

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI  
Appeal No.33 of 2025 (SZ)**

M/s Krishna Blue Metals,  
Rep.by its partner, Mr.S.Janahar Santhanakumar,  
S/o. Mr. Santhanakumar,  
93A, Mykkan Nadar Kudiyiruppu,  
Varandiveli,  
Tuticorin District-628207.  
Ph No: 7904893406

**... Appellant**

**Vs**

State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA),  
Rep. by its Member Secretary,  
No.327 Metros, 9th Floor, Anna Salai,  
Nandanam, Chennai- 600 035  
Email: [seiaamstn@gmail.com](mailto:seiaamstn@gmail.com)  
Phone No. 044-24359973

**... Respondents**

**INDEX**

<b>S.NO.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PG. NO.</b>
1.	Counter Affidavit Filed on Behalf of Seiaa – Tamil Nadu, The 1 <sup>st</sup> Respondent	1 - 5
2.	Annexures	6 - 26

Dated at Chennai on this the 22nd Day of August, 2025



**COUNSEL FOR THE 1ST RESPONDENT**

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL****SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI****Appeal No.33 of 2025 (SZ)**

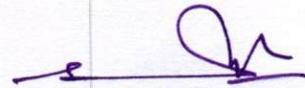
M/s Krishna Blue Metals,  
 Rep.by its partner, Mr.S.Janahar Santhanakumar,  
 S/o. Mr. Santhanakumar,  
 93A, Mykkan Nadar Kudiyiruppu,  
 Varandiveli,  
 Tuticorin District-628207.  
 Ph No: 7904893406

**... Appellant****Vs**

1. State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA),  
 Rep. by its Member Secretary,  
 No.327 Metros, 9th Floor, Anna Salai,  
 Nandanam, Chennai- 600 035  
 Email: [seiaamstn@gmail.com](mailto:seiaamstn@gmail.com)  
 Phone No. 044-24359973

**... Respondents****COUNTER AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF SEIAA - TAMIL NADU, THE 1<sup>st</sup> RESPONDENT**

I, A.R. Rahul Nadh, I.A.S., aged about 37 years, working as Member Secretary, State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Tamil Nadu (SEIAA-TN) having office at No.327 Metros, 9th Floor, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai- 600 035, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:



**Member Secretary**  
**STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT**  
**ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TAMIL NADU**  
 No. 327, Metros, 9th Floor,  
 Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035.

Member Secretary  
 STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT  
 ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TAMIL NADU  
 No. 327, Metros, 9th Floor,  
 Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035

1. I am filing this counter affidavit on behalf of the 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent herein and as such I am well acquainted with the facts and the circumstances of the case from the records available in this office.
2. I state that I have perused the appeal and deny the averments and allegations stated therein except those that are specifically admitted hereunder and put the Appellant to strict proof of the same.
3. It is respectfully submitted that the proponent M/s Krishna Blue Metals, had applied to SEIAA-TN for Grant of Environmental Clearance vide online proposal no SIA/TN/MIN/448552/2023 dated 12.10.2023 for the Proposed rough stone and gravel quarry activity over an extent of 2.98.0 Ha(Government lease land ) at S.F Nos.485/2(P) & 486(P) (Part) of Nedungulam Village, Sathanakulam Taluk, Thoothukudi District, Tamil Nadu , project is covered under category "B2" of Item 1 (a) "Mining of Minerals Projects" of the to the EIA Notification,2006 as amended.
4. It is respectfully submitted that the proposal was placed in the 431<sup>st</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 15.12.2023 Based on the presentation and documents submitted, the SEAC decided to not recommend the proposal. The committee observed the following

*"Earlier, the Project Proponent, M/s. Krishna Blue Metals has applied for Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Rough Stone & Gravel lease over an extent of 4.98.0 ha at S.F.No's: 485/2(P) & 486 (P) , Nedungulam Village, Sathankulam Taluk, Thoothukudi District, Tamil Nadu vide online proposal no. SIA/TN/MIN/411999/2022 dt 24.12.2022 & (File No: 9699/2022).As per the mining plan the lease period is 5 years. The mining plan is for the period of five years & production should not exceed 12,09,065 m<sup>3</sup> of Rough Stone & 83,910 m<sup>3</sup> of gravel. The annual peak production is 2,49,020 m<sup>3</sup> of Rough Stone & 30,150 m<sup>3</sup> of Gravel. The ultimate depth is 52m BGL (2m Gravel + 50m Rough Stone).*

5. In this connection, the subject was placed in the 365<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting Dt: 24.03.2023. During the appraisal, the SEAC had observed the following:

*"The Solar Panel Power units are situated at a distance of 90 m from the boundary of proposed quarry, i.e., in the **Extremely Sensitive Zone** considering the risk from the fly rock due to indiscriminate blasting operations in the proposed quarry".*

