



File No.: EC-01(94)/2024

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Issued by the State Environment Impact Assessment
Authority(SEIAA), UTTARAKHAND)



Dated 11/02/2025



To,

MANOJ JOSHI
MANOJ JOSHI

Village-Bhingari, Tehsil- Gangolihat, District- Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand , Bhingari , PITHORAGARH,
UTTARAKHAND, 262501
bhingadisoapstone75@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/UK/MIN/515389/2024 dated 20/12/2024 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.	EC24B0000UK5766003N
(ii) File No.	EC-01(94)/2024
(iii) Clearance Type	Fresh EC
(iv) Category	B1
(v) Project/Activity Included Schedule No.	1(a) Mining of minerals
(vii) Name of Project	Reappraisal of DEIAA EC-Bhingari Soapstone Mining Lease
(ix) Location of Project (District, State)	PITHORAGARH, UTTARAKHAND
(x) Issuing Authority	SEIAA
(xii) Applicability of General Conditions	No

3. In view of the particulars given in the Para 1 above, the project proposal interalia including Form-2(Part A, B and C)/ EIA & EMP Reports were submitted to the SEIAA for an appraisal by the SEIAA under the provision of EIA notification 2006 and its subsequent amendments.

4. The above-mentioned proposal has been considered by SEIAA in the meeting held on 29/01/2025. The minutes of the meeting and all the project documents are available on PARIVESH portal which can be accessed from the

PARIVESH portal by scanning the QR Code above. Brief description of the project is as under: Raw Material for various industries and Direct and Indirect Employment

5. Details of the minerals to be mined along with production capacity and the brief on the salient features of the project as submitted by the project proponent in Form 1 (Part A and B) in the reports and as presented during SEIAA are annexed to this EC as Annexure (1).
6. The SEIAA, in its meeting held on 29/01/2025, based on information submitted viz: Form 1 (Part A, B and C), EIA/EMP report etc & clarifications provided by the project proponent and after detailed deliberations on all technical aspects and public hearing issues and compliance thereto furnished by the Project Proponent, recommended the proposal for grant of Environment Clearance under the provision of EIA Notification, 2006 and as amended thereof subject to stipulation of Specific and Standard EC conditions as detailed in the point below.
7. The SEIAA has examined the proposal in accordance with the provisions contained in the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 & further amendments thereto and based on the recommendations of the SEIAA hereby accords Environment Clearance for the instant proposal to M/s. MANOJ JOSHI under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and as amended thereof subject to compliance of the Specific and Standard EC conditions as given in Annexure (2)
8. The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions, if found necessary.
9. The Environmental Clearance to the aforementioned project is under provisions of EIA Notification, 2006. It does not tantamount to approvals/consent/permissions etc. required to be obtained under any other Act/Rule/regulation. The Project Proponent is under obligation to obtain approvals /clearances under any other Acts/ Regulations or Statutes, as applicable, to the project.
10. The PP is under obligation to implement commitments made in the Environment Management Plan, which forms part of this EC.
11. Validity of EC is upto 20/12/2024 from which the prior environmental clearance is granted by the regulatory authority.
12. General Instructions:
 1. The project proponent shall prominently advertise it at least in two local newspapers of the District or State, of which one shall be in the vernacular language within seven days indicating that the project has been accorded environment clearance and the details of SEIAA website where it is displayed.
 2. The copies of the environmental clearance shall be submitted by the project proponents to the Heads of local bodies, Panchayats and Municipal Bodies in addition to the relevant offices of the Government who in turn must display the same for 30 days from the date of receipt.
 3. The project proponent shall have a well laid down environmental policy duly approved by the Board of Directors (in case of Company) or competent authority, duly prescribing standard operating procedures to have proper checks and balances and to bring into focus any infringements/deviation/violation of the environmental / forest / wildlife norms / conditions.
 4. Action plan for implementing EMP and environmental conditions along with responsibility matrix of the project proponent (during construction phase) and authorized entity mandated with compliance of conditions (during operational phase) shall be prepared. The year wise funds earmarked for environmental protection measures shall be kept in separate account and not to be diverted for any other purpose. Six monthly progress of implementation of action plan shall be reported to the Ministry/Regional Office along with the Six-Monthly Compliance Report.
 5. Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated data may result in revocation of this environmental clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 6. The Regional Office of this SEIAA shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer (s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data / information/monitoring reports.

7. Any appeal against this EC 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.

13. This issue with an approval of the Competent Authority.

Copy To

N/A

Annexure 1

Standard EC Conditions for (Mining of minerals)

1. Statutory Compliance

S. No	EC Conditions
1.1	The project proponent shall obtain clearance from the National Board for Wildlife, if applicable.

Additional EC Conditions

1. Pre –Operation

2. The project proponent should advertise with basic details at least in two widely circulated local newspapers, within seven (7) days of the receipt of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Dehradun and a copy of the same be sent to the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India located at 25 Subhash, Road Dehradun.

3. The legal status of the mining lease area shall remain unchanged and the Environment Clearance shall remain co-terminus with lease period. The mined lease area shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.

