

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH
AT CHENNAI

APPEAL No 5 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

VANGALAPUDI BABURAO

..... Applicant

Vs

UNION OF INDIA & OTHERS

.... Respondents

REPORT FILED BY THE MINES 4th RESPONDENT

DATE - 01.09.2025



M/s MADHURI DONTI REDDY
ADVOCATE

STANDING COUNSEL FOR GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

A.P. POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

#26, S2, Royal Castle, Gill Nagar Extension, Choolaimedu, Chennai – 600 094.

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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH AT CHENNAI**

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It is certified that all the documents contained in the annexure are true copies.

Date: 01.09.2025

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN
ZONE BENCH AT CHENNAI**

APPEAL No. 5 of 2025 SZ

IN THE MATTER OF:

Vangalapudi Baburao
S/o. Davidu,
8-903, Indra Colony,
Ravulapalem, East Godavari,
Andhra Pradesh-533 238.
Mail:vangalapudibaburao6667@gmail.com
Phone:9441356663

.... APPLICANT

VERSUS

1. Union of India,
Rep. by its Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & CC,
Indira Pariyavaran Bhavan,
Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi-110003
Mail:secy-moef@nic.in
Phone:011-24695262, 24695265
2. State of Andhra Pradesh,
Rep. by its Principal Secretary for Mines and Geology,
Secretariat, D.No. 7-104, B Block,
5 th& 6th Floors, Ibrahimpatnam,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh-521 456.
Mail: admin@apmines.gov.in/directormines@yahoo.co.in
Phone:0866-2882170
3. The District Collector,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District,
Andhra Pradesh.
Mail: collector-ksm@ap.gov.in
Phone: 8977935211



ATTESTOR

Royalty Inspector
District Mines and Geology Officer,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District
AMALAPURAM



DEPONENT

District Mines and Geology Officer,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District,
Amalapuram.

4. The Assistant Director of Mines & Geology,
The District Mines and Geology Officer, Rep by Deputy Director,
Konaseema, AIMS Engineering College,
Government Officers Complex, 2nd Floor,
Mummidivaram, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District,
Amalapuram, Andhra Pradesh-533 216.
Mai:ddmgkkd@yahoo.com Phone:0883 2379296.
5. The Chairman, Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board,
D.No. 33-26-14, D/2, Near Sunrise Hospital,
Pushpa Hotel Center, Chalamalavari Street,
Kasturibaipet, Vijayawada-520 012.
Mail: chairman@appcb.gov.in, chiefengineer@appcb.gov.in
Phone: 0866-2463202
6. The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA),
Rep.by its Chairman,
D.No. 33-26-14, D/2, Near Sunrise Hospital,
Pushpa Hotel Center, Chalamalavari Street,
Kasturibaipet, Vijayawada
Andhra Pradesh-520 012.
Mail: bssprasad1@gmail.com
Phone:9000268686
7. District level Sand Committee,
Collectorate Compound,
Amalapuram, Rep by Jointb Collector
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District,
Andhra Pradesh-533201.
Mail:dmgokonaseema@gmail.com
Phone: 9949735422

.... RESPONDENTS


ATTESTOR

Royalty Inspector
District Mines and Geology Officer,
Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Konaseema District
AMALAPURAM



DEPONENT

District Mines and Geology Officer,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District,
Amalapuram.

COUNTER AFFIDAVIT OF THE 4th RESPONDENT

I, L.Vamseedhar Reddy S/o L. Subbi Reddy , aged about 45 years, Occ: Working as District Mines & Geology Officer (I/c), Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema District, Andhra Pradesh do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state on oath as follows:

1. It is submitted that I am the 4th Respondent herein and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case.
2. This respondent denies each averment made in the affidavit filed in support of the Appeal are as false and incorrect except those that are specifically admitted herein in this counter affidavit.
3. It is submitted that with regard to the averments made in **para 1** the Govt. of AP has introduced Free Sand Mining Policy, 2024 vide G.O.Ms No.43, Dt.08.07.2024 and G.O Ms. No.49, Dt.02.09.2024 with the aim of ensuring smooth and uninterrupted supply of sand to consumers in non-profitable and without charging any fees from the consumers except the charges related to cost of operations, Seigniorage Fee, DMF and MERIT. Further developed online portal with the name of "AP Sand Management and Monitoring system" for transference sand booking and sales through online.

Further it is submitted that, vide G.O.Ms No.66, Dt.25.10.2024, the Govt. of A.P., has issued modified free Sand policy guidelines to enhance availability augment supply of sand and boost the construction sector, to improve the processes for hassle free supply of free sand duly exempting Seigniorage Fee, DMF and MERIT. The District Level Sand Committee, Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema Dist has commenced Sand operations after get all clearances and certificates from the concerned authority.


ATTESTOR

Royalty Inspector
District Mines and Geology Officer,
Dr B R Ambedkar Konaseema District
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Amalapuram.

4. It is submitted that with regard to the averments made in **para 2** the petitioner's claims are false and do not reflect the truth. The District Level Sand Committee of Dr. BR Ambedkar Konaseema District initiated sand operations only after obtaining the necessary clearances from various authorities, including the District Ground Water Officer, Dr. BR Ambedkar Konaseema District, the Executive Engineer of Godavari Head Works, the River Conservator, and the concerned Tahsildar (Revenue Department).
5. The permissions granted were for excavation to a depth of only one meter. Further, it has been certified that excavating to the prescribed depth has had no adverse impact on the livelihood of local communities, nor has it caused any damage to the river ecosystem.
6. It is submitted that with regard to the averments made in **para 3** The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has issued Environmental Clearance under B1 Category with verification of below said:
- Podagatlapalli-A Sand quarry extant is 24.965 Hectares, it's more than 5 hectares.
 - The joint inspection team, consisting of representatives from the departments of Revenue, Irrigation, Mines & Geology, Ground Water, and others, conducted an inspection and concluded that the sand quarry falls under the 'B1' category.
 - The Godavari river conservator has also verified and approved all reports and Sketch...etc
 - The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has issued standard T.O.R to for issuance of EC for the Specified sand reach under Semi-mechanized category on 04.07.2024.


ATTESTOR

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- The AP Pollution control board has conducted public hearing in subject Sand quarry area on 19.09.2024.
 - The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has granted environmental clearance for the Podagatlapalli-A sand reach under the 'B1' category for semi-mechanized quarry operations.
 - The clearance is subject to compliance with all norms of WALTA, NGT guidelines, SEIAA regulations, and other relevant standards. Additionally, the sand excavation, carried out through a contracted agency, is limited to a maximum depth of 1 meter and is conducted under the supervision of the District Level Sand Committee.
7. It is submitted that with regard to the averments made in **para 4 & 5** the District Collector and Chairman of the DLSC, Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseemadist has issued the Tender Notification vide NIT No:1233/SAND-TENDERS/2024-25, Dated:20.12.2024 for the Gopalapuram (Malleswaram), Ankempalem(2024-1) and Podagatlapalli-A (2024-4) sand reaches and finalized the contract agencies after following the entire due procedure as per the time lines mentioned in the Tender document. Accordingly, (65) no. of sealed tenders are received within stipulated date and time and the tenders are scrutinized by the tender scrutiny Committee constituted by the District Collector specified as per norms and identified technical qualified tenders and declared before tender applicants in the presence of Joint Collector and Sand tender committee members. Subsequently, opened financial bid quoted by the technically qualified tenders.