Member Secretary  
STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TAMIL NADU  
No. 327, Metros, 9th Floor,  
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**Member Secretary**  
**STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**  
**ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TAMIL NADU**  
No. 327, Metros, 9th Floor,  
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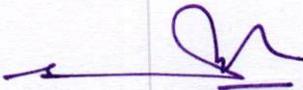
6. *The proposed quarry is freshly planned in the current location where no other such quarries are in operation and the Solar Panel structure has been installed before the arrival of this quarry proposal.*
7. *The proposed quarrying operation involving vibration induced blasting operations and dust pollution due to huge excavation & hauling operations may damage the existing solar panel & its structures.*
8. *Besides, this proposal attracts the following legal implications:*
9. *(i). Under the provisions of Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, Rule 36 (1-A) (a) says*
10. *"....No lease shall be granted for quarrying stone within 300 meters (three hundred meters) from any inhabited site: Provided that the existing quarries which are subsisting under current leases shall be entitled for continuance till the expiry of the lease period. The lessees whose quarries lie within a radius of 300 metres from the inhabited site shall undertake blasting operations only after getting permission of the Director of Mines Safety, Chennai".*
11. *Similarly, Rule 36 (1-A) (c) also indicates*
12. *"....No new layout, building plans falling within 300 metres from any quarry should be given approval by any agency unless prior clearance of the Director of Geology and Mining is obtained. On receipt of proposals for according clearance, the Director of Geology and Mining (DGM) shall decide upon the continuance or closure, as the case may be of any quarry which is situated within 300 metres from the now layout, building sought for such ,clearance...."*

***In view of the above reasons, the SEAC decided that not to recommend the proposal for the grant of Environmental Clearance.***

6. Subsequently, this subject was placed in 612<sup>th</sup> authority meeting held on 17.04.2023 & 18.04.2023. The Authority accepts the decision of SEAC and decided to request the Member Secretary, SEIAA-TN to grant rejection letter to the project proponent as per the 365<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAC held on 24.03.2023"

In regards to the current proposal SEAC after careful consideration noted the following:

Member Secretary  
STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TAMIL NADU  
No. 327, Metros, 9th Floor,  
Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035.

  
**Member Secretary**  
**STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT**  
**ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TAMIL NADU**  
No. 327, Metros, 9th Floor,  
Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035.

"i. The SEAC feels that this affirmation of safety distance of 160m from the solar panels may not be suffice as it falls again within the **High Sensitive Zone** considering the risk from the fly rock and the higher magnitude of Air-Over Pressure (Noise) due to indiscriminate blasting operations in the proposed quarry.

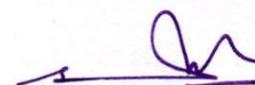
ii. The proposed quarry is freshly planned in the current location which is virgin area where no other such quarries are either in 'operation' (or) in 'abandoned' stage

iii. Vide Rule 36 (1-A) (c) of Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, the Solar Panel **structure has been installed** before the application for the proposed quarry was made **and it is presently operating.**

iv. The proposed quarrying operation involving drilling, excavation and transportation operations handling large volume of excavation, poses enormous dust pollution (airborne dust) which may damage the existing solar panel and the ground vibration caused due to blasting & the operation/movement of heavy earth equipment's affects the integrity of its structures."

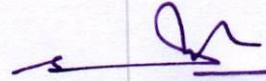
7. It is respectfully submitted that the subject was subsequently placed in the 688<sup>th</sup> SEIAA meeting held on 10.01.2024. After detailed discussions, the Authority decided to accept SEAC decision and decided not to recommend the project after discussion.
8. It is submitted that environmental protection involves the doctrine of precautions. The Sonal panels are also a crucial factor in the development of alternative energy resource which is crucial for environmental protection. In that background, affording a greater degree of buffer from the site is consistent with the objectives of the functioning of SEIAA.
9. It is further submitted that the new quarry site is to be appraised afresh and notwithstanding any prior activity, the scientific expertise and wisdom of the technical body had felt the distance as inappropriate and insufficient. Therefore, the site of the proposed project is not scientifically advisable in view of the existing High Sensitive Zone.
10. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection letter has been awarded to the Project Proponent Vide Proceeding. No. SEIAA-TN/F.No.10484/2023 dated: 10.01.2024

Member Secretary  
STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TAMIL NADU  
No. 327, Metros, 9th Floor,  
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Member Secretary  
STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TAMIL NADU  
No. 327, Metros, 9th Floor,  
Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035.

It is therefore 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.



**Member Secretary**  
**STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT**  
**ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TAMIL NADU**  
No. 327, Metros, 9th Floor,  
Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035.

Solemnly affirmed in Chennai  
On this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025  
signed his name in my presence

Before me,

*D. Arvind*  
*(Ms. 317/2003)*  
*(No. 104, Law chambers*  
*Highcourt, Madras)*

Advocate, Chennai

- incorporated in the EMP. The project specific occupational health mitigation measures with required facilities proposed in the mining area may be detailed.
38. Public health implications of the Project and related activities for the population in the impact zone should be systematically evaluated and the proposed remedial measures should be detailed along with budgetary allocations.
  39. The Socio-economic studies should be carried out within a 5 km buffer zone from the mining activity. Measures of socio-economic significance and influence to the local community proposed to be provided by the Project Proponent should be indicated. As far as possible, quantitative dimensions may be given with time frames for implementation.
  40. Details of litigation pending against the project, if any, with direction /order passed by any Court of Law against the Project should be given.
  41. Benefits of the Project if the Project is implemented should be spelt out. The benefits of the Project shall clearly indicate environmental, social, economic, employment potential, etc.
  42. If any quarrying operations were carried out in the proposed quarrying site for which now the EC is sought, the Project Proponent shall furnish the detailed compliance to EC conditions given in the previous EC with the site photographs which shall duly be certified by MoEF&CC, Regional Office, Chennai (or) the concerned DEE/TNPCB.
  43. The PP shall prepare the EMP for the entire life of mine and also furnish the sworn affidavit stating to abide the EMP for the entire life of mine.
  44. Concealing any factual information or submission of false/fabricated data and failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this Terms of Conditions besides attracting penal provisions in the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

