

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE 19TH MEETING OF THE
STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY
(SEIAA) KERALA, HELD ON 14.06.2013, 9 AM AT THE
DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

The meeting started at 9 am and the following officers were present:

1. Dr. A.E. Muthunayagam - Chairman, SEIAA
Former Secretary to Government of India
2. Dr. K.P. Joy - Member, SEIAA
Former Director, School of Environmental Studies
of M.G. University and Kannur University
3. Shri. Pradeep Kumar IAS
Principal Secretary to Government
Environment, Forest & Wild Life Department
Govt. of Kerala - Member Secretary, SEIAA
4. Sri. P. Sreekantan Nair
Director, Department of Environment
& Climate Change, Govt. of Kerala - Secretary, SEAC (Special Invitee)

The meeting was chaired by Dr. A.E. Muthunayagam. He welcomed all the members. During discussions, the Authority took the following decisions:

Item No. KLA/19. 01 Remarks by Chairman and Members of SEIAA

The Authority welcomed the new Member Secretary Sri. Pradeep Kumar IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Environment, Forest & Wild Life Department.

The Chairman briefed the new Member Secretary about the SEIAA, SEAC and the SEIAA secretariat and the mode of functioning. He expressed the need to improve the existing system to be more effective and efficient. The Member Secretary expressed the need to review our system of operations and establish proper formats and templates so that appraisal and approval system will be focused, specific, transparent and systematic. It was agreed to have detailed discussions on this issue in the next meeting. Authority spent a good amount of time of the meeting in discussing the organizational and procedural aspects of SEIAA.

The Authority expressed its concern in not getting the agenda and agenda notes well in time for members to come prepared for the meeting and effectively participate, in spite of repeated requests a number of times. The SEIAA secretariat informed that this delay is due to shortage of human resources in the SEIAA secretariat.

Chairman SEIAA brought to the attention of SEIAA the decision at the earlier SEIAA meeting to forward the requisite monthly status report as desired by MoEF in the prescribed format of MoEF, after getting the approval of Member Secretary, SEIAA. However it was noted that the SEIAA Secretariat has furnished the status report of Environmental Clearances (from the date of inception of SEIAA/ SEAC Kerala) to MoEF with copies forwarded to all at SEIAA and SEAC Kerala. The Authority was concerned about the report which had no prior approval from SEIAA. It was reported by OIC SEIAA secretariat that this was done as per the instructions to him from the Govt of Kerala. The procedural issue is being addressed by SEIAA.

The Chairman SEIAA also handed over to SEIAA / SEAC Secretariat copy of O.M. F. No. 21-270/2008-IA.III dt.06.06.2013 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, received by him, regarding the modification in guidelines for High Rise Building, for further necessary action.

Item No. KLA/19. 02 Confirmation of the minutes of **18th meeting of State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) Kerala**

Confirmed the approved minutes.

Item No. KLA/19. 03 **Action taken report on the decisions of the 18th SEIAA Meeting**

Chairman SEIAA expressed his objection to the reported actions under Item KLA/18.01 and KLA/18.03. He expressed his conflicts with SEIAA secretariat in the mode of operations without proper organization and adequate human resource. He also expressed his concerned in SEIAA secretariat in not responding to the actions required by SEIAA and not reporting the action taken with focus and precision.

While discussing Item No. KLA/18.01, it was decided that the Department of Environment & Climate Change (being the secretariat of both SEIAA and SEAC Kerala) may bring out quarterly newsletters through Information & Public Relations Department in which a page may be set apart exclusively for SEIAA & SEAC Kerala bringing out its functioning and decision taken. Details of the contents of the news letter and the procedure for implementation needs to be discussed and approved by SEIAA.

Detailed discussions are planned in the next meeting.

Item No. KLA/19. 04 **Application for obtaining environmental clearance for the proposed quarry project in Survey Nos. 373/1, 373/2, 378/2-2, 372/1-2 and 164/1-187 at Ayyampuzha Village and Panchayath, Aluva Taluk, Ernakulam District, Kerala by M/s Poabs Granites Products Pvt. Ltd. (File No. 49/SEIAA/KL/7178/2012)**

Item No. KLA/19. 05 **Application for obtaining environmental clearance for the quarry in Survey No. 59/2 at Kariavattom Village, Vettathoor Panchayath, Perinthalmanna Taluk, Malappuram District, Kerala by M/s Poabson Granite Products Pvt. Ltd. (File No. 50/SEIAA/KL/7241/2012)**

Item No. KLA/19. 06

Application for environmental clearance for the proposed Housing Project in Survey Nos. 699/2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8 at Village Kakkanad, Municipality Thrikkakkara, Taluk Kanayannur, District Ernakulam, Kerala by M/s Ayles Properties and Developers Pvt. Ltd.(File No. 38/SEIAA/KL/7082/2012)

The Authority observed the same lapse in the processing procedure by SEIAA secretariat in all the three items. The Authority noted that the agenda notes for 19th SEIAA contained SEAC appraisal reports with respect to each one of the above project without final recommendations of SEAC. This appraisal report has indicated some recommendations against some of the parameters assessed. It is not explicitly brought out whether such recommendations indicated in the appraisal reports are already included in the general conditions to be stipulated while granting EC or specific to the project.

SEIAA secretariat informed that the recommendation of the SEAC on these proposals are available in the 18th SEIAA agenda notes that initially considered the proposal. Further it is noted that some of the columns in the appraisal report appeared contradicting. SEIAA also felt that the agenda notes should be reconsidered by Secretariat and submitted in a comprehensive manner. Therefore, the proposal is returned to SEIAA secretariat for necessary action so that it can be considered in the next SEIAA meeting.

Item No. KLA/19. 07

Any other item with the approval of Chairman

None

Item No. KLA/19. 08

Report on the status of processing of the applications for Environmental Clearance by SEIAA Secretariat

Noted

Item No. KLA/19. 09

Concluding remarks by Member Secretary

The Authority noted that as per clause 5 of EIA Notification 2006, the SEAC should meet at least once every month, but no such mandate is fixed for SEIAA meetings. SEAC of Kerala has fixed FIRST SATURDAY of every month as the date for the mandatory meeting. SEIAA has fixed the FRIDAY before the third SATURDAY as the date for its normal meeting. The meeting will start around 9:00 hrs and continue till agenda items are completed.

This schedule of SEAC and SEIAA meetings provides about two weeks for SEAC to prepare the Appraisal reports and SEIAA secretariat to prepare the agenda notes and send them to SEIAA members well before SEIAA normal meetings. It is decided that the existing practise will continue.

It was further decided that the recommendations of the SEAC should be placed before the SEIAA (vide an Agenda item) in a standard format, which could be developed by the SEAC

Secretariat in consultation with Member-Secretary, SEIAA and approved by SEIAA. The minutes of SEIAA should also be concise.

The validity of EC should also be indicated in all future Environmental Clearance proceedings.

The Department of Environment & Climate Change, as the secretariat of SEIAA/ SEAC shall monitor compliance of EC conditions by the project proponents. In case of noticing non-compliance of EC conditions, it should be brought to the attention of SEIAA which is empowered to revoke the EC issued or to initiate any penal action as established, for the violation of EC conditions. The system and operational procedure shall be prepared by Secretariat of SEIA under the guidance of Member Secretary and approved by SEIAA. Member Secretary shall set a schedule for this.

Chairman SEIAA thanked all members for their active contributions and closed the 19th SEIAA meeting.