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As evaluated the price bid amount quoted by the bidders are drawn with comparative statement and successful bidder who quoted lowest price (L1) is arrived by the Committee and declared the following contractors/agencies as the "Successful Tenderers".

8. It is submitted that with regard to the averments made in **para 6** after obtaining all necessary statutory clearances and permissions, the District Level Sand Committee of Dr. BR Ambedkar Konaseema District issued a Tender Notification (NIT No: 1233/SAND-TENDERS/2024-25) dated 20.12.2024, for the selection of a contract agency for sand excavation, loading, dumping, ramp maintenance, setting up CCTV cameras, and maintaining the sand stockyard. This is to facilitate the round-the-clock dispatch of sand based on scarcity and requirements, as loading is only permitted directly from the reaches during daylight hours, i.e., from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Further, it is submitted that the sand sales were conducted solely by the District Level Sand Committee of Dr. BR Ambedkar Konaseema District by taking only operations costs without any income to the Government and not by the selected agency.
9. It is submitted that with regard to the averments made in **para 7** the successful bidder shall excavate sand in accordance with the conditions specified in the tender document. The bidder shall secure the perimeter of the designated sand-bearing area to prevent illegal mining outside the approved reach and to curb any illicit activities. Additionally, the contractor shall be responsible for ensuring the excavation of the required quantity and will be held accountable for any breaches of the specified terms and conditions.


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Amalapuram.

It is submitted that with regard to the averments made in **para 8** after careful examination of all parameters and following the conduct of a public hearing, the State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Andhra Pradesh, has issued environmental clearances for the Podagatlapalli-A and Ankampalem sand quarries. These clearances authorize quarry operations using the semi-mechanized open cast method with a maximum excavation depth of 1 meter, subject to several specified conditions.

10. It is submitted that with regard to the averments made in **para 9** The Hon'ble NGT in OA no.152 of 2021(SZ) Dated: 23.03.2023 Directed SEIAA, AP to verify all E.C's granted for semi mechanized to 'B1' category sand quarries.
11. It is submitted that as per the standard Environmental conditions for sand Mining are provided in sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016 clause 19 revealed that, depending upon the thickness of sand, deposition, agricultural land/Riverbed, the method of mining may be manual, semi-mechanized or mechanized.
12. It is submitted that the enforcement and monitoring guidelines of sand mining in January, 2020 that the guidelines issued 2020 is supplemental in the existing sustainable sand mining management guidelines, 2016.
13. It is submitted that the DM&G, Ibrahimpatnam vide Proc No.11910/R6-sand/2016, Dt:14.12.2020 has clarified that "If the thickness of Sand is above 3 meters shall be operate through Semi-Mechanized mode"


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District Mines and Geology Officer,
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14. Further, It is submitted that the Hon'ble NGT (South Zone), Chennai in Application No. 177 of 2016, while disposing the Application with certain directions on 14.12.2020, has passed an order vacating the interim order passed on 01.08.2016. The order revealed is given below:

"..... (iii) The state of Andhra Pradesh must scrupulously follow the directions issued by the principal Bench recently in ANUMOLU GANDHI vs. STATE OF A.P (O.A.935/2018 dated 24.8.2020) and also the guidelines provided by the MoEF&C in sustainable sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for sand Mining issued in January 2020 while undertaking such process.

..... (viii) Any interim order passed by this Tribunal is vacated in view of the disposal of the matter with the direction."

15. It is submitted that the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has issued standard T.O.R for conduct operations in Semi-mechanized mode on 04.07.2024.

It is submitted that the AP Pollution control board has conducted public hearing in subject Sand quarry area on 19.09.2024. It is submitted that the Podagatlapalli-A and Ankampalem Sand quarries are more than 05 hectares and categorized under 'B1' category. It is submitted that the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has issued Environmental clearance under 'B1' category for Semi-Mechanized quarry operations.


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16. It is submitted that During Semi-mechanized mode the DLSC has followed all norms of WALTA, NGT guide lines, SEIAA guidelines...etc., and with a condition that excavation of sand shall not be more than 01-meter depth under supervision of the District level sand committee.
17. It is submitted that with regard to the averments made in **para 10** after careful examination of all parameters and the conduct of a public hearing, the State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Andhra Pradesh, has issued environmental clearances for the Podagatlapalli-A and Ankampalem sand reaches. These clearances authorize quarry operations using the semi-mechanized open-cast method with a maximum excavation depth of 1 meter, subject to several specified conditions aimed at ensuring no adverse impact on river ecology and preventing groundwater depletion. Furthermore, the District Ground Water Officer of Dr. BR Ambedkar Konaseema District, the Executive Engineer of Godavari Head Works, and the River Conservator of Dawalieswaram have all approved and recommended the operations, confirming that there will be no impact on river ecology or depletion of groundwater due to sand quarrying upto 1 Mtr., depth.
18. It is submitted that with regard to the averments made in **para 11 & 12** the Government of Andhra Pradesh introduced the Free Sand Mining Policy, 2024, vide G.O.Ms. No. 43, dated 08.07.2024, and G.O.Ms. No. 49, dated 02.09.2024. The objective of this policy is to ensure a smooth and uninterrupted supply of sand to consumers, without charging any fees except for those related to the cost of operations, Seigniorage Fee, DMF, and MERIT. Further, vide G.O.Ms. No. 66, dated 25.10.2024, the Government of Andhra Pradesh issued modified guidelines for the Free Sand Policy to enhance sand



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availability, augment supply, and support the construction sector. These modifications aim to improve the processes for a hassle-free supply of free sand by exempting the Seigniorage Fee, DMF, and MERIT. The use of the semi-mechanized method has significantly increased sand production to meet demand, thereby reducing prices for consumers. Additionally, sand quarry operations are closely monitored by the District Level Sand Committee (DLSC) with government employees deployed at each quarry site. A team of five members oversees each quarry. The DLSC, Konaseema, has also formed a Mandal Level Task Force, comprising the Tahsildar, Sub-Inspector, MPDO, Divisional Engineer, and others, to prevent any illicit activities such as excavating beyond the prescribed depth of one meter. Moreover, the District Ground Water Officer of Dr. BR Ambedkar Konaseema District, the Executive Engineer of Godavari Head Works, and the River Conservator of Dawaleswaram have submitted their reports, recommending that the excavation at a depth of one meter has no impact on river ecology and no depletion of groundwater resources.

In the above circumstance, it is humbly prayed the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal to consider the above facts and pass such orders or other orders as the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal' (SZ). Chennai may deem fit and proper in this matter.

Solemnly and sincerely affirmed,
on this the 27th day of March, 2025,
and signed his name in my Presence.



BEFORE ME
District Mines and Geology Officer,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District,
Amalapuram.

ADVOCATE



VERIFICATION

I, L. Vamseedhar Reddy S/o L. Subbi Reddy, aged about 45 years, Occ: Working as District Mines & Geology Officer (I/c), Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema District, Andhra Pradesh do here by verify that the contents of Para's of Counter Affidavit are based on record and information are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Hence, verified on the 27 day of March 2025 at Amalapuram.



