



सत्यमेव जयते

File No.: AP MIN EC NE 10 2024 503
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Issued by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority(SEIAA),
ANDHRA PRADESH)



Dated 23/11/2024



To,

DEVISINGH HANUMANSINGH
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ROYELTY INSPECTOR O/o DISTRICT MINS AND GEOLOGY OFFICER SPSR NELLORE,
Nellore, SPSR NELLORE, ANDHRA PRADESH, 524001
dmgosandap@gmail.com

Subject: Grant of prior Environmental Clearance (EC) to the proposed Mining Project under the provisions of EIA Notification 2006-regarding

Sir/Madam,

This is in reference to your application submitted to SEIAA vide proposal number SIA/AP/MIN/499824/2024 dated 16/10/2024 for grant of prior Environmental Clearance (EC) to the project under the provision of the EIA Notification 2006-and as amended thereof.

2. The particulars of the proposal are as below :

(i) EC Identification No.	EC24B0107AP5720605N
(ii) File No.	AP MIN EC NE 10 2024 503
(iii) Clearance Type	Fresh EC
(iv) Category	B1
(v) Project/Activity Included Schedule No.	1(a) Mining of minerals
(vii) Name of Project	Pallipadu - V Sand Reach
(ix) Location of Project (District, State)	SPSR NELLORE, ANDHRA PRADESH
(x) Issuing Authority	SEIAA
(xii) Applicability of General Conditions	No

N/A



State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)

Andhra Pradesh

Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,

Government of India

Dr.YSRParyavaranBhavan, APIIC Colony Road,
Gurunanak Colony, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada-520007.

REGD.POSTWITH ACK.DUE

OrderNo.SEIAA/AP/MIN/EC/NE/10/2024/503

Sub : SEIAA, A.P. – 7.0 Ha Ordinary Sand Mine proposed in the name of the District Mines & Geology Officer, SPSR Nellore of Pallipadu - V Sand Reach of Pallipadu Village, Indukurupeta Mandal, SPSR Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh – Environmental Clearance – Issued- Reg.

- I. This has reference to your application submitted through online on 16.10.2024 (SIA/AP/MIN/499824/2024), seeking Environmental Clearance for the proposed mine of 7.0 Ha Ordinary Sand Mine proposed in the name of the District Mines & Geology Officer, SPSR Nellore District over the Penna River in Pallipadu - V Sand Reach of Pallipadu Village, Indukurupeta Village, Atmakuru Mandal, SPSR Nellore District Andhra Pradesh. It was reported that the nearest human habitation viz., Vegurupallipalem (V) is existing at a distance of about 0.89 kms from the mine lease area and the project requires 9.2 KLD of water. It was noted that the capital investment of the project is Rs.20.0 Lakhs and capacity of the project is as follows:

Mining of Ordinary Sand Mine – 70,000 m³/annum 1,05,000 TPA in 7.0 Ha

- II. The location of the sand mine as per the mining plan is as follows:

BP. No	North Latitude	East Longitude
1	14°31'31.78"N	80°03'38.23"E
2	14°31'34.35"N	80°03'33.86"E
3	14°31'24.43"N	80°03'23.80"E
4	14°31'21.19"N	80°03'27.29"E

- III. The proposal comes under category 'B2'. The proposed project falls under Item No.1(a) of the schedule of the EIA Notification 2006-(i) Mining of Minerals (≤ 250 Ha of mining lease area in respect of non-coal mine lease).

The proposal has been examined and processed in accordance with EIA Notification, 2006 and its amendments thereof; The State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) examined the application, in its meetings held on **06.11.2024**.

Minutes of the SEAC Meeting:-

Category: B2 at par with B1.

The project proposal is for mining Ordinary Sand in an area of 7.0 Ha with a proposed production quantity of Ordinary Sand Mine 70,000 m³/annum with a condition that the total production during a scheme should be limited to the approved quantity as per Mining plan.

