

**Proceedings of the 241<sup>st</sup> meeting of the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) held on 16.03.2023 (Thursday) in the Conference Hall No. 2, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of MGSIPA at 10:30 AM, MGSIPA Complex, Sector-26, Chandigarh.**

The meeting was attended by the following members:

1. Sh. H S Gujral,  
Chairman, SEIAA
2. Dr. Rupanjali Karthik, IAS,  
Member Secretary, SEIAA
3. Dr. Adarsh Pal Vig, Member SEIAA -cum-  
Chairman, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala

Er Nikhil Gupta, Environmental Engineer along with other supporting staff of SEIAA attended the meeting.

**Item No. 01: Confirmation of the proceedings of the 239<sup>th</sup> and 240<sup>th</sup> meetings of the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority held on 01.03.2023 and 02.03.2023 respectively.**

SEIAA was apprised that the proceedings of 239<sup>th</sup> and 240<sup>th</sup> meetings of the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority held on 01.03.2023 and 02.03.2023 respectively were circulated through email for comments on 15.03.2023. Further, the said proceedings were uploaded on Parivesh portal on 15.03.2023. No observations were received from any of the members. As such SEIAA confirmed the said proceedings.

**Item No. 02: Action taken on the proceedings of 239<sup>th</sup> and 240<sup>th</sup> meetings of State Environment Impact Assessment Authority held on 01.03.2023 and 02.03.2023.**

SEIAA was apprised that the action on the decisions of the 239<sup>th</sup> and 240<sup>th</sup> meetings of State Environment Impact Assessment Authority held on 01.03.2023 and 02.03.2023 respectively is being taken. SEIAA took note of the same.

**Item No. 241.02.-241.05: Regarding applications for Environmental Clearance for carrying out mining of minor minerals (sand) by Executive Engineer-cum-District Mining Officer, Drainage-cum-Mining & Geology Division, Water Resources Department, Fazilka Division.**

**Background**

The Executive Engineer-cum-District Mining Officer, Drainage-cum-Mining & Geology Division, Water Resources Department, Fazilka Division has applied for obtaining Environmental Clearance under category B2 and 1(a) of the schedule appended with the EIA notification dated 14.09.2006 for carrying out mining of minor minerals (sand) at the following mining sites.

1. Village- Badha, Tehsil & Distt Fazilka (SIA/PB/MIN/415347/2023)
2. Village-Behak Hasta Uttar/Ghurka, Tehsil & Distt Fazilka (SIA/PB/MIN/415348/2023)
3. Village-Sukhera Bodla; Tehsil Jalalabad, Distt Fazilka (SIA/PB/MIN/416003/2023)
4. Village-Chak Gareeban Sandar, Tehsil Jalalabad, Distt-Fazilka (SIA/PB/MIN/416031/2023)

The Department has deposited requisite fee for obtaining Environmental Clearance for carrying out mining in the above mining sites, with details mentioned in the table. The adequacy & deposition of the requisite fee by the applicant has been checked & verified by the supporting staff of SEIAA.

**Deliberations during 241<sup>st</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 06.03.2023.**

The case was considered by the following:

- (i) Mr. Alok Chaudhary, Executive Engineer, DMO, District Fazilka.
- (ii) Dr. KL Satapaty, CEO, M/s GRC India Pvt Ltd.

SEAC allowed the Environmental Consultant of the project proponent to present the salient features of the following mining sites. He, thereafter, presented the details as under:

S . N o	Details as per DSR			Details of Mining			Details of other lease out area		Approval of Mining Plan	Approval under FCA or NBWL as the case may be, If applicable (attach copy)	Fee deposited in Rs. *
	Code/Location of the site	Area (ha.)	Quantity proposed (MT)	Area of the Mining Lease (ha.)	Quantity from lease area (MTPA)	Whether Site falls in any cluster, if yes (code/area)	Area of the leased-out area (ha.)	Quantity Leased (MT)			
1	1,2/Village-Badha;Tehsil-Fazilka and Dist-Fazilka	3.64 2 for 1 & 0.20 2 for 2	87390 for 1 & 4796 for 2	2.020 3 (1.818 for 1 and 0.202 3 for 2	42,165 [39263 For Badha 1 and 2902 for Badha 2]	Yes, S.no 1 and 2 of Annexure V in DSR with an area of 1.818 ha. and 0.2023 ha.	Nil	Nil	Approved by Assistant geologist, Punjab and Letter no Glg/Pb/M. P/ Badha 1/71-72 For Badha 1 and Glg/Pb/M. P/ Badha-2/74-75 for Badha 2 Dated 05-01-2023	Not Applicable	Rs. 4041 /- vide reference no. N020 2232 2981 0935 1 dated 20.0 2.20 23
2	3/Village-Behak Hasta Uttar/Ghurka;teh	1.88 5	41903	1.882	37652	No	Nil	Nil	Approved by Assistant geologist, Punjab and Letter no	Not Applicable	Rs. 3764 /- vide reference no.

