

**BEFORE THE HONBLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI**

APPEAL NO: 8 OF 2025 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

M/s. Rockfield Estates Pvt Ltd

...Appellant

-versus-

SEIAA, Kerala and another.

...Respondents

**REPORT FILED BY THE GEOLOGIST, DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
AND MINING/2ND RESPONDENT**

<u>SI.NO</u>	<u>DOCUMENTS</u>	<u>PG NO.</u>
1.	Report filed by the Department of Geology and Mining	1-22

Dated at Chennai on this 10th day of August, 2025

*for. G. Jond
10/8/25*

M/s. E.K. Kumaresan
Standing Counsel for Government of Kerala.

**REVISED STATEMENT IN APPEAL NO. 8/2025 FILED BY
M/S. ROCK FIELD ESTATE PVT. LTD.**

It is respectfully submitted that an application for quarrying permit for quarrying Granite (Building Stone) in Form -A with requisite enclosures was submitted by the applicant before this respondent on 21/01/2020 over an area of 0.8736 Ha comprised in Sy. Nos. 400/1, 400/2, 401/5-2, 406/5 of Chengalam East Village of Kottayam Taluk of Kottayam District. After due verification of application and the documents the site was inspected in 21/04/2020 and Letter Of Intent (**Annexure-I**) was issued dated 27/05/2020 to produce consent from the Pollution Control Board, Explosive Licence, D&O Licence and Environmental Clearance. The applicant by vide letter date 11/02/2022 submitted before this respondent to issue the certificate to the Expert Appraisal Committee (Impact Assessment Division) non coal mining sector, MoEF and CC regarding the validity of DSR in accordance with the guidelines issued by MoEF and CC. Accordingly the certificate to the extent vide **Annexure- II** was issued to the applicant on 14/02/2022. Further vide letter dated 25/04/2024 the applicant had submitted the request before the respondent to the revalidate Letter of Intent issued on 27/5/2020 and the reply was issued to the extent that the Letter of Intent is not restricted by any validity unless specially mentioned.

The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority issued Environmental Clearance No. 171/Q/2024 for a period of 3 years from the date of execution of valid mining lease/permit from the Department of Mining and Geology. (**Annexure -III**).

In the Environmental Clearance issued vide annexure -III it was stated that *the authority decided to issue Environmental Clearance to M/s. Rock filed Estate Pvt. Ltd, for the project life of 3 years subject to the completion of actions against the violation of EC conditions as observed by SEAC and collection of fine for illegal mining and payment of Environmental compensation as estimated by NABET accredited agency for the environmental damages caused by the sister company, M/s. Palathara Constructions Pvt. Ltd. As per order dated 10/01/2024 in O.A. No.*

56/2022 of the National Green Tribunal (SZ) since both projects share common boundary and Project Directors / Partners of the both company remain same.

In this regard it is humbly submitted that M/s. Palathara Construction Pvt. Ltd was granted a quarrying lease by the Director of Mining & Geology for quarrying Granite (Building Stone) from 1.8851 Ha of land comprised in Sy. No. 403/1, 403/2 of Chengalam East Village Kottayam Taluk Kottayam District. The lease was executed 29/06/2016 and is valid up 28/06/2026. The quarry was assessed by the Taluk Surveyor and vide demand notice No. 1606/DOY/ML/2017 dated 24/08/2022 issued to the lessee to remit and amount of Rs. 3,63,71,064/- which was realized as royalty, price and compounding fee for 503764.775 MT of Granite (Building Stone). As desired by the lessee, the lease was subjected to premature to closure as per order No. 938/2022-23/DMG/2876/2022-M2 dated 01/04/2023 of the Director of Mining & Geology (**Annexure-IV**) and the final mine closure plan was approved on 17/02/2023. An appeal regarding the refund of excess royalty remitted filed by M/s. Palathara Constructions is pending before the Government.

Signed by

Gita S R

Date: 07-08-2025 16:58:56

GEOLOGIST.



Annexure - I

No.215/DOY/ML/2020

District Office of the Dept. of Mining & Geology
 Collectorate P.O, Kottayam- 686 002
Email:geo.kot.dmg@kerala.gov.in
 Phone : 04812301405
 Date: 27.5.2020

From
 Geologist

To
 Sri. Shibu Mathew, M.D
 Rock Field, Estates Pvt. Ltd.
 Palathra Building, Thuruthy P.O
 Changanacherry

Sir,

Sub:- Mines & Minerals - Minor Minerals - Granite Building Stone Application for QP Under the KMMC Rules, 2015 - applied area inspected other documents to be produced Letter of intent as per the Rules forwarding of reg.

