

MINUTES OF THE 92nd MEETING OF SEAC, KERALA, HELD ON 22nd JANUARY 2019 AT THE CONFERENCE HALL, STATE ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The meeting started at 10.30 am. The Secretary welcomed the Chairman and the other members. The Secretary pointed out that meetings of the SEAC have to be sufficiently spaced and should be organized with reasonable time of advance notice to ensure efficiency and quality of the proceedings. The Chairman complimented the Sub Committees for their effective site visits and the impeccable reports. The Chairman and the members also recorded their appreciation of the excellent administrative and secretarial services of the TEAM SEIAA in the consolidation of the agenda items, agenda notes, minutes, facilitation of the site visits etc. The Committee then moved on to the deliberations on the agenda items.

Item No:92.01

Approval of Minutes of 91st SEAC Meeting held on 14th January 2019

The Committee approved the minutes with the following additions:

1. Under Item No.91.03, add as 4. The proponent will also have to commission a study simultaneously on the marine biodiversity of the proposed site by a reputed agency like the CMFRI.
2. Under Item No.91.06, add as 9. The Additional Secretary to GOK in the affidavit filed earlier has observed that environmental auditing of the project has already been done.

Item No:92.02 Follow up actions of the 86th meeting of SEIAA

Noted the minutes


Secretary


Chairman

Item No. 92.03 Environmental clearance for removal of ordinary earth in Re - Sy.No.15-5 at Periganadu Village, Adoor Taluk, Pathanamthitta District, Kerala by Sri. Babu John (File No. 1198(A)/O.E./EC2/2018/SEIAA)

The Committee found certain defects that the latitude & longitude of the land from where earth is excavated are not mentioned and hence these details have to be furnished by the proponent.

The Committee entrusted Smt. Beena Govindan for site visit.

Item No.92.04 Environmental clearance for the proposed building stone quarry project in Survey Nos. 1673/1, 1-1, 1-2, 1-11 & Re Sy No. 65/1, 2, 3, 4, 5 at Karikkodu, Karimkunnam Village, Thodupuzha Taluk, Idukki District, Kerala by Mr. Varghese Kurian (File No. 1207/EC2/2019/SEIAA)

The Committee observed that the mining plan is devoid of many details and there are defects regarding air quality, plantation, proximity to another quarry etc. The Committee decided to ask the proponent to plot the area of quarry in the disaster management plan and to verify whether it is a landslide prone area and report immediately. Likewise, CER split up should also be provided.


Secretary


Chairman

Item No.92.05 Environmental clearance for removal of ordinary earth from Kottukal Borrow Area in Sy.No.256/4, 256/4-1, 256/4-2, 256/4-3, 256/4-5, 256/7, 256/8 for the construction of Embankment of four laning of Mukkola junction to Kerala / Tamil Nadu Border at Kottukal Village, Neyyattinkara Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala by Sri.M.Krishnan (File No. 1206/EC2/2018/SEIAA)

In the proposal the taluk is stated as Neyyattinkara whereas the district is Pathanamthitta. The Committee decided to ask the proponent to correct the application and re-submit with the consent letter from National Highway Authorities. Also coordinates should be specified and the consent from the neighboring land owners should be procured. Environmental Management Plan should be reworked and submitted. Hence, the item was deferred for want of the above details.

Item No.92.06 Environmental clearance for removal of ordinary earth in Re - Sy.No.269/16-1, 269/14-1-1, 268/1-1-2, 269/14-2, 269/16-2, 269/16-2-2, 269/17-5, 269/17-6, 269/17-2, 269/25-1, 269/17-4, 269/24-2, 269/14-1-2 at Kottarakkara Village, Kottarakkara Taluk, Kollam District, Kerala by Sri. Thankappan Pillai (File No. 1205(A)/O.E./EC1/2019/SEIAA)

The Committee decided to ask the proponents to specify the coordinates, EIA required at the proposed and utilization sites and entrusted Smt.Beena Govindan & Shri.G.Sankar for site inspection.


