

Proceedings of the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority Kerala-

(Present Prof. (Dr.) K. Pijoy, Chairman, Dr. J. Subhashini, Member, Dr. Nivedita P. Haran IAS, Member Secretary & Additional Chief Secretary to Government (Environment Department))

Sub: SEIAA, Kerala - Quarry project of M/S Covenant Stones Pvt. Ltd, Manickal Village, Nedumangad Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala - Environment Clearance - Accorded

Environmental Clearance

No. 237/SEIAA/KL/885/2014

Dated 31-10-2014

- Ref. 1. Application dated 25.03.2014 from Sri. Sabu Joseph, Managing Director
M/S COVENANT STONES PVT. LTD, Mukkola, Shop No. 237, Nettayam P.O
Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala
2. Minutes of the 26th meeting of SEAC held on 20/21-03-2014
3. Minutes of the 32nd meeting of SEAC held on 12/13-08-2014
4. Minutes of the 35th meeting of SEAC held on 17/18-10-2014
5. Minutes of the 34th Meeting of SEIAA held on 24-10-2014
6. Minutes of the 34th Meeting of SEIAA held on 31-10-2014



ORDER

Sri. Sabu Joseph, Managing Director, M/S Covenant Stones Pvt. Ltd vide his application received on 25.03.2014, sought Environmental Clearance under EIA Notification, 2006 for the building stone quarry project in Sy. Nos. 29/2, 29/3 part and 30/4 part at Thekkada Village & in Sy. Nos. 470, 472/4/1, 474/1, 474/1-1, 1/2, 472/5, 472/6, 469/4/3/4, 469/4/3/3, 469/4/2, 469/4/1/1, 469/4/1/2, 469/4/1/3 and 469/4 of Manickal Village, Nedumangad Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala for an area of 8.9637 hectares. The project comes under Category B, Activity 1(a), (i) as per the Schedule of EIA Notification 2006 (since it is below 50 hectares) and as per O.M. No. L-11011/47/2011-IA.II(M) dated 18th May 2012 of Ministry of Environment and Forests. It is further categorized as Category B2 as per the O.M. No. J-13012/12/2013-IA-II (I) dt. 24.12.2013 of Ministry of Environment and Forests, since the area of the project is below 25 hectares. Basic information on the project is as under:

Name of project		Building Stone Quarry of M/S. Covenant Stones Pvt. Ltd,
Brief description of the project		Open cast mining
Category/Subcategory & Schedule		"B" Category, 1(a)
Location Sy no/ district, Taluk/ village etc.		Sy. Nos. 29/2, 29/3 part and 30/4 part at Thekkada Village & in Sy. Nos. 470, 472/4/1, 474/1, 474/1-1, 1/2, 472/5, 472/6, 469/4/3/4, 469/4/3/3, 469/4/2, 469/4/1/1, 469/4/1/2, 469/4/1/3 and 469/4 at Manickal Village, Nedumangad Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala
GPS co-ordinates		Longitude: 6° 57' 02.6" E to 76° 57' 19.2" E Latitude: 8° 38' 53.3" N to 8° 39' 05.2" N
for Mining projects	Extent of area (in hectares.)	8.9637 Ha
	Minimum and maximum height of excavation (MSL)	Highest 215 MSL and Lowest 130 MSL
	Life of mine proposed	24 years
	Ultimate depth of mining (in MSL)	100 MSL
	Distance from the adjacent quarry	1.30 kms from quarry towards SE
	Capacity of production	1. Dimension Stone 30,000 CuM 2. Building Stone 2,85,000 tones/annum.