Deponent
District Mines and Geology Officer,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District,
Amalapuram.



सत्यमेव जयते

File No.: AP MIN EC KN 10 2024 501

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

(Issued by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority(SEIAA),
ANDHRA PRADESH)



Dated 26/12/2024



To,

SAIRAM SRIRAM
SAIRAM SRIRAMNew Gopalakrishna Building, Near Police Station, Palamaner, Chittoor, Amalapuram, KONASEEMA,
ANDHRA PRADESH, 517408
konaseemasand@gmail.com**Subject:**Grant of prior Environmental Clearance (EC) to the proposed Mining Project under the provisions of
EIA Notification 2006-regarding**Sir/Madam,**This is in reference to your application submitted to SEIAA vide proposal number
SIA/AP/MIN/500537/2024 dated 16/10/2024 for grant of prior Environmental Clearance (EC) to the
project under the provision of the EIA Notification 2006-and as amended thereof.

2. The particulars of the proposal are as below :

(i) EC Identification No.	EC24B0107AP5847802N
(ii) File No.	AP MIN EC KN 10 2024 501
(iii) Clearance Type	Fresh EC
(iv) Category	B1
(v) Project/Activity Included Schedule No.	1(a) Mining of minerals
(vii) Name of Project	Podagatlapalli-A-Ravulapalem/2024-4 Sand Reach
(ix) Location of Project (District, State)	KONASEEMA, ANDHRA PRADESH
(x) Issuing Authority	SEIAA
(xii) Applicability of General Conditions	No

N/A

 सत्यमेव जयते	<u>State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)</u> <u>Andhra Pradesh</u> <u>Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,</u> <u>Government of India</u> Dr.YSRParyavaranBhavan, APIIC Colony Road, Gurunanak Colony, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada-520007.
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REGD.POSTWITH ACK.DUE

OrderNo.SEIAA/AP/MIN/EC/KN/10/2024/501

Sub : SEIAA, A.P. – 24.965 Ha Ordinary Sand Mine proposed in the name of the District Mines & Geology Officer, Amalapuram of Podagatlapalli-A-Ravulapalem/2024-4 Sand Reach of Podagatlapalli Village & Ravulapalem Mandal, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Konaseema District, Andhra Pradesh – Environmental Clearance – Issued- Reg.

- I. This has reference to your application submitted through online on 16.10.2024 (SIA/AP/MIN/500537/2024), seeking Environmental Clearance for the proposed mine of 24.965 Ha Ordinary Sand Mine proposed in the name of the District Mines & Geology Officer, Amalapuram, over the Godavari River in Podagatlapalli-ARavulapalem/2024-4 Sand Reach of Podagatlapalli Village & Ravulapalem Mandal, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Konaseema District Andhra Pradesh. It was reported that the nearest human habitation viz., Jutigapalem(V) is existing at a distance of about 0.59kms from the mine lease area and the project requires 10.0 KLD of water. It was noted that the capital investment of the project is Rs.24.0 Lakhs and capacity of the project is as follows:

Mining of Ordinary Sand Mine – 2,49,650 m³/annum / 3,74,475 TPA in 24.965 Ha

- II. The location of the sand mine as per the mining plan is as follows:

BP. No	North Latitude	East Longitude
1	16°44'45.88974"N	81°47'32.52998"E
2	16°44'48.76972"N	81°47'55.15001"E
3	16°44'35.74973"N	81°47'54.56001"E
4	16°44.33.32973"N	81°47'34.58000"E

- III. The proposal comes under category 'B2'. The proposed project falls under Item No.1(a) of the schedule of the EIA Notification 2006-(i) Mining of Minerals (≤250 Ha of mining lease area in respect of non-coal mine lease).

The proposal has been examined and processed in accordance with EIA Notification, 2006 and its amendments thereof; The State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) examined the application, in its meetings held on **06.11.2024**.

Minutes of the SEAC Meeting:-

Category: B1

The project proposal is for mining Ordinary Sand in an area of 24.965 Ha with a proposed production quantity of Ordinary Sand Mine 2,49,650 m³/annum with a condition that the total production during a scheme should be limited to the approved quantity as per Mining plan.

The proposed project falls under Item No. 1(a) of the schedule of the EIA Notification 2006 and its amendments thereof Mining of minerals (≤ 250 ha of mining lease area in respect of non-coal mine lease).

The District Mines and Geology Officer and their consultant M/s. SV Environ labs have attended the meeting and presented their proposal. The SEAC Committee noted that:

- a. The Department of Mines and Geology submitted DSR of Dr. B. R. AmbedkarKonaseema District. The District Collector and Chairman, DLSC has identified the subject mine through Joint inspection Committee of the District 07.02.2024 as per the DLSC the recommended extent is 24.965 Ha.
- b. The Joint inspection was conducted and report was submitted on 09.01.2024 & 10.01.2024 and the Joint inspection team recommended for 2,49,650 m³/annum.
- c. The District Mines and Geology Officer, Kakinada vide order dt.12.03.2024 issued Memo to the Asst. Geologist for obtaining Environmental clearance to the subject mine.
- d. As per the cluster letter dated: 27.03.2024 issued by the Mines Department, there are two existing leases and one proposed lease within the radius of 500 mtrs area and the total applicable cluster area is >5.0Ha.
- e. The project proponent has obtained Standard TOR with public hearing letter on 04.07.2024 and public hearing was held on 19.09.2024.
- f. Issues raised during the public hearing: Employment issues, facing drinking water problems, road/ bridge damages, Underground water issues, facing inundation problems, Dust pollution and Agricultural filed issues raised during the public hearing.
- g. The base line data was collected from December 2023 to February 2024 and the predominant wind direction is observed to be ENE to WSW. The maximum concentration of SPM(PM10) is observed to be 68.1 μ g/m³. The incremental concentration is 6.74 μ g/m³ and GLC of SPM will fall 0.9 Km towards SE direction.
- h. As per the approved mining plan dt.23.03.2024 the total available mineral reserves

are 249650 m³ (As per WALTA Act only 1m sand excavation is permitted) after mined quantity of extracted pit in the mine and the entire quantity is proposed to be excavated within the period of 1 year. The project proponent has proposed for open cast semi mechanized mining.