4. The mining/extraction of soapstone shall not be done without approved mine plan from designated authority. The mine plan should be revised every 5 years and no fresh mine plan shall be prepared without site inspection by designated authority. A copy of this shall be submitted to SEIAA.

5. The boundary of the mined lease area shall be demarcated on ground by erecting pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, DGPS coordinates, forward and back bearing, and distance from adjoining pillars etc. This demarcation will be ensured by the Revenue Department. A bench mark will be established to monitor depth of the mining. A safety zone of 7.5 mt (surrounding the mine site) shall be left free from mining.

6. The mining area shall be properly fenced to avoid any inadvertent entry into the mining pit. There will be one entry gate of mine which will be manual and barricade under supervision of watch man.

7. The project proponent should submit route map before start of the work to this office. There shall be no change in the route after the submission. This shall be done within one month.

8. Socio-economic study shall be done in detail in the 10 km radius area of the mine. The questioners should be site specific and shall be repeated after three years. The indicator, sample etc for the study shall be clearly marked this shall be done in next three months and submitted to SEIAA, Uttarakhand.

9. The flora of core area is in the 500 mt radius of the mine shall be again noted and the report shall be submitted to SEIAA within three months.

10. In the plantation activity plants shall be planted on the advice of local DFO. Preference will be to shrubs and grasses.

11. Disaster management plan shall be made and submitted to SEIAA, Adequate provision of fund shall be given. This plan shall be submitted within three months.

12. In the 7.5 meter width safety zone local shrubs like berberis agave spp, mulberry will be planted at the 1.5 mt spacing. Minimum two rows will be planted around the mine.

2. General Conditions

16. The project proponent shall ensure proper collection, treatment and disposal of mule excrete. Rest room for mule shall be provided.

3- Conditions for operation phase

1. Bore core hole drilling shall be carried out upto adequate depth to ascertain the grade of material. This shall be carried out in this first year and report should be submitted to SEIAA along with six monthly compliance report.
2. **Overall pit slope shall not be more than 30° and bench slope shall not exceed 68°.**
3. **Gradient of haul road shall be 1:16.**
4. **10 mt barrier zone should be done on both side of nalla, depression passing through the area and shall be restricted zone for mining.**
5. **Gravity retaining wall width 1.5 m and 1.0 mt height shall also be erected at the base of back field pit and at the base and side of dump and all along the nalla to control siltation into nallah.**
6. **Maintenance and cleaning of check dam shall be carried out regularly.'**
7. **The over burden/inter burden will be dumped separately towards slope of working pit secured with gravity retaining wall.**
8. **Hanging of loose boulders shall be removed from mine faces.**
9. The storage of mined material should be done in the leased area only. The mined material should be covered by tarpauline.
10. The mule dung should be cleared and shall be put in separate pits and should be covered a layer of soil. Care shall be taken that there shall be no leaching from this site.
11. The mining shall be carried out by **as per approved mine plan** without adopting drilling and blasting operation. The use of hand held mechanically driven equipment is permitted. The use of any electrically driven machinery shall remain prohibited and only hand held tools shall be used for extraction of the mineral.
12. Soapstone mining shall be carried out during sunrise to sunset period only. It shall not involve felling of trees and clearance of vegetation. There shall be no permanent construction at the site except temporary erection of first aid room, office, store, drinking water shed, rest shelter etc.
13. The process of mining and quantity of extractable mineral and subsequently progressive mine closure shall be as per the approved mine plan. The mining operation shall be carried out from as per the approved mine plan by formation of benching pattern. The maximum height of benches shall not exceed 1.5 mt and ultimate pit slope shall be kept as per the approved mining plan.
14. The maximum permissible depth for mining of soapstone shall not exceed 6 meters or depth of ground water table whichever is less. During first five years of mining lease the depth of mining shall not exceed 3 meters. **Mining beyond 6 meters will be considered after site visit by SEAC.**
15. Extraction of minor mineral is permitted from 1st October of every year to 15th June of the subsequent year. It shall be ensured that no mining activity is carried out during the monsoon season.
16. Reclamation of the mine lease area shall be through back filling, stabilization and cultivation. The waste and top soil generated during mining shall be temporarily stacked in external dump which will be subsequently vacated and back filled in mined out pits. The waste generated in the area will be backfilled during rains and land made suitable for cultivation. Back filling shall be done in a retreating manner from as per the approved mine plan. Mining activity and back filling shall be done simultaneously once space is available. External dumps shall be made in one corner of the area.
17. No disturbance to natural drainage system around the mining lease area shall be done. No mixing of wastes is allowed. The dump site shall be kept away from the nearby nallahs/water bodies and maintained at a distance of at least 100 meters. The external dump shall be protected against slide/slip by adopting suitable mechanical and vegetative measures. Proponent should construct a retaining wall, along the nallah side, with suitable height to protect soil erosion. The construction of toe wall, having width and height 1 meter check dam and planting of grass species/soil binding dwarf species in dump yard shall be done.
18. The project proponent shall undertake transportation of mineral from pit head to read head manually or by mule. Further it shall strictly adhere to the norms of Transport Department in refraining from use of polluting and less fuel-efficient vehicles for transporting extracted minerals to final destination. There shall be no over loading of vehicles as against standard norms fixed by Central Government/State Government/Hon'ble Courts from time to time.
19. The project proponent shall regulate and maintain record of the quantity of soapstone extracted during a season. The monitoring shall be ensured by Mines Department/District Administration from time to time. They shall use the path as given in the project.
20. Data on ambient air quality (RPM, SPM, SO₂, NO₂) should regularly submitted to SEIAA, Regional office MOEF&CC subhash road, Dehradun and the UKPCB once in six months.
21. The transportation of the materials shall be limited to day hours only.
22. The proponent shall erect eco-friendly mobile toilets for the workforce at site and shall ensure disposal of solid waste as per the existing provisions/rules/guidelines.

