

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE 10TH MEETING OF THE
STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY (SEIAA)
KERALA HELD ON 02.11.2012 AT THE
DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

The following persons 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 KannurUniversity
3. Shri. James Varghese IAS
Principal Secretary to Government
Environment, Ports & Fisheries 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. The Authority discussed the agenda items one by one and took the following decisions:

Item No. KLA/10.01 Remarks by Chairman and Members of SEIAA

It was noted that the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority-Kerala state (SEIAA) was notified in the Gazette of India on 3rd November 2011. The first meeting of SEIAA was held on SEIAA on 23rd March 2012 and this meeting being held on 2nd November 2012 is the 10th SEIAA meeting. For Environment Clearances SEIAA has received on date 50 proposals and has approved 18 among them for issuance of EC with in the stipulated time limits.

Item No. KLA/10.02 Confirmation of the Minutes of the 9th meeting of State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) Kerala, held on 18th October 2012 at Directorate of Environment and Climate Change, Thiruvananthapuram

Confirmed the approved minutes.

Item No. KLA/10.03 Action taken report

Shall be reported in the next meeting.

Item No. KLA/10.04 Review of status of operational system in SEIAA Secretariat

Members discussed different subjects / issues, based on the events/ performance /actions in the past one year or so and decided to implement the system, approved in the SEIAA special meeting, held on 15th September. It is decided to implement the system from 1st November 2012.

The human resources presently available to SEIAA was discussed and felt inadequate. Member Secretary who is also the Principal Secretary to Government, Environment Department is requested to assess the work load and provide adequate human resource requirements. However, SEIAA felt that SEIAA secretariat should have immediately Two Technical officers, Two technical assistants and One office assistant/peon to work exclusively for SEIAA, including SEAC and all associated administrative functions. Director DoECC shall continue to look after the duties of the Officer in Charge of SEIAA secretariat.

Chairman SEIAA enquired about the system being adopted for numbering and maintaining the files. Director DoECC explained the numbering system for the EC files. Chairman expressed his desire to study the details.

SEIAA secretariat had requested for some model for the SEAC appraisal report. Chairman recalled earlier discussions and referred particularly to the item 6 of the SEIAA special meeting of 15th September. SEIAA felt that SEAC may seek specific guidelines from SEIAA, if required.

Item No. KLA/10.05 Initiative towards speedy EC for mining projects with area below 5 ha

The direction of the Supreme Court and subsequent office memorandum of MoEF were recalled. Based on earlier discussions in the SEIAA meetings, it is decided to request MoEF to approve a special SEAC for Kerala to assist SEIAA Kerala exclusively in processing all proposals for Mining EC for mining areas less than 5 ha. Director DoECC was requested to initiate actions towards this through the Principal Secretary, Environment Department, GOK to take up the case with MoEF, GOI.

It was also decided that the SEAC may develop specific guidelines /standards for appraising mining projects and forward to SEIAA for consideration. Once the same is finalized, it may also be uploaded in the SEIAA website for ensuring transparency. In addition to mining standards, building standards, PCB standards, etc it is felt necessary to have EIA standards for mining for ensuring uniformity in processing of applications expeditiously.

Item No. KLA/10.06 Any other item approved by Chairman

After detailed discussions it is decided to have the regular monthly SEIAA meetings either on the Friday just before the 3rd Saturday or preferably on every 3rd Saturday. If necessary, additional meetings shall be convened.

The Status of EC as on 1st November which was presented by the SEIAA secretariat was noted. SEIAA requested the OIC-SEIAA secretariat to prepare an analysis and send to all members in a week's time. It was noted that SEIAA has cleared 18 out of the 50 applications received so far. Out of 18 EC is issued for 14 and the remaining 4 are under process in Secretariat.

Member Secretary summed up with concluding remarks on the need for system based approach and cordial working environment.

Approved by Dr.A.E.Muthunayagam., Chairman SEIAA. 10th November 2012.