- i. The Hon'ble NGT in its order dated 23.03.2023 in O.A. No. 152 of 2021 (SZ) directed SEIAA, Andhra Pradesh to verify all the Environmental Clearances granted for sand mining under 'B2' Category if permission has been granted for semi-mechanized or mechanized mining and re-examine the proposal either under 'B2' category (manual mining) or 'B1' Category (if semi mechanized or mechanized mining is sought) following the prescribed procedures.
- j. The lease holder informed that they have allocated Rs.5.3 Lakhs as capital cost and Rs. 4.49 Lakhs as a recurring cost budget for the EMP. The project proponent volunteered to provide 2 Computers to Butchipeta Village under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity.
- k. The SEAC is made recommendation without any prejudice to the Hon'ble NGT/any other court orders. The applicant shall abide by the Hon'ble NGT / Other court orders, if any, in future also

The Committee after examining the project proposals, presentations, MoEF&CC Notifications & OMs, EIA report , Public hearing minutes and detailed deliberations, recommended to issue Environmental clearance for the mining of Ordinary Sand with the maximum production quantity of 249650 m³/annum for one-year period with **open cast semi mechanized method** of mining with the following conditions:

1. The project proponent shall strengthen the nearby bridges and also avoid over loading of trucks.
2. There shall be no change in the production quantities approved in Environment Clearance order.
3. All the conditions and guidelines issued by MoEF&CC, Govt of India in respect of sand mining shall be followed.
4. The directions issued by the Hon'ble NGT, Southern Zone, Chennai in the matter of O.A.No. 47 of 2016 (SZ) & 177 of 2016 (SZ), Order dated:14.12.2020 shall be scrupulously followed.
5. The standard environmental conditions for sand mining specified in the Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines, issued by MoEF&CC, Govt of India, 2016 shall be followed. The mine operator shall not carry mining more than 1 meter depth in compliance with AP WALTA Act.
6. The lease holder shall follow the procedures mentioned in Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining January, 2020.
7. The lease holder shall comply with the recommendation and suggestion made by the High-Power Committee as applicable.

8. The mining activities on river beds are allowed strictly as per the provisions of river / stream bed mining policy.
9. The ramp (i.e., approach road) shall be removed after sand mining is completed.
10. **Under any circumstance under water sand mining shall not be carried out.**
11. The committee directed the lease holder that they shall not carryout river bed mining operation in monsoon period.
12. **No sand mining shall be done during the rainy season.**
13. The lease holder should demarcate boundary with geo-coordinates or geo-fenced to ensure that sand extraction is going on only within the permitted area.
14. The functioning time of quarries/depots shall be 7.00 AM to 6.00 PM. No sand transporting and mining vehicles to be parked inside the quarry/depot site during night time.
15. The vehicles carrying the mined material shall be covered with tarpaulin during vehicular movement.
16. The transportation route should be selected in such a way that the movement of trucks/tippers/tractors from the villages having habitation should be avoided.
17. The lease holder to maintain electronic weighbridges at the appropriate location identified by the district mining officer, in order to ensure that all mined minerals from that particular mine are accounted for before the material is dispatched from the mine. The weighing bridge shall have the provision of CCTV camera and all dispatch from the mine shall be accounted.
18. The lease holder shall keep GPS tracking to the vehicle from source to destination.
19. The lease holder shall not obstruct the river flow, water transport and restoring the riparian rights and instream habitats.
20. The lease holder shall plant the plants all along the river bank/embankment to control the erosion of river bank.
21. The lease holder shall restrict vehicles movement during the peak hours to avoid accidents.
22. The project proponent shall restrict the load of the transport vehicles not more than 21 tons to avoid road damages and dust nuisance to surroundings.
23. The project proponent shall comply with the commitments made during public hearing.

The committee in the appraisal clearly stated that they have examined the Approved Mining Plan, Form-I/II, PFR/DPR and EMP for compliance by the proponent.

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), in its meeting held on **12.11.2024** examined the proposal and the recommendations of SEAC and decided to accept SEAC recommendations aforesaid for strict compliance by the

proponent and to issue EC with a condition that the lease holder shall comply with instructions issued through various Government Orders under AP Sand Policy, 2024., with further conditions that the sand mining proposal (i) Shall not attract the Forest Conservation Act 1980, Wild Life Protection Act, 1972; CRZ Notification, 2011; The Eco sensitive areas as notified under EP Act, 1986; Critically polluted areas as notified by CPCB and ii) Shall not harm livestock and human beings and disturb their activities. The SEIAA, A.P hereby accords **Environmental Clearance for one year with open cast semi mechanized mining method to the Sand Reach** as mentioned at Para No. I under the provisions of the EIA Notification 2006 and its subsequent amendments issued under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 subject to implementation of the following cluster, specific and general conditions:

A. Specific Conditions:

- i. The proposal shall not attract the following Acts & Rules:
 - a. Forest Conservation Act, 1980;
 - b. Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972;
 - c. CRZ Notification, 2011;
 - d. The Eco sensitive areas as notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
 - e. Critically polluted areas as notified by CPCB and also shall not harm livestock and human beings and disturb their activities.
- ii. The project proponent shall carry out mining only one meter depth sand from the top with **open cast semi mechanized method** of mining and no underwater mining is undertaken.
- iii. The lease holder shall allocate Rs. 5.3 Lakhs as capital cost and Rs. 4.49 Lakhs as a recurring cost budget for the EMP. The project proponent volunteered to provide 2 Computers to Butchipeta Village under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity.
- iv. The project proponent shall strengthen the nearby bridges and also avoid over loading of trucks.
- v. There shall be no change in the production quantities approved in Environment Clearance order.
- vi. All the conditions and guidelines issued by MoEF&CC, Govt of India in respect of sand mining shall be followed.
- vii. The directions issued by the Hon'ble NGT, Southern Zone, Chennai in the matter of O.A.No. 47 of 2016 (SZ) & 177 of 2016 (SZ), Order dated: 14.12.2020 shall be scrupulously followed.
- viii. The standard environmental conditions for sand mining specified in the Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines, issued by MoEF&CC, Govt of India, 2016 shall be followed. The mine operator shall not carry mining more than 1 meter depth in compliance with AP WALTA Act.
- ix. The lease holder shall follow the procedures mentioned in MoEF&CC Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining January, 2020.
- x. The lease holder shall comply with the recommendation and suggestion

made by the High Power Committee as applicable.

- xi. The mining activities on river beds are allowed strictly as per the provisions of river / stream bed mining policy.
- xii. The ramp (i.e., approach road) shall be removed after sand mining is completed.
- xiii. **Under any circumstance under water sand mining shall not be carried out.**
- xiv. The committee directed the lease holder that they shall not carryout river bed mining operation in monsoon period.
- xv. **No sand mining shall be done during the rainy season.**
- xvi. The lease holder should demarcate boundary with geo-coordinates or geo-fenced to ensure that sand extraction is going on only within the permitted area.
- xvii. The functioning time of quarries/depots shall be from 6.00 AM to 6.00 PM. No sand transporting vehicles to be parked inside the quarry/depot site during night time.
- xviii. The vehicles carrying the mined material shall be covered with tarpaulin during vehicular movement.
- xix. The transportation route should be selected in such a way that the movement of trucks/tippers/tractors from the villages having habitation should be avoided.
- xx. The lease holder shall maintain electronic weighbridges at the appropriate location identified by the district mining officer, in order to ensure that all mined minerals from that particular mine are accounted for before the material is dispatched from the mine. The weighing bridge shall have the provision of CCTV camera and all dispatch from the mine shall be accounted.
- xxi. The lease holder shall not obstruct the river flow, water transport and restore the riparian rights and instream habitats.
- xxii. The lease holder shall keep GPS tracking to the vehicle carrying sand from source to destination.
- xxiii. The leaseholder shall plant the plants all along the river bank/embankment to control the erosion of river bank.
- xxiv. The lease holder shall restrict vehicles movement during the peak hours to avoid accidents.
- xxv. The project proponent shall restrict the load of the transport vehicles not more than 21 tons to avoid road damages and dust nuisance to surroundings.
- xxvi. The project proponent shall comply with the commitments made during the public hearing.
- xxvii. The lease holder shall comply with instructions issued through various Government Orders under AP Sand Policy, 2024.
- xxviii. **This EC is valid for a period of 1 year only.**
- xxix. The proponent shall carry mining by scrupulously following conditions stipulated for river sand mining in MoEF O.M .No.J-13012/12/2013-1A-II(I)

dated 24.12.2013 and in A.P. WALTA Rules, 2004. The mining plan or permission shall get modified to this extent.