The proposed project falls under Item No. 1(a) of the schedule of the EIA Notification 2006 and its amendments thereof Mining of minerals (≤ 250 ha of mining lease area in respect of non-coal mine lease).

The District Mines and Geology Officer and their consultant M/s. SV Environ labs have attended the meeting and presented their proposal. The SEAC Committee noted that:

- a. The Department of Mines and Geology submitted DSR of **SPSR Nellore** District. The District Collector and Chairman, DLSC has identified the subject mine through Joint inspection Committee of the District. The Department of Mines & Geology issued letter of intent (LoI) dt.07.02.2024 wherein it is mentioned as follows: During 18th District Level Sand Committee meeting held on 12.01..2024 the DLSC has resolved to accept the inspection reports of the Technical Committee for **PALLIPADU-V SAND REACH** over an area of **7.0 Ha** with proposed production quantity of Ordinary Sand Mine 70,000 m³/annum
- b. The Joint inspection was conducted and report was submitted on 10.01.2024.
- c. The District Mines and Geology Officer, vide order dt. 07.03.2024 issued proceedings to the royalty inspector for obtaining Statutory clearance for obtaining Environmental clearance to the subject mine.
- d. As per the cluster letter dated: 07.03.2024 issued by the Mines Department, there are no existing leases within the radius of 500 mtrs area and the total applicable cluster area is > 5.0Ha.
- e. The project proponent has obtained Standard TOR with public hearing letter on 04.07.2024 and public hearing was held on 28.08.2024.
- f. Issues raised during the public hearing: Employment issues, facing drinking water problems, floods issues, road damages, Underground water issues, facing inundation problems, Dust pollution and Agricultural filed issues raised during the public hearing.
- g. The base line data was collected from December 2023 to February 2024 and the predominant wind direction is observed to be ENE to WSW. The maximum concentration of SPM(PM10) is observed to be 67.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The incremental

concentration is 4.8 µg/m³ and GLC of SPM will fall 0.5 KM towards SW direction.

- h. As per the approved mining plan dt. 07.03.2024 the total available mineral reserves are 70000m³ (As per WALTA Act only 1m sand excavation is permitted) after mined quantity of extracted pit in the mine and the entire quantity is proposed to be excavated within the period of 1 year. The proponent proposed semi mechanized mining.
- i. Hon'ble NGT in its order dated 23.03.2023 in O.A. No. 152 of 2021 (SZ) directed SEIAA, Andhra Pradesh to verify all the Environmental Clearances granted for sand mining under 'B2' Category if permission has been granted for semi-mechanised or mechanised mining and re-examine the proposal either under 'B2' category (manual mining) or 'B1' Category (if semi mechanised or mechanised mining is sought) following the prescribed procedures.
- j. The lease holder informed that they have allocated Rs. 7.0 Lakhs as capital cost and Rs. 4.99 Lakhs as a recurring cost budget for the EMP. The project proponent volunteered to provide 2 Computers to **Pallipadu** Village under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity.
- k. The SEAC is made recommendation without any prejudice to the Hon'ble NGT/any other court orders. The applicant shall abide by the Hon'ble NGT / Other court orders, if any, in future also.

The Committee after examining the project proposals, presentations, MoEF&CC Notifications &Oms and detailed deliberations, recommended to issue Environmental clearance for the mining of Ordinary Sand with the maximum production quantity of 70,000 m³/annum for one-year period with **Open cast semi mechanized method** of mining with the following conditions:

1. There shall be no change in the production quantities approved in Environment Clearance order.
2. All the conditions and guidelines issued by MoEF&CC, Govt of India in respect of sand mining shall be followed.
3. The directions issued by the Hon'ble NGT, Southern Zone, Chennai in the matter of O.A.No. 47 of 2016 (SZ) & 177 of 2016 (SZ), Order dated:14.12.2020 shall be scrupulously followed.
4. The standard environmental conditions for sand mining specified in the Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines, issued by MoEF&CC, Govt of India, 2016 shall be followed. The mine operator shall not carry mining more than 1 meter depth in compliance with AP WALTA Act.
5. The lease holder shall follow the procedures mentioned in Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining January, 2020.