**Agenda No: 431 - 04.**

**(File No: 10484/2023)**

**Proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry over an extent of 2.98.0 Ha S.F.Nos.485/2 (P) & 486 (P) of Nedungulam Village, Sathankulam Taluk, Thoothukudi District by**

  
MEMBER SECRETARY  
SEAC -TN

  
CHAIRMAN  
SEAC- TN

**Thiru. KRISHNA BLUE METALS - For Environmental Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/448552/2023 Dt. 12/10/2023).**

The proposal was placed in this 431<sup>st</sup> Meeting of SEAC held on 15.12.2023. The project proponent gave detailed presentation. The details of the project furnished by the proponent are available in the website (parivesh.nic.in).

**The SEAC noted the following:**

1. Earlier, the Project Proponent, M/s. Krishna Blue Metals has applied for Environmental Clearance for the the Proposed Rough Stone & Gravel lease over an extent of 4.98.0 ha at S.F.No's: 485/2(P) & 486 (P) , Nedungulam Village, Sathankulam Taluk, Thoothukudi District, Tamil Nadu vide online proposal no. SIA/TN/MIN/411999/2022 dt 24.12.2022 & (File No: 9699/2022).As per the mining plan the lease period is 5 years. The mining plan is for the period of five years & production should not exceed 12,09,065 m<sup>3</sup> of Rough Stone & 83,910 m<sup>3</sup> of gravel. The annual peak production is 2,49,020 m<sup>3</sup> of Rough Stone & 30,150 m<sup>3</sup> of Gravel. The ultimate depth is 52m BGL (2m Gravel + 50m Rough Stone).
2. In this connection, the subject was placed in the 365<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting Dt: 24.03.2023. During the appraisal, the SEAC had observed the following:
  - a) The Solar Panel Power units are situated at a distance of 90 m from the boundary of proposed quarry, i.e., in the **Extremely Sensitive Zone** considering the risk from the flyrock due to indiscriminate blasting operations in the proposed quarry.
  - b) The proposed quarry is freshly planned in the current location where no other such quarries are in operation and the Solar Panel structure has been installed before the arrival of this quarry proposal.
  - c) The proposed quarrying operation involving vibration induced blasting operations and dust pollution due to huge excavation & hauling operations may damage the existing solar panel & its structures.
  - d) Besides, this proposal attracts the following legal implications:
    - (i). Under the provisions of Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules,

  
MEMBER SECRETARY  
SEAC -TN

15

  
CHAIRMAN  
SEAC- TN

1959, Rule 36 (1-A) (a) says

*"....No lease shall be granted for quarrying stone within 300 meters (three hundred meters) from any inhabited site: Provided that the existing quarries which are subsisting under current leases shall be entitled for continuance till the expiry of the lease period. The lessees whose quarries lie within a radius of 300 metres from the inhabited site shall undertake blasting operations only after getting permission of the Director of Mines Safety, Chennai".*

Similarly, Rule 36 (1-A) (c) also indicates

*"....No new layout, building plans falling within 300 metres from any quarry should be given approval by any agency unless prior clearance of the Director of Geology and Mining is obtained. On receipt of proposals for according clearance, the Director of Geology and Mining (DGM) shall decide upon the continuance or closure, as the case may be of any quarry which is situated within 300 metres from the now layout, building sought for such ,clearance....".*

**In view of the above reasons, the SEAC decided that not to recommend the proposal for the grant of Environmental Clearance.**

3. Subsequently, this subject was placed in 612<sup>th</sup> authority meeting held on 17.04.2023 & 18.04.2023. The Authority accepts the decision of SEAC and decided to request the Member Secretary, SEIAA-TN to giant rejection letter to the project proponent as per the 365<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAC held on 24.03.2023
4. Now, the Project Proponent, M/s. Krishna Blue Metals has again applied for Environmental Clearance for the the proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry over an extent of 2.98.0 Ha S.F.Nos.485/2 (P) & 486 (P) of Nedungulam Village, Sathankulam Taluk, Thoothukudi District.
5. The proposed quarry/activity is covered under Category "B2" of Item 1(a) "Mining Projects" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.
6. As per the Precise area communication the lease period is 5 Years. The mining plan is for the period of five years & production should not exceed 2,49,020 m<sup>3</sup> of Rough Stone & 47,470 m<sup>3</sup> of Gravel. The annual peak production is 1,11,250 m<sup>3</sup> of Rough Stone & 19,836 m<sup>3</sup> of Gravel. The ultimate depth is 47m BGL (2m

  
MEMBER SECRETARY  
SEAC -TN

16

  
CHAIRMAN  
SEAC- TN

Gravel + 45m Rough Stone).