	sil-Fazilka;Dist-Fazilka								Glg/Pb/M. P/Behak Hasta Uttara/Ghurka/77-78 Dated 05-01-2023		N020 2322 9812 6178 dated 20.0 1.20 23
3	9,14,15/Village-Sukhera Bodla;Tehsil-Jalalabad;Dist-fazilka	2.04 3-9; 1.27 8-14 & 1.68 7-15	46251 - 9 29725 -14 & 38986 -15	4.94	47110	Yes, S.no 9,14 and 15 of Annexure V in DSR	Nil	Nil	Approved by Assistant geologist, Punjab and Letter no Glg/Pb/M. P/Sukhera Bodla I,II,III/234 Dated 20-01-2023	Not Applicable	Rs. 9880 /- vide reference no. N020 2304 6106 46 dated 27.0 1.20 23
4	10/Village-Chak Gareeban Sandar;Tehsil-Jalalabad;Dist-Fazilka	1.88 5	44793	2.19	44267	No	Nil	Nil	Approved by Assistant geologist, Punjab and Letter no Glg/Pb/M. P/Chak Gareeban Sandar/23 1 Dated 20-01-2023	Not Applicable	Rs. 4380 /- vide reference no. N020 2304 5989 61 dated 27.0 1.20 23

The Committee observed that the details mentioned in the said proposals i.e. area of the mining site, quantity of the material to be mined, location of the sites are in consonance with

the approved DSR of District Fazilka. SEAC was satisfied with the presentation and reply given to the observations. SEAC took a copy of the presentation on record.

After deliberations, SEAC decided to award silver grading to the aforementioned mining projects and forward the applications of the project proponent to SEIAA with the recommendation to grant Environmental Clearance for mining of minor minerals (sand) at above mentioned mining sites subject to the specific conditions as applicable for such type of the project along with additional conditions as under:

**Additional Condition**

- (i) The Department of Water Resources cum-Mines & Geology shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing of the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc.

**Specific conditions:**

- (i) The environmental clearance will be valid for a period of seven years from the date of issuance, as per the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 as amended subsequently, for mining of minor minerals in the above said locations and Khasra numbers.
- (ii) The project proponent shall demarcate the mining lease area in the presence of Lambardar of the village, project proponent/ contractor, owner of the land and owner of the adjoining land, Revenue officer & Mining officer, etc. Mining lease area will be demarcated on the ground with pucca pillars with reference to some permanent benchmark before starting any mining activity at site.
- (iii) Mining should begin only after pucca pillar marking the boundary of lease area is erected at the cost of the lease holder after certification by the Mining official and its geo-coordinates are made available to the District Level Committee.
- (iv) Mining shall be carried out through semi- mechanized method as proposed in the mining plan.
- (v) Mining shall be as per the approved Development/Mining Plan prepared for this project and as per the Mines & Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and rules framed there under as amended from time to time, other Acts/rules related with mining of minor minerals.
- (vi) The mining activity shall be carried out strictly as per the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines 2016, the provisions made in Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 issued by MoEF&CC, New Delhi as amended from time to time and the guidelines issued by the Geological Survey of India.
- (vii) The mining operation will be carried out only from sun-rise to sunset.
- (viii) The project proponent shall earmark at least two tubewells/ borewells/ wells as observation wells in the adjoining area within a radius of 500m of the project site and monthly monitoring of the depth is to be carried out. District Mining Officer is to monitor the same.