24. The project proponent shall follow all safety measures for labour force engaged in accordance with relevant Acts/Rules.

25. The project proponent shall prepare the plan of mining in conformity with the mine lease conditions and the Rules prescribed in this regard thereby clearly delineating the 'No Work Zone' in the mine lease area i.e. at least 100 mt distance from Nallahs/Water Bodies, bridges, educational institution or structures of historical importance.

26. Effective safeguard measures, such as regular water sprinkling shall be carried out in critical areas prone to air pollution and having high levels of particulate matter such as loading and unloading point and all transfer points. It shall be ensured that the Ambient Air Quality parameters conform to the norms prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board in this regard.

27. The project proponent shall provide protective respiratory devices to workers working in dusty areas and they shall also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects. Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the project shall be carried out and records maintained.

28. The project proponent shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project

29. Project proponent will strictly comply with EMP/EIA.

30. Project proponent will have to submit EMP/EIA report to Mining Department (Lessee) and Pollution Control Board before getting work order/Consent to Established or Operate.

31. The project proponent shall submit half yearly compliance report of stipulated conditions of Environment Clearance in soft copy through PARIVESH PORTAL given link: <https://parivesh.nic.in>.

4- Entire Operation

3. The dump site shall be kept away from the nearby nallahs/water bodies and maintained at a distance of at least 100 meters. The external dump shall be protected against slide/slip by adopting suitable mechanical and vegetative measures. The construction of toe wall, check dam and planting of grass species/soil binding dwarf species in dump yard shall be done as given in mining plan.

4. The project proponent shall undertake transportation of mineral from pit head to road head manually or by mule. Further it shall strictly adhere to the norms of Transport Department in refraining from use of polluting and less fuel-efficient vehicles for transporting extracted minerals to final destination. There shall be no over loading of vehicles as against standard norms fixed by Central Government/State Government/Hon'ble Courts from time to time. There shall be no change in transport route without the approval of SEIAA, Uttarakhand.

5. The project proponent shall regulate and maintain record of the quantity of Soapstone extracted during a season. The monitoring shall be ensured by Mines Department/District Administration from time to time.

6. There shall be no labour camp in the mining lease area for the labour engaged in mining of Soapstone. The labour engaged in mining shall be provided free fuel wood/alternate source of energy to avoid any pressure on adjoining forest land.

7. The project proponent shall formulate a transparent and unbiased procedure for engagement of labourers for sustainable extraction of the minerals from the mining lease area. The project proponent shall ensure that maximum local labour be engaged and hence employment opportunity provided. The project proponent shall follow all safety measures for labour force engaged in accordance with relevant Acts/Rules.

12. The ministry or any other competent authority may alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of Environment Protection.

13. Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated information/data and failure to comply with of any conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

14. If it is found that if conditions laid down by the Authority are violated, the Authority may suspend or cancel this Environmental Clearance.

5- Specific Conditions:- (To be followed by Director Industry, Geology and Mining Unit, Govt. of Uttarakhand).

1. Mining and Geology department of the State Government should recalculate the maximum production levels and inform the Authority accordingly.

Annexure 2

Details of the Project

S. No.	Particulars	Details	
a.	Details of the Project	Reappraisal of DEIAA EC-Bhingari Soapstone Mining Lease	
b.	Latitude and Longitude of the project site	29.75416802155355,79.94986957379115 29.75818890665442,79.95282600367972	
c.	Land Requirement (in Ha) of the project or activity	Nature of Land involved	Area in Ha
		Non-Forest Land (A)	0
		Forest Land (B)	
		Total Land (A+B)	4.463
d.	Date of Public Consultation	Public consultation for the project was held on	
e.	Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) involvement	NO	
f.	Project Cost (in lacs)	35	
g.	EMP Cost (in lacs)	14	
h.	Employment Details		

Details of Minerals Products & By-products

Name of the Mineral to be mined	Classification of mineral [Major/Minor]	Production capacity in MTPA	Remarks
Soapstone	Minor	13661.0	Production Capacity 13,661 TPA

राज्य स्तर पर्यावरण समाघात निर्धारण प्राधिकरण, उत्तराखण्ड, "गौरादेवी पर्यावरण भवन, तृतीय तल, 46-बी, आई.टी. पार्क, सहस्रधारा रोड, देहरादून"

(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली द्वारा गठित)

दूरभाष: 0135-2976159

ईमेल: seiaa.seac.uk@gmail.com



STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT
ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY UTTARAKHAND

State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, "Gauradevi Paryavaran Bhawan, Third Floor, 46-B I.T. Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun"

(Constituted by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Government of India.)