- xxx. No stacking allowed on road side along National Highways.
- xxxi. It shall be ensured that sand mining does not in any way disturb the flow pattern of the river water.
- xxxii. Sand quarrying shall not be carried out in streams within 15 meters or 1/5 of the width of the stream bed from the bank, whichever is more.
- xxxiii. Sand mining shall not be carried out within 500m of any existing structure such as bridges, dams, weirs, ground water extraction structure(s) either for irrigation or drinking water purposes, or any other cross drainage structure.
- xxxiv. Sand mining operations shall not affect the existing sources for irrigation or drinking water or industrial purpose.
- xxxv. Vehicles carrying sand shall not ply over the flood banks except at crossing points or bridges or on a metal road. The emissions from the vehicles shall be maintained within the emission norms.
- xxxvi. **The depth of the sand mining shall not exceed 1m.** The thickness of the sand in the mining area shall be more than 3m. Regulatory Authority prior concurrence shall be taken for this activity.
- xxxvii. Sand mining shall not be carried out below the ground water table under any circumstances. Regulatory Authority prior concurrence shall be taken for this activity.
- xxxviii. To assess the sand thickness, the Mines & Geology Department shall map out the area establishing the width and depth / thickness of the sand.
- xxxix. Permission from the Competent Authority shall be obtained for drawl of ground water, if any, required for the project.
- xl. The vehicles transporting sand shall not be overloaded. The trucks shall be covered with Tarpaulin.
- xli. Personnel working in the project shall be provided with personnel protection devices such as masks, gloves etc., Regulatory Authority instructions be taken if there are any better alternatives.
- xlii. Transportation of sand from mine lease area shall be done during daytime only.
- xliii. The proponent shall obtain necessary permission from the River Water Conservator.
- xliv. The proponent shall take necessary measures to ensure that there shall not be any adverse impacts on human habitation existing nearby due to mining operations.
- xlv. A separate Environment Management cell with suitable qualified persons shall be setup to implement various environmental protection measures.
- xlvi. Plantation shall be undertaken on either sides of the approach katchapath (through which the vehicles ply) between the bund of the river and the main road by the proponent at his cost.
- xlvii. The proponent shall take appropriate measures to ensure that the GLC shall comply with the revised NAAQ norms notified by MoE&F,

- GoIon16.11.2009.
- xlvi. Hydro geological studies in the mine lease area are to be carried out by the Ground Water Department.
- xlix. Regular monitoring of Ground Water levels shall be carried out in and around the mine lease area to assess the quality of the groundwater.

B. Special Conditions:

The project Proponent shall implement the following special conditions so as to mitigate the environment impact of mining activities:-

- i. To submit annual replenishment report certified by an authorized agency. In case the replenishment is lower than the approved rate of production, then the mining activity / production levels shall be decreased / stopped accordingly till the replenishment is completed.
- ii. In River flood plain mining a buffer of 3 meters to be left from the River bank for mining.
- iii. The EC holder shall keep a correct account of quantity of mineral mined out, dispatched from the mine, mode of transport, registration number of vehicle, person in-charge of vehicle and mine plan. This should be produced before officers of Central Government and State for inspection.
- iv. The State / District Level Environment Committee should use technology like Bar Coding, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Web based and ICT enabled services, mobile SMS App etc. to account for weight of mineral being taken out of the lease area and the number of trucks moving out with the mineral.
- v. Restricted working hours. Sand mining operation has to be carried out between 6 am to 6 pm.
- vi. The pollution due to transportation load on the environment will be effectively controlled and water sprinkling will also be done regularly
- vii. No mining lease shall be granted in the forest area without forest clearance in accordance with the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the amendments made there under.
- viii. Protection of turtle and bird habitats shall be ensured.
- ix. The EC holder shall take all possible precautions for the protection of environment and control of pollution.

- x. Mining shall not be undertaken in a mining lease located in 200-500 meter of bridge, 200 meter upstream and Downstream of water supply / irrigation scheme, 100 meters from the edge of National Highway and railway line, 50 meters from a reservoir, canal or building, 25 meter from the edge of State Highway and 10 meters from the edge of other roads except on special exemption by the Sub-Divisional level Joint Inspection Committee.
- xi. Vehicles used for transportation of sand are to be permitted only with of fitness and PUC Certificates.
- xii. Project Proponent shall ensure that the road may not be damaged due to transportation of the mineral; and transport of minerals will be as per IRC Guidelines with respect to complying with traffic congestion and density.
- xiii. Health and safety of workers should be taken care of by the proponent.
- xiv. The Project Proponent shall make arrangement for drinking water, first aid facility (along with species specific anti- venom provisioning) in case of emergency for the workers.
- xv. Project Proponent shall appoint an Occupational Health Specialist for Regular and Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the Project and records maintained; also, Occupational health checkups for workers having some ailments like BP, diabetes, habitual smokers, etc. shall be undertaken once in six months and necessary remedial/preventive measures taken accordingly. Recommendations of National Institute for Labour for ensuring good occupational environment for mine workers would also be adopted.
- xvi. **The lease holder shall comply with the Sustainable sand mining Management Guidelines, 2016 and Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining issued by MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi.**

C. General Conditions:

- i. “Consent to Establish” & “Consent to Operate” shall be obtained from Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board under Air and Water Act to carry out mining.
- ii. No change in mining technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the SEIAA, A.P. No further expansion or modifications in the mine shall be carried out without prior approval of the SEIAA, AP/ MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi, as applicable.
- iii. The half-yearly compliance reports in respect of the terms and conditions stipulated in this order & monitoring reports shall be uploaded in the website of

the project periodically. It shall simultaneously be submitted in hard and soft copies to the SEIAA, A.P., District Collector and Ministry's Regional office, Vijayawada on 1st June and 1st December of each calendar year.

- iv. Officials from the Regional Office of MoEF&CC, Vijayawada / The SEIAA, Andhra Pradesh through the Regional Offices of Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board who would be monitoring the implementation of environmental safeguards should be given full co-operation, facilities and documents/data by the project proponents during their inspection. A complete set of all the documents shall be submitted to the CCF, Regional Office to MOEF&CC, Vijayawada.
- v. 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 in consultation with concerned Regulatory Authority.
- vi. The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures (**Capital cost Rs.5.30 Lakhs and Recurring cost Rs.4.49Lakhs/annum**) should be kept in separate account and should not be diverted for other purpose. Year wise expenditure should be reported to the Ministry and its Regional Office located at Vijayawada.
- vii. At least 2% of the total project cost shall be allocated for Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) and item-wise details along with time bound action plan shall be prepared in accordance to the MoEF&CC's office Memorandum No.F.No.22-65/2017- IA.III, dated.01.05.2018 and submit to the SEIAA, A.P and Ministry's Regional Office, Vijayawada.
- viii. The project proponent shall submit the copies of the environmental clearance to the Heads of local bodies, Panchayats and Municipal Bodies in addition to the relevant offices of the Government who in turn has to display the same for 30 days from the date of receipt.
- ix. The project authorities should advertise at least in two local newspapers widely circulated, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned, within 7 days of the issue of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and a copy of the clearance letter is available with the State Pollution Control Board and SEIAA,A.P.
- x. The SEIAA or any other competent authority may alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.