6. The lease holder shall comply with the recommendation and suggestion made by the High-Power Committee as applicable.
7. The mining activities on river beds are allowed strictly as per the provisions of river / stream bed mining policy.
8. The ramp (i.e., approach road) shall be removed after sand mining is completed.
9. **Under any circumstance under water sand mining shall not be carried out.**
10. The committee directed the lease holder that they shall not carryout river bed mining operation in monsoon period.
11. **No sand mining shall be done during the rainy season.**
12. The lease holder should demarcate boundary with geo-coordinates or geo-fenced to ensure that sand extraction is going on only within the permitted area.
13. The functioning time of quarries/depots shall be 7.00 AM to 6.00 PM. No sand transporting and mining vehicles to be parked inside the quarry/depot site during night time.
14. The vehicles carrying the mined material shall be covered with tarpaulin during vehicular movement.
15. The transportation route should be selected in such a way that the movement of trucks/tippers/tractors from the villages having habitation should be avoided.
16. The lease holder to maintain electronic weighbridges at the appropriate location identified by the district mining officer, in order to ensure that all mined minerals from that particular mine are accounted for before the material is dispatched from the mine. The weighing bridge shall have the provision of CCTV camera and all dispatch from the mine shall be accounted.
17. The lease holder shall keep GPS tracking to the vehicle from source to destination.
18. The lease holder shall not obstruct the river flow, water transport and restoring the riparian rights and instream habitats.
19. The lease holder shall plant the plants all along the river bank/embankment to control the erosion of river bank.
20. The lease holder shall restrict vehicles movement during the peak hours to avoid accidents.
21. The project proponent shall restrict the load of the transport vehicles not more than 21 tons to avoid road damages and dust nuisance to surroundings.
22. The project proponent shall comply with the commitments made during public hearing.

The committee in the appraisal clearly stated that they have examined the Approved Mining Plan, Form-I/II, PFR/DPR and EMP for compliance by the proponent.

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), in its meeting

held on **12.11.2024** examined the proposal and the recommendations of SEAC and decided to accept SEAC recommendations aforesaid for strict compliance by the proponent and to issue EC with a condition that the lease holder shall comply with instructions issued through various Government Orders under AP Sand Policy, 2024., with further conditions that the sand mining proposal (i) Shall not attract the Forest Conservation Act 1980, Wild Life Protection Act,1972; CRZ Notification, 2011; The Eco sensitive areas as notified under EP Act,1986; Critically polluted areas as notified by CPCB and ii) Shall not harm live stock and human beings and disturb their activities. The SEIAA, A.P hereby accords **Environmental Clearance for one year with Open cast semi mechanized method of mining to the Sand Reach** as mentioned at Para No. I under the provisions of the EIA Notification 2006 and its subsequent amendments issued under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 subject to implementation of the following cluster, specific and general conditions:

A. Specific Conditions:

- i. The proposal shall not attract the following Acts & Rules:
 - a. Forest Conservation Act,1980;
 - b. Wild Life (Protection) Act,1972;
 - c. CRZ Notification, 2011;
 - d. The Eco sensitive areas as notified under Environment (Protection) Act,1986;
 - e. Critically polluted areas as notified by CPCB and also shall not harm livestock and human beings and disturb their activities.
- ii. The project proponent shall carryout mining only one meter depth sand from the top with **Open cast semi mechanized method** of mining and no underwater mining is undertaken.
- iii. The lease holders shall allocate Rs.7.0 Lakhs as capital cost and Rs.4.99 Lakhs as a recurring cost budget for the EMP. The project proponent volunteered to provide 2 Computers to **Pallipadu** Village under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity.
- iv. The project proponent shall strengthen the nearby bridges if any and also avoid over loading of trucks.
- v. There shall be no change in the production quantities approved in Environment Clearance order.
- vi. All the conditions and guidelines issued by MoEF&CC, Govt of India in respect of sand mining shall be followed.
- vii. The directions issued by the Honb'le NGT, Southern Zone, Chennai in the matter of O.A.No. 47 of 2016 (SZ) & 177 of 2016 (SZ), Order dated: 14.12.2020 shall be scrupulously followed.
- viii. The standard environmental conditions for sand mining specified in the Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines, issued by MoEF&CC, Govt of India, 2016 shall be followed. The mine operator shall not carry mining more than 1 meter depth in compliance with AP WALTA Act.