Based on the presentation and documents furnished by the project proponent, SEAC observed the following that

- a) As per revised precise area communication and revised Mining plan it was noted that the proximity of the Solar Panels at the solar power plant are situated at 160 m (Northern & North Eastern Direction) from the boundary of proposed quarry area which attracts as per provisions of TamilNadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, Rule 36 (1-A) (a) which states that

*"....No lease shall be granted for quarrying stone within 300 meters (three hundred meters) from any inhabited site: Provided that the existing quarries which are subsisting under current leases shall be entitled for continuance till the expiry of the lease period. The lessees whose quarries lie within a radius of 300 metres from the inhabited site shall undertake blasting operations only after getting permission of the Director of Mines Safety, Chennai".*

*(c) No new layout, building plans falling within 300 metres from any quarry should be given approval by any agency unless prior clearance of the Director of Geology and Mining is obtained. On receipt of proposals for according clearance, the Director of Geology and Mining shall decide upon the continuance or closure, as the case may be of any quarry which is situated within 300 metres from the now layout, building sought for such "clearance".*

*3 [(ii-a) 'stone' shall mean rough stones including khandas, boulders, size reduced (broken or crushed) materials including metal jelly, ballasts, mill stones, hand chakais and building and road construction stones other than black, red, pink, grey, green, white or other coloured or multi coloured granites or any other rocks suitable for use as ornamental and decorative stones.]<sup>3</sup>*

*(iii) <sup>2</sup> ['inhabited site' shall mean a village site or town site or a house site as referred to in the revenue records or a house site or layout approved by a Local Body or Town or Country or Metropolitan Planning Authority, where*

  
MEMBER SECRETARY  
SEAC -TN

17

CHAIRMAN  
SEAC- TN 

*the said Body or Authority is created under a statute and empowered to approve such an area as a house site or layout area.*

Here, the SEAC have observed following points during the long deliberation:

- i. The SEAC feels that this affirmation of safety distance of 160m from the solar panels may not be suffice as it falls again within the **High Sensitive Zone** considering the risk from the flyrock and the higher magnitude of Air-Over Pressure (Noise) due to indiscriminate blasting operations in the proposed quarry.
- ii. The proposed quarry is freshly planned in the current location which is virgin area where no other such quarries are either in 'operation' (or) in 'abandoned' stage
- iii. Vide Rule 36 (1-A) (c) of Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, the Solar Panel **structure has been Installed** before the application for the proposed quarry was made **and it is presently operating.**
- iv. The proposed quarrying operation involving drilling, excavation and transportation operations handling large volume of excavation, poses enormous dust pollution (airborne dust) which may damage the existing solar panel and the ground vibration caused due to blasting & the operation/movement of heavy earth equipments affects the integrity of its structures.

**In view of the above reasons, the SEAC dedded not to recommend this proposal for the grant of Environmental Clearance.**

**Agenda No: 431-05**

**(File No: 10485/2023)**

**Proposed Rough Stone Quarry over an extent of 1.95.5 Ha at S.F.Nos.93/1, 93/3 & 93/4 of Erragudahalli Village, Palacode Taluk, Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu by Tmt.R.Oviyam -For Environmental Clearance.(SIA/TN/MIN/435558/2023, Dated:25.09.2023).**

The proposal was placed in the 431<sup>st</sup> Meeting of SEAC held on 15.12.2023. The details of the project furnished by the proponent are available in the website ([parivesh.nic.in](http://parivesh.nic.in)).

**The SEAC noted the following:**

  
MEMBER SECRETARY  
SEAC -TN

18

  
CHAIRMAN  
SEAC- TN

**MINUTES**

**688<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

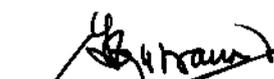
**STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY-TAMIL NADU**

**Date: 10.01.2024**

**MINUTES OF THE 688<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY HELD ON 10.01.2024.**

Agenda No	Description	File No.	Minutes
a)	Confirmation of the minutes of the 687 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Authority held on 09.01.2024.		The minutes of the 687 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Authority held on 09.01.2024 was confirmed.
b)	The Action taken on the decisions of the 687 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Authority held on 09.01.2024.		The Member Secretary informed that 686 <sup>th</sup> Minutes uploaded in Parivesh website and action taken report will be putup ensuing meeting.
1.	Proposed Multi Colour Granite quarry lease over an extent of 0.08.0 Ha at S.F.No. 253/1B (P) of Korakottai Village, Vandavasi Taluk, Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu by Tvl. SKN Temple Architects and Sculptors – For Environmental Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/451915/2023)	10539	<p>The authority noted that the subject was appraised in the 431<sup>st</sup> SEAC meeting held on 15.12.2023. SEAC has furnished its recommendations for granting Environmental Clearance subject to the conditions stated therein.</p> <p>After detailed discussions, the Authority taking into account the recommendations of SEAC and also the safety aspects and to ensure sustainable, scientific and systematic mining, decided to grant Environmental Clearance for the quantity of 547.5 m<sup>3</sup> ROM which includes 547.5 m<sup>3</sup> of Multi Colour Granite Recovery (@100%) up to the ultimate depth of 6.5m for a period of 6 months only from the date of issue of EC. This is also subject to the conditions imposed by SEAC, normal conditions stipulated by MOEF&amp;CC in addition to the following conditions and the conditions in Annexure 'A' of this minutes.</p> <p>1. Keeping in view of MoEF&amp;CC's notification S.O.1533(E) dated.14.09.2006 and S.O. 1807(E) dated 12.04.2022, this</p>

