

Minutes of the 95th SEAC Meeting held on 07th October 2017

95th - 02 F.No. 6394/2017	Proposal for issue of Environmental Clearance for the proposed Sand Quarrying in River Gundar in Gundar Basin Division over an extent of 8.50.0 ha at S.F. No. 22/1 (P) Kadaladi Village, Kadaladi Taluk, Ramanathapuram District - Regarding.
	<p>The project proponent initially applied Environmental Clearance for Sand Quarrying in River Gundar in Gundar Basin Division over an extent of 8.50.0 ha at S.F. No. 22/1 (P) Kadaladi Village, Kadaladi Taluk, Ramanathapuram District on 28.04.2017.</p> <p>The proposal was placed before the 88th SEAC Meeting held on 19.05.2017 and the Committee recommended the project for issue of EC subject to certain conditions such as the proponent has to furnish modified mining plan incorporating the mechanized and manual mining areas approved by the competent authority and same was communicated to the proponent vide letter no. SEIAA-TN/F.No. 6394/2016 dated: 20.05.2017.</p> <p>Subsequently, the Executive Engineer, PWD was reminded to furnish certain additional details such as the proponent has to furnish modified mining plan incorporating the mechanized and manual mining areas approved by the competent authority vide Lr.No. SEIAA-TN/F.No. 6394/2017 dated: 30.06.2017. The proponent submitted a modified mining plan vide letter dated: 11.08.2017.</p> <p>In the modified mining plan they are requesting permission for mining in 1.27.5 Ha for manual operation & 7.22.5 Ha for machinery operation for sand mining and requesting for permission to use 5 nos of poclains. The size of the</p>


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sand quarry is 765m x 100m and depth of the quarry is 0.9m. The Committee noted that 68850 cu.m of Sand is to be mined in 2 years period.

The proposal was placed before the 93rd SEAC Meeting held on 12.08.2017. In the meeting, the Executive Engineer, PWD was requested to make a presentation on the proposals of the PWD. The members discussed with the Executive Engineer about the details of the proposals including the ecological aspects of the mining operation. A power point presentation of the quarries was made related to the mining projects.

The committee concluded that more information and data are needed from PWD to make a decision regarding the EC. Accordingly, the committee directs the PWD to furnish the following data and information to the SEAC to consider the request of PWD. The data and information should be site specific and separately furnished for the quarry.

- I.
 - 1) The details of the location to cover land use and ecologically sensitive areas.
 - 2) Details of wells in the vicinity, ground water tables and other surface water bodies in the vicinity.
 - 3) Thickness of Sand and its variation covering the entire area; similarly the width of the sand bed.
 - 4) Agricultural land if any, surrounding the quarry site.
 - 5) The composition of sand and other minerals present in the river bed.
 - 6) Details of the river bed.
- II. The list of quarries which were covered in the report of the committee constituted by the Government of Tamil Nadu, headed by Thiru. Rajesh Lakhoni, IAS.
- III. Reclamation of the sand area after mining needs to be submitted.
- IV. Justification for usage of more poclains in individual sand mining areas to be given.


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- V. Adequate safety measures in the quarrying area with respect to poclains to be deployed.
- VI. Adequate plan for traffic management for the loaded vehicles passing through nearby habitation.
- VII. The impact of dust pollution and noise on the habitations nearby.

Accordingly the Committee decided to defer the proposal and directed the PWD to re-submit the proposal with the above particulars for the consideration of SEAC for issue of EC.

As per the directions of the SEAC vide its proceedings in the 93rd Meeting held on 12.08.2017, the PWD re-submitted the proposal on 19.09.2017. The revised proposal of the PWD was placed in the 95th meeting of the SEAC held on 05.10.2017.

In the 95th meeting, the Executive Engineer, PWD presented salient features of the revised proposal. The members of the SEAC interacted with the Executive Engineer, PWD regarding the project details. Based on this discussion, SEAC concluded that the PWD has to furnish further particulars as listed below for consideration of grant of EC.

1. The PWD plans to use a bigger poclain with a 0.9m³ capacity bucket for mining sand in the river which is only 100m wide. It has also been estimated that the sand is available for a depth of 3m. Using a large poclain of this specification will destroy the river geometry as well as river bed while mining. Hence, it was suggested that PWD should go for a smaller poclain with 0.3m³ capacity bucket so that the mining activity does not affect the river system.

The PWD also proposed the use of 2 large poclains and SEAC has instructed PWD to use 4 smaller poclains maximum. At any given place, only a


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maximum of 2 smaller poclains should be used.