- (ix) The project proponent shall obtain Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate from the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) and effectively implement all the conditions stipulated therein.
- (x) The project proponent shall observe the mining site after every 15 days and in case, a Schedule-I or Schedule-II species as per Wildlife Act or any rare or endangered species are reported, the Mining Officer will get a conservation plan prepared in consultation with the Department of Wildlife and ensure its implementation.
- (xi) The mining of minor mineral (sand) shall be carried out only up to a depth of 3m as proposed in the approved Mining plan or above the groundwater level, whichever is less.
- (xii) The mining shall be carried out by the contractor/lessor as per the Environment Management Plan prepared and development / mining plan prepared as per the Mines & Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 / other Acts/Rules related with mining of minor minerals. It shall be ensured that no mining shall be carried out during the monsoon season as defined by the Meteorological department.
- (xiii) The project proponent and Mining officer shall ensure that wherever deployment of labour attracts the Mines Act, the provisions thereof shall be strictly followed.
- (xiv) The project proponent shall undertake plantation/afforestation work by planting native species in the nearby area/ adjacent to the mine lease.
- (xv) The project proponent shall ensure that 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. Extensive water sprinkling shall be carried out on haul roads. It should be ensured that the ambient air quality parameters conform to the norms prescribed by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) /PPCB in this regard.
- (xvi) The project proponent shall undertake adequate safeguard measures during extraction of sand and ensure that due to this activity, the hydro-geological and ecological regime of the surrounding area shall not be affected. Regular monitoring of ground water level and quality shall be carried out around the mine lease area by establishing a network of existing wells, if any, and installing new piezometers during the mining operation.
- (xvii) The periodic monitoring [(at least four times in a year- pre-monsoon (April-May), monsoon (August), post-monsoon (November) and winter (January); once in each season)] shall be carried out in consultation with the State Ground Water Board/Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) and the data thus collected may be sent regularly to the MoEF&CC and its Regional office at Chandigarh, CGWA, the Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board; SEIAA, Punjab and PPCB. If at any stage, it is observed that the groundwater table is getting depleted or rising due to the mining activity, necessary corrective measures shall be carried out.
- (xviii) The project proponent shall obtain necessary prior permission of the competent authorities/CGWA for drawl of requisite quantity of water (surface water and groundwater), if any, required for the project.

- (xix) In case, mining site falls in the notified block declared by the CGWA, the project proponent shall obtain necessary prior permission for drawl of requisite quantity of water for domestic purposes from District Advisory Committee (DAC) and only use treated waste water for dust suppression activities.
- (xx) Adequate numbers (as proposed) of trees shall be planted, protected, maintained and established in vacant area in the village near the mining site.
- (xxi) Appropriate mitigation measures shall be taken by the project proponent to prevent pollution at the mining site in consultation with the PPCB. It shall be ensured that there is no leakage of oil and grease at the mining site from the vehicles/mining equipment used for transportation.
- (xxii) Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. The project proponent shall ensure that, as far as possible, the transportation route will be away from the habitation area and will not pass through any village. The transportation hours of mined material shall be restricted to non-peak hours only.
- (xxiii) The mineral transportation shall be carried out through the covered trucks only and the vehicles carrying the mineral shall not be overloaded. All the public roads as well as approach roads shall be maintained and it shall be ensured that the tippers carrying mined material are not loaded beyond the permissible load as per the designed load bearing capacity of the road. Moreover, provision of sufficient funds shall be made in the budget for the proper maintenance of the roads.
- (xxiv) Mineral handling area shall be provided with the adequate number of dust suppression systems. Loading and unloading areas including all the transfer points should also have efficient dust control arrangements. These should be properly maintained and operated.
- (xxv) A first aid room shall be provided in the project both during construction and operations of the project.
- (xxvi) Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the project shall be carried out and records maintained. For the purpose, schedule of health examination of the workers should be drawn and followed accordingly.
- (xxvii) Provision shall be made for the housing of workers, if residing at site, within the site with all necessary infrastructure and facilities such as fuel for cooking, mobile toilets, mobile STP, safe drinking water, medical health care, crèche etc. The housing may be in the form of temporary structures to be removed after the completion of the project. In case of non-residential/daily workers, provision of adequate bath rooms, mobile toilets, and mobile STP shall be made to avoid open defecation and treated domestic effluent shall be discharged onto the land for plantation.
- (xxviii) The municipal solid waste generated shall be disposed of as per Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules 2016. Segregation of bio-degradable and non-biodegradable wastes shall be done at site and disposed of as per provisions of SWM Rules. Dustbins will be provided at site and the workers will be guided to put all the waste in these dustbins. if any, in the dustbin. No littering will be permitted at the site as well as in the vicinity.