Secretary


Chairman

Item No. 92.07

Environmental Clearance for the Proposed construction of multistoried residential and commercial buildings at Re Survey No. 174/14-1 (Old Sy. No. 180/P, 181/1P, 182/2P), Ollur Village, Thrissur Taluk & Thrissur District, Kerala of Mr. Nisanth, Company Executive, M/s SobhaHighrise Ventures Private Limited (File No. 1188(A)/A2/2018/SEIAA)

The Committee took into consideration the suggestions of SEIAA in this regard. The Committee observed that the aspects indicated by the SEIAA have been satisfactorily explained in the proposals and presentation of the proponent before SEAC. The sub-committee which visited the site also is satisfied of the aspects pointed out to by the SEIAA. Therefore, the SEAC decided to recommend the proposal again by informing the SEIAA that all the conditions put forth by SEIAA have already been evaluated by the SEAC and found that it is a genuine case for recommendation for the grant of EC by the SEIAA.

Item No. 92.08


Environmental Clearance for the quarry project Johnson Rocks in Sy.No 781/23-1, 781/1-23-1 pt, 781/1-23-2, at Athikayam Village, Naranamuzhi Panchayath, Ranni Taluk, Pathanamthitta District, Kerala by Sri.Alexander V. John (File No.1002/EC4/5032/ 2015/ SEIAA)

The Committee decided to call upon the proponent for presentation for appraisal of the project as the present SEAC had not yet heard the presentation of the proponent.

Item No. 92.09

**Automatic Extension of validity of Environment Clearance
(File No.2372/A1/2018/SEIAA-main file No. 100/SEIAA/KL/1537/2013)**

The Committee decided to inform the proponent to apply for extension with revised Form-1 & revised mining plan as the project does not come under the category of automatic extension.


Secretary


Chairman

Item No. 92.10**Illegal functioning of Vijaya and Periyar Quarry (File No. 221/AI/2018/SEIAA)****Vijaya Quarry**

The Committee deliberated upon the Sub-Committee report and accepted the recommendations of the Sub-Committee and decided to inform the proponent for fencing around the quarry to the satisfaction of the Forest Department within 45 days so as to ensure that no causality is happening and to produce a compliance report.

Periyar Quarry

The Committee after deliberations accepted the recommendations of the Sub-Committee and decided to inform the proponent for making fencing around and benching in the quarry as stipulated within 45 days and to produce a compliance report.

Item No. 92.11

Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Information Technology Building at Survey Nos. 281/5(pt), 281/6 (pt), 282/1 (pt), 282/2(pt), 282/3(pt), 282/4(pt), 282/5(pt), 282/6(pt), 282/7(pt), 282/8(pt), 282/9(pt), Plot No. SEZ-2, Block No.17 of Attipra village, Thiruvananthapuram Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala by Mr. Hrishikesh Shashi, Managing Director, M/s Speridian Technologies Private Limited (File No. 1196/EC2/2018/SEIAA)

The Committee verified the report of Sub Committee and accepted the observations and decided to obtain a clarification from the proponent on the following :

1. The coordinates describing the location need correction. The proponent should submit corrected coordinates


Secretary


Chairman

2. The area where the proposed project is a wetland area which is partly filled up and hence evidence that the Government has exempted this area from the wetlands Act of 2008 has to be adduced by the proponent.
3. The area is sparsely vegetated and part of it is being used as a solid waste dump
4. The basement floors (two levels) will have problems of water leakage. The proponents should avoid one basement or find a solution to rectify this
5. The total floor area mentioned is 8093 sq.m and the total built up area is 45460 sq.m.(FAR 5.6).The proponent has mentioned in the document that the FAR is 3 . This is not matching and hence should be clarified by the proponent in writing.
6. For lightning protection ring conductors should be used instead of arresters
7. Make a plan to convert to zero energy requirement using solar energy
8. Make a plan to retain the waterbody / thodu in the SE side of the property
9. CER detailing is required, Must include rejuvenation of Thettiayar river which is flowing nearby

These aspects require to be clarified by the proponent so as to proceed further in this regard.

