

**IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, SOUTHERN ZONE  
BENCH, CHENNAI**

**APPEAL NO. 38 of 2023**

**IN THE MATTER OF: -**

**Stone Trust Enterprises**

**.... Applicant**

**Versus**

**The Member Secretary, SEIAA and Ors.**

**.... Respondent**

**COUNTER AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF STATE LEVEL  
ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY (SEIAA)**



Filed by:  
**G.M. SYED NURULLAH SHERIFF**  
**Senior Standing Counsel**  
**MoEF & Cc.**  
**Mob. No. 9444015330**  
**Counsel for Respondent no. 1&2**

## BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Appeal No.38 of 2023 (SZ)

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## BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Appeal No.38 of 2023 (SZ)

M/s. Stone Trust Enterprises,  
Rep. by its Partner Mr. K. P. Mithun Kumar,  
7/4, 8th Street, Nandanam Extension,  
Chennai – 600 035.

... APPELLANT

Vs

1. State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA),  
Rep. by its Member Secretary,  
3rd Floor, Panagal Maaligai, No.1, Jeenis Road,  
Saidapet, Chennai – 600 015.  
Email: seiaamstn@gmail.com &  
Phone No. 044-24359973
2. State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC),  
Rep. by its Chairman,  
3rd Floor, Panagal Maaligai, No.1, Jeenis Road,  
Saidapet, Chennai – 600 015.  
Email: seacchairmantn@gmail.com &  
Phone No. 044-24359973.

... RESPONDENTS

**COUNTER AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF SEIAA – TAMIL NADU, THE 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**and 2<sup>nd</sup> RESPONDENTS**

I, Deepak S. Bilgi, I.F.S., Age 44 years working as Member Secretary, State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Tamil Nadu (SEIAA-TN) having office at Third Floor, Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet, Chennai – 600015 solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I am filing this counter affidavit on behalf of the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Respondent/SEIAA-TN herein and as such I am well acquainted with the facts and the circumstances of the case from the records available in this office.

  
Member Secretary  
STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TN  
Panagal Maligai, No.1, Jeenis Road,  
Saidapet, Chennai - 15

2. I deny the averments and allegations stated in this Appeal No.38 of 2023 except those that are specifically admitted hereunder and put the applicant to strict proof of the same.
3. It is respectfully submitted that; the project proponent has applied to State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority – Tamil Nadu (SEIAA-TN) seeking grant of Environmental Clearance for the unit of M/s. Stone Trust Enterprises for the Proposed Black Granite (Dolerite) quarry lease over an extent of 3.06.0 Ha at S.F. Nos. 22/1, 23/1, 23/2, 24/7, 24/8, 25/1 and 25/2 of Semmedu Village, Vikravandi Taluk, Viluppuram District, Tamil Nadu.
4. The proposal was placed in the **404<sup>th</sup> meeting of State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) held on 25.08.2023. The SEAC noted the following:**
  1. M/s. Stone Trust Enterprises earlier applied seeking Environment Clearance (File No. 6873 and Online Proposal No. SIA/TN/MIN/37020/2019 dated: 25.06.2019) for the Proposed Black Granite (Dolerite) quarry lease over an extent of 3.06.0 Ha in S.F.Nos. 22/1, 23/1, 23/2, 24/7, 24/8, 25/1 and 25/2 of Semmedu Village, Vikravandi Taluk, Viluppuram District, Tamil Nadu. The subject was placed before the SEAC in its 136<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21.09.2019. SEAC decided not to recommend for issue of Environmental Clearance for the project since the project site is abutting the water tank which has large capacity and the project will adversely impact the storage capacity of the tank and thereby affecting the irrigation and livelihood of the local people of the downstream. Hence SEAC collectively decided that the project is not recommended.
  2. Suppressing the said facts to State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and SEAC, the Proponent has applied again for the same project (File No. 9040 and Online Proposal No. SIA/TN/MIN/256739/2022 dated: 15.02.2022) and the proposal was recommended by the SEAC in its 281<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 03.06.2022. Subsequently the subject was placed before the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) in its 527<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 01.07.2022 and it was referred back by the Authority for the reasons as stated above. When the subject was listed for discussion in 304<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 20.08.2022, the EIA Coordinator informed the Committee that the Proponent has requested for withdrawal of the application and submitted the withdrawal request vide PARIVESH. Hence the subject was not taken up by the Committee for re-appraisal. Subsequently, the Proponent vide letter dated 02.09.2022, stated that about 8 nos. of hydrogeological studies have been carried out in the past three years for the said project and requested for reconsideration of the proposal. Hence the subject was placed before the Authority during its 559<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 15.10.2022 to decide on further course of action. The Authority

decided to seek Committee's opinion on the withdrawal requested via PARIVESH and Proponent's letter dated 02.09.2022 seeking reconsideration of the Project.