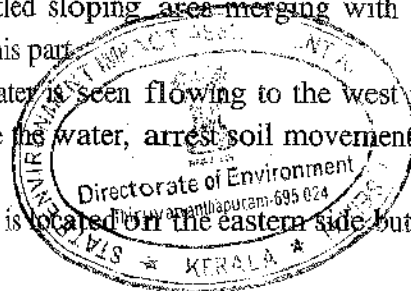
Details of Project Cost	Total Project: Rs. 25.0 Crores
CRZ recommendations	NA
Forest clearances	NA
ABOUT THE PROJECT	
<i>Environmental parameters</i>	<i>Mitigation Measures</i>
WATER	
Water requirement & sources	Domestic consumption 2.80KLD to be met from Borewell within the quarry site. Dust suppression: 27.2KLD to be met from Borewell within the quarry site. Cutting: 2.0 KLD met from bore well within the quarry site.
RWH units proposed	One Rain water harvesting ponds will be constructed which will act as tool for ground water recharge and rain water harvesting pond.
Facilities for liquid waste treatment	Liquid waste will be treated in CPCB approved Septic Tank & soak pit.
Impoundment, damming, culverting, realignment or other changes to the hydrology of watercourses or aquifers?	Nil
LAND	
Proximity to forest lands	Sekanathumaila forest is about 7.5 km (both) towards NE from the quarry lease.
Access road to the site -Width & Condition	7 m width of road and good condition to haul the material
Storage of explosives /hazardous substances	Explosives will be stored, transported, handled and used in accordance with India Explosive Act 1884, MSIHCRules 1989, Mines act 1952 and regulation thereunder. Hazardous materials like spent oil being disposed off as per the existing Rules & Guidelines of Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 and 2003 and are being sent to stores for disposal through authorized agents.
Facility for solid waste mgmt	About 2.40 KLD of domestic effluents is likely to generate, the same will be treated and disposed, through septic tank and soak pit as per the approved CPCB norms.
Topographic features/ slope	The quarry lease area occupies the middle part of hillocks which is trending SE - NW, extending from Vembayam to Muthuvila. The highest elevation is about 215m above MSI towards northeastern part of the lease area and the lowest elevation is 130 m above MSI towards south western part of the lease. The lease area is generally sloppy from northeast to southwest and is moderate. Part of the lease area is more or less broken up where there is no vegetation and the balance area is covered with moderate vegetation within the lease area. The area surrounding the lease is moderate to thick in vegetation. There are no perennial water course / water bodies / streams / nallahs within the leasehold area. The storm water passes through the minor water courses and gets confluence with the adjacent nallah.
Top soil, overburden etc.	Topsoil 47,000 tonnes (till life of the mine) Waste Rock : 4,05,000 tonnes (till life of the mine).
AIR	
Air quality meeting requirements	Monitoring of air quality monitored and analysed both in core & buffer zone and results found within the limits of NAAQ standards.
Noise level meeting requirements	Noise level survey carried out both during the activity in the quarry area

Likely emissions affecting environment	and nearby villages. Due to quarry activity and operation of heavy earth moving machinery generation of dust, noise is likely. However, mitigative measures are proposed in the EMP.
ENERGY	
Energy requirement	Power requirement for office and other buildings is 200KVA
Energy Sources	Power for office and other buildings will be met through KSEB.
BIODIVERSITY	
Presence of any endangered species or red listed category	Nil
Loss of native species and genetic diversity	There will not be any loss of native species of genetic diversity as the quarry already exists and continuation of the same will not affect or loss of native species in general.
SOCIAL ASPECTS	
Proximity to nearest habitation	As per the site inspection report conducted by subcommittee of SEIAA there was no settlement in the 100 m vicinity of the proposed project area
GENERAL	
Details of Authorised Signatory	Mr. Sabu Joseph, Managing Director M/S Covenant Stones Pvt. Ltd., Mukkola, Shop No. 237, Nettayam P.O Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala
Details of NABET approved EIA consultant organisation	Metamorphosis, Qci/Nabet Accredited Eia Consultant, Bangalore

2. The proposed project was taken up in the 26th SEAC meeting held on 20th and 21st March 2014 under agenda item no. 26.36. The project proponent made presentation of the proposal. The Committee wanted the proponent to clarify certain defects in the application and also in the biodiversity assessment report specifically of the project. The distance of the mining area from the nearest human settlement is given as 0.073 km towards NW from the quarry as given in questionnaire and 0.073 km away from the site towards SE as given in pre-feasibility report. Hence the proponent was directed to provide the correct details of the nearest human settlement from the quarry. The proponent was also directed to provide specific details on CSR specifying the proposed activities linked with the present project along with details on the areas/institutions to which the same shall be extended. Regarding proof of ownership of land, certain discrepancies were found and the proponent was directed to provide clarifications/documents on the same. According to the above mentioned facts, the item was deferred for site visit and the proponent was directed to provide the required details for further consideration of the proposal.