  
MEMBER SECRETARY

  
MEMBER

  
CHAIRMAN  
SEIAA-TN

			<p>Environmental Clearance is valid as per the approved mine plan period.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The EC granted is subject to review by District Collector, Mines Dept. and TNPCB on completion of every 5 years and also during the mine plan period, till the project life so as to review the EC conditions and to ensure that they have all been adhered to and implemented.</li> <li>3. The project proponent shall submit a Certified Compliance Report obtained from IRO of MoEF&amp;CC to the monitoring, regulatory and other concerned authorities including SEIAA, while seeking a renewal of the mining plan to cover the project life.</li> <li>4. There should be regular monitoring of air quality, water quality, ground water level and noise quality and reports regarding the same should be submitted to TNPCB, SEIAA &amp; IRO of MoEF&amp;CC once in every 6 months.</li> <li>5. The proponent shall strictly adhere to the mining plan and half yearly and annual returns shall be submitted to the Director of Geology and Mining Department with copy marked to TNPCB, SEIAA &amp; IRO of MoEF&amp;CC.</li> <li>6. Biodiversity in and around the project area should be monitored frequently and detailed biodiversity report should be submitted every year to SEIAA &amp; IRO of MoEF&amp;CC.</li> <li>7. The progressive and final mine closure plan including the green belt implementation and</li> </ol>
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MEMBER SECRETARY

  
MEMBER

  
CHAIRMAN  
SEIAA-TN

			<p>environmental norms should be strictly followed as per the EMP and as per the amount committed and approved in EC for EMP. Status of progressive mine closure and green belt implementation should be included in the half yearly compliance report submitted to TNPCB, SEIAA &amp; IRO of MoEF&amp;CC.</p> <p>8. As per the OM vide F. No. IA3-22/1/2022-IA-III [E- 172624] Dated: 14.06.2022, the Project Proponents are directed to submit the six-monthly compliance on the environmental conditions prescribed in the prior environmental clearance letter(s) through newly developed compliance module in the PARIVESH Portal from the respective login.</p> <p>9. The amount allocated for EMP should be kept in a separate account and both the capital and recurring expenditures should be done year wise for the works identified, approved and as committed. The work &amp; expenditure made under EMP should be elaborated in the bi-annual compliance report submitted and also should be brought to the notice of concerned authorities during inspections.</p>
2.	Proposed Rough Stone and Gravel quarry lease over an extent of 1.43.0 Ha at S.F.Nos. 100/1A & 100/1B (Part) of Nachipalayam Village,	10483	The authority noted that the subject was appraised in the 431 <sup>st</sup> SEAC meeting held on 15.12.2023. During the meeting, the Committee noted that the

  
MEMBER SECRETARY

  
MEMBER

  
CHAIRMAN  
SEIAA-TN

	Madukkarai Taluk, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu by Thiru. S. Karthick - For Environmental Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/447636/2023)		project proponent was absent for the meeting. Hence, the Committee decided to defer the proposal.  In view of the above, the Authority accepted the decision of SEAC and decided to request Member Secretary, SEIAA to communicate the minutes of 431 <sup>st</sup> SEAC meeting to the project proponent
3.	Existing Grey Granite over an extent of 34.35.5Ha in S.F.No.289(Part) in Sulamalai Village, Bargur Taluk, Krishnagiri District by M/S. Tamil Nadu Minerals Limited- For Terms of Reference (under Violation). (SIA/TN/MIN/453082/2023)	10547	The authority noted that the subject was appraised in the 431 <sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting held on 12.12.2023. SEAC has furnished its recommendations to the authority for granting CRZ Clearance under CRZ Notification,2011 subject to the conditions stated therein.  After detailed discussions, the Authority accepts the recommendation of SEAC and decided to grant CRZ Clearance under CRZ Notification,2011 subject to the conditions as recommended by SEAC & normal/standard conditions stipulated by MoEF&CC.
4.	Proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry over an extent of 2.98.0 Ha S.F.Nos.485/2 (P) & 486 (P) of Nedungulam Village, Sathankulam Taluk, Thoothukudi District by M/s. Krishna blue Metals - For Environmental Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/448552/2023)	10484	The authority noted that the subject was appraised in the 431 <sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting held on 12.12.2023 and SEAC had observed the following:  a) The Solar Panel Power units are situated at a distance of 90 m from the boundary of proposed quarry, i.e., in the <b>Extremely Sensitive Zone</b> considering the risk from the flyrock due to indiscriminate blasting operations in the proposed quarry.  b) The proposed quarry is freshly planned in the current location where no other such quarries are in operation and the Solar Panel structure has been installed



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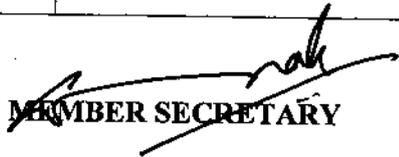


