



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

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

**Sub: SEIAA- Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry
Project of Sri. Tomy Thomas for an area of 2.8534 Ha in Sy. Nos. 247/2,
247/2/1, 247/2/2, 247/2/3, 249/1, 249/2, 249/3, 249/4, 439/1-1, 248/4, 248/3pt at
Erattupetta Village, Thalappalam Panchayath, Meenachil Taluk, Kottayam
District- Extension of period of validity of E.C - Granted - Orders issued.**

STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

Proposal No: SIA/KL/MIN/278020/2022

File No: 806/SEIAA/EC4/2237/2015

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram 28.10.2022

- Read 1. Environmental Clearance No.806/SEIAA/EC4/2237/2015 dated 04-03-2016.
2. Judgment in WP(C)No 21767/2021 dated 11-03-2022, filed by Sri. Tomy Thomas.
3. Contempt of Court Case No. 839 of 2022 against the Judgment in WP(C) No. 21767/2021 dated 19-09-2022.
4. Minutes of the 113th SEIAA meeting held on 19th & 20th April 2022.
5. Minutes of the 128th SEAC meeting held on 23rd & 24th May, 2022.
6. Minutes of the 114th SEIAA meeting held on 25th, 26th May and 1st June 2022.
7. Minutes of the 130th SEAC meeting held on 4th to 06th July, 2022.
8. Minutes of the 117th SEIAA meeting held 30th & 31st August 2022.
9. Minutes of the 132nd SEAC meeting held on 13th to 15th September, 2022.
10. Minutes of the 118th SEIAA meeting held on 30th September & 01st October 2022.
11. G.O (Rt.) No.29/2019/Env dt.12.04.2019.

ORDER

Environment Clearance had been accorded for the Granite Building Stone Quarry
of Sri. Tomy Thomas in Sy. Nos. 247/2, 247/2/1, 247/2/2, 247/2/3, 249/1, 249/2, 249/3,

249/4, 439/1-1, 248/4, 248/3pt at Erattupetta Village, Thalappalam Grama Panchayat, Meenachil Taluk, Kottayam Kerala by SEIAA, for an area of 3.9577 Ha. for a period of 5 years as per the proceedings read 1st paper above.

2. As per Judgment 2nd above, the Hon'ble Court directed "SEIAA to finalise Ext. P5 Stop Memo as directed by this court in Ext. P7 Judgment, in the light of the recommendations made by the SEAC as evident from Ext. P19 minutes. The decision shall be taken within one month from today and communicated to the petitioner. The petitioner shall within 10 days from receiving the communication, if the decision is to revoke the stop memo, submit the application in Form I as required under EIA, for the purpose of Extension of the Environmental Clearance granted as per Ext. P1. The 1st respondent shall on receipt of such an application consider the extension in terms of Clause 9 of EIA, 2006 and pass orders within one month therefrom".

3. In the 113th meeting of the SEIAA, the Authority decided to forward all relevant documents, copies of minutes of meetings of SEIAA, and copies of Judgment in WP (C) No 21767/2021 dated 11-03-2022 and Judgment in OA No. 76/202 (SZ) dated 06-12-2021 of NGT to SEAC to speed up the process in compliance with the directions of Hon'ble High Court and NGT.

4. In the 128th SEAC meeting the Committee decided to adhere to the decision of the 123rd meeting of the SEAC to recommend EC for the quarry with the specific conditions. Accordingly, the stop memo may be revoked subject to the direction of Hon'ble Court. The proponent may also be directed to submit application in Form 1 for extension of EC along with details required for the consideration of the application.

5. In the 114th SEIAA meeting the Authority agreed with the decision of SEAC and decided to revoke the stop memo subject to the orders of Hon'ble NGT & High Court. The Authority also decided to direct the Proponent to apply for revalidation of EC.

6. In the 130th SEAC meeting, after receiving the application for Extension of EC through PARIVESH Portal, the Committee entrusted to evaluate the documents submitted by the proponent, examine compliance of EC conditions, carry out field inspection and report.

7. In the 117th SEIAA meeting, the Authority decided to take suitable decision on the application for extension of Environmental Clearance in its immediate next meeting as and when the recommendation is received from SEAC.

8. In the 132nd SEAC meeting, the Committee examined the documents submitted by the proponent and found them satisfactory. The Geologist, Mining & Geology Department, Govt. of Kerala, Kottayam approved the Scheme of Mining Plan with Progressive Mine Closure Plan for the lease area of 2.8534 Ha. and Project Period of 8.2 years. In the circumstance, the SEAC decided to recommend extension of the EC with a Project Period of 8.2 years as approved in the Scheme of Mining Plan with Progressive Mine Closure Plan for the lease area of 2.8534 Ha., subject to the following specific conditions in addition to general conditions.