Ref:- 1. Your application dtd. 21.1.2020 for QP
 2. The Kerala Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2015
 3. Site inspection dt. 21.4.2020

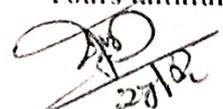
Attention is invited to the above reference. As per the reference 1st cited, you have applied for grant of QP from this office/Dept. for the extraction of **GRANITE BUILDING STONE** from an area of 0.8736 Ha. On Survey No. 400/1,2, 401/5-2, 406/5 of Chengalam(E)Village of Kottayam Taluk of KOTTAYAM District. As per the documents attached with your application this office inspected the area applied for QP and its surroundings on 21.4.2020 (Date of inspection). On inspection, this office has realized that to the area applied for/to the precise area marked by this office, a QP can be granted under the provisions contained in the KMMC Rules, 2015 subject to the production of under mentioned valid documents. It is further informed that this office has decided to grant a QP under the said Rules to you to the said area if you produce the said valid documents to the satisfaction of this office in accordance with the relevant status.

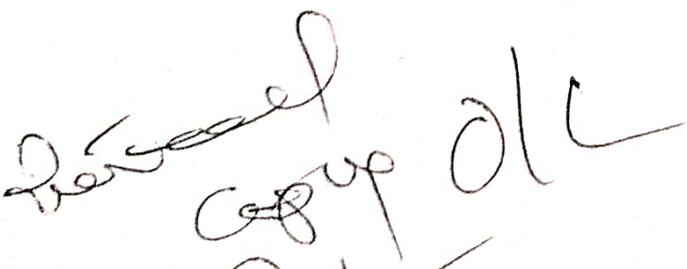
DOCUMENTS TO BE PRODUCED

1. Consent from the Pollution Control Board authorities concerned
2. Explosive licence from the authorities concerned.
3. D & O licence from the ESGD authorities concerned
4. Blastman/Licence
5. Environmental Clearance

It is also informed that as per the provisions contained in the KMMC Rules,2015 this letter of intent shall be treated as QP under these Rules for the purpose of issuing licence permissions/consents/NOC's etc by the other statutory authorities concerned.

Yours faithfully


 27/5/20
 Geologist.



No.215/DOY/ML/2020

Dept. of Mining and Geology,
 District Office, Kottayam- 686 002.
email.geo.kot.dmg@kerala.gov.in
 Phone :04812301405
 Dated. 14.2.2022

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the Department of Mining and Geology has prepared the District Survey Report(DSR) during the year 2016 in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change(MoEFCC), Government of India vide Notification No. SO 141(E) Dated 15.1.2016. Since it satisfied the requirements under the Notification No.SO 3977(E) Dated 14.8.2018 also, this District Survey Report has been accepted and adopted for the proceedings of the State level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) and State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) of Kerala in connection with applications seeking Environmental clearance for mining projects, including cluster situations.

District Survey Report is an essential document for the processing of applications seeking environmental clearance for the mining projects and the District Survey Report published by the Department of Mining and Geology, Government of Kerala during the year 2016 is the one which exists at present. The Department has not revised the District Survey Report since then. The District Survey Report, 2016 is the relevant, complied and effective document being followed and accepted by the State of Kerala as on date. No change has been brought into the District Survey Report, 2016 by the Department of Mining and Geology, thereafter.

(This certificate is issued to produce before the Expert Appraisal Committee of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change(MoEFCC), Government of India).

Mr. Shibu Mathew
 Managing Director
 Rock Field Estate Pvt. Ltd.
 Thuruthy P.O



14.2.22
 GEOLOGIST
 DISTRICT OFFICE
 DEPT OF MINING AND GEOLOGY
 DISTRICT OFFICE P.O. KOTTAYAM-686 002

copy sent

ENVIRONMENTAL
CLEARANCE

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Issued by the State Environment Impact Assessment
Authority(SEIAA), Kerala)

To,

The APPLICANT
ROCKFIELD ESTATES PVT LTD
Palathra Building, Thuruthy P.O., Changanacherry, Kottayam District,
Kerala-686535 -686535

Subject: Grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) to the proposed Project Activity
under the provision of EIA Notification 2006-regarding

Sir/Madam,

This is in reference to your application for Environmental Clearance (EC)
in respect of project submitted to the SEIAA vide proposal number
SIA/KL/MIN/175300/2020 dated 29-Apr-2022. The particulars of the environmental
clearance granted to the project are as below:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. EC Identification No. | EC24B001KL165357 |
| 2. File No. | 1987/EC3/2022/SEIAA |
| 3. Project Type | New |
| 4. Category | B2 |
| 5. Project/Activity including
Schedule No. | 1(a) Mining of minerals |
| 6. Name of Project | Building Stone Minor Mineral Mining
(Quarry) project of M/s Rockfield Estates
Pvt. Ltd. at Block No. 48 in Re-Survey
No. 400/1, 400/2, 401/5-2, 406/5 of
Chengalam (E) Village, Kottayam Taluk,
Kottayam District, Kerala in an area of
0.8736 hectares. |
| 7. Name of Company/Organization | ROCKFIELD ESTATES PVT LTD |
| 8. Location of Project | Kerala |
| 9. TOR Date | N/A |

The project details along with terms and conditions are appended herewith from page
no 2 onwards.