3. As per the decision taken by the Committee a site visit was conducted by an expert team and the following points were recommended for consideration

- ▲ Steep cuttings are seen in the quarried faces. Bench formation is in limited part only. The steep cuttings especially by the side of the main crusher road must be provided with fences and danger sign boards.
- ▲ The western most debris mantled sloping area merging with the lower flat land is very steep and quarrying must be avoided in this part.
- ▲ Excavated earth and muddy water is seen flowing to the west in unchanneled pathways. Mechanism must be provided to channelise the water, arrest soil movement, desiltation and clarification of water before it is let out.
- ▲ Existing water harvesting pond is located on the eastern side but with limited capacity. This need to be



enhanced with a masonry structure and proper outlet mechanism.

A Facility for the storage of top soil and overburden is randomly done and not in designated sites. OB is used for filling pits and formation of roads but does not go with the mine plan. There is a need to preserve OB for restoration of the quarry during the closure.

A On the northern side dimension stone is being won on a trial basis. The extent of it is to be defined. A proper buffer distance, say 250 m, to be kept from Thampuran Para on the north

4. Further to the site visit and on submission of the additional clarifications by the proponent, the proposal was placed for consideration in the 32nd SEAC meeting held on 12th and 13th August. The Committee verified the additional clarifications/documents provided by the proponent. The proposal was recommended as per the following specific conditions in addition to the general conditions stipulated for mining projects, *subject to satisfactory addressing of the above clarifications:*

1. Western most debris mantled sloping area merging with the lower flat land is very steep and quarrying must be avoided.

2. A minimum buffer distance of 250 m to be maintained from Thampuran Para on the north.

3. Quarrying shall be limited to Sy. Nos. 29/2, 29/3 part and 30/4 part at Thekkada Village & in Sy. Nos. 470, 472/4/1, 474/1, 474/1-1, 474/1/2, 472/5, 472/6, 469/4/3/4, 469/4/3/3, 469/4/2, 469/4/1/1, 469/4/1/2, 469/4/1/3 and 469/4 at Manickal Village, Nedumangad Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala.

5. Further, on submission of the additional clarifications by the proponent, the proposal was placed for reconsideration in the 35th SEAC meeting held on 17th and 18th October 2014 as agenda item no. 35.26. The Committee verified the additional clarifications/documents submitted by the proponent and found that the proponent has not submitted the authorization given to Mr. Phiji Philip, signed by both Mr. Noble John and Mrs. Annie Noble for M/s Cornerstone Rock Private Limited, to execute the lease deed with M/s Covenant stones Pvt. Ltd. on behalf of the firm and is hence directed to provide the same. Subject to the above, SEAC recommended the proposal as per the following specific conditions in addition to the general conditions stipulated for mining projects:

1. Western most debris mantled sloping area merging with the lower flat land is very steep and quarrying must be avoided.

2. A minimum buffer distance of 250 m to be maintained from Thampuran Para on the north.

3. Quarrying shall be limited to Sy. Nos. 29/2, 29/3 part and 30/4 part at Thekkada Village & in Sy. Nos. 470, 472/4/1, 474/1, 474/1-1, 474/1/2, 472/5, 472/6, 469/4/3/4, 469/4/3/3, 469/4/2, 469/4/1/1, 469/4/1/2, 469/4/1/3 and 469/4 at Manickal Village, Nedumangad Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala.

4. Buffer distance of 15m should be maintained from the taluk boundary.

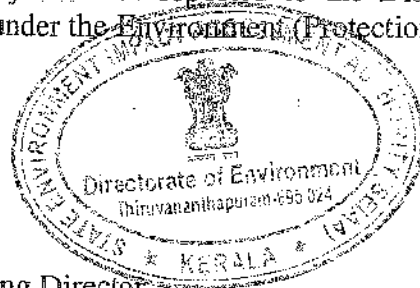
5. The boundary pillars should not be tampered with.

