest Division under BTC proposed by **Sri Tameswar Basumatary** is placed before the SEAC for appraisal and detail discussion. Project area proposed 5.0 hect. on the river bed. The name of the river mentioned in the approved mining plan as Huthuti river whereas the google map indicated as Manas River. The mining plan approved by the DGM, Assam communicated vide latter dated 12th Jan. 2023 is discussed. Recommendation of the concerned DFO communicated vide letter dated 13th Dec. 2022 & 17th Jan.2023 is also deliberated. Detail deliberation is held. The committee needs the following additional information for further processing the proposal:

- (a) Whether the proposed mining site is located on the bed of river Huthuti or Manas? Clarification is required from the DFO, Chirang Forest Division.
- (b) Requirement of total minable materials for five years is 24,080 cu.m as per approved mining

plan. On the other hand, minable reserved estimated up to 3 meters' depth is on 5 hect area is above 73,000 cu.m. Why such large area for mining is chosen for extraction of comparatively smaller quantity of minable materials? Required quantity could have been managed from an area less than five hect. The DFO, Chirang is requested to furnish suitable reply on the above discussed points.”

Pursuant to the clarifications sought as above on two counts, the DFO, Chirang has submitted the replies for both. The clarification to the effect that the proposed mining area is falling in the **Huthuti** river bed and not in Manas. For the clarifications sought in respect of the low quantum of minerals as allotted despite having much higher mineable quantity in a much larger area (5 ha) the justification put forth by the DFO is not justifiable with cogent reasons.

After due deliberation it is decided that the DFO shall furnish a detailed report as to the present status of the proposed mining area indicating if any extraction from the area has been taking place and also furnish the NOC from the competent official of the Water Resources' Department regarding mining in the river bed and the precautions to be taken if mining be allowed.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.



**Chairman
SEAC, Assam**

Dated : 30/04/2024

Memo No. SEIAA.33/2013/Pt.-I

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Copy to:

- 1) The Chairman, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Assam for favour of kind information.
- 2) The Member Secretary, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Assam for favour of kind information and necessary action.
- 3) All Members, SEAC, Assam for favour of their kind information.
- 4) Concerned DFOs for information and needful compliance.
- 5) Accountant cum Cashier of the office of the SEIAA, Assam for his information.
- 6) Office copy for each of the proposals.



**Member Secretary
SEAC, Assam**