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SEIAA-TN

			<p>before the arrival of this quarry proposal.</p> <p>c) The proposed quarrying operation involving vibration induced blasting operations and dust pollution due to huge excavation &amp; hauling operations may damage the existing solar panel &amp; its structures.</p> <p>d) Besides, this proposal attracts the following legal implications:</p> <p>(i). Under the provisions of Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, Rule 36 (1-A) (a) says</p> <p><i>"...No lease shall be granted for quarrying stone within 300 meters (three hundred meters) from any inhabited site: Provided that the exiting quarries which are subsisting under current leases shall be entitled for continuance till the expiry of the lease period. The lessees whose quarries lie within a radius of 300 metres from the inhabited site shall undertake blasting operations only after getting permission of the Director of Mines Safety, Chennai".</i></p> <p>Similarly, Rule 36 (1-A) (c) also indicates</p> <p><i>"...No new layout, building plans falling within 300 metres from any quarry should be given approval by any agency unless prior clearance of the Director of Geology and Mining is obtained. On receipt of proposals for according clearance, the Director of Geology and Mining (DGM) shall decide upon the continuance or closure, as the case</i></p>
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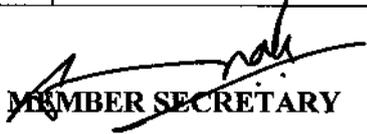
  
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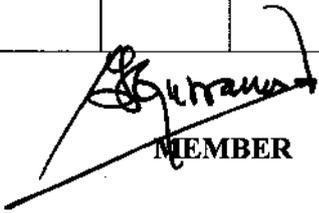
  
CHAIRMAN  
SEIAA-TN

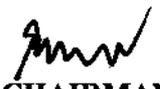
*may be of any quarry which is situated within 300 metres from the now layout, building sought for such ,clearance....”.*

**In view of the above reasons, the SEAC decided that not to recommend the proposal for the grant of Environmental Clearance.**

1. Subsequently, this subject was placed in 612<sup>th</sup> authority meeting held on 17.04.2023 & 18.04.2023. The Authority accepts the decision of SEAC and decided to request the Member Secretary, SEIAA-TN to giant rejection letter to the project proponent as per the 365<sup>h</sup> Meeting of SEAC held on 24.03.2023
2. Now, the Project Proponent, M/s. Krishna Blue Metals has again applied for Environmental Clearance for the the proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry over an extent of 2.98.0 Ha S.F.Nos.485/2 (P) & 486 (P) of Nedungulam Village, Sathankulam Taluk, Thoothukudi District.
3. The proposed quarry/activity is covered under Category “B2” of Item 1(a) “Mining Projects” of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.
4. As per the Precise area communication the lease period is 5 Years. The mining plan is for the period of five years & production should not exceed 2,49,020 m<sup>3</sup> of Rough Stone & 47,470 m<sup>3</sup> of Gravel. The annual peak production is 1,11,250 m<sup>3</sup> of Rough Stone & 19,836 m<sup>3</sup> of Gravel. The ultimate depth is

  
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SEIAA-TN

47m BGL (2m Gravel + 45m Rough Stone).

Based on the presentation and documents furnished by the project proponent, SEAC observed the following that

- a) As per revised precise area communication and revised Mining plan it was noted that the proximity of the Solar Panels at the solar power plant are situated at 160 m (Northern & North Eastern Direction) from the boundary of proposed quarry area which attracts as per provisions of TamilNadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, Rule 36 (1-A) (a) which states that

*"....No lease shall be granted for quarrying stone within 300 meters (three hundred meters) from any inhabited site. Provided that the existing quarries which are subsisting under current leases shall be entitled for continuance till the expiry of the lease period. The lessees whose quarries lie within a radius of 300 metres from the inhabited site shall undertake blasting operations only after getting permission of the Director of Mines Safety, Chennai".*

*(c) No new layout, building plans falling within 300 metres from any quarry should be given approval by any agency unless prior clearance of the Director of Geology and Mining is obtained. On receipt of proposals for according clearance, the Director of Geology and*

  
MEMBER SECRETARY

  
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SEIAA-TN

*Mining shall decide upon the continuance or closure, as the case may be of any quarry which is situated within 300 metres from the now layout, building sought for such "clearance".*

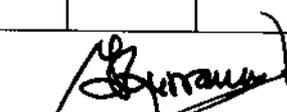
*3 [(ii-a) 'stone' shall mean rough stones including khandas, boulders, size reduced (broken or crushed) materials including metal jelly, ballasts, mill stones, hand chakais and building and road construction stones other than black, red, pink, grey, green, white or other coloured or multi coloured granites or any other rocks suitable for use as ornamental and decorative stones.]<sup>3</sup>*

*(iii) <sup>2</sup> ['inhabited site' shall mean a village site or town site or a house site as referred to in the revenue records or a house site or layout approved by a Local Body or Town or Country or Metropolitan Planning Authority, where the said Body or Authority is created under a statute and empowered to approve such an area as a house site or layout area.]<sup>2</sup>*

Here, the SEAC have observed following points during the long deliberation:

- i. The SEAC feels that this affirmation of safety distance of 160m from the solar panels may not be suffice as it falls again within the **High Sensitive Zone** considering the risk from the flyrock and the higher magnitude of Air-Over