- a) The Certified Compliance Report should be submitted within one month from the date of issuance of the EC (The Sub Committee of the SEAC observed compliance of EC conditions during their field inspection).
- b) The buffer zones should be demarcated and green belt there should be strengthened with indigenous species of trees as suggested in the biodiversity assessment report.

- c) Blasting should be conducted with a maximum of 30 holes in a blast round using 32mm diameter blast holes drilled with handheld Jack hammer drill to a maximum depth of 1.5m and each hole charged with a maximum of 250gm of explosive.
- d) Nonel based shock-tube detonators should be used for initiation so as to have hole to hole delay of 17ms and 25ms and accordingly row to row delay of 25ms or 42ms.
- e) Adequate muffling arrangement should be made to restrict fly rocks within 10m.
- f) Blasting configuration and layout should be strictly in accordance with the recommendation in the study report of the Department of Mining Engineering, National Institute of Technology- Karnataka (NIT-K), Surathkal, Mangalore dated 16.4.2021.
- g) The blasting configuration and layout as per the study conducted by the NIT-K, Surathkal should be displayed in front of the project site.
- h) Haulage road should be completed with adequate width and lower gradient prior to the commencement of mining.
- i) The garland canal and connected catchwater drains with intermittent silt traps should be complete in all respects prior to the commencement of mining.
- j) A water holding and clarifier pond should be set up at the bottom portion of the site so as to prevent outflow of turbid water.
- k) The garland canal, catchwater drains, silt traps, water holding and clarifier pond and outflow channel should be cleaned and desilted periodically and geo-tagged photographs of the process should be included in the Half Yearly Compliance Report.
- l) Adequate Rain Water Harvesting structure should be provided on the lower part of site.
- m) Overburden dumping site should be provided with protective walls in the lower slope portion of the project area and overburden dump should be protected with retention wall of appropriate height.
- n) The existing steep cutting should be set right with adequate benches with stipulated height and width prior to commencement of regular mining.
- o) A separate plot to preserve the rare and endemic species, if any, should be

earmarked.

- p) Planting of trees of local species on both sides of the road within the project site should be completed prior to commencement regular mining.
- q) Compensatory afforestation should be done with indigenous species of trees as mentioned in the biodiversity in the land earmarked for the purpose
- r) Environment Management Cell (EMC) should include one subject expert in environment management.

Transportation of mined material should not be done during the peak hours in the forenoon (8.30am to 10.30am) and afternoon (3.30pm to 5 pm).

- s) Adequate sanitation, waste management and rest room facilities should be provided to the workers
- t) Adequate energy conservation measures should be implemented including solar power installations
- u) A Local Monitoring Committee consisting of the President, Thalappalam GP, Member of the concerned Ward of Thalappalam GP, One nominated Member of the Biodiversity Management Committee of the Thalappalam GP, Proponent of the Mining Project, Expert in the Environment Management Cell (EMC) of the Project should be constituted. The Committee will meet once in two months and monitor the conditions stipulated in the mining approval, consent to operate and environmental clearance and their suggestions should be implemented by the EMC without amending any conditions stipulated in various clearances obtained for operating the mine.

The Committee also decided to bring the following aspects before the Authority.

The Project area falls in moderate hazard zone in continuity with high hazard zone and therefore, adequate precaution will have to be taken considering the Kerala State Disaster Management Plan, 2016 published under Section 23(1) of Disaster Management Act, 2005 which states that in moderate hazard zones, quarrying shall be permitted only after getting approval of the district level crisis management committee for mining constituted vide G.O (Rt) No. 542/14/ID dated 26-05-2014.

9. In the 118th SEIAA meeting, the Authority noted that the Project Proponent has submitted the Satisfactory CCR and decided to extend Environmental Clearance initially for a period of 5 years, for the quantity mentioned in the approved mining plan and then to extend the EC period to cover the project life of 8.2 years as approved in the Scheme of Mining Plan, subject to the review by SEAC at the end of five years, to verify whether the Project Proponent has violated any of the EC conditions and thereby caused any damage to the Environment in the project region, by violating EC conditions. This is subject to the following specific conditions in addition to general conditions.