Hence the subject was again placed in the 322<sup>nd</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 19.10.2022. After detailed deliberations, **the SEAC decided to withdraw the recommendation already made in the 281<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 03.06.2022 and endorse the decision taken by the previous Committee in its 136<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21.09.2019 which, the Proposal was not recommended by SEAC.**

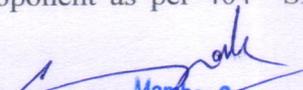
5. The subject was placed in the **567<sup>th</sup> Authority meeting held on 07.11.2022 & 08.11.2022.** Confirmed the decision taken by the SEAC in its 322<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The Authority, after detailed deliberations, decided to accept the recommendation of SEAC .
6. The Project Proponent has submitted requisition letter dated 30.06.2023 along with a copy of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras Order dated 12.06.2023 in W.P. 17246 of 2023 stated as follows:
 

*"Taking into consideration the limited relief sought for in this writ petition, there shall be a direction to the first respondent to consider the petitioner's application bearing file No.9641 dated 13.12.2022 on its own merits and in accordance with law and appropriate orders shall be passed within a period of three months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order."*

In view of the above, the subject was placed in the 636<sup>th</sup> Authority meeting held on 10.07.2023. After detailed discussion, the Authority decided to forward the proposal to SEAC to look into the order dated 12.06.2023 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in W.P. 17246 of 2023.

The proposal was again placed in the 404<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 25.08.2023. The SEAC noted that, already a decision has been taken by the previous Committee in its 136<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21.09.2019. The Hon'ble High Court has directed the Authority to consider the application freshly filed. SEAC carefully examined the case and decided that the PP was dishonest in not disclosing the earlier decision of the Authority to deny EC to his proposal based on the recommendation of SEAC. Now again, the Project Proponent has made afresh application for the same proposal, albeit disclosing the history. None of the parameters based on which the EC was denied has changed. Further, reopening already decided cases based on fresh applications would be inappropriate and would lead to PPs filing fresh applications repeatedly till EC is granted. SEAC, therefore, decided that there would be no change in the recommendation already made.

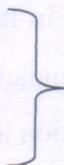
7. The subject was placed in the **655<sup>th</sup> authority meeting held on 19.09.2023.** The authority noted that, the subject was appraised in **the 404<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting held on 25.08.2023.** The Authority, after discussions, accepted the decision of SEAC, rejected the proposal and decided to request the Member Secretary, SEIAA-TN to send rejection letter to the proponent as per 404<sup>th</sup> SEAC

  
 Member Secretary  
 STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TN  
 Panagal Maligai, No.1, Jeanis Road,  
 Saidapet, Chennai - 15

minutes. Rejection letter sent to Proponent vide this office letter dated 11.10.2023. Further, Authority decided to close and record this proposal. Hence the above-mentioned file is **closed and recorded accordingly.**

- 8. Therefore, humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to record and pass orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem to fit and proper in light of the facts and circumstances of this case and thus render justice.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai on  
 this 28<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023 &  
 Signed his name in my presence



FIRST & SECOND  
 RESPONDENT

BEFORE ME

  
**MEMBER SECRETARY**

SEIAA-TN

**Member Secretary**  
 STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TN  
 Panagal Maligai, No.1, Jeeris Road,  
 Saidapet, Chennai - 15

2. The proponent shall allocate the land area(at least 15% of the total land area) for green belt development all along the boundaries of the project site premises with 3m width . The proponent should earmark the green belt area in the layout plan with GPS coordinates and dimension .Hence the layout plan should be revised including the green belt area and the same shall be submitted for DTCP/LPA approval.
3. The proponent shall submit the Gross Fixed value include the land value and construction cost as per the PWD guideline value.