- (xxix) The critical parameters such as Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter(RSPM) (Particulate matter with size less than 10 microns i.e., PM10) and Nitrogen oxides (NOx) in the ambient air within the impact zone shall be monitored periodically. Further, quality of discharged water shall also be monitored [(Total Dissolved Solids(TDS), Dissolved Oxygen(DO), pH, Faecal Coliform and Total Suspended Solids (TSS)]. The monitored data shall be uploaded on the website of the company as well as displayed on a display board at the project site at a suitable location near the main gate of the Company in public domain. The Circular No. J-20012/1/2006-IA. II(M) dated 27.05.2009 issued by MoEF&CC, which is available at [www.envfor.nic.in](http://www.envfor.nic.in) shall also be referred in this regard for its compliance.
- (xxx) The project proponent shall take all precautionary measures during mining operation for conservation and protection of rare and endangered flora & fauna found in the study area. Action plan for conservation of flora and fauna shall be prepared in consultation with the State Forest and Wildlife Department. All the safeguard measures brought out in the Wildlife Conservation Plan so prepared specific to this project site shall be effectively implemented. Necessary allocation of funds for implementation of the conservation plan shall be made and the funds so allocated shall be included in the project cost. A copy of action plan shall be submitted to the Regional office of the MoEF&CC, Chandigarh and SEIAA, Punjab.
- (xxxi) Vehicles hired to be used for transportation of mined material should be in good condition and should conform to the applicable air and noise emission standards as provided in the Vehicular Act.
- (xxxii) Ambient noise levels should conform to the prescribed standards both during day and night. Incremental pollution loads on the ambient air and noise quality should be closely monitored.
- (xxxiii) The risk assessment and disaster management plan should be prepared.
- (xxxiv) The project proponent shall submit the site plan showing the earmarked area for storage of mined material.
- (xxxv) No mining operation shall be carried out at any point within 75 m of railway line, 60 m from national highway, 50 m from HT line/any public works/reservoirs, tanks/canal/public roads and buildings or inhabited or 10 m of outer edge of any village road. A safety barrier of 7.5m width shall be left intact around the mine lease boundary.
- (xxxvi) The project proponent shall ensure the implementation of the post-closure mining plan as proposed by the project proponent in the Mining plan.
- (xxxvii) The project proponent shall comply with the condition imposed by District Forest Officer (DFO) while granting NOC.
- (xxxviii) The mining lease holders shall, after ceasing the mining operations, undertake re-grassing of the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc.



### **General Conditions:**

- (i) No change in mining technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the MoEF&CC.
- (ii) No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of mineral sand/gravel (minor mineral) and waste should be made.
- (iii) Four ambient air quality-monitoring stations should be established in the core zone as well as in the buffer zone for RSPM (Particulate matter with size less than 10micron i.e., PM) and NO<sub>x</sub> monitoring. Location of the stations should be decided based on the meteorological data, topographical features and environmentally and ecologically sensitive targets and frequency of monitoring should be undertaken in consultation with the PPCB.
- (iv) Data on ambient air quality RSPM (Particulate matter with size less than 10micron i.e., PM) & NO<sub>x</sub> should be regularly submitted to the MoEF&CC including its Regional office located at Chandigarh and the PPCB / Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) once in six months and SEIAA, Punjab.
- (v) Fugitive dust emissions from all the sources should be controlled regularly. Water spraying arrangement on haul roads, loading and unloading and at transfer points should be provided and properly maintained.
- (vi) Personnel working in dusty areas should wear protective respiratory devices and should be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects. Occupational health surveillance program of the workers should be undertaken periodically to observe any contractions due to exposure to dust and take corrective measures, if needed.
- (vii) A separate environmental management cell with suitable qualified personnel should be set-up under the control of a senior executive, who will report directly to the head of the organization.
- (viii) The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures should be kept in separate account and should not be diverted for other purpose. Year wise expenditure should be reported to the MoEF&CC and its Regional office located at Chandigarh and SEIAA, Punjab.
- (ix) The project proponent should inform to the Regional Office of MoEF&CC located at Chandigarh and SEIAA, Punjab regarding the date of financial closures and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
- (x) The Regional office of MoEF&CC located at Chandigarh and PPCB shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer (s) of the Regional office by furnishing the requisite data / information / monitoring reports.
- (xi) The project proponent shall submit six-monthly reports on the status of compliance of the stipulated environmental clearance conditions including the results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) to the MoEF&CC, its Regional office Chandigarh, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB , PPCB, and SEIAA, Punjab. The proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the environmental

- clearance conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall simultaneously be sent to the Regional office MoEF&CC, Chandigarh, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and PPCB, and SEIAA, Punjab.
- (xii) A copy of the clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to concerned Panchayat, Zila Parisad/ Municipal Corporation, Urban Local Body and the local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/ representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal. The clearance letter shall also be put on the website of the Company by the proponent.
  - (xiii) The project proponent should display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional office, District Industries Centre and the Collector's office/ Tehsildar's office.
  - (xiv) The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31 March in Form-V as is mandated to be submitted by the project proponent to the PPCB (as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 amended from time to time), shall also be put on the website of the company along with the status of compliance of environmental clearance conditions. In addition, it shall also be sent to the Regional office of the MoEF&CC, Chandigarh and SEIAA, Punjab by e-mail.
  - (xv) The project proponent shall comply with the provisions contained in this Ministry's OM vide F.No. 22-65/2017-IA.III dated 1st May 2018, as applicable, regarding Corporate Environment Responsibility. The project proponent shall adhere to the commitments made in the Environment Management Plan and Corporate Social Responsibility.
  - (xvi) The project proponent should advertise at least in two local newspapers widely circulated, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned, within 7 days of the issue of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded Environmental Clearance (EC) and a copy of the clearance letter is available with the PPCB and also at web site of MoEF&CC at <http://envfor.nic.in> and a copy of the same should be forwarded to the Regional office of MoEF&CC at Chandigarh and SEIAA, Punjab.
  - (xvii) The MoEF&CC and SEIAA, Punjab or any other competent authority may alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.
  - (xviii) The SEIAA may cancel the EC granted to this project under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006, if, at any stage of the validity of this EC, it is found/ come to the knowledge of the SEIAA that the project proponent has deliberately concealed and/or submitted false or misleading information or inadequate data for obtaining the EC.
  - (xix) The project proponent shall get the micro chemical analysis of the mined material done from an approved laboratory once in a year and shall submit the analysis results to the MoEF&CC/PPCB and SEIAA, Punjab.
  - (xx) The project proponent shall ensure that the contractor shall engage people of local area for mining purpose as far as possible, so as to have opportunities of employment for them.