Date: 26/07/2024

(e-signed)
Dr Rathan U kelkar IAS
Member Secretary
SEIAA - (Kerala)

*Note: A valid environmental clearance shall be one that has EC identification
number & E-Sign generated from PARIVESH. Please quote identification
number in all future correspondence.*

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PARIVESH

(Pro-Active and Responsive Facilitation by Interactive,
and Virtuous Environmental Single-Window Hub)





**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT
AUTHORITY – KERALA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

*(Present: Dr. H. Nagesh Prabhu IFS (Retd), Chairman, SEIAA, Sri. K. Krishna Panicker,
Member, Dr. Rathan U. Kelkar, IAS, Member Secretary)*

Sub: SEIAA –Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Shibu Mathew, Managing Director, M/s Rock Field Estates Pvt. Ltd., Palathara Building, Thuruthy P.O., Changanacherry, Kottayam District, Kerala— Granted – Orders issued.

STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY, KERALA

Proposal No. SIA/KL/MIN/175300/2020

File No. 1987/EC3/2022/SEIAA

- Ref: 1. Application for Environmental Clearance from Sri. Shibu Mathew, received via PARIVESH on 29th April, 2022.
2) Minutes of the 135th SEAC meeting held on 07th to 09th and 14th & 17th December
3) Minutes of the 163rd SEAC meeting held on 16th, 17th & 18th April, 2024., 2022
4) Minutes of the 142nd SEIAA meeting held on 30th and 31st May 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE NO. 171/Q/2024

Sri. Shibu Mathew, Managing Director, M/s Rock Field Estates Pvt. Ltd., Palathara Building, Thuruthy P.O., Changanacherry, Kottayam, Kerala submitted an application for Environmental Clearance, vide paper read as 1st above, for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project for an area of 0.8736 Ha at Block No. 48, Re-Sy Nos. 400/1, 400/2, 401/5-2, 406/5 in Chengalam (E) Village, Kottayam Taluk, Kottayam.

I Project Details:

SL. No.	Particulars	Details
1	Name of the Project	Granite Building Stone Quarry Project, M/s Rock Field Estates Pvt. Ltd
2	Proposed Activity	Mining of Granite Building Stone
3	Name of the Sector &	Non Coal mining,

	Schedule No. (in the EIA Notification, 2006)	Activity 1(a), Category B2
4	Name & Address of the Project Proponent	Sri. Shibu Mathew, Managing Director, M/s Rock Field Estates Pvt. Ltd, Palathara Building, Thuruthy P.O., Changanacherry, Kottayam -686 535
5	Project Location	
	a) Block No.	48
	b) Re-Survey Nos.	400/1, 400/2, 401/5-2, 406/5
	c) Revenue Village	Chengalam (E)
	d) Taluk	Kottayam
	e) District	Kottayam
6	Geo Co-ordinates	As per the approved mining plan
7	Extent (in Hectare)	0.8736
8	Project Cost	Rs. 2.20 Crores
9	Mineable Reserve	The Mining & Geology Department shall reassess the mineable reserve as per specific condition No. 4
10	Date of Field Inspection	19.09.2022

II EMP Details

Sl. No.	Area of Intervention	Capital Cost (Rs. in Lakhs.)	Recurring cost (Rs. in Lakhs.)
1	Wetting of roads and sprinkler system and regular cleaning	0.0	2.4
	Plantation in buffer zone	0.0	0.0
	Construction of speed controllers	0.3	0.1
	Asphalting of access roads and its maintenance	10.0	0.8
	Green cover over the top soil / O.B. Dump	0.0	0.0
	Wet drilling	0.0	0.0
	Personnel Protective Equipments (PPE) to mine workers	7	2
	Medical Check-up to the mine workers	0.0	0.0
	Sub-Total	17.30	5.30
	NON-EL blasting technique	0.0	0.0

2	Noise Environment & Vibration	Blast mats	0.7	0.1
		Blasting siren and notice boards	1.5	0.1
		PPEs to workers	0.0	0.0
		Maintenance of machinery and equipments	0.0	0.0
		Acoustic enclosure & anti vibration pads for DG set	0.0	0.0
		Plantation in buffer zone	0.0	0.0
		Medical Check-up to the mine workers	0.0	0.0
		Sub-Total	2.20	0.20
3	Water Environment	Construction of garland drains with intermittent siltation traps	3.0	0.5
		De-silting & cleaning of garland drain, silt traps & ponds	0.0	0.5
		Overland flow collection ponds (1 no.)	7.0	0.6
		Retaining wall for top soil / OB dump in slope side	1.3	0.25
Sub Total			11.3	1.85
4	Ecological Environment	PART-1 • Green Area development in buffer of mine lease area (0.30 ha, 200 trees). • Transplantation of saplings to compensatory afforestation area. • Development of compensatory afforestation area. (100 trees)	5.22	1.30
		PART-2 • Eco-restoration through planting of grass, herbs, shrubs & trees (75 trees) in ML during mine closure.		
		Sub total	5.22	1.30
5	Occupational Safety and Health	First aid kits - 2 nos. Fire extinguishers- 1no.	0.5	0.25
		Training and awareness programs on risk factors	2	3
		Periodical medical checkup and supply of medicines	2	2
		Sub Total	4.5	5.25