  
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CHAIRMAN  
SEIAA-TN

			<p>Pressure (Noise) due to indiscriminate blasting operations in the proposed quarry.</p> <p>ii. The proposed quarry is freshly planned in the current location which is virgin area where no other such quarries are either in 'operation' (or) in 'abandoned' stage</p> <p>iii. Vide Rule 36 (1-A) (c) of Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, the Solar Panel structure has been installed before the application for the proposed quarry was made and it is presently operating.</p> <p>iv. The proposed quarrying operation involving drilling, excavation and transportation operations handling large volume of excavation, poses enormous dust pollution (airborne dust) which may damage the existing solar panel and the ground vibration caused due to blasting &amp; the operation/movement of heavy earth equipments affects the integrity of its structures.</p> <p>In view of the above, 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 the 431<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting held on 12.12.2023. Further, Authority decided to close and record this proposal.</p>
5.	Proposed Rough Stone Quarry over an extent of 1.95.5 Ha at	10485	The Authority noted that the subject was appraised in the 431 <sup>st</sup> SEAC meeting held on 15.12.2023. During



MEMBER SECRETARY



MEMBER



CHAIRMAN  
SEIAA-TN



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

**STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT**  
**ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY-TAMILNADU**  
3rd Floor, Panagal Maaligai,  
No.1, Jeenis Road, Saidapet  
Chennai-600015  
Phone No.044-24359973  
Fax No. 044-24359975

**REJECTION ORDER**

**Proceeding. No. SEIAA-TN/F.No.10484/2023 dated:10.01.2024**

To

M/s. Krishna Blue Metals,  
No. 226/1, Amuthunnakudi Panchayat,  
Sathankulam,  
Thoothukudi District – 628 704.

Sir,

Sub: SEIAA-TN – Proposal seeking Environmental Clearance for Proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry over an extent of 2.98.0 Ha S.F.Nos.485/2 (P) & 486 (P) of Nedungulam Village, Sathankulam Taluk, Thoothukudi District by Thiru. Krishna Blue Metals – under 1(a) Mining projects of the schedule of the EIA Notification, 2006 – not recommended – Application Closed and Recorded – Regarding

- Ref: 1. Online Proposal No. SIA/TN/MIN/448552/2023 Dt. 12/10/2023  
2. Project proponent submitted EC SEIAA-TN on 20.10.2023  
3. Minutes of the 431<sup>st</sup> Meeting of SEAC held on 15.12.2023  
4. Minutes of the 688<sup>th</sup> authority meeting held on 10.01.2024.

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I invite your kind attention to the reference cited above, wherein the application received from Thiru. Krishna Blue Metals for Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry over an extent of 2.98.0 Ha S.F.Nos.485/2 (P) & 486 (P) of Nedungulam Village, Sathankulam Taluk, Thoothukudi District, Tamil Nadu.

The proposal was placed in this 431<sup>st</sup> Meeting of SEAC held on 15.12.2023. The project proponent

gave detailed presentation. The details of the project furnished by the proponent are available in the website (parivesh.nic.in).

**The SEAC noted the following:**

1. Earlier, the Project Proponent, M/s. Krishna Blue Metals has applied for Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Rough Stone & Gravel lease over an extent of 4.98.0 ha at S.F.No's:485/2(P) & 486 (P) , Nedungulam Village, Sathankulam Taluk, Thoothukudi District, Tamil Nadu vide online proposal no. SIA/TN/MIN/411999/2022 dt 24.12.2022 & (File No: 9699/2022).As per the mining plan the lease period is 5 years. The mining plan is for the period of five years & production should not exceed 12,09,065 m<sup>3</sup> of Rough Stone & 83,910 m<sup>3</sup> of gravel. The annual peak production is 2,49,020 m<sup>3</sup> of Rough Stone & 30,150 m<sup>3</sup> of Gravel. The ultimate depth is 52m BGL (2m Gravel + 50m Rough Stone).
2. In this connection, the subject was placed in the 365<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting Dt: 24.03.2023. During the appraisal, the SEAC had observed the following:
  - e) The Solar Panel Power units are situated at a distance of 90 m from the boundary of proposed quarry, i.e., in the **Extremely Sensitive Zone** considering the risk from the flyrock due to indiscriminate blasting operations in the proposed quarry.
  - f) The proposed quarry is freshly planned in the current location where no other such quarries are in operation and the Solar Panel structure has been installed before the arrival of this quarry proposal.
  - g) The proposed quarrying operation involving vibration induced blasting operations and dust pollution due to huge excavation & hauling operations may damage the existing solar panel & its structures.
  - h) Besides, this proposal attracts the following legal implications:

- (i). Under the provisions of Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, Rule 36 (1-A) (a) says

*“...No lease shall be granted for quarrying stone within 300 meters (three hundred meters) from any inhabited site: Provided that the existing quarries which are subsisting under current leases shall be entitled for continuance till the expiry of the lease period. The lessees whose quarries lie within a radius of 300 metres from the inhabited site shall undertake blasting operations only after getting permission of the Director of Mines Safety, Chennai”.*

Similarly, Rule 36 (1-A) (c) also indicates

*“...No new layout, building plans falling within 300 metres from any quarry should be given approval by any agency unless prior clearance of the Director of Geology and Mining is obtained. On receipt of proposals for according clearance, the Director of Geology and Mining (DGM) shall decide upon the continuance or closure, as the case may be of any quarry which is situated within 300 metres from the now layout, building sought for such ,clearance....”.*

**In view of the above reasons, the SEAC decided that not to recommend the proposal for the grant of Environmental Clearance.**

