

OFFICE OF THE STATE EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (SEAC), ASSAM
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
BAMUNIMADAM, GUWAHATI-21.

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Minutes of the 12th Meeting (2nd Sitting) of the State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) held on 9th August, 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	Dr. Bijoy Sankar Goswami	Member	Sd/
3	Dr. Rahul Mahanta	Member	Sd/-
4	Sri. Arup Barpujary	Member	Sd/-
5	Shri Shantanoo Bhattacharyya	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 at hand and also the recommendations to be made to the SEIAA, Assam by the Committee in to the findings of site inspections undertaken by the sub-committee for various proposals including serious nature of allegations received by the Regulatory authority among others regarding violations committed in the process of river bed mining.

The Chairperson requested the Hon'ble Members for conduct of the site inspections timely for maintenance of timelines envisaged time and again by the MoEF & CC, GoI as assigned to different sub-Committees for appraisal of the proposals, as pending, for disposal through deliberation in the next meeting proposed to be held later in the next month.

As per the agenda, the august committee duly reviewed the Minutes of the Meetings (2nd Sitting) held on 9th July' 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, recommended for further course of requisite action by the SEIAA as pointed out against each of the agenda items, quoted here under:



A. Discussion of Field Inspection Report:

1. Environmental Clearance for Sahar Sarnia Part-II P.P. Land Earth Mining Permit Area under Kamrup East Division by Neelamani Patgiri (SIA/AS/MIN/406555/2022) SEIAA. 3566/2023

Discussed in the 4th SEAC Meeting held on 28.12.2024 and field/site inspection was suggested / proposed by the Members of the Committee.

Field visit report dated **25.07.2024** is uploaded in Parivesh portal.

Resolution of the 4th SEAC Meeting is as follows:

“ Resolution 4/18:

The Project Area as allotted is measuring **0.10 Ha** with the Mining area approved being **0.10 Ha** with the recommended quantity of **2,800 cu.m** of Ordinary Earth in 1 (One) year 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 07.09.2022. The District Commissioner, Kamrup (Metro) had issued NOC on 01.11.2023 and the DFO, Kamrup East Division recommended for the grant of the EC for the proposal allowing extraction vide letter dated 20.09.2022.

Necessary documents submitted in support of the proposal regarding ownership, possession of land in question are examined and appraised. Due discussions and deliberations are held by the SEAC.

On deliberation the Committee decided to visit and inspect the site which happen to be a hillock in order to ascertain the method / steps to be deployed in removal of the Ordinary Earth by the Proponent without causing pollution in the adjoining area and also probable impediments likely to arise due to earth cutting in the surrounding environment.

A sub-committee shall inspect the site assisted by the RQP Dr Abhijit Bora who has prepared the Mining Plan and submit their report with suggestions / recommendations containing mitigation measures as may be required for the purposes.”

Pursuant to aforesaid decision the sub-Committee so constituted had undertaken the site inspection of the proposed mining area and submitted the report with their observations. The report is uploaded and is reproduced below for perusal.

“ Details of Field Visit Report:



A. Proposal Information Order:

1. Name of the Proposal – Sahar Sarania Part-II P.P. Land Earth Mining Permit Area
2. Project ID (Online Proposal Number / Green Clearance Number)-
SIA/AS/MIN/406555/2022
3. Name of the Company / Organization / User Agency – Sri Neelamani Patgiri
4. Project proposal for – ordinary earth

B. Site Details

1. State- Assam
2. District- Kamrup (metro)

C. Bounded Latitude (North)

1. Bounded Latitude
 - I. $26^{\circ}10'32.1''\text{N}$
 - II. $26^{\circ}10'33.1''\text{N}$
 - III. $26^{\circ}10'33.1''\text{N}$
 - IV. $26^{\circ}10'32.48''\text{N}$

D. Bounded Longitude (South)

1. Bounded Longitude
 - I. $91^{\circ}45'32.7''\text{E}$
 - II. $91^{\circ}45'32.9''\text{E}$
 - III. $91^{\circ}45'34.1''\text{E}$
 - IV. $91^{\circ}45'34.11''\text{E}$

2. **Brief description or nature of project activity:** The Project proponent desires to level a plot of hilly land to make it useful for construction activities.

E. Salient Features of the Project- The project area is hilly and retained in place by retaining wall. It is surrounded by habitation. There is little scope for entry of machinery for excavation and evacuation of mined materials.

F. Composition of the Sub-Committee

1. Name of the official – Shantanoo Bhattacharyya
2. Role in the Committee – To do site inspection to assess the environment and safety related issues
3. Details of the Site inspected- As stated above



G. Whether any violation of provision as per EIA Notification 2006 has been observed / recorded? No

H. Additional Details, (if any)-

I. Details of the Site inspected- As stated above and photographs attached below.

J. Recommendations /Suggestions/ Final Remarks – The project site is critically located. Unstabilization during intervention may lead to untoward situation as there is habitation at the toe of the slope. SEAC may consider recommendation with the following caveats:

1. **Excavation is to be done only during the dry season**
2. **Excavation is to be carried out under the supervision of an experienced Geotechnical engineer. The CV of the supervisor is to be submitted to the SEAC.**
3. **Every precaution is to be taken during excavation and evacuation to prevent any debris slide.**
4. **Prior permission from the District Administration is to be obtained."**

Deliberations:

Necessary land documents submitted in support of the proposal is placed before the Committee for examination and appraisal. After due discussions and deliberations the Committee is of the opinion to allow extraction of the minor mineral with the approved quantity of **2,800 Cu M** of Ordinary Earth in 1 (One) year.