The project proponent is requested to submit the aforesaid details to SEIAA-TN. On receipt of above details (Sl.No. 1 to 3) from the project proponent, SEAC decided to conduct re-appraisal of the project.

**Agenda No: 136 – 02-03**

**(File No. 6873/2019)**

**Proposed Black Granite (Dolerite) quarry lease over an extent of 3.06.0 Ha in S.F.Nos 22/1, 23/1, 2, 24/7, 8, 25/1 and 25/2 of Semmedu village Vikravandi Taluk and Viluppuram District the state of Tamil Nadu by M/s. Stone Trust Enterprises – for Environment Clearance.**

**(SIA/TN/MIN/37020/2019) dated: 30.05.2019**

The proposal was placed in the 136th SEAC Meeting held on 21.09.2019. The Project proponents send detailed presentation. The salient features of the project as presented by the proponent.

1. Government order/ Lease details:

The Quarry lease was applied in the name of M/s. Stone Trust Enterprises. Precise Area Communication was issued by the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Industries Department, Chennai, vide Letter. No. 118/MMB.2/2019-1, dated 04.02.2019 for a period of 20 years. It is a Fresh lease for Black Granite (Dolerite) quarry over an extent of 3.06.0 Ha in S.F.Nos 22/1, 23/1, 2, 24/7, 8, 25/1 and 25/2 of Semmedu village Vikravandi Taluk and Viluppuram District.

2. Mining Plan/Scheme of Mining approval details:

  
Chairman

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The Mining plan was prepared for the period of 5 years. The Mining Plan was approved from the Director of Geology and Mining, Guindy, Chennai vide letter Rc. No. 9453/MM5/2018, dated 03.05.2019.

3. As per the Mining plan, the production schedule for first five years states that the total volume of recoverable as 20% recovery should not exceed 6.021m<sup>3</sup>.  
For First Year - 1200m<sup>3</sup>  
For Second year- 1200m<sup>3</sup>  
For Third year - 1200 m<sup>3</sup>  
For Fourth year - 1200 m<sup>3</sup>  
For Fifth year - 1221 m<sup>3</sup>
4. The Total waste that will be resulting in the quarrying operation for first years will be 24,084m<sup>3</sup> (80% of Granite Waste) and Topsoil will be 12,156m<sup>3</sup>. The Topsoil will be dumped on the boundary barriers for afforestation and the total Quantity Waste will be dump on the North western side with dimension of (L) 91m x (W) 20m x13.23m (H).
5. The quarry operation is proposed upto a depth of 7m (2m Topsoil + 5m Black Granites) for the present Mining plan period.
6. Quarrying Operation will be done by Opencast Semi Mechanised method with Diamond Wire Saw cutting.
7. Granite is to be transported by tippers of 2 Nos. (10 T capacity).
8. The project is locate at 12°02'34.75"N to 12°02'42.20"N latitude and 79°24'33.23"E to 79°24'40.69"E Longitude.
9. The total Manpower requirement is 32 Nos.
10. Total cost of the projects is Rs. 2.219 crores and EMP cost about Rs. 7.25 lakhs.
11. The Water table is found to be at the depth of 51m in summer season and 47m in rainy season.
12. Lease applied area is not covered under HACA region.
13. No Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) within the radius of 10km from the lease area.

  
Chairman  
SEAC-TN

14. No Interstate boundary & Western Ghats Boundary within the radius of 10km from the lease area.
15. No National Park & Wild Life Sanctuary within the radius of 10km from the lease area.
16. No critically polluted area as notified by the Central Pollution Control Board constituted under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 within the radius of 10km from the lease area.
17. No Protected Area, Eco Sensitive Zone & Eco Sensitive Area within the radius of 10km.
18. No habitation within the radius of the 300m from the lease area.
19. Letter obtained from the Assistant Director, Department of Geology and Mining, Viluppuram vide Letter RC. No. B/G&M/108/2014, dated 29.03.2019, informed that,  
"No other quarries are situated within 500 meters radial distance from the area applied for the grant of subject quarry lease".