Area of Intervention		Recurring cost	
6	Environmental monitoring	Ambient Air monitoring (once in 3 months @ 3 locations)	0.48
		Noise level monitoring (once in 3 months @ 3 sensitive receptors)	0.18
		Vibration studies (1st month & once in 3 years)	5.0 (per study)
		Soil studies (within 500 m. from the periphery of ML area)	0.10
		Water quality Discharge from pond & Naiplavu thodu (once in 6 months)	0.32
		Hydrogeology (observation well)	0.10
		Ecology assessment (Once in 3 years)	0.40
		Socio-economic assessment (once in 5 years)	0.50
		Sub Total	7.08
TOTAL		61.5 Lakhs	

III CER Details

Sl. No.	Activities	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Solar Street lights at Naiplavu - Kochukottaram Rd.	2.2
2	Cleaning & biofencing for the Naiplavu thodu	7.4291
Grand Total		9,42,916/-

2. After due appraisal, in the 163rd meeting, the SEAC, recommended Environmental Clearance for M/s. Rock field Estates Pvt. Ltd. as recommended in its 135th meeting with one more additional condition, i.e., "Temporary protective wall of height 4m should be erected along the boundary connecting BP6-BP7-BP8-BP9-BP10-BP11-BP1-BP2 and BP3".

3. In the 142nd SEIAA meeting, the Authority noted the decisions of various SEIAA/SEAC meetings held on different dates, the judgment of Hon'ble High Court and the orders of Hon'ble NGT. The Authority deliberated that the Hon'ble NGT issued the order with

the presumption that the Project Proponent had paid the penalty, no mining activities are taking place as of now and the concerned authorities have taken appropriate action and hence not required any separate orders.

In the above circumstances, the Authority decided to issue Environmental Clearance to M/s Rock field Estates Pvt. Ltd., for the project life of 3 (Three) years, subject to the completion of actions against the violation of EC conditions as observed by SEAC and collection of fine for illegal mining and payment of environmental compensation as estimated by a NABET Accredited Agency for the environmental damages caused by the sister company, M/s Palathara Constructions Pvt. Ltd as per order dated 10.01.2024 in O.A. No. 56 of 2022 of the National Green Tribunal (SZ) since the both the projects share common boundary and project directors/partners of both the companies remain same.

The Environmental Clearance is subject to the following Specific Conditions in addition to the General Conditions.

- 1. The Project Proponent shall carry out quarrying as per the approved Mining Plan and as per the Specific Conditions mentioned hereafter. The Project Proponent should strictly follow the Kerala Minor Mineral Concession Rules 2015 and amendments thereby.*
- 2. The Department of Mining and Geology shall not issue transport permits unless the actions proposed against the M/s Palathara Constructions Pvt. Ltd for the grave violations of EC conditions noticed are fulfilled, as further mining in the adjacent area by its sister concern M/s Rockfield Estates Pvt Ltd, with possible same kind of violations, is likely to cause environmental damage in the project region.*
- 3. The EC shall be valid from the date of execution of permit/lease from the Department of Mining and Geology. The copy of the permit / lease order should be provided to the SEIAA before commencing the mining activity.*
- 4. Temporary protective wall of height 4m should be erected along the boundary connecting BP6-BP7-BP8-BP9-BP10-BP11-BP1-BP2 and BP3.*
- 5. The protection wall to the Naiplavu thodu should be done only using alternate eco-*

friendly methods & biological measures.