- ix. The lease holder shall follow the procedures mentioned in MoEF& CC Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining January, 2020.
- x. The lease holder shall comply with the recommendation and suggestion made by the High Power Committee as applicable.
- xi. The mining activities on river beds are allowed strictly as per the provisions of river / stream bed mining policy as under.
- xii. The ramp (i.e., approach road) shall be removed after sand mining is completed.
- xiii. **Under any circumstance under water sand mining shall not be carried out.**
- xiv. The committee directed the lease holder that they shall not carryout river bed mining operation in monsoon period.
- xv. **No sand mining shall be done during the rainy season.**
- xvi. The lease holder should demarcate boundary with geo-coordinates or geo-fenced to ensure that sand extraction is going on only within the permitted area.
- xvii. The functioning time of quarries/depots shall be from 6.00 AM to 6.00 PM. No sand transporting vehicles to be parked inside the quarry/depot site during night time.
- xviii. The vehicles carrying the mined material shall be covered with tarpaulin during vehicular movement.
- xix. The transportation route should be selected in such a way that the movement of trucks/tippers/tractors from the villages having habitation should be avoided.
- xx. The lease holder shall maintain electronic weighbridges at the appropriate location identified by the district mining officer, in order to ensure that all mined minerals from that particular mine are accounted for before the material is dispatched from the mine. The weighing bridge shall have the provision of CCTV camera and all dispatch from the mine shall be accounted for.
- xxi. The lease holder shall keep GPS tracking to the vehicle carrying sand from source to destination.
- xxii. The lease holder shall not obstruct the river flow, water transport and restore the riparian rights and instream habitats.
- xxiii. The lease holder shall plant the plants all along the river bank/embankment to control the erosion of river bank.
- xxiv. The lease holder shall restrict vehicles movement during the peak hours to avoid accidents.
- xxv. The project proponent shall restrict the load of the transport vehicles not more than 21 tons to avoid road damages and dust nuisance to surroundings.
- xxvi. The project proponent shall comply with the commitments made during public hearing.

- xxvii. The lease holder shall comply with instructions issued through various Government Orders under AP Sand Policy, 2024.
- xxviii. **This EC is valid for a period of 1 year only.**
- xxix. The proponent shall carry mining by scrupulously following conditions stipulated for river sand mining in MoEF O.M .No.J-13012/12/2013-1A-II(I) dated 24.12.2013 and in A.P. WALTA Rules, 2004. The mining plan or permission shall get modified to this extent.
- xxx. No stacking allowed on road side along National Highways.
- xxxi. It shall be ensured that sand mining does not in any way disturb the flow pattern of the river water.
- xxxii. Sand quarrying shall not be carried out in streams within 15 meters or 1/5 of the width of the stream bed from the bank, whichever is more.
- xxxiii. Sand mining shall not be carried out within 500m of any existing structure such as bridges, dams, weirs, ground water extraction structure(s) either for irrigation or drinking water purposes, or any other cross drainage structure.
- xxxiv. Sand mining operations shall not affect the existing sources for irrigation or drinking water or industrial purpose.
- xxxv. Vehicles carrying sand shall not Ply over the flood banks except at crossing points or bridges or on a metal road. The emissions from the vehicles shall be maintained within the emission norms.
- xxxvi. **The depth of the sand mining shall not exceed 1m.** The thickness of the sand in the mining area shall be more than 3m. Regulatory Authority prior concurrence shall be taken for this activity.
- xxxvii. Sand mining shall not be carried out below the ground water table under any circumstances. Regulatory Authority prior concurrence shall be taken for this activity.
- xxxviii. To assess the sand thickness, the Mines & Geology Department shall map out the area establishing the width and depth / thickness of the sand.
- xxxix. Permission from the Competent Authority shall be obtained for drawl of ground water, if any, required for the project.
- xl. The vehicles transporting sand shall not be overloaded. The trucks shall be covered with Tarpaulin.
- xli. Personnel working in the project shall be provided with personnel protection devices such as masks, gloves etc., Regulatory Authority instructions be taken if there are any better alternatives.
- xlii. Transportation of sand from mine lease area shall be done during daytime only.
- xliii. The proponent shall obtain necessary permission from the River Water Conservator.
- xliv. The proponent shall take necessary measures to ensure that there shall not be any adverse impacts on human habitation existing nearby due to mining operations.
- xlv. A separate Environment Management cell with suitable qualified persons shall be setup to implement various environmental protection measures.