Phone No-0135-2976159

Email- seiaa.seac.uk@gmail.com

E.C.No- 371 -01(94)/2024

To,

Dated- 10 - 2 -2025

Sh. Manoj Kumar Joshi S/o Sh. Gireesh Chandra Joshi,
Village-Bhingari, Tehsil- Gangolihat, District- Pithoragarh.

Sub: Environmental Clearance under EIA notification dated 14.09.2006 for Re-Appraisal of existing Soapstone mining at Village- Bhingari, Tehsil- Gangolihat, District-Pithoragarh. (4.463 Ha.).

Kindly take reference to your online proposal No SIA/UK/MIN/515389/2024 submitted to SEIAA Uttarakhand regarding aforementioned subject. The details about the project site and proposal for EC as per the documents submitted by the project proponent is as under:-

S.No.	Parameters	Description																																																																														
1.	Name of the Project Proponent	Sh. Manoj Kumar Joshi																																																																														
2.	Registered Address	Village- Bhingari, Tehsil- Gangolihat, District-Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand																																																																														
3.	Full correspondence address of proponent and mobile no.	Village- Bhingari, Tehsil- Gangolihat, District-Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand																																																																														
4.	Name of Project	Bhingari Soapstone Mining Project proposed by Manoj Kumar Joshi																																																																														
5.	Project Location (Plot.Khasra/Gata No.)	Khet no- 1693 M0, 1694, 1695, etc,																																																																														
6.	Name of Village	Village- Bhingari, Tehsil- Gangolihat, District-Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand																																																																														
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8.	District	Pithoragarh																																																																														
9.	State	Uttarakhand																																																																														
10.	Name of Minor Mineral	Soapstone																																																																														
11.	Sanctioned Lease Area (in Ha.)	4.463 Hectare																																																																														
12.	Max. & Min mRL within lease area	1456.50mRL to 1591.50mRL																																																																														
13.	Pillar Coordinates (Verified by DMO)	35 Number of Pillar Coordinates <table> <tr> <th>Pillar No.</th><th>Latitude</th><th>Longitude</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>29°45'19.79"N</td><td>79°57'3.33"E</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>29°45'17.04"N</td><td>79°57'4.18"E</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>29°45'14.96"N</td><td>79°57'3.41"E</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>29°45'15.44"N</td><td>79°57'6.08"E</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>29°45'16.35"N</td><td>79°57'6.68"E</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>29°45'15.36"N</td><td>79°57'7.00"E</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>29°45'15.46"N</td><td>79°57'9.37"E</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>29°45'16.29"N</td><td>79°57'9.69"E</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>29°45'17.40"N</td><td>79°57'7.71"E</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>29°45'18.30"N</td><td>79°57'10.15"E</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>29°45'18.97"N</td><td>79°57'9.75"E</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>29°45'19.67"N</td><td>79°57'7.55"E</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>29°45'22.02"N</td><td>79°57'7.33"E</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>29°45'22.83"N</td><td>79°57'6.57"E</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>29°45'22.73"N</td><td>79°57'5.76"E</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>29°45'23.35"N</td><td>79°57'5.99"E</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>29°45'24.21"N</td><td>79°57'5.21"E</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>29°45'25.18"N</td><td>79°57'4.39"E</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>29°45'25.13"N</td><td>79°57'2.41"E</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>29°45'26.16"N</td><td>79°57'3.01"E</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>29°45'27.80"N</td><td>79°57'1.93"E</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>29°45'27.33"N</td><td>79°57'3.43"E</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>29°45'27.93"N</td><td>79°57'4.21"E</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>29°45'29.58"N</td><td>79°57'3.14"E</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>29°45'28.50"N</td><td>79°57'2.61"E</td></tr> </table>	Pillar No.	Latitude	Longitude	1	29°45'19.79"N	79°57'3.33"E	2	29°45'17.04"N	79°57'4.18"E	3	29°45'14.96"N	79°57'3.41"E	4	29°45'15.44"N	79°57'6.08"E	5	29°45'16.35"N	79°57'6.68"E	6	29°45'15.36"N	79°57'7.00"E	7	29°45'15.46"N	79°57'9.37"E	8	29°45'16.29"N	79°57'9.69"E	9	29°45'17.40"N	79°57'7.71"E	10	29°45'18.30"N	79°57'10.15"E	11	29°45'18.97"N	79°57'9.75"E	12	29°45'19.67"N	79°57'7.55"E	13	29°45'22.02"N	79°57'7.33"E	14	29°45'22.83"N	79°57'6.57"E	15	29°45'22.73"N	79°57'5.76"E	16	29°45'23.35"N	79°57'5.99"E	17	29°45'24.21"N	79°57'5.21"E	18	29°45'25.18"N	79°57'4.39"E	19	29°45'25.13"N	79°57'2.41"E	20	29°45'26.16"N	79°57'3.01"E	21	29°45'27.80"N	79°57'1.93"E	22	29°45'27.33"N	79°57'3.43"E	23	29°45'27.93"N	79°57'4.21"E	24	29°45'29.58"N	79°57'3.14"E	25	29°45'28.50"N	79°57'2.61"E
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		32	29°45'22.56"N	79°57'1.32"E												
		33	29°45'21.22"N	79°57'1.87"E												
		34	29°45'23.16"N	79°57'4.53"E												
		35	29°45'22.14"N	79°57'5.45"E												
14.	Letter of Intent	Letter of Intent (Lol) No. 1519/VII-1/2015/96-ख/2009, Dated 30-10-2015, & Lease G.O. Letter No. 701/VII-A-1/2022-96 ख/2009 for a period of Twenty-Five (25) years														
15.	Mine Plan approval details	714 मुख्य खनिज & /खनन योजना-33-मूखनि0/2017-18, दिनांक:-16/08/2017														
16.	Validity of Mine Plan	For First 5 Years														
17.	Total geological Reserves	0.142532 Million Tonnes														
18.	Total Proposed Production/Year	<table><tr><td>First Year</td><td>7852</td></tr><tr><td>Second Year</td><td>10596</td></tr><tr><td>Third Year</td><td>10800</td></tr><tr><td>Fourth Year</td><td>13153</td></tr><tr><td>Fifth Year</td><td>13661</td></tr></table>			First Year	7852	Second Year	10596	Third Year	10800	Fourth Year	13153	Fifth Year	13661		
First Year	7852															
Second Year	10596															
Third Year	10800															
Fourth Year	13153															
Fifth Year	13661															
19.	Sanctioned Period of Mine lease	Twenty-Five (25) years														
20.	Method of Mining	Opencast Semi-mechanized														
21.	No. of working days	240														
22.	Working hours/day	10 hr/day														
23.	No. of workers	25														
24.	Type of Land	Agriculture private land														
25.	Ultimate Depth of Mining	12m														
26.	Water Requirement	4.0 KLD														
27.	Any litigation pending against the project or land in any court	None														
28.	Ecological Sensitive Map/zone	None														
29.	Details of 500 m Cluster certificate & Map Verified by Mining Officer	There are Two (2) Mines existed within 500m buffer of the lease area (Certificate Submitted)- <table><tr><td>S.NO.</td><td>Mine Name</td><td>Mine Area</td><td>Applicant Name</td></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td>Joshigaon (Gauchlaura)</td><td>4.303 Hac.</td><td>Sh. Pradeep Chandra Joshi S/o Sh. P. C. Joshi</td></tr><tr><td>2.</td><td>Bhardwari, Gaul, Pokhari</td><td>11.160 Hac.</td><td>M/s K. S. Minerals</td></tr></table>			S.NO.	Mine Name	Mine Area	Applicant Name	1.	Joshigaon (Gauchlaura)	4.303 Hac.	Sh. Pradeep Chandra Joshi S/o Sh. P. C. Joshi	2.	Bhardwari, Gaul, Pokhari	11.160 Hac.	M/s K. S. Minerals
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30.	Proposed CER cost (Rs.)	5.25 Lakhs														
31.	Proposed EMP cost (Rs.)	14.00875 Lacs.														
32.	No. of Trees to be Planted.	2500 Trees														
33.	Detail of CTE/CTO issued by UKPCB	Yet to be granted														