- (xxi) The project proponent may apply for transfer of EC under EIA notification dated 14.09.2006 to the other contractor finalized by the Department of Industries & Commerce to SEIAA, Punjab. However, no activity shall be undertaken by the contractor till the EC is transferred in his name and he is lawfully bound to comply with the conditions of the EC.
- (xxii) The monitoring of the mining project in respect of environment management shall be carried out by the State/District Level Environment Management Cells constituted by the Govt. of Punjab vide notifications dated 03.12.2012.
- (xxiii) Any appeal against this EC shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days.

**Deliberations during 241<sup>st</sup> meeting of SEIAA held on 16.03.2023**

- (i) Sh. Alok Chaudhary, Executive Engineer, DMO, District Fazilka.
- (ii) Sh. Paras Mahajan, Assistant State Geologist, Department of Mines & Geology, Punjab.
- (iii) Dr. KL Satapaty, CEO, M/s GRC India Pvt Ltd.

SEIAA observed that the District Mining Officer, Fazilka has applied for obtaining EC of the following sites:

1. Village- Badha, Tehsil & Distt Fazilka (SIA/PB/MIN/415347/2023).
2. Village-Behak Hasta Uttar/Ghurka, Tehsil & Distt Fazilka (SIA/PB/MIN/415348/2023)
3. Village-Sukhera Bodla; Tehsil Jalalabad, Distt Fazilka (SIA/PB/MIN/416003/2023)
4. Village-Chak Gareeban Sandar, Tehsil Jalalabad, Distt- Fazilka, (SIA/ PB/ MIN/ 416031/ 2023)

SEIAA allowed the Environmental Consultant of the project proponent to present salient features of the project. The presentation submitted by the project proponent was taken on record by the SEIAA.

To a query of SEIAA, DMO, Fazilka informed that the demarcation with pucca pillars has been carried out at most of the sites and that the demarcation of the few remaining sites would also be completed soon. He further informed that the coordinates of all the sites for which ECs have been applied for match the coordinates of the DSR and the KML file as attached in the application.

SEIAA further observed that for three sites (Sr. No.'s 1, 3 and 4), the mining plans have been approved for 1 year and for one site (Sr. No. 3) the mining plan has been approved for 2 years. To this observation of SEIAA, the Assistant State Geologist informed that the quantities of minor minerals available at these sites is not very large and the time periods for which the mining plans have been approved are adequate for extraction of material from the sites.

SEIAA further observed that while appraising and recommending the DSRs for various districts, SEAC has recommended a condition of plantation of 50 trees per hectare of the mining site. As such, the DMO was asked to ensure the plantation of 50 trees per hectare of the mining sites. The said plantation would be maintained in perpetuity as a permanent green cover. Mining Department could carry out this plantation on its own on areas or through the

Department of Forests and Wildlife by transferring an amount @ Rs. 1000/ tree to the Forest Department. After discussing with the senior officials of their department, Department of Mines informed that the requisite plantation activity would be undertaken by them through the Forest Department.

SEIAA was satisfied with the presentation and reply to the observations as given during the meeting by the Mining department officials. However, SEIAA observed that the proceedings of SEAC, which form the basis of SEIAA's decision-making regarding the grant or refusal of EC, are not at all exhaustive. In fact, the same are of skeletal nature and are limited to just mentioning the names of sites, area, quantity of material and date of approval of the Mining plans. Other basic information regarding the proposal / mining sites such as whether the project is a category B2/B1 project, hadbast no., khasra numbers, longitudes/ latitudes, details on cluster formation, comments on landowner consents, status of demarcation/ erection of boundary pillars on the site, status of forest clearance (if applicable), referencing relevant details of the applicable Mining plans, deliberations on the methods of mining, no. of workers on the site when fully operational, total water requirement and source, wastewater generation & its disposal, or the compliance of Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines, 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring of Guidelines for Sustainable Sand Mining (EMGSM), 2020 as issued by the MoEF&CC are conspicuously missing from the proceedings of SEAC. Further, the proceedings do not mention about the deletion of additional environmental activities in lieu of CER activities as initially proposed by the project proponent. SEIAA also observed that SEAC has recorded that the department has deposited requisite fee for obtaining EC for carrying out mining in the said sites and the adequacy & deposition of the fee has been checked and verified by the supporting staff of SEIAA. In this regard, SEIAA noted that the scrutiny of applications on Parivesh Portal is a two-stage process which occurs at the level of the supporting staff of SEAC as well as SEIAA. Therefore, the deliberations of SEAC should include a note regarding the verification of the adequacy of fee as per applicable government notifications.