- xi. The proponent shall obtain all other mandatory clearances from respective departments.
- xii. 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.
- xiii. Concealing the factual data or 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.
- xiv. The SEIAA may revoke or suspend the order, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory. The SEIAA reserves the right to alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.
- xv. The above conditions will be enforced inter-alia, under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their subsequent amendments and Rules.

**MEMBER SECRETARY,
SEIAA, A.P.**

**MEMBER,
SEIAA, A.P.**

**CHAIRMAN,
SEIAA, A.P.**

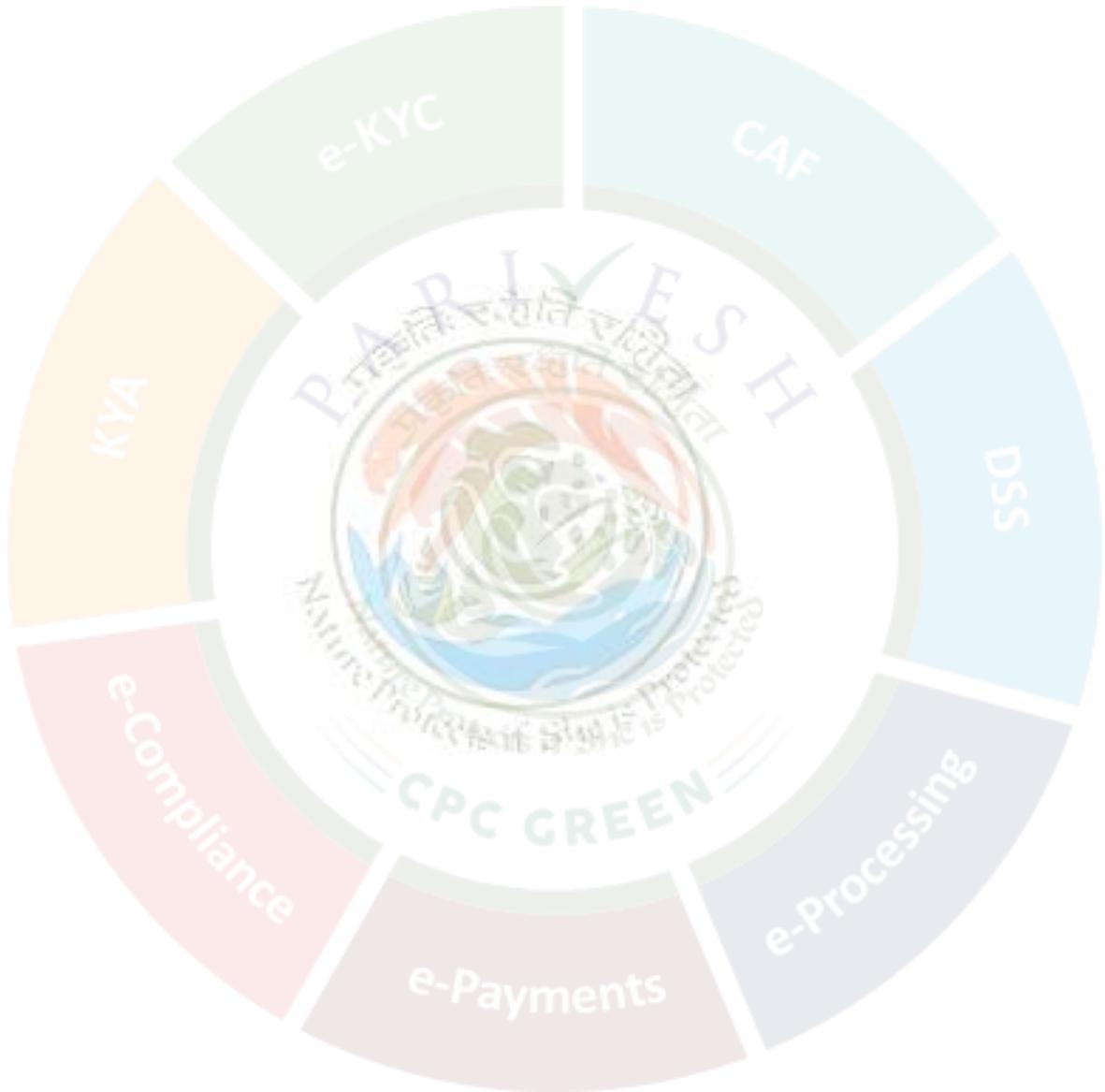
To

The Assistant Director of Mines & Geology,
The District Mines & Geology Officer, Konaseema,
AIMS Engineering College,
Government Offices Complex,
2nd Floor, Mummidivaram,
Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Konaseema District,
Amalapuram – 533216.

Copy to:

1. The Chairman, SEAC, A.P. for kind information.
2. The Member Secretary, APPCB for kind information.
3. The EE, RO: Kakinada, APPCB for information.
4. The Regional Officer, MoEF&CC, GOI Vijayawada for kind information.
5. The Secretary, MoEF&CC, GOI New Delhi for kind information.
6. Monitoring cell, MoEF&CC, GOI, New Delhi for kind information.

7. The District Collector, Dr.B.R.AmbedkarKonaseemaDistrict, Andhra Pradesh for kind information.



Signature Not Verified

Digitally Signed by : S Sri Saravanan
Member Secretary, SEIAA

Date: 26/12/2024



सत्यमेव जयते

File No.: AP MIN EC KN 10 2024 499

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

(Issued by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA),
ANDHRA PRADESH)



Dated 21/11/2024



To,

SAIRAM SRIRAM
SAIRAM SRIRAM

New Gopalakrishna Building, Near Police Station, Palamaner, Chittoor, Palamaner, CHITTOOR,
ANDHRA PRADESH, 517408
konaseemasand@gmail.com

Subject:

Grant of prior Environmental Clearance (EC) to the proposed Mining Project under the provisions of
EIA Notification 2006-regarding

Sir/Madam,

This is in reference to your application submitted to SEIAA vide proposal number
SIA/AP/MIN/500530/2024 dated 16/10/2024 for grant of prior Environmental Clearance (EC) to the
project under the provision of the EIA Notification 2006-and as amended thereof.

2. The particulars of the proposal are as below :

(i) EC Identification No.	EC24B0107AP5628719N
(ii) File No.	AP MIN EC KN 10 2024 499
(iii) Clearance Type	Fresh EC
(iv) Category	B1
(v) Project/Activity Included Schedule No.	1(a) Mining of minerals
(vii) Name of Project	Ankampalem-Atreyapuram/2024-1 Sand Reach
(ix) Location of Project (District, State)	KONASEEMA, ANDHRA PRADESH
(x) Issuing Authority	SEIAA
(xii) Applicability of General Conditions	No

N/A



State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)

Andhra Pradesh

Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,

Government of India

Dr.YSRParyavaranBhavan, APIIC Colony Road,
Gurunanak Colony, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada-520007.