The Project which was earlier granted EC by DEIAA has been submitted for Re-appraisal. SEAC during its meeting held on 27th December, 2024 had undertaken re-appraisal of the above existing project. The proposal is classified under Category B1 of EIA Notification 2006.

The project proponent has submitted PFR, EMP and other relevant documents as desired. After due examination of the relevant documents/certificates submitted by the project proponent and additional clarification furnished in response to its observations, SEAC recommended the grant of Environmental Clearance for the above project, subject to compliance of the EMP and other stipulated conditions and subject to submission of original Ecological Sensitive Certificate from concerned Authority.

SEIAA during its meeting dated 29TH January, 2025 considered the above proposal based on the recommendation of SEAC and after due examination and deliberation, the **SEIAA Uttarakhand hereby accords Environmental Clearance** for the above project under category B-1 of EIA notification 2006 (as amended from time to time) with the direction to Uttarakhand PCB to ensure that the orders of Hon'ble NGT in the OA No. 78/2023 on 08.11.2024 has been complied with before granting of Consent to Operate (CTO) and subject to the strict compliance with the General, Specific and other conditions mentioned below:-

1. Pre -Operation

- The project proponent should advertise with basic details at least in two widely circulated local newspapers, within seven (7) days of the receipt of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Dehradun and a copy of the same be sent to the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India located at 25 Subhash, Road Dehradun.