6. *Drainage water should be monitored at different seasons by an NABL accredited lab and clear water should only be discharged into the natural stream. Geotagged photographs of the drainage and sampling site should be submitted along with HYCR.*
7. *The impact of vibration due to blasting on the houses and other built structures within 200m distance from the project boundary should be monitored in terms of Peak Particle Velocity and amplitude for maximum charge per delay and included in the Half Yearly Compliance Report.*
8. *OB dump site should be on the west side of BP6 and BP7. Gabion wall should be constructed for the OB dumping site*
9. *Boundary Pillars should be painted yellow and co-ordinates and pillar number should be written in black colour.*
10. *Development of green belt should be initiated prior to the commencement of mining using indigenous species. The suggested species are Phyllanthus emblica (Nelli), Syzygium cumini (Njaval), Writia tinctoria (Dhanthapala), Ficus bengalensis (Peral), Ficus racemosa (Atti), Bambusa bamboos (Mullumula), Dendrocalamus strictus (Kallan mula), Strychnos nuxvomica (Kanjiram), Terminalia cattappa (Thanni), Schleicheria oleosa (Poovam), Artocarpus hirsutus (Ayiniplavu) etc.*
11. *Compensatory afforestation should be initiated prior to the commencement of mining.*
12. *Drainage system incorporating garland canal, silt traps, siltation pond and outflow channel connecting to a natural drain should be provided prior to the commencement of mining.*
13. *Haulage road should be developed prior to the commencement of mining and it may be maintained well with frequent sprinkling.*
14. *Garland drain, silt-traps, siltation ponds and outflow channel should be desilted periodically and geo-tagged photographs of the process should be included in the*

compliance report.

- 15. CER Plan should be implemented within the first 2 Years and it should be operated and maintained till the mine closure plan is implemented.*
- 16. Transportation of mined material should not be done during the peak hours in the forenoon (8.00am to 10.00am) and afternoon (3.30pm to 5.00 pm).*
- 17. Adequate sanitation, waste management and rest room facilities should be provided to the workers prior to commencement of mining.*
- 18. Adequate energy conservation measures including solar power installations should be implemented prior to commencement of mining.*
- 19. Environment Management Cell (EMC) should include one subject expert in environmental management. The proceedings of the monthly meeting of the EMC should be submitted along with the HYCR.*
- 20. Adequate number of avenue trees of indigenous species should be planted along both sides of the haulage road.*
- 21. Adequate measures should be adopted to harvest the rainwater as per the guidelines issued by the Central Groundwater Authority.*
- 22. Blasting mats should be used during rock blasting to contain the blast, prevent fly rocks and suppress dust.*
- 23. In the wake of occurrence of large-scale landslides in the state, as per the information provided by the Department of Mining & Geology, it is directed to use only NONEL (Non Electrical) technology for blasting to reduce the vibration of the ground, which is one of the causative factors that triggers landslides, formation of cracks in the surrounding buildings and disturbance to human and wildlife.*
- 24. As per OM no F.No.22-65/2017-IA.III dated 30th September 2020, under Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) the Project Proponent should implement the Environment Management Plan (EMP)/CER as directed by SEAC during appraisal, covering the issues to address the environmental problems in the project region, from*

the beginning of the project, indicating both physical and financial targets year wise. The EMP/CER shall be implemented in consultation with Local Self Govt. Institutions. A copy of the approved EMP/CER shall be made available to the concerned Panchayat for information and implementation support. The indicated cost for implementation of CER activities shall be 2% of the project cost.

25. *As per the directions contained in the OM F.No.22-34/2018-IA.III dated 16th January 2020 issued by MoEF&CC, in obedience to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court the Project Proponent shall, undertake re-grassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to his mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc. The compliance of this direction shall be included in the Half Yearly Compliance Report which will be monitored by SEAC at regular intervals.*

26. *The violation of EC condition may lead to cancellation of EC and action under The Environment (Protection) Act 1986.*

4. Environmental Clearance as per the EIA Notification, 2006 is hereby accorded for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Shibu Mathew, Managing Director, M/s Rock Field Estates Pvt. Ltd, Palathara Building, Thuruthy P.O., Changanacherry, Kottayam, for an area of 0.8736 Ha at Block No. 48, Re-Sy Nos. 400/1, 400/2, 401/5-2, 406/5 in Chengalam (E) Village, Kottayam Taluk, Kottayam, for a period of 3 (Three) years from the date of execution of valid mining lease/permit from the Department of Mining and Geology as per S.O.1807 (E) dated.12.04.2022 of MoEF & CC, for the quantity mentioned in the approved Mining Plan, subject to all the environmental impact mitigation and management measures undertaken by the Project Proponent in the Form I, EMP, PFR and Mining Plan submitted to SEIAA. The assurances and clarifications given by the Project Proponent will be deemed to be a part of this Proceedings as if incorporated herein. Also in addition to the Specific Conditions mentioned in Para 3 above, the General Conditions for projects stipulated for mining (items 1 to 57), mentioned below will be applicable and have to be strictly adhered to.

5. The Environmental Clearance issued will also be subject to full and effective implementation of all the undertakings given in the Application Form, mitigation measures as assured in the Environment Management Plan and the mining features including Progressive Mine Closure Plan as submitted with the application. The above undertakings and the conditions and the undertakings in (Mining), (Blasting), (Mines Drainage), (Stacking of mineral rejects and Disposal of waste), (Environment Management Plan) & (Progressive Mine Closure Plan) of the Mining Plan as submitted will be deemed to be part of this Proceedings as conditions as undertaken by the Project Proponent, as if incorporated herein.

