



OFFICE OF THE STATE EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE, ASSAM
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
BAMUNIMAIDAM, GUWAHATI-21.
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Minutes of the 20th Meeting (2nd Sitting) of the State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) held on 4th January, 2025 from 2.00 PM to 3.00 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	Dr. Bijoy Sankar Goswami	Member	Sd/
3	Dr. Rahul Mahanta	Member	Sd/-
4	Dr Apurba Kumar Das	Member	Sd/-
5	Dr Raza Rafiqul Hoque	Member	Sd/-
6	Sri. Arup Barpujary	Member	Sd/-
7	Shri Shantanoo Bhattacharyya	Member	Sd/-
8	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 in the process of disposal of the pending cases at hand and also the recommendations to be made to the SEIAA, Assam by the Committee.

As per the agenda, the august Committee duly deliberated, discussed and furnished their opinion / views which are unanimously accepted, recommended for further course of requisite action by the SEIAA as quoted here under:

1. Environment Clearance for Dikhow River Ordinary Clay Mining Permit Area (Puccaghat) under Sivasagar Forest Division by Hrishikesh Dourah : SEIAA. 3651/2023 (SIA/AS/MIN/436892/2023)

The proposal was discussed in the 6th SEAC Meeting held on 23.02.2024 and accordingly recommended to the SEIAA for grant of the EC as applied for. The SEIAA has reverted back the proposal to the SEAC for review of the proposal on the alleged ground of receipt of a complaint.

On record prior to receipt of the allegation/complaint the SEIAA raised ADS on 13.05.2024. The ADS raised is quoted in verbatim as under:

"ADS: It is seen that the activity is going on as shown on the extraction site. Need a clarification from concern DFO, Sivasagar Forest Division."

Accordingly reply to the ADS in question was furnished on **14.11.2024** vide Letter no. B/M/2/Permit/2024 from DFO, Sivasagar Division.

Deliberation of 6th SEAC Meeting is as under:

Resolution 6/2:

The Project Area as allotted is measuring **0.21 Ha** with the recommended quantity of **3,884 cu.m** ordinary clay in **2 (two)** years as per the approved Mining Plan. The Mining Plan was prepared by the Registered Qualified Person (RQP) Sri Lakshyajit Sonowal 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 10.04.2023. The ADC, Sivasagar Division had requested for the grant of the EC for the proposal allowing extraction vide letter dated 26.04.2023.

Necessary documents submitted in support of the proposal is examined and appraised. **The NOC from the Water Resources Department concerned is furnished.**

Due discussions and deliberations is held. The Committee is of the considered opinion that the the Minor mineral in question, quantity being too meagre, be allowed to be extracted within a period of **1(one)** year only.

The Committee after due deliberation and appraisal is pleased to **recommend for grant of the EC by the SEIAA for a quantity of 3,884 cu.m Ordinary Clay in 1(one) year** subject to the conditions that the proponent shall have to strictly follow all terms and conditions laid down in the approved mining plan and also subject to the conditions that: (a) mining shall be confined and limited to the area falling within the approved GPS coordinates; (b) the active bank of the river is not disturbed / damaged because of mining operation and transportation of mining materials and (c) the proponent is permitted to extract the approved quantity of river bed **Ordinary Clay** with maximum mining depth of up to **2 (two)** meters only from the non-mined surface.

It also came to light during the course of discussion, as has been pointed out by the Member Secretary, SEAC that for mining in river beds and in flood plains the Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO) are essentially required to be obtained from the PCBA in terms of the guidelines circulated by the CPCB / MoEF & CC for non manual extraction which need to be adhered to by the concerned DFO.

The Divisional Forest Officer shall ensure due vigilance in the mining area to avert any kind of irregularities / illegalities 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, the DFO shall also ensure marking the boundary of the



mining site on the ground fixing permanent concrete pillars, painted yellow with the coordinates depicted there in on the pillars / posts, following the GPS coordinates mentioned in the approved mining plan.

Current Deliberation of SEAC:

All the relevant papers relating to the proposal are placed before the Committee for examination. On scrutiny it revealed that the Mining Plan as prepared for the project valid for a period of 2 (two) years will expire on **29.03.2025** while initially recommendation was given to the SEIAA for grant of EC for a period of 1 (one) year.

It is seen that the complaint is lodged by one Sri Rintu Borgohain on a flimsy ground that the EC was granted in his favour by the SEIAA, Assam on **13.03.2023** for allowing extraction of mineral from the same area (Govt land) under Proposal No. SIA/AS/MIN/409279/2022 valid for a period of 1 (one) year which is already expired. The ground for entertaining the complaint by the SEIAA is devoid of merit to the extent that there is no further proposal submitted by the complainant for the same area and also the fact that it is not within the power of a private person to stall the process of grant of EC by another individual project proponent who have applied with a *bonafide* stake following due process.

After thorough discussion, the august house is pleased to recommend for grant of the EC for a quantity of **3,884** Cu M Ordinary Clay for a period of the validity of the Mining Plan i.e. till **29.03.2025**.

Decision: Recommend grant of EC up to 29.03.2025

The meeting ended with vote of thanks from the Chair.



**Chairman
SEAC, Assam**

Dated : 9 .01. 2025

Memo No. SEAC.33/2013/Pt.-I -A

Copy to:

- 1) The Chairman, SEIAA for favour of kind information and necessary action.
- 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) Accountant cum Cashier of the office of the SEIAA, Assam for his information.
- 5) Office copy for each of the proposals.



**Member Secretary
SEAC, Assam**