6. In the 34th SELAA held on 31.10.2014 it was decided to grant E.C subject to the new 5 additional general conditions specified against item No. KLA/34.37 (since incorporated in the general conditions and annexed) and the 3 special conditions recommended for by SEAC, on receipt of the authorization by the Directors of Cornerstone Rocks Pvt Ltd to Sri. Phiji Philip to execute the lease deed with M/s Covenant Stones Pvt. Ltd on behalf of the firm. Validity of the E.C will be 5 years

7. Accordingly, the Environmental Clearance under EIA notification 2006 is accorded for the proposed quarry project of M/S Covenant Stones Pvt. Ltd, Manickal Village, Nedumangad Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala in Sy. Nos. 29/2, 29/3 part and 30/4 part at Thekkada Village & in Sy. Nos. 470, 472/4/1, 474/1, 474/1-1, 474/1/2, 472/5, 472/6, 469/4/3/4, 469/4/3/3, 469/4/2, 469/4/1/1, 469/4/1/2, 469/4/1/3 and 469/4 at Manickal Village, Nedumangad Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala subject

the mining features, Environmental Management Plans as undertaken in the EMP submitted to A which will form part of this proceedings as if incorporated herein, and the following additional specific conditions, and the general conditions on mining of minor mineral appended hereto:

1. Western most debris mantled sloping area merging with the lower flat land is very steep and quarrying must be avoided.
2. A minimum buffer distance of 250 m to be maintained from Thampuram Para on the north.
3. Quarrying shall be limited to Sy. Nos. 29/2, 29/3 part and 30/4 part at Thekkada Village & in Sy. Nos. 470, 472/4/1, 474/1, 474/1-1, 474/1/2, 472/5, 472/6, 469/4/3/4, 469/4/3/3, 469/4/2, 469/4/1/1, 469/4/1/2, 469/4/1/3 and 469/4 at Manickal Village, Nedumangad Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala.
4. Buffer distance of 15m should be maintained from the taluk boundary.
5. The boundary pillars should not be tampered with.
8. Validity of this Environmental clearance will be 5 years from 1-10-2014 provided that it will be subject to review at any stage earlier, if any of the conditions in the E.C. is violated, or not duly complied with.
- I. Compliance of the conditions herein will be monitored by the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change or its agencies and also by the Regional office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India, Bangalore.
- II. Necessary assistance for entry and inspection should be provided by the project proponent and those who are engaged or entrusted by him to the staff for inspection or monitoring.
- III. Instances of violation if any shall be reported to the District Collector, Thiruvananthapuram District to take legal action under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986.



For Member Secretary (SEIAA)

To

Mr. Sabu Joseph, Managing Director
M/S COVENANT STONES PVT. LTD,
Mukkola, Shop No. 237,
Nettayam P.O

Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala

Copy to:

1. MoEF Regional Office, Southern Zone, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wing, II Block Koramangala, Bangalore-560034
2. The Addl. Chief Secretary to Government, Environment Dept., Government of Kerala
3. The District Collector, Thiruvananthapuram District
4. The Director, Dept. of Environment and Climate Change, Govt. of Kerala, Tvm - 24.
5. The Director, Mining and Geology Department, Government of Kerala
6. The Secretary, Nedumanad Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala
7. Chairman SEIAA Kerala
8. Website
9. Stock file
10. O/c


STATE ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY KERALA

GENERAL CONDITIONS (for mining projects)