- xlvi. Plantation shall be undertaken on either sides of the approach katchapath (through which the vehicles ply) between the bund of the river and the main road by the proponent at his cost.
- xlvii. The proponent shall take appropriate measures to ensure that the GLC shall comply with the revised NAAQ norms notified by MoE&F, GoI on 16.11.2009.
- xlviii. Hydro geological studies in the mine lease area are to be carried out by the Ground Water Department.
- xlix. Regular monitoring of Ground Water levels shall be carried out in and around the mine lease area to assess the quality of the groundwater.

B. Special Conditions:

The project Proponent shall implement the following special conditions so as to mitigate the environment impact of mining activities:-

- i. To submit annual replenishment report certified by an authorized agency. In case the replenishment is lower than the approved rate of production, then the mining activity / production levels shall be decreased / stopped accordingly till the replenishment is completed.
- ii. In River flood plain mining a buffer of 3 meters to be left from the River bank for mining.
- iii. The EC holder shall keep a correct account of quantity of mineral mined out, dispatched from the mine, mode of transport, registration number of vehicle, person in-charge of vehicle and mine plan. This should be produced before officers of Central Government and State for inspection.
- iv. The State / District Level Environment Committee should use technology like Bar Coding, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Web based and ICT enabled services, mobile SMS App etc. to account for weight of mineral being taken out of the lease area and the number of trucks moving out with the mineral.
- v. Restricted working hours. Sand mining operation has to be carried out between 6 am to 6 pm.
- vi. The pollution due to transportation load on the environment will be effectively controlled and water sprinkling will also be done regularly
- vii. No mining lease shall be granted in the forest area without forest clearance in accordance with the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the amendments made there under.

- viii. Protection of turtle and bird habitats shall be ensured.
- ix. The EC holder shall take all possible precautions for the protection of environment and control of pollution.
- x. Mining shall not be undertaken in a mining lease located in 200-500 meter of bridge, 200 meter upstream and Downstream of water supply / irrigation scheme, 100 meters from the edge of National Highway and railway line, 50 meters from a reservoir, canal or building, 25 meter from the edge of State Highway and 10 meters from the edge of other roads except on special exemption by the Sub-Divisional level Joint Inspection Committee.
- xi. Vehicles used for transportation of sand are to be permitted only with of fitness and PUC Certificates.
- xii. Project Proponent shall ensure that the road may not be damaged due to transportation of the mineral; and transport of minerals will be as per IRC Guidelines with respect to complying with traffic congestion and density.
- xiii. Health and safety of workers should be taken care of by the proponent.
- xiv. The Project Proponent shall make arrangement for drinking water, first aid facility (along with species specific anti- venom provisioning) in case of emergency for the workers.
- xv. Project Proponent shall appoint an Occupational Health Specialist for Regular and Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the Project and records maintained; also, Occupational health checkups for workers having some ailments like BP, diabetes, habitual smokers, etc. shall be undertaken once in six months and necessary remedial/preventive measures taken accordingly. Recommendations of National Institute for Labour for ensuring good occupational environment for mine workers would also be adopted.
- xvi. **The lease holder shall comply with the Sustainable sand mining Management Guidelines, 2016 and Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining issued by MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi.**