The SEAC noted the following:

1. The Proponent, M/s. Stone Trust Enterprises has applied for Environmental Clearance to SEIAA-TN for the proposed Black Granite (Dolerite) quarry lease over an extent of 3.06.0 Ha in S.F.Nos 22/1, 23/1, 2, 24/7, 8, 25/1 and 25/2 of Semmedu village Vikravandi Taluk and Viluppuram District, Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B2" of Item 1(a) "Mining of Mineral Projects" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.

After the detailed presentation and perusal of the details furnished by the proponent, the SEAC decided to not recommended for issue of Environmental clearance the proposal since the project site is abetting the water tank which has large capacity and the project will adversely impact the storage capacity of the tank and thereby affecting the irrigation and livelihood of the local people of the downstream. Hence SEAC collectively decided that the project is not recommended.



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Hence the subject was placed in this 322<sup>nd</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 19.10.2022. After detailed deliberations, the SEAC decided to withdraw the recommendation already made in the 281<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 03.06.2022 and endorse the decision taken by the previous Committee in its 136<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21.09.2019 and to call for the following:

1. SEIAA may call for the explanation of the dealing Engineer for having accepted an already rejected proposal and for not disclosing the history of the case to SEAC.
2. SEIAA may call for an explanation of the EIA Coordinator for deliberately hiding the facts regarding the history of the project proposal to the Committee during appraisal.

**Agenda No: 322-13**

**(File No: 9202/2021)**

**Proposed Rough stone and Gravel Quarry quarry lease over an extent of 2.00.0 Ha in S.F.Nos.305/A (part) of Karvazhi Village, Aravakurichi Taluk, Karur District, Tamil Nadu by Balusamy Sasikala - Environmental Clearance- Regarding. (SIA/TN/MIN/268847/2022, dated: 23.04.2022)**

The proposal was placed for appraisal in this 322<sup>nd</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 19.09.2022. The details of the project furnished by the proponent are given on the website (parivesh.nic.in).

SEAC noted the following:

1. The Project Proponent, Balusamy Sasikala has applied for Environmental Clearance for the proposed Rough stone and Gravel Quarry lease over an extent of 2.00.0 Ha in S.F.Nos.305/A (part) of Karvazhi Village, Aravakurichi Taluk, Karur District, Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B2" of Item 1(a) "Mining Projects" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.
3. As per the mining plan, the lease period is for 5 years. The mining plan is for the period of 5 years. The total production for 5 years not to exceed 2,02,7904m<sup>3</sup> of Rough stone and 62,320m<sup>3</sup> of Gravel with ultimate depth of 40m BGL.

Agenda No. 322 - 12.

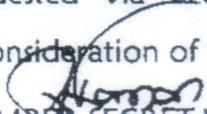
File No. 9040/2022

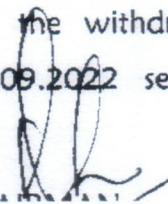
Proposed Black Granite (Dolerite) quarry lease over an extent of 3.06.0 Ha in S.F.Nos 22/1, 23/1, 2, 24/7, 8, 25/1 and 25/2 of Semmedu village Vikravandi Taluk and Viluppuram District the state of Tamil Nadu by M/s. Stone Trust Enterprises – for Environment Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/256739/2022) dated: 02.06.2022

M/s. Stone Trust Enterprises earlier applied seeking Environment Clearance (File No.6873) for the Proposed Black Granite (Dolerite) quarry lease over an extent of 3.06.0 Ha in S.F.Nos 22/1, 23/1, 2, 24/7, 8, 25/1 and 25/2 of Semmedu Village, Vikravandi Taluk, Viluppuram District, Tamil Nadu. The subject was placed before the then Committee in its 136<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21.09.2019. SEAC decided not to recommend for issue of Environmental Clearance for the project since the project site is abetting the water tank which has large capacity and the project will adversely impact the storage capacity of the tank and thereby affecting the irrigation and livelihood of the local people of the downstream. Hence SEAC collectively decided that the project is not recommended.

Suppressing the said facts to SEIAA and SEAC, the Proponent has applied again for the same project (File No. 9040) and the proposal was recommended by this Committee in its 281<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 03.06.2022. Subsequently the subject was placed before the Authority in its 527<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 01.07.2022 and it was referred back by the Authority for the reasons stated therein. When the subject was listed for discussion in 304<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 20.08.2022, the EIA Coordinator informed the Committee that the Proponent has requested for withdrawal of the application and submitted the withdrawal request vide PARIVESH. Hence the subject was not taken up by the Committee for re-appraisal.