Accordingly, SEIAA decided that an advisory in this regard be issued to SEAC to address the above issues in all forthcoming cases of grant/ refusal of ECs being recommended to SEIAA . After detailed deliberations, SEIAA decided that the EC to all the mining sites be granted upto the validity of Mining plans subject to conditions recommended by SEAC along with the following conditions and additional conditions as under:

**Additional Condition**

- (i) The Department of Water Resources cum-Mines & Geology shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing of the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc.
- (ii) The project proponent shall comply with all the conditions and provisions of the Mining plan.

- (iii) The Project Proponent shall ensure plantation of saplings @ 50 plants/ hectare area of the mining sites through the Department of Forests & Wildlife by transferring an amount of Rs. 1000/ sapling to the Forest Department.

**Specific conditions:**

- (i) The environmental clearance will be valid for a period of seven years from the date of issuance, as per the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 as amended subsequently, for mining of minor minerals in the above said locations and Khasra numbers as per the mining plan.
- (ii) The project proponent shall demarcate the mining lease area in the presence of Lambardar of the village, project proponent/ contractor, owner of the land and owner of the adjoining land, Revenue officer & Mining officer, etc. Mining lease area will be demarcated on the ground with pucca pillars with reference to some permanent benchmark before starting any mining activity at site.
- (iii) Mining should begin only after pucca pillar marking the boundary of lease area is erected at the cost of the lease holder after certification by the Mining official and its geo-coordinates are made available to the District Level Committee.
- (iv) Mining shall be carried out through semi- mechanized method as proposed in the mining plan.
- (v) Mining shall be as per the approved Development/Mining Plan prepared for this project and as per the Mines & Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and rules framed there under as amended from time to time, other Acts/rules related with mining of minor minerals.
- (vi) The mining activity shall be carried out strictly as per the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines 2016, the provisions made in Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 issued by MoEF&CC, New Delhi as amended from time to time and the guidelines issued by the Geological Survey of India.
- (vii) The mining operation will be carried out only from sun-rise to sunset.
- (viii) The project proponent shall earmark at least two tubewells/ borewells/ wells as observation wells in the adjoining area within a radius of 500m of the project site and monthly monitoring of the depth is to be carried out. District Mining Officer is to monitor the same.
- (ix) The project proponent shall obtain Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate from the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) and effectively implement all the conditions stipulated therein.
- (x) The project proponent shall observe the mining site after every 15 days and in case, a Schedule-I or Schedule-II species as per Wildlife Act or any rare or endangered species are reported, the Mining Officer will get a conservation plan prepared in consultation with the Department of Wildlife and ensure its implementation.
- (xi) The mining of minor mineral (sand) shall be carried out only up to a depth of 3m as proposed in the approved Mining plan or above the groundwater level, whichever is less.

- (xii) The mining shall be carried out by the contractor/lessor as per the Environment Management Plan prepared and development / mining plan prepared as per the Mines & Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 / other Acts/Rules related with mining of minor minerals. It shall be ensured that no mining shall be carried out during the monsoon season as defined by the Meteorological department.
- (xiii) The project proponent and Mining officer shall ensure that wherever deployment of labour attracts the Mines Act, the provisions thereof shall be strictly followed.
- (xiv) The project proponent shall undertake plantation/afforestation work by planting native species in the nearby area/ adjacent to the mine lease.
- (xv) The project proponent shall ensure that 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. Extensive water sprinkling shall be carried out on haul roads. It should be ensured that the ambient air quality parameters conform to the norms prescribed by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) /PPCB in this regard.
- (xvi) The project proponent shall undertake adequate safeguard measures during extraction of sand and ensure that due to this activity, the hydro-geological and ecological regime of the surrounding area shall not be affected. Regular monitoring of ground water level and quality shall be carried out around the mine lease area by establishing a network of existing wells, if any, and installing new piezometers during the mining operation.
- (xvii) The periodic monitoring of groundwater[(at least four times in a year- pre-monsoon (April-May), monsoon (August), post-monsoon (November) and winter (January); once in each season)] shall be carried out in consultation with the State Ground Water Board/Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) and the data thus collected may be sent regularly to the MoEF&CC and its Regional office at Chandigarh, CGWA, the Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board; SEIAA, Punjab and PPCB. If at any stage, it is observed that the groundwater table is getting depleted or rising due to the mining activity, necessary corrective measures shall be carried out.
- (xviii) The project proponent shall obtain necessary prior permission of the competent authorities/CGWA for drawl of requisite quantity of water (surface water and groundwater), if any, required for the project.
- (xix) In case, mining site falls in the notified block declared by the CGWA, the project proponent shall obtain necessary prior permission for drawl of requisite quantity of water for domestic purposes from District Advisory Committee (DAC) and only use treated waste water for dust suppression activities.
- (xx) Adequate numbers (as proposed) of trees shall be planted, protected, maintained and established in vacant area in the village near the mining site.
- (xxi) Appropriate mitigation measures shall be taken by the project proponent to prevent pollution at the mining site in consultation with the PPCB. It shall be ensured that there is no leakage of oil and grease at the mining site from the vehicles/mining equipment used for transportation.

