

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE 13TH MEETING OF THE
STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY (SEIAA)
KERALA HELD ON 13.12.2012 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 Kannur University
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/13. 01

Remarks by Chairman and Members of SEIAA

In his opening remarks, the Chairman pointed out the urgent need to ensure that the SEIAA secretariat is adequately manned. He expressed his concern that the SEIAA had on the date of the 13th SEIAA meeting only one Technical Officer to assist the OIC Secretariat. The documents for the 13th SEIAA meeting could not be prepared in time with all required details, for want of office staff. SEIAA requested the Member Secretary SEIAA who is the Principal Secretary to Government of Kerala to personally look into the issues and take necessary remedial measures.

The Chairman proposed that SEIAA reconsider its earlier decision on EC proposals for the mining projects which come under the ESZ -1 of WGEEP report. As per the directions of the Tribunal, the existing provisions of the WGEEP report should be complied with. It is noted that the WGEEP report does not permit any mining activity in the sites within the ESZ-1. After holding elaborate discussions on the issue, SEIAA decided to reject the proposals coming within ESZ-1 in the initial stage itself and direct the proponent to apply afresh, at a later stage when the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) report is finalized and implemented.

To implement the above decision SEIAA directed that a modification in the questionnaire for mining projects be made immediately and the proponents are requested to make a declaration whether their project site falls within ESZ-1 of Gadgil Committee report of WGEEP or not. It was decided that in such cases where the proponent declares the site to be within ESZ-1, the Secretariat may reject the application for Environmental Clearance at the preliminary stage of scrutiny itself and inform the project proponent accordingly. SEIAA may be kept informed of such rejections. On the other hand, if the proponent has not indicated in the questionnaire the location of the site specifically, the proposal may be forwarded to SEAC for appraisal after verification of all other requisite documents. If SEAC finds that the site falls within ESZ-1, SEAC may recommend for rejection of the proposal without further processing. SEIAA may subsequently reject the application based on SEAC recommendations.

SEIAA observed that the SEAC appraisal report submitted by Secretary SEAC along with the agenda notes for the 13th meeting of SEIAA needs considerable improvements. It did not have the specific recommendations of SEAC and specific conditions to be stipulated, if any, in the EC. However the minutes of SEAC relating to these issues were available. Hence SEIAA took both the appraisal report in the agenda notes and the minutes of SEAC meeting into consideration while taking decisions on the EC proposals. SEIAA directed that in future all appraisal reports should have the specific recommendations of SEAC and also conditions to be stipulated, if any, for granting EC. SEIAA also directed that all SEAC appraisal reports submitted to SEIAA should have the approval of Chairman SEAC. Chairman SEAC may evolve a system for consultations within SEAC.

The Authority also directed that in future the appraisal report of SEAC shall present the various adverse environmental impacts of the proposed project and its mitigatory measures in tabular form. The adverse impacts should also highlight the loss of biodiversity, sewage generation and its disposal among other related topics.

The Authority further observed that some of the proposals recommended for EC were conditional where SEAC has recommended that the project proponents shall submit certain documents / clarifications. SEIAA felt that some of these documents/ clarifications provided by the project require scrutiny and recommendations from experts in the field for SEIAA to take the final decision for granting EC. Hence SEIAA decided that in cases where expert opinion is required to examine additional documents/ clarifications SEIAA shall refer it to a 4 member ad-hoc subcommittee with Chairman SEAC as Chairman, Secretary SEAC as Member Secretary and two experts in the relevant field from among the members of SEAC who are nominated by the Chairman, SEAC as members. This shall not be a standing committee and the experts are nominated by Chairman SEAC based on the subject under assessment.

Member, SEIAA suggested for inclusion of project cost along with a financial statement providing funding source, insurance company, etc. for the proposed project in the questionnaire. He further suggested that activity schedule of the proposed project as to when it shall be completed. The raw materials used may also be included.

Member also suggested that the proposals should specifically state the nature of waste water (whether black (toilet waste), yellow or brown (urine only) and grey water (kitchen, laundry, etc.) and the proposed treatment and disposal methods for the same.