Subsequently the Proponent vide letter dated 02.09.2022, stating that about 8 nos. of hydrogeological studies have been carried out in the past three years for the project, has requested for reconsideration of the proposal. Hence the subject was placed before the Authority during its 559<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 15.10.2022 to decide on further course of action. The Authority decided to seek Committee's opinion on the withdrawal requested via PARIVESH and the Proponent's letter dated 02.09.2022 seeking reconsideration of the Project.

  
MEMBER SECRETARY

  
CHAIRMAN

(11)

Agenda No: 404 - 11

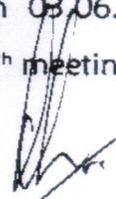
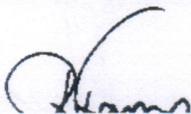
(File No. 9641/2022)

Proposed Black Granite (Dolerite) quarry lease over an extent of 3.06.0 Ha in S.F.Nos 22/1, 23/1, 2, 24/7, 8, 25/1 and 25/2 of Semmedu Village, Vikravandi Taluk, Viluppuram District, Tamil Nadu by M/s. Stone Trust Enterprises – for Environment Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/409964/2022, Dated: 13.12.2022)

The proposal was placed in this 404<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 25.08.2023. The details of the project furnished by the proponent are available in the website (parivesh.nic.in).

The SEAC noted the following:

1. The Project Proponent, M/s. Stone Trust Enterprises has applied for Environmental Clearance for the proposed Black Granite (Dolerite) quarry lease over an extent of 3.06.0 Ha S.F.Nos. 22/1, 23/1, 2, 24/7, 8, 25/1 and 25/2, of Semmedu Village, Vikravandi Taluk, Viluppuram District, Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B2" of Item 1(a) "Mining Projects" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.
3. M/s. Stone Trust Enterprises earlier applied seeking Environment Clearance (File No. 6873 and Online Proposal No. SIA/TN/MIN/37020/2019 dated: 25.06.2019) for the Proposed Black Granite (Dolerite) quarry lease over an extent of 3.06.0 Ha in S.F.Nos 22/1, 23/1, 2, 24/7, 8, 25/1 and 25/2 of Semmedu Village, Vikravandi Taluk, Viluppuram District, Tamil Nadu. The subject was placed before the then Committee in its 136<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21.09.2019. SEAC decided not to recommend for issue of Environmental Clearance for the project since the project site is abetting the water tank which has large capacity and the project will adversely impact the storage capacity of the tank and thereby affecting the irrigation and livelihood of the local people of the downstream. Hence SEAC collectively decided that the project is not recommended.
4. Suppressing the said facts to SEIAA and SEAC, the Proponent has applied again for the same project (File No. 9040 and Online Proposal No. SIA/TN/MIN/256739/2022 dated: 15.02.2022) and the proposal was recommended by this Committee in its 281<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 03.06.2022. Subsequently the subject was placed before the Authority in its 527<sup>th</sup> meeting held

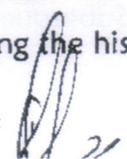
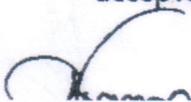


on 01.07.2022 and it was referred back by the Authority for the reasons stated therein. When the subject was listed for discussion in 304<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 20.08.2022, the EIA Coordinator informed the Committee that the Proponent has requested for withdrawal of the application and submitted the withdrawal request vide PARIVESH. Hence the subject was not taken up by the Committee for re-appraisal.

Subsequently, the Proponent vide letter dated 02.09.2022, stated that about 8 nos. of hydrogeological studies have been carried out in the past three years for the project, has requested for reconsideration of the proposal. Hence the subject was placed before the Authority during its 559<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 15.10.2022 to decide on further course of action. The Authority decided to seek Committee's opinion on the withdrawal requested via PARIVESH and the Proponent's letter dated 02.09.2022 seeking reconsideration of the Project.