The methodology of mine advancement together with deployment of Poclains has to be given. An affidavit to the effect that only poclains of lesser capacity (0.3m³ bucket) will be used, has to be submitted by PWD.

2. The PWD has to give scientific evidence for concluding that river sand depth is 3m.
3. The PWD has to furnish the details regarding agricultural activities that are taking place around the project area. PWD should ensure that the proposed mining activity will not affect agricultural land and activity, if any.
4. The details of the open/borewells in the vicinity of the project site should be furnished.
5. The route map for the lorries for accessing the project area and for transporting mined sand should be specified.

The PWD was instructed to furnish the above particulars for the SEAC meeting to be held on 06.10.2017 for consideration of grant of EC. The Project Proposal was discussed in the meeting on 07.10.2017.

The salient features of the response report furnished by the PWD are as follows:

1. The PWD originally proposed to mine the sand to a quantity of 68850 Cu.m. using poclains of bucket capacity of 0.9 cu.m. (2 nos.). The mining period proposed was 365 days. Based on the interaction with the SEAC, the PWD has now revised the proposal to use only 0.3 cu.m capacity poclains (4 nos.). The revised duration of mining will be 480 days.
2. The depth of mining will be restricted to 0.9 m.
3. The vehicular traffic density of trucks will be restricted to 40 nos. with the maximum capacity of 15 tons over the mining area as against the 20 tonnes


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capacity of trucks proposed earlier.

4. The trucks will not enter the adjacent village settlement and will directly enter into the district road i.e, Kadaladi – Karisakulam road.
5. The existing land use pattern around the mining site is agricultural land mainly depends on rain fed. The main crop is cotton and maize.
6. There are no irrigation wells around 500 m radius of the mining area.

The Committee instructs the PWD to strictly adhere to the commitment as described in the above paragraphs.



The Committee decided to recommend the proposal to SEIAA for the grant of Environmental Clearance, subject to the fulfilment of the above conditions and fulfilment of the following additional conditions by the PWD:

1. Wherever irrigation channels take off from the river within the boundary of the mining project, the mining operation should not affect the flow of water in the irrigation channels.
2. The entire sand mining operation should be as per the guidelines for sustainable sand mining issued in 2016 by the MoEF & CC, GOI, New Delhi.
3. Around all the sand mining projects agricultural activities are seen. In addition the surroundings present thick greeneries. The mining operation should not affect the greeneries and the agricultural activities.
4. It is reported that Kadaladi, M.Karisakulam, Kadugusandai, Silliyavagaikulam Villages are located nearby. The mining operation should not lead to any adverse effects for the village community.
5. The approach road and loading of the sand in the vehicles, movement of the vehicle should be planned and implemented in such a way that there


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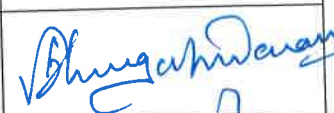


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	<p>is no noise and dust pollution in the nearby habitation. We recommend that PWD should maintain at least a safe distance of 300m from the habitations while planning the approach road and the loading operation. Wherever necessary and near the habitation in particular dust suppression measures to be adopted. While the loaded vehicle move on the road that should be fully covered with tarpaulin.</p> <p>6. The pathway used by all machineries should be properly constructed and maintained by the PWD in order to avoid pollution.</p> <p>7. The mining operation should be above the ground water table.</p> <p>8. The conditions stipulated above need to be monitored and reviewed on fortnightly basis by the Taluk Level Task Force headed by Tahsildhar. At least two representatives from reputed research organizations like NIT, Trichy, Anna University department, Trichy, Annamalai University and Bharathidasan University should be included in the task force. The committee should send the monthly monitoring report to SEIAA which will be scrutinized by SEAC.</p> <p>9. Adequate statutory manpower to be deployed for complying with the provisions to use heavy machineries as per Mines Safety Regulations (MCDR, 2017 & MMR, 1961).</p>		
S.No	Name	Designation	Signature
1	Dr. K. Thanasekaran	Member	
2	Dr. A. NavaneethaGopalakrishnan	Member	
3	Dr.K.Valivittan	Member	


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4	Dr.Indumathi M. Nambi	Member	
5	Dr. G. S. Vijayalakshmi	Member	
6	Dr. M. Jayaprakash	Member	
7	Shri V. Sivasubramanian	Member	
8	Shri V. Shanmugasundaram	Member	
9	Shri B. Sugirtharaj Koilpillai	Member	
10	Dr. P.Balamadeswaran	Co-opt Member	
11	Shri. M.S. Jayaram	Co-opt Member	


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