C. General Conditions:

- i. “Consent to Establish” & “Consent to Operate” shall be obtained from Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board under Air and Water Act to carry out mining.
- ii. No change in mining technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the SEIAA, A.P. No further expansion or modifications in the

mine shall be carried out without prior approval of the SEIAA, AP/ MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi, as applicable.

- iii. The half-yearly compliance reports in respect of the terms and conditions stipulated in this order & monitoring reports shall be uploaded in the website of the project periodically. It shall simultaneously be submitted in hard and soft copies to the SEIAA, A.P., District Collector and Ministry's Regional office, Vijayawada on 1st June and 1st December of each calendar year.
- iv. Officials from the Regional Office of MoEF&CC, Vijayawada / The SEIAA, Andhra Pradesh through the Regional Offices of Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board who would be monitoring the implementation of environmental safeguards should be given full co-operation, facilities and documents/data by the project proponents during their inspection. A complete set of all the documents shall be submitted to the CCF, Regional Office to MOEF&CC, Vijayawada.
- v. Occupational health surveillance program of the workers should be undertaken periodically to observe any contractions due to exposure to dust and take corrective measures, if needed in consultation with concerned Regulatory Authority.
- vi. The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures (**Capital cost Rs.5.0 Lakhs and Recurring cost Rs.4.99Lakhs/annum**) should be kept in separate account and should not be diverted for other purpose. Year wise expenditure should be reported to the Ministry and its Regional Office located at Vijayawada.
- vii. At least 2% of the total project cost shall be allocated for Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) and item-wise details along with time bound action plan shall be prepared in accordance to the MoEF&CC's office Memorandum No.F.No.22-65/2017- IA.III, dated.01.05.2018 and submit to the SEIAA, A.P and Ministry's Regional Office, Vijayawada.
- viii. The project proponent shall submit the copies of the environmental clearance to the Heads of local bodies, Panchayats and Municipal Bodies in addition to the relevant offices of the Government who in turn has to display the same for 30 days from the date of receipt.
- ix. The project authorities should advertise at least in two local newspapers widely circulated, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned, within 7 days of the issue of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and a copy of the clearance letter is available with the State Pollution Control Board and SEIAA,A.P.

- x. The SEIAA or any other competent authority may alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.
- xi. The proponent shall obtain all other mandatory clearances from respective departments.
- xii. Any appeal against this Environmental Clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act,2010.
- xiii. Concealing the factual data or failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act,1986.
- xiv. The SEIAA may revoke or suspend the order, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory. The SEIAA reserves the right to alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.
- xv. The above conditions will be enforced inter-alia, under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their subsequent amendments and Rules.

**MEMBER SECRETARY,
SEIAA, A.P.**

**MEMBER,
SEIAA, A.P.**

**CHAIRMAN,
SEIAA, A.P.**

To

The Royalty Inspector,
O/o The District Mines & Geology Office, Nellore
SPSR Nellore District,
Andhra Pradesh-524001.

Copy to:

1. The Chairman, SEAC, A.P. for kind information.
2. The Member Secretary, APPCB for kind information.
3. The EE, RO: Nellore, APPCB for information.
4. The Regional Officer, MoEF&CC, GOI Vijayawada for kind information.

5. The Secretary, MoEF&CC, GOI New Delhi for kind information.
6. Monitoring cell, MoEF&CC, GOI, New Delhi for kind information.
7. The District Collector, SPSR Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh for kind information.