Hence the subject was placed in this 322<sup>nd</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 19.10.2022. After detailed deliberations, the SEAC decided to withdraw the recommendation already made in the 281<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 03.06.2022 and endorse the decision taken by the previous Committee in its 136<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21.09.2019 and to call for the following:

- i) SEIAA may call for the explanation of the dealing Engineer for having accepted an already rejected proposal and for not disclosing the history of the case to SEAC.
  - ii) SEIAA may call for an explanation of the EIA Coordinator for deliberately hiding the facts regarding the history of the project proposal to the Committee during appraisal.
5. The subject was placed in the 567<sup>th</sup> Authority meeting held on 07.11.2022 & 08.11.2022. The Authority noted that the SEAC decided to withdraw the recommendation already made in the 281<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 03.06.2022 and endorse the decision taken by the previous Committee in its 136<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21.09.2019 and to call for the following:
- i) SEIAA may call for the explanation of the dealing Engineer for having accepted an already rejected proposal and for not disclosing the history of



the case to SEAC.

- ii) SEIAA may call for an explanation of the EIA Coordinator for deliberately hiding the facts regarding the history of the project proposal to the Committee during appraisal.

The Authority, after detailed deliberations, decided to request the Member Secretary, SEIAA TN the following:

- i) To call for explanation as recommended by the SEAC.
  - ii) To call for explanation from the proponent for having applied for EC for an already rejected proposal and not disclosing the facts regarding the history of the project proposal to the Committee during appraisal.
6. The PP has submitted requisition letter dated 30.06.2023 along with copy of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras Order dated 12.06.2023 in W.P. 17246 of 2023 stated as follows:

*"Taking into consideration the limited relief sought for in this writ petition, there shall be a direction to the first respondent to consider the petitioner's application bearing file No.9641 dated 13.12.2022 on its own merits and in accordance with law and appropriate orders shall be passed within a period of three months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order."*

In view of the above, the subject was placed in the 636<sup>th</sup> Authority meeting held on 10.07.2023. After detailed discussion, the Authority decided to forward the proposal to SEAC to look into the order dated 12.06.2023 passed by Hon'ble High Court of Madras in W.P. 17246 of 2023.

Now, this proposal was placed in this 404<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 25.08.2023. The SEAC noted that, already a decision has been taken by the previous Committee in its 136<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21.09.2019. The Hon'ble High Court has directed the Authority to consider the application freshly filed. SEAC carefully examined the case and decided that the PP was dishonest in not disclosing the earlier decision of the Authority to deny EC to his proposal based on the recommendation of SEAC. Now again, the PP has made afresh application for the same proposal, albeit disclosing the history. None of the parameters based on which the EC was denied has changed. Further, reopening already decided cases based on fresh applications would be inappropriate and would lead to PPs filing fresh applications repeatedly till EC is granted. SEAC, therefore, decided that there would be no change in the recommendation already made.



**MINUTES**

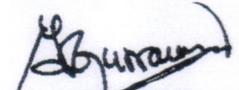
**655<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

**STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY-TAMIL NADU**

**Date: 19.09.2023**

11.	Proposed Black Granite (Dolerite) quarry lease over an extent of 3.06.0 Ha in S.F.Nos 22/1, 23/1, 2, 24/7, 8, 25/1 and 25/2 of Semmedu Village, Vikravandi Taluk, Viluppuram District, Tamil Nadu by M/s. Stone Trust Enterprises – for Environment Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/409964/2022)	9641	<p>The authority noted that the subject was appraised in the 404<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting held on 25.08.2023. The SEAC noted that, already a decision has been taken by the previous Committee in its 136<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21.09.2019. The Hon'ble High Court has directed the Authority to consider the application freshly filed. SEAC carefully examined the case and decided that the PP was dishonest in not disclosing the earlier decision of the Authority to deny EC to his proposal based on the recommendation of SEAC. Now again, the PP has made afresh application for the same proposal, albeit disclosing the history. None of the parameters based on which the EC was denied has changed. Further, reopening already decided cases based on fresh applications would be inappropriate and would lead to PPs filing fresh applications repeatedly till EC is granted. SEAC, therefore, decided that there would be no change in the recommendation already made.</p> <p>The Authority, after discussions, accepted the decision of SEAC, rejected the proposal and decided to request Member Secretary, SEIAA-TN to grant rejection letter to proponent as per 404<sup>th</sup> SEAC minutes. Further, Authority decided to close and record this proposal.</p>
12.	Existing project of M/s. L&T South City Projects Ltd (Eden Park Phase 2) SF.No. 90/3A1A, 3A1B(Part) of Pudupakkam Village & SF.No. 123, 127/1 etc of Siruseri Village, Chengalpattu Taluk,	509	<p>The authority noted that the subject was appraised in the 404<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting held on 25.08.2023 and SEAC noted that this proposal request for partial EC surrender of the Environmental Clearance Dt:07.11.2013 was filed offline stating that there is no option for online submission in parivesh portal.</p>