Item No.92.12

Application for Terms of Reference for the Proposed Expansion of Mixed Land use (Master Plan Project by M/s Dragonstone Realty Pvt. Ltd at Attipra village, Thiruvananthapuram Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala by Mr. Ajay Prasad & Mr.R.Anil Kumar, Authorized Signatories, M/s Dragonstone Realty Pvt. Ltd. (File No. 1202/EC2/2018/SEIAA)

The Committee accepted the observations of the Sub Committee and decided to ask the proponent a compliance report on the following observations:


Secretary


Chairman

1. Capacity of STP to be verified
2. The locational attributes needs correction. The proponents should give the correct co ordinates in writing
3. The site is located in a wetland which is reclaimed partly
4. The basement floors planned will be located in water logged conditions and the proponents should specify what they will do to correct this.
5. Plan to have DG sets in the basement need reconsideration
6. Need more attention to parking and traffic management
7. Management of earth materials excavated needs more attention
8. Storm water management during high monsoons
9. Maps should be clear with all water bodies and give plans of their management
10. Disaster management part should be elaborated
11. CER detailing is required, Must include rejuvenation of Thettiayar river which is flowing nearby

Item No.92.13

Environmental clearance for the proposed granite building stone quarry project in Re-Survey Block. No.50, Re-Survey Nos. 472/3, 472/4, 473/7-2, 473/6, 473/4-2, 473/4, 473/7, 472/5, 470/2-2, 471/5, 471/2, 470/8, 470/5, 470/7, 470/3-2, 470/9, 470/4, 470/2, 468/3, 473/8, 470/6, 470/3, 473/5, 470/10, 470/10-2, 472/1, 468/2, 471/1, 471/8, 474/8, 473/8-2, 472/6, 468/1-2, 474/7-2 (Patta Land), 470/11, 470/1, 474/2 (Government Land) of Kummil Village, Kottarakara Taluk, Kollam District, Kerala by Mr.Biju M.K, Managing Partner & Authorized Signatory, M/s Vismaya Rocks Private Limited (File No. 1205/EC1/2018/SEIAA)

The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee


Secretary


Chairman

The recommendations of the Sub-Committee were as follows:

- 1) Mining activity must be as per the mining plan for the first five years and depth should not go below 140 m above MSL.
- 2) The total lease area of the mining project is 15.8 Ha of which 66.66% is revenue land (10.53 Ha).

50% of the mineral extracted from here will be used for constructing break water. Further quarrying after five years should be permitted only after assessing the mineral requirements of the port and after conducting a comprehensive study by a competent agency like NCESS. This is because mining upto 12MAMSL (conceptual stage - depth of pit 118M) will definitely affect the ground water regime and environmental conditions of the area and also the resource is non-renewable.

- 3) Monitoring of two open wells (8° 48'11.55" N and 76° 56' 21.55"E and 8° 48'24.50" N and 76° 56' 24.20"E) should be done to assess the impact of quarrying on ground water and vibration measurements should be done for two houses (8° 48'11.50" N and 76° 56' 21.41"E and 8° 48'22.31" N and 76° 56' 26.55"E) to assess impact of explosions. This should be part of compliance report.
- 4) Conditions laid down in the minutes of the meeting held at Kollam collectorate on 29-04-2017 must be strictly adhered to (copy of the minutes attached) not to affect the normal traffic conditions of the locality. No trucks should be dispatched from the mine during the school timings ie, 8.30 AM to 10.30AM and 3.30PM to 5PM. In addition to this, the proponent should be asked to construct 4 km distance of the Pangalkadu-Kummil road with a width of 8 m, asphalt or concrete (Total length 5km. 1 km is already constructed by H&P Granites), to ensure smooth traffic.