6. Validity of the Environmental Clearance will be for a period of **Three (3) years** from the date of execution of valid mine lease / permit from Mining & Geology Department, subject to the earlier review by SEAC in case of violation or non-compliance of any of the conditions or genuine complaints from residents within the security area of the quarry as per condition.

7. Compliance with the conditions herein will be monitored by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority or its authorised offices and also by the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, Bangalore. Necessary assistance for entry and inspection should be provided by the Project Proponent and those who are engaged or entrusted by him to the staff for inspection or monitoring. Instances of violation if any shall be reported to the **District Collector, Kottayam** by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Kerala.

8. The Half Yearly Compliance Report (HYCRs) with name of the project, EC No. and date, the period of submission with its contents, compliance report and environmental monitoring data & covering letter have to be uploaded in the Parivesh Portal as per O.M. F.No.IA3-22/1/2022-IA-III(E)-17264 dated 14.06.2022 and the website of the Project Proponent. Hardcopy of HYCRs shall not be acceptable.

9. The given address for correspondence with the authorised signatory of the project is Sri. Shibu Mathew, Managing Director, M/s Rock Field Estates Pvt. Ltd Palathara Building, Thuruthy P.O., Changanacherry, Kottayam – 686 535.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. *The Project Proponent should provide notarized affidavit (indicating the number and date of Environmental Clearance proceedings) that all the conditions stipulated in the EC shall be scrupulously followed.*
2. *All the statutory clearances should be obtained, as applicable, by the project proponent from the respective competent authorities including that for blasting and storage of explosives. Copies of all statutory clearances shall be submitted along with First Half Yearly Compliance Report.*
3. *The project proponent should advertise in newspapers that the project has been accorded Environmental Clearance and copies of clearance letters are available in the Office of State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and on the website of the Authority at www.seiaakerala.in. The advertisement should be in at least two local newspapers widely circulated in the region, one of which shall be in the vernacular language. The advertisement should be made within 10 days from the date of receipt of the Environmental Clearance letter and a copy of the same signed in all pages should be forwarded to the office of this Authority as confirmation.*
4. *The proponent shall send a copy of the EC to concerned Grama Panchayat/ District Panchayat/ Municipality/Corporation/Urban Local Body and also to the Local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal. The Environmental Clearance shall also be uploaded on the website of the company.*
5. *The lease area shall be fenced with barbed wire to a minimum height of 4ft around, before starting mining. All the boundary indicators (boards, markings, etc) shall be conspicuous and maintained at all times.*
6. *The details of Environmental Clearance should be prominently displayed in a metallic board of 3 ft x 3 ft with green background and yellow letters of Times New Roman font size of not less than 40. Sign board with extent of lease area and boundaries shall be depicted at the entrance of the quarry, visible to the public.*
7. *Explosives should be stored in magazines in isolated place specified and approved by the Explosives Department. Mats to reduce fly rock blasts to a maximum of 10 PPV should be provided.*

8. *Warning alarms indicating the time of blasting (to be done at specific timings) has to be arranged stipulated by Explosive Department.*
9. *Access roads to the quarry shall be black topped to contain dust emissions that may arise during transportation of materials. The transportation of minerals should be done in covered trucks to contain dust emissions.*
10. *A separate Environmental Management Cell (EMC) with suitable qualified personnel should be set-up under the chairmanship of a Senior Executive, who will report directly to the Head of the Organization. The Cell should have representative of Biodiversity Management Committee of the Panchayath and a representative of NGO, if any active in the area. The EMC should meet at least once in six months and review the activities and minutes should be a part of the compliance report.*
11. *Quarrying has to be carried out as per approved mining plan with the suggestions from SEAC incorporated and following KMMC rules 2015 and the Amendments thereby.*
12. *The quarrying operation (Blasting) shall be restricted between 7 AM and 5PM*
13. *Rain Water Harvesting facility should be installed as per the prevailing provisions of KMBR/KPBR, unless otherwise specified. Maximum possible solar energy generation and utilization shall be ensured as an essential part of the project.*
14. *Maximum depth of mining shall be as per the mining plan and as per specific direction of SEAC after field inspection. The maximum depth of mining should not be deeper than the local ground water table. No mining operations should be carried out at places having a slope greater than 45°.*
15. *The height of any bench shall not exceed five meters and breadth shall not be less than the height.*
16. *The Project proponent shall ensure that no perennial or intermittent natural water course and/or water resources are obstructed due to any mining operations. Necessary safeguard measures to protect the first order streams, if any, originating from the mine lease shall be taken.*
17. *A minimum buffer distance specified as per existing rules and statutory orders shall be maintained from the boundary of the quarry to the nearest dwelling unit or other structures, and from forest boundaries or any other ecologically sensitive and archeologically important areas or the specific distance specified by SEIAA in EC as per the recommendations of SEAC depending on specific local conditions.*