The Authority noted from some of the quarry proposals that the total production capacity and total water requirement for the proposed project remained almost the same irrespective of the size of the project. Hence to sort out this issue it was suggested that SEAC may seek some prescribed standards from Kerala State Pollution Control Board relating the total production capacity and total water requirement of the proposed project while appraising these projects and accordingly make recommendations to SEIAA.

After detailed discussions, SEIAA decided to add the following additional conditions to the General Conditions stipulated for Environmental Clearance to mining projects:

- i. The proponent must secure all statutory approvals required for mining activities including that for storage and blasting of explosives.
- ii. Sprinklers shall be used in the project site to contain dust emissions.
- iii. Specific plan for the mitigation of biodiversity loss, if any.

Item No. KLA/13. 02 **Confirmation of the Minutes of 12th meeting of State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) Kerala**

Confirmed the approved minutes given in Annexure 1.

Item No. KLA/13. 03 **Action taken report on the decisions of the 11th and 12th SEIAA Meetings**

Noted the report on actions taken. The Chairman suggested that references and dates should be indicated while reporting the action taken for more clarity.

Item No. KLA/13. 04 **Application for environmental clearance for the proposed quarry project in Survey Nos. 396/1-A & 396/1-B2 at Varapetty Village, Varapetty Panchayath, Kothamangalam Taluk, Ernakulam District, Kerala by M/s Parackal Granite Kerala Pvt. Ltd. (File No. 39/SEIAA/KL/7083/2012)**

SEAC has recommended this proposal for EC by SEIAA. After detailed discussions on the various environmental aspects regarding the project, SEIAA observed that the proponent has to provide additional documents/clarifications as recommended by SEAC as specific conditions. Hence the SEIAA secretariat was directed to obtain all documents/ clarifications from the project proponent and refer them without any delay to the following 4 member ad-hoc committee with Chairman SEAC as chairman, Two experts from among the members of SEAC with expertise in the area relevant to the subject in the documents/ clarifications, nominated by Chairman SEAC as members and Secretary SEAC as Member secretary. The appraisal report with recommendations from the ad-hoc committee shall be further processed through SEIAA for EC.

Item No. KLA/13. 05 **Application for environmental clearance for the proposed quarry project in Survey No. 65/1 at Kumily Village, Kumily Panchayath, Peerumade Taluk, Idukki District, Kerala by M/s Kizhakethalackal Rocks (File No. 40/SEIAA/KL/7084/2012)**

SEIAA observed that the proposed project site falls within ESZ-1 of WGEEP. Hence it was decided to reject the proposal and direct the proponent to apply afresh, if required, at a later stage if the Gadgil Committee report of WGEEP report is finalized and implemented.

Item No. KLA/13. 06 **Application for environmental clearance for the proposed quarry project in Survey Nos. 80/1A2, 80/1A17, 80/1A18 & 79/2 at Arakuzha Village, Arakuzha Panchayath, Muvattupuzha Taluk, Ernakulam District, Kerala by M/s Hanna Rock Products Pvt. Ltd. (File No. 42/SEIAA/KL/7159/2012)**

SEAC has recommended this proposal for EC by SEIAA. After detailed discussions on the various environmental aspects regarding the project, SEIAA observed that the proponent has to provide additional documents/clarifications as recommended by SEAC as specific conditions. Hence the SEIAA secretariat was directed to obtain all documents/ clarifications from the project proponent and refer them without any delay to the following 4 member ad-hoc committee with Chairman SEAC as chairman, Two experts from among the members of SEAC with expertise in the area relevant to the subject in the documents/ clarifications, nominated by Chairman SEAC as members and Secretary SEAC as Member secretary. The appraisal report with recommendations from the ad-hoc committee shall be further processed through SEIAA for EC.

