

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY KERALA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

(Present: Dr. Nagesh Prabhu IFS(Rtd), Chairman, Sri. K. Krishna Panicker, Member, Dr. V. Venu IAS, Member Secretary)

Sub: SEIAA – Revalidation of Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri.Mathew M.Pathrose, Managing Partner, M/s. Blue Mountain Granites in Sy. No. 1982, Vellikulangara Village, Chalakkudy Taluk, Thrissur District – Rejected – Orders issued.

State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Kerala

File No.626/SEIAA/EC1/4809/2014

Dated 10.11.2022

- Ref: 1) Environmental Clearance issued vide Order No. 626/SEIAA/EC1/4809/2014 dated 05.02.2016
 - 2) Letter dated.08.02.2021 received from Sri,.Benny Pathrose, Partner, M/s.Blue Mountain Granites
 - 3) Judgment dated.04.12.2020 of the Hon'ble High Court in WP(C) No.25534 of 2020
 - 4) Minutes of 117th SEAC meeting held on 28th to 30th December 2020
 - 5) Minutes of 118th SEAC meeting held on 01st to 03rd February 2021.
 - 6) Minutes of 120th SEAC meeting held on 24th to 26th March 2021
 - 7) Minutes of 131st meeting of the SEAC held on 05th, 06th, 19th & 20th August 2022
 - 8) Letter dated.19.09.2022 received from Sri, Benny Pathrose, Partner, M/s.Blue Mountain Granites
 - 9) Minutes of the 118th SEIAA meeting held on 30th September & 01st October 2022 10) G.O (Rt.) No.29/2019/Envt dated.12.04.2019.

ORDER

Environmental Clearance was issued vide order 1st cited for the quarry project of Sri.Mathew M.Pathrose, Managing Partner, M/s. Blue Mountain Granites for an area of

3.0352 Ha in Sy. No. 1982 at Vellikulangara Village, Chalakkudy Taluk, Thrissur District for a period of five years. The Proponent vide reference 2nd cited requested to revalidate the EC for the project life. The Hon'ble High Court vide reference 3rd cited disposed of the Writ Petition by granting the petitioner the same relief as granted to the petitioner in WP(C) No.18929 of 2020 in which the Hon'ble Court directed SEIAA to estimate the life of the project and revalidate the EC already issued.

- 2. After due appraisal in various meetings, the Committee examined the proposal in its 131st meeting, verified the documents, discussed the field inspection report of the Subcommittee conducted on 16.05.2022 and the Certified Compliance Report from the IRO, MoEF & CC, Bangalore dated 31-12-2021. Based on discussion, the Committee observed the following:
 - 1. A crusher unit is functioning near the quarry site on the south-eastern side and the feeding point is at 15 m distance from the Boundary Pillar No.3.
 - 2. The project life can be estimated as 10 years from the date of original EC, i.e., 5.2.2016, considering the depth to water table, environmental deterioration due to old quarry pit etc
 - 3. There is no green belt along the buffer zone as the buffer is encroached for road.
 - 4. The EC condition no.9, "Considering the proximity to forest land, a buffer distance of 100m shall be maintained from the boundary of the land possessed by the proponent. If it is not maintained always, the EC shall be liable to be withdrawn". Based on the field inspection report, the buffer distance provided to Reserve Forest boundary is only 51 to 58m.
 - 5. The proponent explained that the SEIAA in its 87th meeting (14-01-2019) reduced the setback distance between the mine lease area and nearby forest to 50m. This explanation is not acceptable as the decision of the SEIAA has no retrospective effect.

In the circumstance, considering the violation of EC condition, the Committee decided against the revalidation of EC due to non-compliance of EC conditions.

3. In the 118th meeting, the Authority noted that the proponent has submitted certain clarification on the observation of 131st SEAC meeting and requested to revalidate EC.

Authority considered the recommendation of SEAC and representation of Project Proponent and decided to accept recommendation of SEAC to reject the request for revalidation.

4. In the above circumstances, the application received for the revalidation of Environmental Clearance from Sri.Benny Pathrose, Partner, M/s. Blue Mountain Granites for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project for an area of 3.0352 Ha in Sy. No. 1982 at Vellikulangara Village, Chalakkudy Taluk, Thrissur District is hereby **REJECTED**, due to the reasons mentioned in Para 2 above.

Administrator, SEIAA For Member Secretary, SEIAA

To.

Sri.Mathew M.Pathrose Managing Partner, M/s. Blue Mountain Granites Vellikulangara P.O Chalakkudy, Thrissur – 680 699

Copy to:

- 1. MoEF Regional Office, Southern Zone, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wing, II Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034. (through e-mail: rosz.bng-mefcc@gov.in)
- 2. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Environment Department, Government of Kerala.
- 3. The Director, Directorate of Environment & Climate Change, 4th Floor KSRTC Bus Terminal, Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala 695001.
- 4. The Director, Mining & Geology, Thiruvananthapuram -4.
- 5. The Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board.
- 6. The District Collector, Thrissur
- 7. The District Geologist, Thrissur.
- 8. The Tahasildar, Chalakkudy Taluk, Thrissur
- 9. The Chairman, SEIAA.
- 10. Website.
- 11. S/f
- 12. O/c