Secretary


Chairman

- 5) CSR/CER activity must be implemented as per local needs and suggestions of Kummil Panchayat which may also include improving the living conditions of the nine houses (five SC) in the nearest human settlement 55.7 m away from the boundary on South-West side of the project area (Infrastructure, water facility and well recharging, livelihoods, and educational support)
- 6) The progress of plantation building as per the plantation plan should be included in the compliance report (2300 for green belt and 700 for haulage roads- 600 saplings per year). Since no water is available in the site the proponent should ensure water availability for drinking and other domestic needs, and watering the plants in summer.


It was brought to the notice that as per notification F.No.L-1 1011/175/2018-IA-II(M) dt.12-12-2018 of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, GOI, EIA, EMP and therefore Public Consultation for all areas from 5-25 Ha. falling under category B-2 at par with category B-1 is mandatory. So the proponent may be directed to complete the EIA studies as per the latest GOI notification and present the same before SEAC for further consideration.

Additional Agenda

Item No. 92.14 Environmental clearance for removal of ordinary earth in Sy.No. 392, 15, 16, 39, 41, 42, 9, 393/11, 31, 394/5, 15, 397/6, 5-1, 5-2, 1, 8, 9, 10, 398/5, 1, 1-2 at Kidaganoor Village, Kozhancheri Taluk, Pathanamthitta District, Kerala by Sri. K.H. Shajahan Rawthar (File No. 1205(B)/O.E./EC2/2018/SEIAA)

The Committee after deliberations decided for a site visit and entrusted Smt. Beena Govindan & Shri. V.N. Jithendran for the site visit and report. The letter from the Engineering College has also to be perused.


Secretary


Chairman

Item No.92.15

Environmental clearance for the proposed building stone quarry project in Survey No. 555/2 at Nagaroor Village, Chirayinkeez Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala by Mr. Rajesh Jha, Chief Executive Officer, M/s Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited (File No. 1200/EC2/2018/SEIAA)

The Committee appreciated the report of the Sub-Committee in this regard as an ideal one and decided to recommend the inclusion of the following observations and conditions in the EC to be issued by the SEIAA:

1. The NE and SW portion of the proposed quarry area is already mined to the localized baseline. Therefore, the area remaining to be mined out is the eastern portion of the proposed land.
2. On completion of the proposed mining activity, one quarter of the hillock under government land will vanish.
3. The geological reserve estimated is 51,96,250 tons out of which the mineable reserve is 17,78,750 tone (up to the bench level of 28m AMSL) and blocked reserve is 34,17,500 tons. The mineable reserve up to 40m AMSL is 15,07,500 tons. It means that if the total mineable quantity is allowed to be extracted, the mine will go below the present ground level of 40m AMSL by a depth of 12m creating a pit
4. The reclamation and rehabilitation plan indicates that after the extraction over five years, there will a pit of 3 Ha out of which 0.95 Ha will be converted as a water pond and balance area of 2.05 Ha will be retained as pit.
5. The proposal for year-wise mining indicates that the extraction will be to the tune of 1,52,500 tons (1st year), 4,99,375 tons (2nd year), 5,12,500 tons (3rd year), 5,11,875 tons (4th year) and 1,02,500 tons (5th year). However, the proposal does not mention about the requirement for the next two years, during which it is understood that the breakwater construction will be over.


 Secretary


 Chairman

6. If we consider that the breakwater construction will be completed in two years and the quantity of stone projected for extraction in the first two years is the actual requirement for the proponent, then the quantity extracted will be 6,51,875 tons, i.e., 37% of the mineable reserve. If the mining is allowed upto the bench level of 70m as per the mine plan, the quantity extractable is 7,51,875 tons, i.e. 15% more than the requirement.