Item No. KLA/13. 07 **Application for environmental clearance for the proposed quarry project in Survey No. 1411 at Kanichar Village, Kanichar Panchayath, Thalassery Taluk, Kannur District, Kerala by M/s New Bharat Stone Crusher & Hollow Bricks Industries (File No. 43/SEIAA/KL/7163/2012)**

SEAC has recommended this proposal for EC by SEIAA. After detailed discussions on the various environmental aspects regarding the project, SEIAA observed that the proponent has to provide additional documents/clarifications as recommended by SEAC as specific conditions. Hence the SEIAA secretariat was directed to obtain all documents/ clarifications from the project proponent and refer them without any delay to the following 4 member ad-hoc committee with Chairman SEAC as chairman, Two experts from among the members of SEAC with expertise in the area relevant to the subject in the documents/ clarifications, nominated by Chairman SEAC as members and Secretary SEAC as Member secretary. The appraisal report with recommendations from the ad-hoc committee shall be further processed through SEIAA for EC.

Item No. KLA/13. 08 **Application for environmental clearance for the proposed quarry project in Survey No. 283 at Mazhuvanoor Village, Mazhuvanoor Panchayath and Sy. Nos. 284/1-2, 284/1-3, Arkapady Village,**

Vengola Panchayat, Kunnathunadu Taluk, Ernakulam District, Kerala by M/s Cochin Granites Pulickal Associates (File No. 45/SEIAA/KL/7166/2012)

SEAC has recommended this proposal for EC by SEIAA. After detailed discussions on the various environmental aspects regarding the project, SEIAA observed that the proponent has to provide additional documents/clarifications as recommended by SEAC as specific conditions. Hence the SEIAA secretariat was directed to obtain all documents/ clarifications from the project proponent and refer them without any delay to the following 4 member ad-hoc committee with Chairman SEAC as chairman, Two experts from among the members of SEAC with expertise in the area relevant to the subject in the documents/ clarifications, nominated by Chairman SEAC as members and Secretary SEAC as Member secretary. The appraisal report with recommendations from the ad-hoc committee shall be further processed through SEIAA for EC.

Item No. KLA/13. 09 Application for environmental clearance for the proposed quarry project in Survey No. 270, Block 58 at Kattappana Village, Kattappana Panchayath, Udumbanchola Taluk, Idukki District, Kerala by M/s Alphonsa Granites (File No. 46/SEIAA/KL/7171/2012)

SEIAA observed that the proposed project site falls within ESZ-1 of WGEEP. Hence it was decided to reject the proposal and direct the proponent to apply afresh, if required, at a later stage if the Gadgil Committee report of WGEEP report is finalized and implemented.

Item No. KLA/13. 10 Application for environmental clearance for the proposed quarry project in Survey No. 288/1, Block 32 at Koodal Village, Kalanjoor Panchayath, Adoor Taluk, Pathanamthitta District, Kerala by M/s Mavanal Granites Private Limited (File No. 51/SEIAA/KL/7509/2012)

SEAC has recommended this proposal for EC by SEIAA. After detailed discussions on the various environmental aspects regarding the project, SEIAA observed that the proponent has to provide additional documents/clarifications as recommended by SEAC as specific conditions. Hence the SEIAA secretariat was directed to obtain all documents/ clarifications from the project proponent and refer them without any delay to the following 4 member ad-hoc committee with Chairman SEAC as chairman, Two experts from among the members of SEAC with expertise in the area relevant to the subject in the documents/ clarifications, nominated by Chairman SEAC as members and Secretary SEAC as Member secretary. The appraisal report with recommendations from the ad-hoc committee shall be further processed through SEIAA for EC.

Item No. KLA/13. 11 Application for environmental clearance for the proposed additional facilities within the campus of St. Joseph's College of Engineering & Technology, Palai, at Block No. 36 in Re-survey Nos. 78/6-1, 78/4, 80/3, 80/4, 85/2, 85/3, 85/3-2, 85/3-1,

113/5, 111/2-1, 111/2-2, 114/4-2, 114/5-1, 113/3-1, 116/10, 116/3, 116/3-1, 115/1-1, 104/1, 105/1, 105/2, 106/1, 111/1, 111/3, 112/2-2, 112/2-3, 113/1-1 and Block No. 35, Re-survey No. 352/3-1 & 383/2-11 at Bharananganam Village and Panchayath, Meenanchil Taluk, Kottayam District, Kerala by M/s Diocesan Technical Education Trust, Palai (File No. 53/SEIAA/KL/7581/2012)