General conditions:

1. This is subject to the conditions that the proponent shall have to strictly follow all the terms and conditions laid down in the approved mining plan.
2. This is also subject to the conditions that: (a) mining shall be confined and limited to the area falling within the GPS coordinates; (b) the Proponent shall extract the approved quantity of Ordinary Earth indicated herein with maximum precautions as prescribed by the sub-Committee.
3. All the conditions stipulated in the report of the sub-Committee need to be meticulously followed to avert any kind of eventuality during the process of excavation.
4. Only manual mode of excavation shall be allowed during dry period, preferably during winter months, with all preventive measures of dust suppression, prevent Air Pollution in the area.
5. This is also subject to the conditions that the proponent shall (a) demarcate the excavation setting out plan with reference coordinates and levels;



(b) to start the excavation from one end and proceed to another end in layers such as one metre depth layers; (c) if the excavation depth exceeds 2.0 m 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) provided permission is granted; (d) stack the soil away from the excavation edge to prevent soil collapsing to the excavated area; (e) that the excavation shall not be allowed to go below the level of land adjacent to the area in question and (f) proper barrier with green shed nets must have to be erected to prevent Dust pollution, Air pollution in the adjacent area.

6. Engage a professional Engineer while Earth Cutting for supervision and the CV shall be presented before the SEIAA before grant of EC, if so directed by the SEIAA.

Specific Conditions:

- (i) The Divisional Forest Officer, Kamrup East Division shall ensure due vigilance in the mining area to avert any kind of irregularities / illegalities during the mining period.
- (ii) The DFO shall also ensure marking the boundary of the mining site on the ground fixing permanent concrete pillars, painted yellow with the Geo-coordinates depicted there in on the pillars / posts, following the GPS coordinates mentioned in the approved mining plan before allowing excavation.
Compliance of the same shall duly be uploaded by the Proponent in the PARIVESH portal.

Decision: Recommended for grant of EC for 1 (one) year.

2. Environmental Clearance for Nagadum Village Patta Land Stone Agregates Mining Permit Area under Cachar Forest Division proposed by Safiqur Laskar (SIA/AS/MIN/451042/2023) SEIAA. 3653/2024

The proposal was discussed in the 6th SEAC Meeting held on 23.02.2024 and Field inspection was suggested by the Members of the Committee. In terms of the powers conferred under the Environment Clearance Regulation a sub-Committee was constituted for the purpose of ground appraisal and to assess the environmental impact that may likely to have in the natural environment out of mining in the area being a private Patta Land.

Resolution of the 6th SEAC Meeting is reproduced below::

" Resolution of 6th SEAC Meeting:

The Project Area for mining is measuring 1.92 Ha and the recommended quantity of 1,49,918 cu.m Stone aggregates in 2 (two) years as per the approved Mining Plan. The

Mining Plan was prepared by the Registered Qualified Person (RQP) Prabal Goswami 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 31.5.2023. The DFO, Cachar Division had requested for the grant of the EC for the proposal allowing extraction vide letter dated 19/8/2023. Necessary documents submitted in support of the proposal is examined and appraised.

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."

Field visit Site Inspection Report dated 28.07.2024 is uploaded in the Parivesh portal and is reproduced below for deliberation by the Committee.

" Details of Field Visit / Site Inspection Report:

Sri Safiqur Rahman Laskar resident of Durganagar Part-5 Village, P.O. Udharbond, P.S. Udharbond, District: Cachar (Assam), proposes to operate a stone aggregate mining in the plot of Patta Land having Dag No. 18,20 Patta No. 5,10 at Nagadum village under Udharbond Revenue Circle, Cachar, Assam. In this regard Mr. Laskar applied for EC to SEAC. The Chairman, SEAC constituted a committee with three (3) Members of SEAC for a visit to site of the proposed mining area. The team comprised of the following members:

1. Dr. Shantanu Kr. Dutta, Member Secretary, SEAC
2. Dr. Bijoy Sankar Goswami, Member, SEAC
3. Arup Barpujary, Member, SEAC

The Mining Permit is approved to Sri Safiqur Rahman Laskar for two years, by the competent authority, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Government of Assam. The location of the mining site has been recommended by the Directorate of Geology & Mining, Dakshin Gaon, Kahilipara, Guwahati- 19, Government of Assam.