REGD.POSTWITH ACK.DUE

OrderNo.SEIAA/AP/MIN/EC/KN/10/2024/499

Sub : SEIAA, A.P. –9.854 Ha Ordinary Sand Mine proposed in the name of the District Mines & Geology Officer, Amalapuram of Ankampalem-Atreyapuram/2024-1 Sand Reach of Ankampalem Village, Atreyapuram Mandal, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Konaseema District, Andhra Pradesh–Environmental Clearance – Issued- Reg.

- I. This has reference to your application submitted through online on 16.10.2024 (SIA/AP/MIN/500530/2024), seeking Environmental Clearance for the proposed mine of 9.854 Ha Ordinary Sand Mine proposed in the name of the District Mines & Geology Officer, Amalapuram, over the Godavari River in Ankampalem-Atreyapuram/2024-1 Sand Reach of Ankampalem Village, Atreyapuram Mandal, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Konaseema District Andhra Pradesh. It was reported that the nearest human habitation viz., Ankampalem(V) is existing at a distance of about 0.75kms from the mine lease area and the project requires 8.0 KLD of water. It was noted that the capital investment of the project is Rs.17.0 Lakhs and capacity of the project is as follows:

Mining of Ordinary Sand Mine –98,540 m³/annum / 1,47,810 TPA in 9.854 Ha

- II. The location of the sand mine as per the mining plan is as follows:

BP. No	North Latitude	East Longitude
1	16°46'41.41404"N	81°45'43.65052"E
2	16°46'45.23637"N	81°45'47.83376"E
3	16°46'39.50384"N	81°45'53.47793"E
4	16°46'33.15118"N	81°45'58.81437"E
5	16°46'28.54605"N	81°45'52.88524"E

- III. The proposal comes under category 'B2'. The proposed project falls under Item No.1(a) of the schedule of the EIA Notification 2006-(i) Mining of Minerals (≤250 Ha of mining lease area in respect of non-coal mine lease).

The proposal has been examined and processed in accordance with EIA Notification, 2006 and its amendments thereof; The State Level Expert Appraisal Committee

(SEAC) examined the application, in its meetings held on **06.11.2024**.

Minutes of the SEAC Meeting:-

Category: B2at par with B1.

The project proposal is for mining Ordinary Sand in an area of 9.854 Ha with a proposed production quantity of Ordinary Sand Mine 98,540 m³/annum with a condition that the total production during a scheme should be limited to the approved quantity as per Mining plan.

The proposed project falls under Item No. 1(a) of the schedule of the EIA Notification 2006 and its amendments thereof Mining of minerals (≤ 250 ha of mining lease area in respect of non-coal mine lease).

The District Mines and Geology Officer and their consultant M/s. SV Environ labs have attended the meeting and presented their proposal. The SEAC Committee notedthat:

- a. The Department of Mines and Geology submitted DSR of Dr. B.R. AmbedkarKonaseema District. The District Collector and Chairman, DLSC Dr. B.R. AmbedkarKonaseema has identified the subject mine through Joint inspection Committee of the District on 07.02.2024 as per the DLSC the recommended extent is 9.854 Ha.
- b. The Joint inspection was conducted and report was submitted on 09.01.2024 & 10.01.2024 and the Joint inspection team recommended for 98,540 m³/annum.
- c. The District Mines and Geology Officer, Kakinada vide order dt.12.03.2024 issued Memo to the Asst. Geologist for obtaining Environmental clearance to the subject mine.
- d. As per the cluster letter dated: 27.03.2024 issued by the Mines Department, there is one existing and two proposed leases within the radius of 500 mtrs area and the total applicable cluster area is >5.0 Ha.
- e. The project proponent has obtained Standard TOR with public hearing letter on 04.07.2024 and public hearing was held on 19.09.2024.
- f. Issues raised during the public hearing: Employment issues, facing drinking water problems, road damages, Underground water issues, facing inundation problems, Dust pollution and Agricultural filed issues raised during the public hearing.
- g. The base line data was collected from December 2023 to February 2024 and the predominant wind direction is observed to be ENE to WSW. The maximum concentration of SPM (PM10) is observed to be 66.9 μ g/m³. The incremental concentration is 3.67 μ g/m³ and GLC of SPM will fall 0.6 to 1.3 Km towards SW directions within the mine lease area.
- h. As per the approved mining plan dt.23.03.2024 the total available mineral reserves are 98,540 m³ (As per WALTA Act only 1m sand excavation is permitted) after mined quantity of extracted pit in the mine and the entire quantity is proposed to

be excavated within the period of 1 year. The project proponent proposed for open cast semi mechanized mining.

- i. The Hon'ble NGT in its order dated 23.03.2023 in O.A. No. 152 of 2021 (SZ) directed SEIAA, Andhra Pradesh to verify all the Environmental Clearances granted for sand mining under 'B2' Category if permission has been granted for semi-mechanized or mechanized mining and re-examine the proposal either under 'B2' category (manual mining) or 'B1' Category (if semi mechanized or mechanized mining is sought) following the prescribed procedures.
- j. The lease holder informed that they have allocated Rs. 4.2 Lakhs as capital cost and Rs. 5.19 Lakhs as a recurring cost budget for the EMP. The project proponent volunteered to provide 2 Computers to **Ankampalem** Village under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity.
- k. The SEAC is made recommendation without any prejudice to the Hon'ble NGT/any other court orders. The applicant shall abide by the Hon'ble NGT / Other court orders, if any, in future also.

The Committee after examining the project proposals, presentations, MoEF&CC Notifications & OMs, EIA report and Public hearing minutes and detailed deliberations, recommended to issue Environmental clearance for the mining of Ordinary Sand with the maximum production quantity of 98,540 m³/annum for one-year period with **Open cast semi mechanized method** of mining with the following conditions:

1. There shall be no change in the production quantities approved in Environment Clearance order.
2. All the conditions and guidelines issued by MoEF&CC, Govt of India in respect of sand mining shall be followed.
3. The directions issued by the Hon'ble NGT, Southern Zone, Chennai in the matter of O.A.No. 47 of 2016 (SZ) & 177 of 2016 (SZ), Order dated:14.12.2020 shall be scrupulously followed.
4. The standard environmental conditions for sand mining specified in the Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines, issued by MoEF&CC, Govt of India, 2016 shall be followed. The mine operator shall not carry mining more than 1 meter depth in compliance with AP WALTA Act.
5. The lease holder shall follow the procedures mentioned in Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining January, 2020.
6. The lease holder shall comply with the recommendation and suggestion made by the High-Power Committee as applicable.
7. The mining activities on river beds are allowed strictly as per the provisions of river / stream bed mining policy.
8. The ramp (i.e., approach road) shall be removed after sand mining is completed.
9. **Under any circumstance under water sand mining shall not be carried out.**
10. The committee directed the lease holder that they shall not carryout river bed

mining operation in monsoon period.

