

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE  
STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY  
(SEIAA) KERALA, HELD ON 15.03.2013 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/16. 01                      Remarks by Chairman and Members of SEIAA**

The Authority noted the change in the format of the Agenda notes. It directed that in future the agenda notes on each agenda item should be comprehensive with all relevant details. Summary of the environment impact assessments must be included in each one of agenda notes while the SEAC appraisal reports and minutes of SEAC meetings could be in the annexures as now presented. SEIAA appreciated the details provided in SEAC appraisal reports and desired that SEAC should make some finite conclusions on these environment impact assessments. It was also suggested to add the following inputs in the appraisal reports in future while appraising mining projects:

1. Whether there is any litigation against or complaint from the public regarding the project
2. Provisions made for water harvesting
3. Details of project cost, funding source, activity schedule and insurance coverage
4. Details of the consultant firm

5. Energy source
6. Distance of the project site from the adjacent quarry

SEIAA approved to add the following in the General Conditions of Environmental Clearance for mining projects:

1. No mining operations should be carried out at places having a slope greater than 45°.
2. Blasting should be done in a controlled manner as specified by the regulations of Explosives Department or any other concerned agency.
3. The workers on the site should be provided with the required protective equipment such as ear muffs, helmet, etc.
4. At least 10 percent out of the total excavated pit area should be retained as water storage areas and the remaining area should be reclaimed with stacked dumpings and overburden and planted with indigenous plant species that are eco-friendly.
5. Barbed metal wire fencing around the mining area/abandoned quarry shall be provided with a height of not less than 5 ft so that falling of animals/human/belongings/dumping of garbage etc. are prevented.

While going through the appraisal reports, the Authority observed that the estimated life of the mine is expressed in years with decimals and suggested that the life estimates should be rounded off to the nearest whole number in years.

**Item No. KLA/16. 02** Confirmation of the minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) Kerala

Confirmed the approved minutes with a minor change in agenda item KLA/15.15 modifying “approved for issuance of Environmental clearance” as “approved for issuance of CRZ cum Environmental Clearance”.

**Item No. KLA/16. 03** Action taken report on the decisions of the 15<sup>th</sup> SEIAA Meeting

Noted.

**Item No. KLA/16. 04** Application for obtaining environmental clearance for the proposed quarry project in Sy. Nos. 163/5-1, 5-2, 5, 6-1, 6-2, 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, Block No. 40, at Pampady Village, Pampady Panchayath, Kottayam Taluk, Kottayam district, Kerala by M/s Rock Field Estates Pvt. Ltd. (File No. 71/SEIAA/KL/166/2013)

After detailed discussions on the proposal, clarifications provided by Secretary SEAC and analyzing the appraisal report of SEAC the proposal is **approved for issuance of Environmental Clearance** stipulating the following specific conditions:

1. A safe horizontal buffer distance of 50 m should be left as No-Mining-Zone from the KSEB tower line passing near the boundary of lease area or the distance criteria specified by KSEB, whichever is higher.
2. The water flowing from the site to the pond within the lease area should be purified/treated to maintain the drinking water quality standards prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
3. The revised site map showing the correct location of the crusher unit and the storage of overburden should be submitted to SEAC and approval obtained before starting the quarry operations.

**Item No. KLA/16. 05**      **Application for obtaining environmental clearance for the proposed quarry project in Sy. No. 245/1-8-1, at Ramapuram Village, Ramapuram Panchayath, Meenanchil Taluk, Kottayam district, Kerala by M/s St. Basil Industries India Private Limited (File No. 72/SEIAA/KL/167/2013)**

After detailed discussions on the proposal, clarifications provided by Secretary SEAC and analyzing the appraisal report of SEAC the proposal is **approved for issuance of Environmental Clearance** stipulating the following specific conditions:

1. Mining activities should not be undertaken in areas having a slope angle greater than 45°.
2. A No-Mining-Zone of 10 m width should be provided in the lease area from the adjacent village boundary.

**Item No. KLA/16. 06**      **Application for obtaining environmental clearance for the proposed quarry project in Sy. No. 523/1, 2 at Maruthonkara Village, Maruthonkara Panchayath, Vatakara Taluk, Kozhikode district, Kerala by M/s The Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society Ltd. No. 10957 (File No. 78/SEIAA/KL/173/2013)**

After detailed discussions on the proposal, clarifications provided by Secretary SEAC and analyzing the appraisal report of SEAC the proposal is **approved for issuance of Environmental Clearance** stipulating the following specific conditions:

1. Storage facility for run-off water to facilitate ground water recharge along with artificial recharge should be provided.
2. Mine pit water should be allowed to settle, treated through neutralization tank and finally discharged after confirming to the prescribed standards for inland water discharge as prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
3. The details of height alignment and slopes of the dumps as per the wind velocity, direction and rainfall should be submitted to SEAC and approval obtained before initiating any work.