  
MEMBER SECRETARY

  
MEMBER

  
CHAIRMAN  
SEIAA-TN



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**THIRU. DEEPAK S. BILGI, I.F.S**  
**MEMBER SECRETARY**

**STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT**  
**ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY-TAMILNADU**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Panagal Maaligai,  
No.1, Jeenis Road, Saidapet  
Chennai - 600 015.  
Phone No. 044-24359973  
Fax No. 044-24359975

**Letter No. SEIAA-TN/F.No.9641/2023 dated: 11.10.2023**

To

M/s. Stone Trust Enterprises,  
No.7/4, 8<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Nandanam Extension,  
Chennai - 600 035.

Sir,

Sub: SEIAA-TN – Proposal seeking Environmental Clearance for Proposed Black Granite (Dolerite) quarry lease over an extent of 3.06.0 Ha at S.F. Nos. 22/1, 23/1, 23/2, 24/7, 24/8, 25/1 and 25/2 of Semmedu Village, Vikravandi Taluk, Viluppuram District, Tamil Nadu by M/s. Stone Trust Enterprises – under 1(a) Mining projects of the schedule of the EIA Notification, 2006 – Proposal not recommended / Rejected – Application closed and recorded – Regarding

- Ref:
1. Online Proposal No. SIA/TN/MIN/37020/2019, Dated: 25.06.2019 (File No. 6873)
  2. Minutes of the 136<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 21.09.2019
  3. Online Proposal No. SIA/TN/MIN/256739/2022, Dated: 15.02.2022 (File No. 9040)
  4. Minutes of the 281<sup>st</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 03.06.2022
  5. Minutes of the 527<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEIAA held on 01.07.2022
  6. Minutes of the 322<sup>nd</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 19.10.2022
  7. Minutes of the 567<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEIAA held on 07.11.2022 & 08.11.2022
  8. Online Proposal No. SIA/TN/MIN/409964/2022, Dated: 13.12.2022 (File No. 9641)
  9. PP request letter dated 30.06.2023
  10. Minutes of the 636<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEIAA held on 10.07.2023
  11. Minutes of the 404<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 25.08.2023
  12. Minutes of the 655<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEIAA held on 19.09.2023

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I invite your kind attention to the reference cited above, wherein the application received from M/s. Stone Trust Enterprises for Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Black Granite (Dolerite) quarry lease over an extent of 3.06.0 Ha at S.F. Nos. 22/1, 23/1, 23/2, 24/7, 24/8, 25/1 and 25/2 of Semmedu Village, Vikravandi Taluk, Viluppuram District, Tamil Nadu.

The proposal was placed in this 404<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 25.08.2023.

**The SEAC noted the following:**

1. M/s. Stone Trust Enterprises earlier applied seeking Environment Clearance (File No. 6873 and Online Proposal No. SIA/TN/MIN/37020/2019 dated: 25.06.2019) for the Proposed Black Granite (Dolerite) quarry lease over an extent of 3.06.0 Ha in S.F.Nos. 22/1, 23/1, 23/2, 24/7, 24/8, 25/1 and 25/2 of Semmedu Village, Vikravandi Taluk, Viluppuram District, Tamil Nadu. The subject was placed before the then Committee in its 136<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21.09.2019. SEAC decided not to recommend for issue of Environmental Clearance for the project since the project site is abetting the water tank which has large capacity and the project will adversely impact the storage capacity of the tank and thereby affecting the irrigation and livelihood of the local people of the downstream. Hence SEAC collectively decided that the project is not recommended.

2. Suppressing the said facts to SEIAA and SEAC, the Proponent has applied again for the same project (File No. 9040 and Online Proposal No. SIA/TN/MIN/256739/2022 dated: 15.02.2022) and the proposal was recommended by this Committee in its 281<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 03.06.2022. Subsequently the subject was placed before the Authority in its 527<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 01.07.2022 and it was referred back by the Authority for the reasons stated therein. When the subject was listed for discussion in 304<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 20.08.2022, the EIA Coordinator informed the Committee that the Proponent has requested for withdrawal of the application and submitted the withdrawal request vide PARIVESH. Hence the subject was not taken up by the Committee for re-appraisal.