- (i) Rain Water Harvesting facility should be installed as per the prevailing provisions of KMBR / KPBR, unless otherwise specified.
- (ii) Environment Monitoring Cell as agreed under the affidavit filed by the proponent should be formed and made functional.
- (iii) Suitable avenue trees should be planted along either side of the tarred road and open parking areas, if any, including of approach road and internal roads.
- (iv) Maximum possible solar energy generation and utilization shall be ensured as an essential part of the project.
- (v) Sprinklers shall be installed and used in the project site to contain dust emissions.
- (vi) Eco-restoration including the mine closure plan shall be done at the own cost of the project proponent.
- (vii) At least 10 percent out of the total excavated pit area should be retained as water storage areas and the remaining area should be reclaimed with stacked dumpings and overburden and planted with indigenous plant species that are eco-friendly.
- (viii) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agreed upon by the proponent should be implemented.
- (ix) The lease area shall be fenced off with barbed wires to a minimum height of 4ft around, before starting of mine.
- (x) Warning alarms indicating the time of blasting (to be done at specific timings) has to be arranged as per stipulations of Explosive Department.
- (xi) Control measures on noise and vibration prescribed by KSPCB should be implemented.
- (xii) Quarrying activities should be limited to day time as per KSPCB guidelines.
- (xiii) Blasting should be done in a controlled manner as specified by the regulations of Explosives Department or any other concerned agency.
- (xiv) A licensed person should supervise/ control the blasting operations.
- (xv) Access roads to the quarry shall be tarred to contain dust emissions that may arise during transportation of materials.
- (xvi) Overburden materials should be managed within the site and the old quarries, if any, should be reclaimed and restored.
- (xvii) Height of benches should not exceed 5 m and width should not be less than 5 m.
- (xviii) Mats to reduce fly rock blast to a maximum of 10 PPV should be provided.
- (xix) Maximum depth of mining from general ground level at site shall not exceed 10m
- (xx) No mining operations should be carried out at places having a slope greater than 45°.
- (xxi) Acoustic enclosures should have been provided to reduce sound amplifications in addition to the provisions of green belt and hollow brick envelop for crushers so that the noise level is kept within prescribed standards given by KSPCB.
- (xxii) The workers on the site should be provided with the required protective equipment such as ear muffs, helmet, etc.
- (xxiii) Garland drains with clarifiers to be provided in the lower slopes around the core area to channelize storm water.
- (xxiv) The transportation of minerals should be done in covered trucks to contain dust emissions.
- (xxv) The proponent should plant trees at least 5 times of the loss that has been occurred while clearing the land for the project.
- (xxvi) Disposal of spent oil from diesel engines should be as specified under relevant Rules/ Regulations.
- (xxvii) Explosives should be stored in magazines in isolated place specified and approved by the Explosives Department.
- (xxviii) A minimum buffer distance of 100m from the boundary of the quarry to the nearest dwelling unit or other structures, not being any facility for mining shall be provided.
- (xxix) 200 m buffer distance should be maintained from forest boundaries.
- (xxx) Consent from Kerala State Pollution Control Board under Water and Air Act(s) should be obtained before initiating activity.
- (xxxi) All other statutory clearances should be obtained, as applicable, by project proponents from the respective

competent authorities including that for blasting and storage of explosives.

- (xii) In the case of any change(s) in the scope of the project, the project would require a fresh appraisal by the Authority.
- (xxiii) The Authority reserves the right to add additional safeguard measures subsequently, if found necessary, and to take action including revoking of the environment clearance under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to ensure effective implementation of the suggested safeguard measures in a time bound and satisfactory manner.
- (xxiv) The stipulations by Statutory Authorities under different Acts and Notifications should be complied with, including the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Public Liability (Insurance) Act, 1991 and EIA Notification, 2006.
- (xxv) The project proponent should advertise in at least two local newspapers widely circulated in the region, one of which (both the advertisement and the newspaper) shall be in the vernacular language informing that the project has been accorded Environmental Clearance and copies of clearance letters are available with the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Govt. of Kerala and may also be seen on the website of the Authority at www.seiaakerala.org. The advertisement should be made within 10 days from the date of receipt of the Clearance letter and a copy of the same signed in all pages should be forwarded to the office of this Authority as confirmation.
- (xxvi) A copy of the clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to concerned Grama Panchayat/ District Panchayat/ Municipality/ Corporation/ Urban Local Body and also to the Local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions / representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal. The Environmental Clearance shall also be put on the website of the company by the proponent.
- (xxvii) The proponent shall submit half yearly reports on the status of compliance of the stipulated EC conditions including results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) and upload the status of compliance of the stipulated EC conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall simultaneously be sent to the respective Regional Office of MoEF, Govt. of India and also to the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change, Govt. of Kerala.
- (xxviii) The details of Environmental Clearance should be prominently displayed in a metallic board of 3 ft x 3 ft with green background and yellow letters of Times New Roman font of size of not less than 40. Sign board with extent of lease area and boundaries shall be depicted at the entrance of the quarry, visible to the public
- (xxix) The proponent should provide notarized affidavit (indicating the number and date of Environmental Clearance proceedings) that all the conditions stipulated in the EC shall be scrupulously followed.
- (xi) The above conditions shall prevail notwithstanding anything to the contrary, in consistent, or simplified, contained in any other permit, license or consent given by any other authority for the same project


Member Secretary, SEIAA Kerala