Name of the Proposal	:	Nagadum Villagae Patta Land Stone Aggregates Mining
Project ID	:	SIA/AS/MIN/451042/2023
Name of the Company /	:	Individual proposal for mining at Patta
Organization / User Agency	:	land Sri Safiqur Rahman Laskar Durganagar Part-5 Village, P.O. Udharbond, P.S. Udharbond, District: Cachar (Assam)

Site Details : State- Assam
District- Cachar
Village & P.O. : Nagadum, P.O. Udharbond, P.S. Udharbond

GPS Co-ordinates : Latitude : 24.969958°
: Longitude : 92.888735°

Total Mining Area as per PP : 1.92 ha

Project proposal for : The available mineral of the proposed site i.e. Stone Aggregates is to be excavated.

(i) Observations

1. No physical boundary demarcation of the proposed mining sites was found on ground.
2. The proposed area is an elevated land with shrubby vegetations, occasional teak and other trees. The east side of the proposed area under the same patta land is covered with matured trees and vegetations which will not be excavated as per P P. No agricultural activities were observed in the proposed site.
3. The site is part of a geologically contiguous area and the proposed area is covered with full of small and medium size stone and pebbles
4. The stones and pebbles are mostly white/mix in colour with strong, hard and compact.

(ii) Whether any violation of provision as per EIA Notification 2006 has been observed / recorded? No.

(iii) Recommendations / Suggestions/ Final Remarks –

1. Boundary pillars may be installed at the sites
2. The existing matured trees in the site must be retained same.
3. Heavy mining machinery may be prohibited and reclamation of mine area through backfilling and plantation may be done.
4. Inspection during mining phase may be initiated."

Deliberations:

Necessary documents are submitted in support of the proposal including the Site Inspection Report of the sub-Committee are placed before the Committee for deliberation

and appraisal. It is appreciated that the stakeholders responsible for allowing mining in the area eg Revenue officials, Forest Officials, RQP, Geologist including the professionals and experts of the SEAC are involved in the process of appraisal of the proposal at ground being a private land.

After due discussions and diligence the Committee is of the opinion to allow extraction of the minor mineral measuring 75,000 Cu M out of the total approved quantity of **1,49,918 Cu M Stone aggregates** in 1 (One) year. The balance quantity of the mineral in question shall duly be considered by the Committee on receipt of the approved DSR for the district whereby the concerned officials are to incorporate the area reflecting the status.

General conditions:

1. This is subject to the conditions that the proponent shall have to strictly follow all terms and conditions laid down in the approved mining plan.
2. This is also subject to the conditions that: (a) mining shall be confined and limited to the area falling within the GPS coordinates; (b) the Proponent shall extract the approved quantity of minerals indicated herein following the conditions stipulated by the sub-Committee in its report. No tree felling shall be carried out without proper permission of the competent authority.
3. Heavy mining machinery shall not be used and reclamation of mined area through back filling and plantation shall be done.
4. Precautions must be taken to suppress dust pollution and air pollution by erecting green shade net around the area, sprinkling water as may be required.

Specific Conditions:

- (i) The Divisional Forest Officer, Cachar Division shall ensure due vigilance in the mining area to avert any kind of irregularities / illegalities during the mining period.
- (ii) The DFO shall also ensure marking the boundary of the mining site on the ground fixing permanent concrete pillars, painted yellow with the Geo-coordinates depicted there in on the pillars / posts, following the GPS coordinates mentioned in the approved mining plan prior to allowing mining.
- (iii) The DFO shall reflect the area in the DSR under preparation, being a private land, for future record, appraisal and approval by the competent authority.
- (iv) CSR activities shall be carried out / undertaken by the Proponent and 2% of the total project cost Rs 3.00 (three) Lakh shall be earmarked for the purposes. Necessary drinking water facilities, toilets and provision for solar lights shall be made in the near by village under due consultation of the DFO concerned. The DFO shall identify the activities adequately, prepare a budget for the purposes and get the same executed / implemented within 1st year of allowing mining in the area and the proponent shall upload the reports in PARIVESH portal which shall form part of the Half Yearly Compliance Report.



- (v) Plantation activities shall be carried out / undertaken in any of the Educational Institutions or nearby existing vacant Govt lands involving local NGOs, School / College students and an amount of Rs 2.00 (two) Lakh shall be earmarked for the purposes. Efforts shall be made to selectively use the saplings of aesthetic, medicinal value, evergreen nature with the consultation of the DFO and label the plant species for the benefits of the villagers, common people and specially the school students.

The recommended species of plants in the locality could be of species like Bakul (*Mimosops elengi*), Nahor (*Mesua ferrea*), Amlokhi (*Phyllanthus emblica*), Hilikha (*Terminalia chebula*), Asoca (*Saraca asoca*), Bael (*Aegle marmelos*), Jamun (*Syzygium cumini*), Arjun (*Terminalia arjuna*), Ow Tenga (*Dillenia indica*), Defol (*Garcinia nervosum*) etc etc.

Compliance of the same shall duly be uploaded by the Proponent in the PARIVESH portal.

Decision: Recommended for grant of EC for a quantity of **75,000 Cu M** in 1 (one) year.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks from the Chair.



Chairman
SEAC, Assam
Dated : 21 .08. 2024

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.

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Member Secretary
SEAC, Assam