18. *The proponent should plant seedlings at least 5 times of the loss of trees that has occurred while clearing the land for the project and follow planting measures as suggested by SEAC. Suitable avenue trees should be planted along the sides of the approach road and internal roads and open parking areas, if any. Preference should be given to endemic native and fruit bearing species. Planting in buffer areas should be taken up beforehand. Proper upkeep and maintenance of planted seedlings shall be ensured by the project proponent.*
19. *The proponent should ensure that the vegetation in the buffer is retained, maintained and strengthened with additions of native broad leaved plants.*
20. *Eco-restoration including the closure of mine as per the progressive closure plan and final closure plan shall be done at the cost of the project proponent. This eco-restoration should follow scientific standards available for restoration, full recovery of the original vegetation and improving the resilience of different ecosystems. Overburden materials should be managed within the site and used for reclamation of mined pit as per mine closure plan / specific conditions.*
21. *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 dumping and overburden and planted with suitable indigenous plant species, if no other specific condition on reclamation of pit is stipulated in the E.C. Monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas should continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining.*
22. *Control measures on noise and vibration prescribed by KSPCB should be implemented. Quarrying activities should be limited to day time as per KSPCB guidelines/specific conditions.*
23. *Periodical monitoring of the vibration at specified location (preferably at a distance of 50 m and 100 m) to be conducted and records kept for inspection. This could also form a part of the compliance reports.*
24. *Speed of trucks entering or leaving the mine site is to be limited to moderate speed of 25 kmph to prevent undue noise from empty trucks.*
25. *Acoustic enclosures should be provided to reduce sound amplifications in addition to the provisions of green belt and hollow brick envelop for crushers so that the noise level is kept within prescribed standard limit indicated by CPCB/KSPCB.*
26. *Blasting should be done in a controlled manner using NONEL technique as specified by the regulations of Petroleum and explosive safety organization (GOI) or any other concerned*

- authorized agency. A licensed person should supervise/ control the blasting operations.*
- 27. Measures should be taken for maintaining noise levels below 85 dBA in the work environment.*
 - 28. Project proponent should obtain necessary prior permission of the competent authorities for drawing requisite quantity of surface water and ground water for the project.*
 - 29. Regular monitoring of flow rates and water quality upstream and downstream of the springs and perennial nallahs flowing in and around the mine lease area shall be carried out and reported in the six monthly compliance reports to SEIAA.*
 - 30. Catch drains and siltation ponds of appropriate size shall be constructed around the mine working, mineral and OB dumps, to prevent run off of water and flow of sediments directly into the river and other water bodies. The water so collected should be utilized for watering the mine area, roads, and for green belt development etc. The drains shall be regularly desilted and maintained properly, particularly after monsoon.*
 - 31. Regular monitoring of ground water level and quality shall be carried out around the mine area during mining operation. If any stage, if it is observed that ground water table is getting depleted due to the mining activity; necessary corrective measures shall be carried out.*
 - 32. Garland drains and silt traps are to be provided in the slopes around the core area to channelize storm water. De-silting of Garland canal and silt traps have to be attended on a daily basis. A labour has to be specifically assigned for the purpose. The proponent shall ensure the quality of the discharging storm water as per the General Effluent Discharge Standards of CPCB.*
 - 33. In the case of any change(s) in the scope of the project, extent, quantity, process of mining technology involved or in any way affecting the environmental parameters/impacts as assessed, based on which the E.C was issued, the project would require a fresh appraisal by this Authority, for which the proponent shall apply and get the approval of this Authority. In the case of transfer of ECs, the matter shall be intimated and get the approval from the Authority as per the existing norms.*
 - 34. The stipulations by Statutory Authorities under different Acts and Notifications should be complied with, including the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Public Liability (Insurance) Act, 1991 and EIA Notification, 2006.*