7. Kerala experiences intermittent micro earthquakes such as the ones in Nedumkandam in 1988 with 4.5 magnitude, Vadakkencherry in 1994 with 4.3 magnitude, Erattupettain 2000 and 2001 with magnitudes 5 and 4.8 respectively, off the coast of Thiruvananthapuram in 2001 with magnitude 4.5 etc. Based on the studies on the causative factors of micro tremors in Kerala, it is understood that variation in hydraulic pressure in the near-surface joints and fractures, increased pore-pressure and its uncertain variations etc lead to disturbance in the subsurface rock formations. Studies also indicated that from among the micro-tremors recorded in the seismograph installed in Peechi between 2000 and 2008, 45% occurred between July and October and 29% between November and January when there is significant rainfall and groundwater recharge. It indicates that the landuse changes, hydraulic pressure build up, pore-pressure variations etc. could influence occurrence of micro-tremors. There have been micro-tremors centered around Vamanapuram in September 1988, Parippalli in December 1994, Kilimanur in August 2006 and Attingal in January 2008. It is suspected that the subsurface rock formations do not have adequate strength to absorb the high magnitude variations in the landuse pattern, landform changes, hydraulic pressure variations etc.. Therefore, there need to be utmost restraints in disturbing the natural landforms of the region.


Secretary


Chairman

8. The earlier quarrying of the hillock has left a vertical fall of 70m which is very dangerously poised. If mining is allowed as per mining rules, the vertical fall will become a bench cut which will improve the safety aspect of the frontal portion of the quarry.
9. Since the proposal is to extract stone from one portion of the hillock, there will not be complete removal of the hillock, thus overcoming the implications on micro-climate of the region.
10. There are other quarries in the vicinity of the proposed quarry, but not within 500m as per a document produced by the proponent. It may be verified whether the proponent has submitted the relevant documents along with the application for EC, so as to ensure that there are no quarries within the radius of 500m.
11. The mining is proposed with Non-electric detonator (NONEL) method thereby minimizing air blast, fly rock and ground vibration.
12. The proponent should be directed to constitute a Local Area Monitoring Committee, involving the Grama Panchayat.
13. No environmental management intervention could adequately mitigate the impacts caused due to the activities linked to quarrying/mining. However, the demand for building stones for essential developmental activities need to be met. Therefore, it is desirable to restrict mining to the minimum essential requirement so as to minimize the environmental impact as well as to protect the resource for future demand of development activities. Hence, mining should not be allowed for extracting the whole of mineable quantity but be permitted to meet the essential requirement. This approach will also minimize the change in landform.


Secretary
14.



Chairman

14. The proponent may be permitted to extract a maximum of 7 lakh tons of building stone within a period of two years. Further permission for mining may be considered based on the requirement then and environmental assessment.
15. The proponent should be asked to comply with all mandatory environmental management conditions that are stipulated while giving EC for such mining projects.
16. The social and environmental needs of the locality should be assessed in consultation with the Local Governments based on which the Corporate Social & Environmental Responsibility should be exercised.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of SEAC at 10.30am on 21.2.2019 at the conference hall of SEIAA.

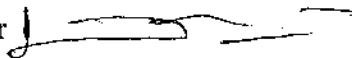
The meeting ended at 1.30 pm with vote of thanks to the Chair.


Dr. Veena.N. Madhavan .I.A.S
Secretary


Dr.C. Bhaskaran
Chairman

List of members present in the Meeting on 22.01.2019

1. Shri.M.Dileep Kumar



5. Dr. A.V.Raghu



2. Smt.BeenaGovindan



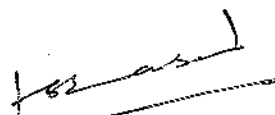
6. Sri.V.N.Jithendran



3. Shri.G.Sankar



7. Dr.P.S.Easa



4. Dr. R.Ajayakumar Varma