Subsequently, the Proponent vide letter dated 02.09.2022, stated that about 8 nos. of hydrogeological studies have been carried out in the past three years for the project and requested for reconsideration of the proposal. Hence the subject was placed before the Authority during its 559<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 15.10.2022 to decide on further course of action. The Authority decided to seek Committee's opinion on the withdrawal requested via PARIVESH and Proponent's letter dated 02.09.2022 seeking reconsideration of the Project.

Hence the subject was placed in this 322<sup>nd</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 19.10.2022. After detailed deliberations, the SEAC decided to withdraw the recommendation already made in the 281<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 03.06.2022 and endorse the decision taken by the previous Committee in its 136<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21.09.2019 and to call for the following:

1. SEIAA may call for the explanation of the dealing Engineer for having accepted an already rejected proposal and for not disclosing the history of the case to SEAC.
2. SEIAA may call for an explanation of the EIA Coordinator for deliberately hiding the facts regarding the history of the project proposal to the Committee during appraisal.
3. The subject was placed in the 567<sup>th</sup> Authority meeting held on 07.11.2022 & 08.11.2022. The Authority noted that the SEAC decided to withdraw the recommendation already made in the 281<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 03.06.2022 and endorse the decision taken by the previous Committee in its 136<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21.09.2019 and to call for the following:
  - i) SEIAA may call for the explanation of the dealing Engineer for having accepted an already rejected proposal and for not disclosing the history of the case to SEAC.
  - ii) SEIAA may call for an explanation of the EIA Coordinator for deliberately hiding the facts regarding the history of the project proposal to the Committee during appraisal.

The Authority, after detailed deliberations, decided to request the Member Secretary, SEIAA TN the following:

- i) To call for explanation as recommended by the SEAC.
  - ii) To call for explanation from the proponent for having applied for EC for an already rejected proposal and not disclosing the facts regarding the history of the project proposal to the Committee during appraisal.
4. The PP has submitted requisition letter dated 30.06.2023 along with copy of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras Order dated 12.06.2023 in W.P. 17246 of 2023 stated as follows:

*"Taking into consideration the limited relief sought for in this writ petition, there shall be a direction to the first respondent to consider the petitioner's application bearing file No.9641 dated 13.12.2022 on its own merits and in accordance with law and appropriate orders shall be passed within a period of three months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order."*

In view of the above, the subject was placed in the 636<sup>th</sup> Authority meeting held on 10.07.2023. After detailed discussion, the Authority decided to forward the proposal to SEAC to look into the order dated 12.06.2023 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in W.P. 17246 of 2023.

The proposal was again placed in the 404<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 25.08.2023. The SEAC noted that, already a decision has been taken by the previous Committee in its 136<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21.09.2019. The Hon'ble High Court has directed the Authority to consider the application freshly filed. SEAC carefully examined the case and decided that the PP was dishonest in not disclosing the earlier decision of the Authority to deny EC to his proposal based on the recommendation of SEAC. Now again, the PP has made afresh application for the same proposal, albeit disclosing the history. None of the parameters based on which the EC was denied has changed. Further, reopening already

decided cases based on fresh applications would be inappropriate and would lead to PPs filing fresh applications repeatedly till EC is granted. SEAC, therefore, decided that there would be no change in the recommendation already made.

The subject was placed in the 655<sup>th</sup> authority meeting held on 19.09.2023. The authority noted that the subject was appraised in the 404<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting held on 25.08.2023.

The Authority, after discussions, accepted the decision of SEAC, rejected the proposal and decided to request the Member Secretary, SEIAA-TN to send rejection letter to the proponent as per 404<sup>th</sup> SEAC minutes. Further, Authority decided to close and record this proposal.

Hence, the above mentioned file is **closed and recorded accordingly**.

  
MEMBER SECRETARY  
SEIAA-TN  
11/10/2023

# M/s. Stone Trust Enterprises

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St. Antony's Church Sitheri

Kallanguthu, Sitheri

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