35. *The top soil, if any, shall be temporarily stored at earmarked place (s) and used for land reclamation and plantation. The over burden (OB) generated during the mining operations shall be stacked at earmarked dump site(s) only. The maximum height of the dumps shall not exceed 8m and width 20m and overall slope of the dumps shall be maintained at 45°. The OB dumps should be scientifically vegetated with suitable native species to prevent erosion and surface run off. At critical points, use of geo textile shall be undertaken for stabilization of the dump. Protective wall or gabions should be made around the dump to prevent erosion / flow of sediments during rains. The entire excavated area shall be backfilled.*
36. *All the mining equipment used in Mining like backhoe loaders and excavators cause pollution and hence shall be serviced regularly & maintained for their efficient functioning and for reducing pollution. Disposal of spent oil from diesel engines should be as specified under relevant Rules/ Regulations.*
37. *All vehicles used for transportation and within the mines shall have 'PUC' certificate from authorized pollution checking centre. Washing of all vehicles shall be inside the lease area.*
38. *Effective safeguard measures such as regular water sprinkling shall be carried out in critical areas prone to air pollution such as haul road, loading and unloading points and transfer points and having high levels of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. Monitoring of Ambient Air Quality to be carried out based on the Notification 2009, as amended from time to time by the Central Pollution Control Board.*
39. *Fugitive dust emissions from all the sources should be controlled regularly. Water spraying arrangement at project site, parking area, on haul roads, loading and unloading and at transport points should be provided and properly maintained.*
40. *Corporate Environmental Responsibilities (CER) as prescribed by SEIAA/SEAC should be carried out leading to Environmental stability of the Project region. The activities carried out under CER should be a part of the half yearly compliance report. The certificates from the beneficiaries, if the CER part is completed should also be submitted to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) along with year wise expenditure.*
41. *The project proponent is responsible for implementing all the provisions of labour laws applicable from time to time to quarrying /Mining operations. The workers on the site should be provided with on-site accommodation or facilities at a suitable boarding place, protective equipment such as ear muffs, helmet, etc.*

42. *The proponent has to provide insurance protection to the workers in the case of existing mining or provide the affidavit in case of fresh lease before execution of mining lease.*
43. *Occupational health surveillance program of the workers should be undertaken periodically to observe any contractions due to exposure to dust and take corrective measures, if needed. The report of health surveillance programme should be included in the half yearly compliance reports.*
44. *The pits in the abandoned quarries and in the mined area shall be used for activities like water harvesting, aqua culture etc. in an eco friendly manner.*
45. *If Government land is partly or fully used for mining, the area shall be returned at the end of lease period after mine closure with separate demarcation with suitable survey marks.*
46. *Any accident occurring in the mined out area after the lease period due to negligence in carrying out safety measures and non-closure , will lead to suspension of all EC obtained for mining by the Proponent.*
47. *In case of transfer of EC the matter shall be intimated and approval from the Authority shall be obtained as per the existing norms.*
48. *The proponent shall submit Half Yearly Compliance Reports (1st of June & 1st of December) on the status of compliance of the stipulated EC conditions including results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) and upload the status of compliance of the stipulated EC conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall be simultaneously sent to the respective Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India and also to the Office of State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA). The proponent has to submit Environmental statement in form V of Environment (Protection) Rules 1986 to SPCB on 31st March every year.*
49. *The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer (s) from the Regional Office of MOEF & CC located at Bangalore/SEAC/SPCB/CPCB/dept of Mining and Geology, while monitoring compliance of the stipulated conditions, by furnishing the requisite data/information/monitoring reports.*
50. *The above conditions shall prevail notwithstanding anything to the contrary, in consistent, or simplified, contained in any other permit, license on consent given by any other authority for the same project.*

51. The Authority reserves the right to add additional safeguard measures subsequently, if found necessary, and to take action including revoking of the Environment Clearance under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to ensure effective implementation of the suggested safeguard measures in a time bound and satisfactory manner.
52. The EC given will be withdrawn at any time if the area is declared high hazardous by the SDMA.
53. The Environmental Clearance will be subject to the final order of the courts on any pending litigation related to the land or project, in any court of law.
54. Any appeal against this Environmental Clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
55. Concealing the factual data or submission of false/fabricated data and failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
56. The SEIAA may revoke or suspend the order, for non implementation of any of the specific or any of the above conditions. The SEIAA reserves the right to alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environmental protection.
57. As per regulation no. 106(2) of metalliferous mines regulation under Mine act, the height of any bench shall not exceed six meters and breadth shall not be less than the height.

Sd/-
Administrator, SEIAA
For Member Secretary, SEIAA

To,

Sri. Shibu Mathew,
Managing Director, M/s Rock Field Estates Pvt. Ltd
Palathara Building,
Thuruthy P.O.,
Changanacherry,
Kottayam -686 535

Copy to,

1. MoEF Regional Office, Southern Zone, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wing, II Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034 (through e-mail: ros.z.bng-mefcc@gov.in).
2. The Secretary to Government, Environment Department, Government of Kerala.
3. The Director, Directorate of Environment & Climate Change, 4th Floor KSRTC Bus Terminal, Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala- 695 001.
4. The District Collector, Kottayam
5. The Director, Mining & Geology, Thiruvananthapuram -4.

6. The Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board.
7. The Environmental Engineer, KSPCB, Kottayam
8. The District Geologist, Kottayam
9. The Tahsildhar, Kottayam Taluk, Kottayam
10. The Secretary, Pampadi Grama Panchayat, Kottayam Taluk, Kottayam
11. The Chairman, SEIAA.
12. Website.
13. Stock file/ Office copy

Validity unknown

Digitally signed by: D. Rathan U kelkar
IAS
Designation: Member Secretary
Date and Time: 7/26/2024 9:48:49 PM