1. Subsequently, this subject was placed in 612<sup>th</sup> authority meeting held on 17.04.2023 & 18.04.2023. The Authority accepts the decision of SEAC and decided to request the Member Secretary, SEIAA-TN to giant rejection letter to the project proponent as per the 365<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAC held on 24.03.2023
2. Now, the Project Proponent, M/s. Krishna Blue Metals has again applied for Environmental Clearance for the the proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry over an extent of 2.98.0 Ha S.F.Nos.485/2 (P) & 486 (P) of Nedungulam Village, Sathankulam Taluk, Thoothukudi District.
3. The proposed quarry/activity is covered under Category “B2” of Item 1(a) “Mining Projects” of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.
4. As per the Precise area communication the lease period is 5 Years. The mining plan is for the period of five years & production should not exceed 2,49,020 m<sup>3</sup> of Rough Stone & 47,470 m<sup>3</sup> of Gravel. The annual peak production is 1,11,250 m<sup>3</sup> of Rough Stone & 19,836 m<sup>3</sup> of Gravel. The ultimate depth is 47m BGL (2m Gravel + 45m Rough Stone).

Based on the presentation and documents furnished by the project proponent, SEAC observed the following that

- b) As per revised precise area communication and revised Mining plan it was noted that the proximity of the Solar Panels at the solar power plant are situated at 160 m (Northern & North Eastern Direction) from the boundary of proposed quarry area which attracts as per provisions of TamilNadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, Rule 36 (1-A) (a) which states that

*“...No lease shall be granted for quarrying stone within 300 meters (three hundred meters) from any inhabited site: Provided that the exiting quarries which are subsisting under current leases shall be entitled for continuance till the expiry of the lease period. The lessees whose quarries lie within a radius of 300 metres from the inhabited site*

*shall undertake blasting operations only after getting permission of the Director of Mines Safety, Chennai”.*

*(c) No new layout, building plans falling within 300 metres from any quarry should be given approval by any agency unless prior clearance of the Director of Geology and Mining is obtained. On receipt of proposals for according clearance, the Director of Geology and Mining shall decide upon the continuance or closure, as the case may be of any quarry which is situated within 300 metres from the now layout, building sought for such “clearance”.*

*3 [(ii-a) 'stone' shall mean rough stones including khandas, boulders, size reduced (broken or crushed) materials including metal jelly, ballasts, mill stones, hand chakais and building and road construction stones other than black, red, pink, grey, green, white or other coloured or multi coloured granites or any other rocks suitable for use as ornamental and decorative stones.]<sup>3</sup>*

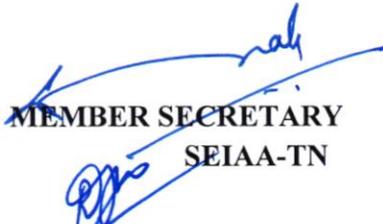
*(iii) <sup>2</sup> [‘inhabited site’ shall mean a village site or town site or a house site as referred to in the revenue records or a house site or layout approved by a Local Body or Town or Country or Metropolitan Planning Authority, where the said Body or Authority is created under a statute and empowered to approve such an area as a house site or layout area.]<sup>2</sup>*

Here, the SEAC have observed following points during the long deliberation:

- i. The SEAC feels that this affirmation of safety distance of 160m from the solar panels may not be suffice as it falls again within the **High Sensitive Zone** considering the risk from the flyrock and the higher magnitude of Air-Over Pressure (Noise) due to indiscriminate blasting operations in the proposed quarry.
- ii. The proposed quarry is freshly planned in the current location which is virgin area where no other such quarries are either in ‘operation’ (or) in ‘abandoned’ stage
- iii. Vide Rule 36 (1-A) (c) of Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, the Solar Panel **structure has been installed** before the application for the proposed quarry was made **and it is presently operating.**
- iv. The proposed quarrying operation involving drilling, excavation and transportation operations handling large volume of excavation, poses enormous dust pollution (airborne dust) which may damage the existing solar panel and the ground vibration caused due to blasting & the operation/movement of heavy earth equipments affects the integrity of its structures.

**In view of the above reasons, the SEAC decided not to recommend this proposal for the grant of Environmental Clearance.**

Subsequently, the proposal was placed in the 688<sup>th</sup> authority meeting held on 10.01.2024. In view of the above, 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 the 431<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting held on 12.12.2023. Further, Authority decided to close and record this proposal. Hence, the above mentioned file is **closed and recorded accordingly**.

  
**MEMBER SECRETARY**  
**SEIAA-TN**

# Untitled Map

Write a description for your map.

26

## Legend

- Essvee solar plant
- Feature 1
- Kula deiva koil edha Nootrangal...
- MAHARAJA DOCUMENT?

அருள்மிகு ஸ்ரீ ஊர்க்காடு...

Essvee solar plant



Google Earth

Image © 2025 Airbus



400 m

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL  
GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI  
Appeal No.33 of 2025 (SZ)**

M/s Krishna Blue Metals,  
Rep.by its partner, Mr.S.Janahar  
**... Appellant**  
**Vs**

State Level Environment Impact  
Assessment Authority (SEIAA),  
**... Respondents**

Counter Affidavit Filed on  
Behalf of Seiaa – Tamil Nadu, The  
1<sup>st</sup> Respondent

**COUNSEL FOR THE 1ST RESPONDENT**

S. SAI SATHYAJITH