**Item No. KLA/16. 07**

**Application for environmental clearance for the Quarry project at Block No. 34 in Survey Nos. 106/1, 106/2, 106/3, 106/4, 130/2-3, 130/3 at Bharananganam Village, Bharananganam Panchayath, Meenachil Taluk, Kottayam District, Kerala by M/s Bharananganam Industries (File No. 62/SEIAA/KL/7683/2012)**

After detailed discussions on the proposal, clarifications provided by Secretary SEAC and analyzing the appraisal report of SEAC the proposal is **approved for issuance of Environmental Clearance** stipulating the following specific conditions:

1. Quarrying should be limited to Sy. No. 130/2-3.
2. Quarrying activity should not be carried out in places where slope is greater than 45<sup>0</sup>.
3. Garland drains should be provided with clarifiers and should be connected with the channels such that loading of water is minimized on slopes.
4. The approach road should have culverts in all channels for storm water management.
5. Rainwater harvesting should be made at the lowermost part of the land.
6. Retaining walls/bunds must have channels to let out storm water.

**Item No. KLA/16. 08**

**Application for environmental clearance for the proposed Institute of Medical Sciences and Multi-Speciality Hospital Project in Survey Nos. 225/2, 225/3-1, 225/2/2, 226/5/1/2, 226/5/1/3, 226/5/1/4, 226/5/1/1, 226/5/2, 189/1-2, 189/2, 224/4, 224/5, 397/1-2 and 397/1-3 at Koovappady Village and Panchayath, Kunnathunadu Taluk, Ernakulam District, Kerala by M/s Sree Narayana Gurukulam Charitable Trust (File No. 54/SEIAA/KL/7582/2012)**

After detailed discussions on the proposal and analyzing the appraisal report of SEAC, the Authority was of the opinion that as far as the hospital project is concerned the details regarding the waste management, especially biomedical waste, details of power, incinerator and related developments, specific details of the nuclear facility, etc. are not adequately addressed in the appraisal report. Hence the Authority decided to return the proposal to SEAC for re-examination and modification of the appraisal report addressing all relevant details.

**Item No. KLA/16. 09**

**Any other item with the approval of Chairman: Initiating credible action on violations**

The Authority held detailed discussions on the O.M. No. J-11013/41/2006-IA.II(I) dt. 12.12.2012 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests in the matter of initiating credible actions on violations. SEIAA also observed that in the absence of specific instructions from MoEF prior

to the receipt of this Office Memorandum, SEIAA Kerala has issued Environmental Clearance to seven proposals after due process and getting the affidavit from the proponent accepting the violation. After discussions, SEIAA noted that the referred OM cannot have retrospective effect and decided that all seven cases for which Environment Clearances are granted need not be reopened and no violation proceedings need to be initiated.

SEIAA also decided that No Environment Clearance shall be issued for project proposals which are violation cases till the receipt of report from Government of Kerala on the legal action taken under section 15 of EP Act, 1986.

All cases of violation shall be reported by SEIAA to State government for taking legal action. SEIAA also decided to request the State Government to issue stop memo to all construction activities of these violation cases, till EC is granted by SEIAA.

**Item No. KLA/16. 10                      **Fixing guidelines for classifying B Category mining projects into B1 and B2****

The Authority noted the order dated 16.04.2012 of the Honourable Supreme Court that the project proposals for mining should be cleared within 10 days of receipt of application. Hence the Authority felt a need for categorization of mining proposals as B1 and B2 and evolving special procedure to process mining proposals coming under B2 Category. SEIAA also noted that till recently lease area less than 5 hectares need not have any Environment Clearance for mining operations.

The Authorities consulted the SEIAA Tamilnadu and learnt that SEIAA Tamilnadu conducts joint meetings of SEIAA TN and SEAC TN to consider mining proposals. Also SEIAA TN has classified mining area below 25 hectares as B2 category and area above that as Category B1. It was also noted that SEIAA-Andhra Pradesh has classified area below 25 hectares as B2 category and area above that as Category B1 and SEIAA-Uttar Pradesh has classified area below 20 hectares as B2 Category and area above that as Category B1.

Considering the Kerala scenario with high density of population which is seen dispersed, scarcity of land and also considering the anticipated adverse impacts/hardships, the Authority after detailed discussions, decided to classify the mining area less than 10 hectares as Category B2 and area above that as Category B1 in Kerala. Also SEIAA decided to adopt a special procedure with joint meetings of SEIAA and SEAC for processing mining areas in Category B2.

The Authority also noted that SEIAA TN has communicated to MoEF their interim classifications, to be implemented till the receipt of notifications from MoEF and also about their joint meetings of SEIAA and SEAC; however MoEF has not objected to these special procedures. SEIAA decided to take a proactive action and accordingly Chairman SEIAA shall write a DO letter to Secretary MoEF about SEIAA decisions to implement the special procedures exclusively for processing mining proposals in Category B2 with area less than 10 hectares and

request MoEF for objections, if any. This special procedure will enable SEIAA Kerala to comply with the order of the honourable Supreme Court. SEIAA also approved the “procedure for processing Mining proposals with lease area less than 10 hectares for Environment Clearance by SEIAA Kerala” as given in the annexure.

**Item No. KLA/16.11**

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

Noted.

**Item No. KLA/16.12**

**Concluding remarks by Member Secretary**

None.