1. The quarrying should be initiated only after getting approval of the District Level Crisis Management Committee for mining constituted vide G.O (Rt) No.542/14/ID dated 26-05-2014.
2. Adequate precaution should be taken considering the Kerala State Disaster Management Plan, 2016 published under Section 23(1) of Disaster Management Act, 2005.
3. The buffer zones should be demarcated and green belt there should be strengthened with indigenous species of trees as suggested in the biodiversity assessment report.
4. Blasting should be conducted with a maximum of 30 holes in a blast round using 32mm diameter blast holes drilled with handheld Jack hammer drill to a maximum depth of 1.5m and each hole charged with a maximum of 250gm of explosive.
5. Nonel based shock-tube detonators should be used for initiation so as to have hole to hole delay of 17ms and 25ms and accordingly row to row delay of 25ms or 42ms.
6. Adequate muffling arrangement should be made to restrict fly rocks within 10m.
7. Progressive Mine Closure Plan for the lease area of 2.8534 Ha, shall be carried out as per KMMC Rules.

8. Blasting configuration and layout should be strictly in accordance with the recommendation in the study report of the Department of Mining Engineering, National Institute of Technology- Karnataka (NIT-K), Surathkal, Mangalore dated 16.4.2021.
9. The blasting configuration and layout as per the study conducted by the NIT-K, Surathkal should be displayed in front of the project site.
10. Haulage road should be completed with adequate width and lower gradient prior to the commencement of mining.
11. The garland canal and connected catchwater drains with intermittent silt traps should be complete in all respects prior to the commencement of mining
12. A water holding and clarifier pond should be set up at the bottom portion of the site so as to prevent outflow of turbid water.
13. The garland canal, catchwater drains, silt traps, water holding and clarifier pond and outflow channel should be cleaned and desilted periodically and geo-tagged photographs of the process should be included in the Half Yearly Compliance Report.
14. Adequate Rain Water Harvesting structure should be provided on the lower part of site.
15. Overburden dumping site should be provided with protective walls in the lower slope portion of the project area and overburden dump should be protected with retention wall of appropriate height.
16. The existing steep cutting should be set right with adequate benches with stipulated height and width prior to commencement of regular mining.
17. A separate plot to preserve the rare and endemic species, if any, should be earmarked.
18. Planting of trees of local species on both sides of the road within the project site should be completed prior to commencement regular mining.
19. Compensatory afforestation should be done with indigenous species of trees as mentioned in the biodiversity in the land earmarked for the purpose
20. Environment Management Cell (EMC) should include one subject expert in environment management.

21. Transportation of mined material should not be done during the peak hours in the forenoon (8.00am to 10.00am) and afternoon (3.30pm to 5 pm).
 22. Adequate sanitation, waste management and rest room facilities should be provided to the workers
 23. Adequate energy conservation measures should be implemented including solar power installations
 24. A Local Monitoring Committee consisting of the President, Thalappalam GP, as Chairman, Member of the concerned Ward of Thalappalam GP, One nominated Member of the Biodiversity Management Committee of the Thalappalam GP, Project Proponent of the Mining Project, Expert in the Environment Management Cell (EMC) of the Project and a representative from Dept. of M& G should be constituted. The Committee shall meet once in four months and monitor the conditions stipulated in the approved mining plan, consent to operate and Environmental Clearance and their suggestions should be implemented by the Project Proponent without diluting any conditions stipulated in various clearances obtained for operating the mine. The Project Proponent will facilitate the conduct of the meeting. The observations of the committee and follow up action taken should be mentioned in the half yearly completion report.
 25. The violation of EC conditions may lead to cancellation of EC and action under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986.
10. In this circumstance, the validity of Environmental Clearance issued vide paper 1 is extended initially for a period of 5 years, for the quantity mentioned in the approved mining plan and then to extend the EC period to cover the project life of 8.2 years as approved in the Scheme of Mining Plan, subject to the review by SEAC at the end of five years, to verify whether the Project Proponent has violated any of the EC conditions and thereby caused any damage to the Environment in the project region, by violating EC conditions. The proponent should strictly comply with the conditions in the EC/Extension of EC already issued. The Project Proponent shall ensure that no violation of EC conditions takes place during the extended period of EC.

11. The Half Yearly Compliance Report (HYCRs) with its contents, covering letter, compliance report and environmental monitoring data has to be uploaded in the PARIVESH portal & the website of the proponent. The same report with the name of the project, EC No and date, period of submission is to be sent to the Regional Office of MoEF & CC & SEIAA by email only at email ID rosz.bng-mef@nic.in & seacseiaakerala@gmail.com. Hardcopy of HYCRs shall not be acceptable.



Anil P. Antony
Administrator, SEIAA
For Member Secretary, SEIAA

To,

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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 District Collector, Kottayam
5. The Director, Mining & Geology, Thiruvananthapuram -4.
6. The Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board
7. The District Geologist, Kottayam
8. The Tahsildar, Meenachil Taluk, Kottayam
9. The Chairman, SEIAA.
10. The secretary, Thalappalam Grama Panchayath
11. Website.
12. S/f
13. O/c