3. The legal status of the mining lease area shall remain unchanged and the Environment Clearance shall remain co-terminus with lease period. The mined lease area shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
 4. The mining/extraction of soapstone shall not be done without approved mine plan from designated authority. The mine plan should be revised every 5 years and no fresh mine plan shall be prepared without site inspection by designated authority. A copy of this shall be submitted to SEIAA.
 5. The boundary of the mined lease area shall be demarcated on ground by erecting pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, DGPS coordinates, forward and back bearing, and distance from adjoining pillars etc. This demarcation will be ensured by the Revenue Department. A bench mark will be established to monitor depth of the mining. A safety zone of 7.5 mt (surrounding the mine site) shall be left free from mining.
 6. The mining area shall be properly fenced to avoid any inadvertent entry into the mining pit. There will be one entry gate of mine which will be manual and barricade under supervision of watch man.
 7. The project proponent should submit route map before start of the work to this office. There shall be no change in the route after the submission. This shall be done within one month.
 8. Socio-economic study shall be done in detail in the 10 km radius area of the mine. The questioners should be site specific and shall be repeated after three years. The indicator, sample etc for the study shall be clearly marked this shall be done in next three months and submitted to SEIAA, Uttarakhand.
 9. The flora of core area is in the 500 mt radius of the mine shall be again noted and the report shall be submitted to SEIAA within three months.
 10. In the plantation activity plants shall be planted on the advice of local DFO. Preference will be to shrubs and grasses.
 11. Disaster management plan shall be made and submitted to SEIAA, Adequate provision of fund shall be given. This plan shall be submitted within three months.
 12. In the 7.5 meter width safety zone local shrubs like berberis agave spp, mulberry will be planted at the 1.5 mt spacing. Minimum two rows will be planted around the mine.
 13. The project proponent shall submit authentic list of flora & fauna along with six monthly compliance report.
 14. The Project Proponent shall ensure that the issues/concerns raised during public consultation are addressed amicably.
 15. Project Proponent shall provide Rs 3.0 lakh for modernizing Chemistry/Biology Lab of nearby Govt. Inter College and submit documentary evidence to SEIAA along with six monthly compliance report.
 16. Project Proponent shall carryout impact assessment study for aquatic fauna along with mitigation measures and submit documentary evidence to SEIAA along with six monthly compliance report.
 17. Project Proponent shall inform to SEIAA in case of change of evacuation plan.
 18. Project Proponent shall submit numbers of vehicles used per day for transportation of mined minerals to and fro.
2. **General Conditions**
1. The mining/extraction of mineral and progressive mine closure should be done as per the approved mine plan. The mine plan should have validity till the mining period.
 2. The Proponent will ensure that mine site should have well demarcated safety zone i.e. mining operation will not be carried out in the vicinity of 100 m from nearby bridges, educational institution or structures of historical importance.
 3. Minimum 4000 plants in 4.0 ha shall be planted in first two year in nearby Van Panchayat and shall be maintained for next three years. In case of Plantation outside of the buffer zone/project site MoU with local Gram Panchayat/Van Panchayat should be done under the tree plantation campaign "Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam" launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.
 4. The project area shall be strictly used for the activities permitted. No cutting, pollarding of existing tree is allowed. No work shall be carried out after sunset
 5. The overall manpower will be restricted to bare minimum. Though mostly local labour will be deployed, but for the essential manpower staying at site, no fuel wood based support will be provided for cooking purpose.
 6. Sufficient numbers of dustbins will be provided to labourers for collection of their daily use garbage, Bio-degradable & solid garbage will be collected in separated bins & proper disposal of these garbage will be ascertained.
 7. At no stage mining shall be carried out after exhausting extraction of the estimated mineable quantity as stated above.
 8. The Proponent should provide Eco-friendly toilets for the workforce. The workers shall be directed to use the sanitation facilities provided at project site and instructed not to litter the project site. Sufficient numbers of Bio-Toilets will be provide to workers at safe distance from the roli which flowing in the area.
 9. Wild Animals being sensitive to noise, no project activities shall be carried out at night (sunset to sunrise) time.
 10. Photography of the proposed mining site (preferably using Drone) should be done and submitted to SEIAA along with half-yearly compliance report.
 11. The project proponent shall submit half yearly compliance report of stipulated conditions of Environment Clearance in soft copy through PARIVESH PORTAL given link: <https://parivesh.nic.in>. The compliance report shall also be e mailed to the Regional Office in Dehradun in moef.ddn@gov.in

12. The project proponent shall submit half yearly reports pertaining to ambient air quality, ground water quality and noise. These reports should be monitored and generated by a NABL approved laboratory having scope of it.
13. All the vehicles being used for transportation from the mine site should have a valid pollution under control certificate.
14. The Proponent shall ensure installation of water sprinklers within the premises to prevent dust hazards.
15. Adequate drinking water and sanitation facility shall be provided on site for the workforce. Provision shall be made for supply of domestic fuel to the workforce so that they do not remain dependent on adjoining forest areas for fuel wood.
16. The project proponent shall ensure proper collection, treatment and disposal of mule excrete. Rest room for mule shall be provided.
17. The project proponent shall undertake suitable measures to avoid spillage of over burden and inter burden. During monsoon stocked over burden shall be covered so that it will not spill into nearby water bodies.
18. The project Proponent shall ensure the reclamation of mining area as per mine closure plan at his own cost.
19. The project proponent shall undertake all the activities agreed during public consultation.