- (xxii) Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. The project proponent shall ensure that, as far as possible, the transportation route will be away from the habitation area and will not pass through any village. The transportation hours of mined material shall be restricted to non-peak hours only.
- (xxiii) The mineral transportation shall be carried out through the covered trucks only and the vehicles carrying the mineral shall not be overloaded. All the public roads as well as approach roads shall be maintained and it shall be ensured that the tippers carrying mined material are not loaded beyond the permissible load as per the designed load bearing capacity of the road. Moreover, provision of sufficient funds shall be made in the budget for the proper maintenance of the roads.
- (xxiv) A first aid room shall be provided in the project both during construction and operations of the project.
- (xxv) Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the project shall be carried out and records maintained. For the purpose, schedule of health examination of the workers should be drawn and followed accordingly.
- (xxvi) Provision shall be made for the housing of workers, if residing at site, within the site with all necessary infrastructure and facilities such as fuel for cooking, mobile toilets, mobile STP, safe drinking water, medical health care, crèche etc. The housing may be in the form of temporary structures to be removed after the completion of the project. In case of non-residential/daily workers, provision of adequate bath rooms, mobile toilets, and mobile STP shall be made to avoid open defecation and treated domestic effluent shall be discharged onto the land for plantation.
- (xxvii) The municipal solid waste generated shall be disposed of as per Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules 2016. Segregation of bio-degradable and non-biodegradable wastes shall be done at site and disposed of as per provisions of SWM Rules. Dustbins will be provided at site and the workers will be guided to put all the waste in these dustbins. if any, in the dustbin. No littering will be permitted at the site as well as in the vicinity.
- (xxviii) The critical parameters such as Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter(RSPM) (Particulate matter with size less than 10 microns i.e., PM10) and Nitrogen oxides (NOx) in the ambient air within the impact zone shall be monitored periodically. Further, quality of discharged water shall also be monitored [(Total Dissolved Solids(TDS), Dissolved Oxygen(DO), pH, Faecal Coliform and Total Suspended Solids (TSS)]. The monitored data shall be uploaded on the website of the company as well as displayed on a display board at the project site at a suitable location near the main gate of the Company in public domain. The Circular No. J-20012/1/2006-IA. II(M) dated 27.05.2009 issued by MoEF&CC, which is available at [www.envfor.nic.in](http://www.envfor.nic.in) shall also be referred in this regard for its compliance.
- (xxix) The project proponent shall take all precautionary measures during mining operation for conservation and protection of rare and endangered flora & fauna found in the study area. Action plan for conservation of flora and fauna shall be prepared in consultation with the State Forest and Wildlife Department. All the safeguard measures brought out in the Wildlife Conservation Plan so prepared specific to this project site shall be effectively implemented. Necessary allocation of

funds for implementation of the conservation plan shall be made and the funds so allocated shall be included in the project cost. A copy of action plan shall be submitted to the Regional office of the MoEF&CC, Chandigarh and SEIAA, Punjab.

- (xxx) Vehicles hired to be used for transportation of mined material should be in good condition and should conform to the applicable air and noise emission standards as provided in the Motor Vehicles Act,1988.
- (xxxi) Ambient noise levels should conform to the prescribed standards both during day and night. Incremental pollution loads on the ambient air and noise quality should be closely monitored.
- (xxxii) The risk assessment and disaster management plan should be prepared.
- (xxxiii) The project proponent shall submit the site plan showing the earmarked area for storage of mined material.
- (xxxiv) No mining operation shall be carried out at any point within 75 m of railway line, 60 m from national highway, 50 m from HT line/any public works/reservoirs, tanks/canal/public roads and buildings or inhabitations or 10 m of outer edge of any village road. A safety barrier of 7.5m width shall be left intact around the mine lease boundary.
- (xxxv) The project proponent shall ensure the implementation of the post-closure mining plan as proposed by the project proponent in the Mining plan.
- (xxxvi) The project proponent shall comply with the condition imposed by District Forest Officer (DFO) while granting NOC.