SEAC has recommended this proposal for EC by SEIAA. After detailed discussions on the various environmental aspects regarding the project, SEIAA observed that the proponent has to provide additional documents/clarifications as recommended by SEAC as specific conditions. Hence the SEIAA secretariat was directed to obtain all documents/ clarifications from the project proponent and refer them without any delay to the following 4 member ad-hoc committee with Chairman SEAC as chairman, Two experts from among the members of SEAC with expertise in the area relevant to the subject in the documents/ clarifications, nominated by Chairman SEAC as members and Secretary SEAC as Member secretary. The appraisal report with recommendations from the ad-hoc committee shall be further processed through SEIAA for EC.

Item No. KLA/13. 12 Application for environmental clearance for the proposed quarry project in Survey Nos. 284/10, 299/5, 17, 15, 14, 8, 10, Block No. 23 at Muthalamada - 1 Village, Chittur Taluk, Palakkad District, Kerala by M/s Five Star Metals (P) Ltd. (File No. 56/SEIAA/KL/7584/2012)

SEIAA observed that the proposed project site falls within ESZ-1 of WGEEP. Hence it was decided to reject the proposal and direct the proponent to apply afresh, if required, at a later stage if the Gadgil Committee report of WGEEP report is finalized and implemented.

Item No. KLA/13. 13 Application for environmental clearance for the proposed quarry project in Survey Nos. 1094/1-A, 1094/1-A1, 1094/1-A6, 1097/7-A, 1097/6-B2, 1101/3, 1097/7-B, 1097/6-A2, 1094/1-A27, 1097/6-B3, 1097/7-C2 at Marady Village, Marady Panchayath, Muvattupuzha Taluk, Ernakulam District, Kerala by M/s St. George Granites (File No. 57/SEIAA/KL/7585/2012)

SEAC has recommended this proposal for EC by SEIAA. After detailed discussions on the various environmental aspects regarding the project, SEIAA observed that the proponent has to provide additional documents/clarifications as recommended by SEAC as specific conditions. Hence the SEIAA secretariat was directed to obtain all documents/ clarifications from the project proponent and refer them without any delay to the following 4 member ad-hoc committee with Chairman SEAC as chairman, Two experts from among the members of SEAC with expertise in the area relevant to the subject in the documents/ clarifications, nominated by Chairman SEAC as members and Secretary SEAC as Member secretary. The appraisal report with recommendations from the ad-hoc committee shall be further processed through SEIAA for EC.

Item No. KLA/13. 14

Application for environmental clearance for the proposed quarry project in Survey No. 168 at Karukutty Village, Karukutty Panchayath, Alwaye Taluk, Ernakulam District, Kerala by M/s Planters Aggregates (File No. 58/SEIAA/KL/7586/2012)

SEAC has recommended this proposal for EC by SEIAA. After detailed discussions on the various environmental aspects regarding the project, SEIAA observed that the proponent has to provide additional documents/clarifications as recommended by SEAC as specific conditions. Hence the SEIAA secretariat was directed to obtain all documents/ clarifications from the project proponent and refer them without any delay to the following 4 member ad-hoc committee with Chairman SEAC as chairman, Two experts from among the members of SEAC with expertise in the area relevant to the subject in the documents/ clarifications, nominated by Chairman SEAC as members and Secretary SEAC as Member secretary. The appraisal report with recommendations from the ad-hoc committee shall be further processed through SEIAA for EC.

Item No. KLA/13. 15

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

Noted.

Item No. KLA/13. 16

Any other item with the approval of Chairman

None.

Item No. KLA/13. 17

Concluding remarks by Member Secretary

None.

Prepared by Mr. Sreekantan Nair, OIC SEIAA Secretariat.

Approved by Dr.A.E.Muthunayagam, Chairman, SEIAA.