3- Conditions for operation phase

1. Bore core hole drilling shall be carried out upto adequate depth to ascertain the grade of material. This shall be carried out in this first year and report should be submitted to SEIAA along with six monthly compliance report.
2. Overall pit slope shall not be more than 30° and bench slope shall not exceed 68°.
3. Gradient of haul road shall be 1:16.
4. 10 mt barrier zone should be done on both side of nalla, depression passing through the area and shall be restricted zone for mining.
5. Gravity retaining wall width 1.5 m and 1.0 mt height shall also be erected at the base of back field pit and at the base and side of dump and all along the nalla to control siltation into nallah.
6. Maintenance and cleaning of check dam shall be carried out regularly.
7. The over burden/inter burden will be dumped separately towards slope of working pit secured with gravity retaining wall.
8. Hanging of loose boulders shall be removed from mine faces.
9. The storage of mined material should be done in the leased area only. The mined material should be covered by tarpauline.
10. The mule dung should be cleared and shall be put in separate pits and should be covered a layer of soil. Care shall be taken that there shall be no leaching from this site.
11. The mining shall be carried out by as per approved mine plan without adopting drilling and blasting operation. The use of hand held mechanically driven equipment is permitted. The use of any electrically driven machinery shall remain prohibited and only hand held tools shall be used for extraction of the mineral.
12. Soapstone mining shall be carried out during sunrise to sunset period only. It shall not involve felling of trees and clearance of vegetation. There shall be no permanent construction at the site except temporary erection of first aid room, office, store, drinking water shed, rest shelter etc.
13. The process of mining and quantity of extractable mineral and subsequently progressive mine closure shall be as per the approved mine plan. The mining operation shall be carried out from as per the approved mine plan by formation of benching pattern. The maximum height of benches shall not exceed 1.5 mt and ultimate pit slope shall be kept as per the approved mining plan.
14. The maximum permissible depth for mining of soapstone shall not exceed 6 meters or depth of ground water table whichever is less. During first five years of mining lease the depth of mining shall not exceed 3 meters. Mining beyond 6 meters will be considered after site visit by SEAC.
15. Extraction of minor mineral is permitted from 1st October of every year to 15th June of the subsequent year. It shall be ensured that no mining activity is carried out during the monsoon season.
16. Reclamation of the mine lease area shall be through back filling, stabilization and cultivation. The waste and top soil generated during mining shall be temporarily stacked in external dump which will be subsequently vacated and back filled in mined out pits. The waste generated in the area will be backfilled during rains and land made suitable for cultivation. Back filling shall be done in a retreating manner from as per the approved mine plan. Mining activity and back filling shall be done simultaneously once space is available. External dumps shall be made in one corner of the area.
17. No disturbance to natural drainage system around the mining lease area shall be done. No mixing of wastes is allowed. The dump site shall be kept away from the nearby nallahs/water bodies and maintained at a distance of at least 100 meters. The external dump shall be protected against slide/slip by adopting suitable mechanical and vegetative measures. Proponent should construct a retaining wall, along the nallah side, with suitable height to protect soil erosion. The construction of toe wall, having width and height 1 meter check dam and planting of grass species/soil binding dwarf species in dump yard shall be done.
18. The project proponent shall undertake transportation of mineral from pit head to read head manually or by mule. Further it shall strictly adhere to the norms of Transport Department in refraining from use of polluting and less fuel-efficient vehicles for transporting extracted minerals to final destination. There shall be no over loading of vehicles as against standard norms fixed by Central Government/State Government/Hon'ble Courts from time to time.
19. The project proponent shall regulate and maintain record of the quantity of soapstone extracted during a season. The monitoring shall be ensured by Mines Department/District Administration from time to time. They shall use the path as given in the project.