**General Conditions:**

- (i) No change in mining technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the MoEF&CC.
- (ii) No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of mineral sand/gravel (minor mineral) and waste should be made.
- (iii) Four ambient air quality-monitoring stations should be established in the core zone as well as in the buffer zone for RSPM (Particulate matter with size less than 10micron i.e., PM) and NOx monitoring. Location of the stations should be decided based on the meteorological data, topographical features and environmentally and ecologically sensitive targets and frequency of monitoring should be undertaken in consultation with the PPCB.
- (iv) Data on ambient air quality RSPM (Particulate matter with size less than 10micron i.e., PM) & NOx should be regularly submitted to the MoEF&CC including its Regional office located at Chandigarh and the PPCB / Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) once in six months and SEIAA, Punjab.
- (v) Personnel working in dusty areas should wear protective respiratory devices and should be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects. Occupational health surveillance program of the workers should be undertaken periodically to observe any contractions due to exposure to dust and take corrective measures, if needed.



- (vi) A separate environmental management cell with suitable qualified personnel should be set-up under the control of a senior executive, who will report directly to the head of the organization.
- (vii) The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures should be kept in separate account and should not be diverted for other purpose. Year wise expenditure should be reported to the MoEF&CC and its Regional office located at Chandigarh and SEIAA, Punjab.
- (viii) The project proponent should inform to the Regional Office of MoEF&CC located at Chandigarh and SEIAA, Punjab regarding the date of financial closures and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
- (ix) The Regional office of MoEF&CC located at Chandigarh and PPCB shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer (s) of the Regional office by furnishing the requisite data / information / monitoring reports.
- (x) The project proponent shall submit six-monthly reports on the status of compliance of the stipulated environmental clearance conditions including the results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) to the MoEF&CC, its Regional office Chandigarh, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB , PPCB, and SEIAA, Punjab. The proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the environmental clearance conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall simultaneously be sent to the Regional office MoEF&CC, Chandigarh, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and PPCB, and SEIAA, Punjab.
- (xi) A copy of the clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to concerned Panchayat, Zila Parisad/ Municipal Corporation, Urban Local Body and the local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/ representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal. The clearance letter shall also be put on the website of the Company by the proponent.
- (xii) The project proponent should display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional office, District Industries Centre and the Collector's office/ Tehsildar's office.
- (xiii) The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31 March in Form-V as is mandated to be submitted by the project proponent to the PPCB (as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 amended from time to time), shall also be put on the website of the company along with the status of compliance of environmental clearance conditions. In addition, it shall also be sent to the Regional office of the MoEF&CC, Chandigarh and SEIAA, Punjab by e-mail.
- (xiv) The project proponent shall adhere to the commitments made in the Environment Management Plan.
- (xv) The project proponent should advertise at least in two local newspapers widely circulated, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned, within 7 days of the issue of the environmental clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded Environmental Clearance (EC) and a

copy of the clearance letter is available with the PPCB and also at web site of MoEF&CC at <http://envfor.nic.in> and a copy of the same should be forwarded to the Regional office of MoEF&CC at Chandigarh and SEIAA, Punjab.

- (xvi) The MoEF&CC and SEIAA, Punjab or any other competent authority may alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.
- (xvii) The SEIAA may cancel the EC granted to this project under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006, if, at any stage of the validity of this EC, it is found/ come to the knowledge of the SEIAA that the project proponent has deliberately concealed and/or submitted false or misleading information or inadequate data for obtaining the EC.
- (xviii) The project proponent shall get the micro chemical analysis of the mined material done from an approved laboratory once in a year and shall submit the analysis results to the MoEF&CC/PPCB and SEIAA, Punjab.
- (xix) The project proponent shall ensure that the contractor shall engage people of local area for mining purpose as far as possible, so as to have opportunities of employment for them.
- (xx) The project proponent may apply for transfer of EC under EIA notification dated 14.09.2006 to the other contractor finalized by the Department of Industries & Commerce to SEIAA, Punjab. However, no activity shall be undertaken by the contractor till the EC is transferred in his name and he is lawfully bound to comply with the conditions of the EC.
- (xxi) The monitoring of the mining project in respect of environment management shall be carried out by the State/District Level Environment Management Cells constituted by the Govt. of Punjab vide notifications dated 03.12.2012.
- (xxii) Any appeal against this EC shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days.