20. Data on ambient air quality (RPM, SPM, SO₂, NO₂ should regularly submitted to SEIAA, Regional office MOEF&CC subhash road, Dehradun and the UKPCB once in six months.
 21. The transportation of the materials shall be limited to day hours only.
 22. The proponent shall erect eco-friendly mobile toilets for the workforce at site and shall ensure disposal of solid waste as per the existing provisions/rules/guidelines.
 23. The Geology and Mining department shall identify an agency for regular/periodical monitoring of quality of ground water of existing hand pumps and tube wells in the vicinity of the mining site.
 24. The project proponent shall follow all safety measures for labour force engaged in accordance with relevant Acts/Rules.
 25. The project proponent shall prepare the plan of mining in conformity with the mine lease conditions and the Rules prescribed in this regard thereby clearly delineating the 'No Work Zone' in the mine lease area i.e. at least 100 mt distance from Nallahs/Water Bodies, bridges, educational institution or structures of historical importance.
 26. Effective safeguard measures, such as regular water sprinkling shall be carried out in critical areas prone to air pollution and having high levels of particulate matter such as loading and unloading point and all transfer points. It shall be ensured that the Ambient Air Quality parameters conform to the norms prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board in this regard.
 27. The project proponent shall provide protective respiratory devices to workers working in dusty areas and they shall also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects. Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the project shall be carried out and records maintained.
 28. The project proponent shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project
 29. Project proponent will strictly comply with EMP/EIA.
 30. Project proponent will have to submit EMP/EIA report to Mining Department (Lessee) and Pollution Control Board before getting work order/Consent to Established or Operate.
 31. The project proponent shall submit half yearly compliance report of stipulated conditions of Environment Clearance in soft copy through PARIVESH PORTAL given link: <https://parivesh.nic.in>.
- 4- **Entire Operation**
1. The Environmental Clearance is being granted for mining/extraction of Soapstone in the approved Mine Lease Area. Legal status of the mining lease area shall remain unchanged and the Environmental Clearance is being granted only for the lease period. The mined lease area shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
 2. The maximum permissible depth for mining of Soapstone shall not exceed 6 meter or depth of ground water table whichever is less. During first five years of mining lease the depth of mining shall not exceed 3 meters. Mining beyond 6 meters shall be granted after site visit by SEAC. However, Authority may also visit the site in operational phase, whenever it is found to be necessary.
 3. The dump site shall be kept away from the nearby nallahs/water bodies and maintained at a distance of at least 100 meters. The external dump shall be protected against slide/slip by adopting suitable mechanical and vegetative measures. The construction of toe wall, check dam and planting of grass species/soil binding dwarf species in dump yard shall be done as given in mining plan.
 4. The project proponent shall undertake transportation of mineral from pit head to road head manually or by mule. Further it shall strictly adhere to the norms of Transport Department in refraining from use of polluting and less fuel-efficient vehicles for transporting extracted minerals to final destination. There shall be no over loading of vehicles as against standard norms fixed by Central Government/State Government/Hon'ble Courts from time to time. There shall be no change in transport route without the approval of SEIAA, Uttarakhand.
 5. The project proponent shall regulate and maintain record of the quantity of Soapstone extracted during a season. The monitoring shall be ensured by Mines Department/District Administration from time to time.
 6. There shall be no labour camp in the mining lease area for the labour engaged in mining of Soapstone. The labour engaged in mining shall be provided free fuel wood/alternate source of energy to avoid any pressure on adjoining forest land.
 7. The project proponent shall formulate a transparent and unbiased procedure for engagement of labourers for sustainable extraction of the minerals from the mining lease area. The project proponent shall ensure that maximum local labour be engaged and hence employment opportunity provided. The project proponent shall follow all safety measures for labour force engaged in accordance with relevant Acts/Rules.
 8. The above environmental safeguards shall be implemented in letter and spirit. The project proponent shall establish Environment Monitoring Cell and also submit six monthly compliance reports to this Authority and regional office of MoEF&CC, Govt of India at Dehradun.
 9. The SEIAA reserves the right to include additional safeguard measures if found necessary and also to take action including revoking of the EC granted under provision of EIA Notification 2006.
 10. The Project Proponent shall obtain clearance under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 from the competent Authority as may be applicable to this project.
 11. This EC is being granted subject to compliance of Hon'ble Court Orders issued from time to time.
 12. The ministry or any other competent authority may alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of Environment Protection.
 13. Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated information/data and failure to comply with of any conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 14. If it is found that if conditions laid down by the Authority are violated, the Authority may suspend or cancel this Environmental Clearance.

15. Any appeal against this Environment Clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under relevant section of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

5- Specific Conditions:- (To be followed by Director Industry, Geology and Mining Unit, Govt. of Uttarakhand).

1. Mining and Geology department of the State Government should recalculate the maximum production levels and inform the Authority accordingly.
2. A study shall be carried out at least in over a year through mines and geology department to avoid over exploitation of mineral, which may adversely affect the dynamics of site. A copy of said study report shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at Dehradun and SEIAA, Uttarakhand.
3. The Geology and Mining unit of Industry Department shall identify an agency for regular/periodical monitoring of quality of ground water of existing hand pumps and tube wells in the vicinity of the mining site.
4. Digital processing of the entire lease area using remote sensing technique should be done by Geology and Mining department regularly and report should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Regional office at Dehradun and SEIAA, Uttarakhand.

Your's Faithfully

(Dr. S.P. Subudhi)
Member Secretary,
SEIAA, Uttarakhand

No - 371 01(94)/2024 dated- as above
Copy for to-

1. APCCF, Regional office (Central) MoEFCC Govt of India, 25 Subhash Road, Dehradun for information and necessary action.
2. Principal Chief Secretary, Forests & Environment, Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun for information.
3. Director Industries, Geology & Mining Unit Govt of Uttarakhand Dehradun for information and necessary action.
4. District Magistrate, Pithoragarh for information and necessary action.
5. Member Secretary, UKPCB, IT Park Dehradun for information and necessary action.
6. Divisional Forest Officer, Pithoragarh.
7. Guard File for uploading in Parivesh Website.

(Dr. S.P. Subudhi)
Member Secretary,
SEIAA, Uttarakhand