11. **No sand mining shall be done during the rainy season.**
12. The lease holder should demarcate boundary with geo-coordinates or geo-fenced to ensure that sand extraction is going on only within the permitted area.
13. The functioning time of quarries/depots shall be 7.00 AM to 6.00 PM. No sand transporting and mining vehicles to be parked inside the quarry/depot site during night time.
14. The vehicles carrying the mined material shall be covered with tarpaulin during vehicular movement.
15. The transportation route should be selected in such a way that the movement of trucks/tippers/tractors from the villages having habitation should be avoided.
16. The lease holder to maintain electronic weighbridges at the appropriate location identified by the district mining officer, in order to ensure that all mined minerals from that particular mine are accounted for before the material is dispatched from the mine. The weighing bridge shall have the provision of CCTV camera and all dispatch from the mine shall be accounted.
17. The lease holder shall keep GPS tracking to the vehicle from source to destination.
18. The lease holder shall not obstruct the river flow, water transport and restoring the riparian rights and instream habitats.
19. The lease holder shall plant the plants all along the river bank/embankment to control the erosion of river bank.
20. The lease holder shall restrict vehicles movement during the peak hours to avoid accidents.
21. The project proponent shall restrict the load of the transport vehicles not more than 21 tons to avoid road damages and dust nuisance to surroundings.
22. The project proponent shall comply with the commitments made during public hearing.

The committee in the appraisal clearly stated that they have examined the Approved Mining Plan, Form-I/II, PFR/DPR and EMP for compliance by the proponent.

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), in its meeting held on **12.11.2024** examined the proposal and the recommendations of SEAC and decided to accept SEAC recommendations aforesaid for strict compliance by the proponent and to issue EC with a condition that the lease holder shall comply with instructions issued through various Government Orders under AP Sand Policy, 2024., with further conditions that the sand mining proposal (i) Shall not attract the Forest Conservation Act 1980, Wild Life Protection Act, 1972; CRZ Notification, 2011; The Eco sensitive areas as notified under EP Act, 1986; Critically polluted areas as notified by CPCB and ii) Shall not harm live stock and human beings and disturb their activities. The SEIAA, A.P hereby **accords Environmental Clearance for one year with Open cast semi mechanized method to the Sand Reach** as mentioned at Para No. I under the provisions of the EIA Notification 2006 and its subsequent amendments issued under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 subject to

implementation of the following cluster, specific and general conditions:

A. Specific Conditions:

- i. The proposal shall not attract the following Acts & Rules:
 - a. Forest Conservation Act,1980;
 - b. Wild Life (Protection) Act,1972;
 - c. CRZ Notification, 2011;
 - d. The Eco sensitive areas as notified under Environment (Protection) Act,1986;
 - e. Critically polluted areas as notified by CPCB and also shall not harm livestock and human beings and disturb their activities.
- ii. The project proponent shall carryout mining only one meter depth sand from the top with **Open cast semi mechanized method** mining and no underwater mining is undertaken.
- iii. The lease holder shall allocate Rs. 4.2 Lakhs as capital cost and Rs. 5.19 Lakhs as a recurring cost budget for the EMP. The project proponent volunteered to provide 2 Computers to **Ankorpalem** Village under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity.
- iv. The project proponent shall strengthen the nearby bridges if any and also avoid over loading of trucks.
- v. There shall be no change in the production quantities approved in Environment Clearance order.
- vi. All the conditions and guidelines issued by MoEF&CC, Govt of India in respect of sand mining shall be followed.
- vii. The directions issued by the Honb'le NGT, Southern Zone, Chennai in the matter of O.A.No. 47 of 2016 (SZ) & 177 of 2016 (SZ), Order dated: 14.12.2020 shall be scrupulously followed.
- viii. The standard environmental conditions for sand mining specified in the Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines, issued by MoEF&CC, Govt of India, 2016 shall be followed. The mine operator shall not carry mining more than 1 meter depth in compliance with AP WALTA Act.
- ix. The lease holder shall follow the procedures mentioned in MoEF& CC Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining January, 2020.
- x. The lease holder shall comply with the recommendation and suggestion made by the High Power Committee as applicable.
- xi. The mining activities on river beds are allowed strictly as per the provisions of river / stream bed mining policy.
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- xix. The transportation route should be selected in such a way that the movement of trucks/tippers/tractors from the villages having habitation should be avoided.
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- xxiv. The lease holder shall restrict vehicles movement during the peak hours to avoid accidents.
- xxv. The project proponent shall restrict the load of the transport vehicles not more than 21 tons to avoid road damages and dust nuisance to surroundings.
- xxvi. The project proponent shall comply with the commitments made during the public hearing.
- xxvii. The lease holder shall comply with instructions issued through various Government Orders under AP Sand Policy, 2024.
- xxviii. **This EC is valid for a period of 1 year only.**
- xxix. The proponent shall carry mining by scrupulously following conditions stipulated for river sand mining in MoEF O.M .No.J-13012/12/2013-1A-II(I) dated 24.12.2013 and in A.P. WALTA Rules, 2004. The mining plan or permission shall get modified to this extent.
- xxx. No stacking allowed on road side along National Highways.
- xxxi. It shall be ensured that sand mining does not in any way disturb the flow pattern of the river water.
- xxxii. Sand quarrying shall not be carried out in streams within 15 meters or 1/5of the width of the stream bed from the bank, whichever is more.
- xxxiii. Sand mining shall not be carried out within 500m of any existing structure such as bridges, dams, weirs, ground water extraction structure(s) either for

- irrigation or drinking water purposes, or any other cross drainage structure.
- xxxiv. Sand mining operations shall not affect the existing sources for irrigation or drinking water or industrial purpose.
- xxxv. Vehicles carrying sand shall not Ply over the flood banks except at crossing points or bridges or on a metal road. The emissions from the vehicles shall be maintained within the emission norms.
- xxxvi. **The depth of the sand mining shall not exceed 1m.** The thickness of the sand in the mining area shall be more than 3m. Regulatory Authority prior concurrence shall be taken for this activity.
- xxxvii. Sand mining shall not be carried out below the ground water table under any circumstances. Regulatory Authority prior concurrence shall be taken for this activity.
- xxxviii. To assess the sand thickness, the Mines & Geology Department shall map out the area establishing the width and depth / thickness of the sand.
- xxxix. Permission from the Competent Authority shall be obtained for drawl of ground water, if any, required for the project.
- xl. The vehicles transporting sand shall not be overloaded. The trucks shall be covered with Tarpaulin.
- xli. Personnel working in the project shall be provided with personnel protection devices such as masks, gloves etc., Regulatory Authority instructions be taken if there are any better alternatives.
- xl.ii. Transportation of sand from mine lease area shall be done during daytime only.
- xl.iii. The proponent shall obtain necessary permission from the River Water Conservator.
- xl.ii. The proponent shall take necessary measures to ensure that there shall not be any adverse impacts on human habitation existing nearby due to mining operations.
- xl.v. A separate Environment Management cell with suitable qualified persons shall be setup to implement various environmental protection measures.
- xl.vi. Plantation shall be undertaken on either sides of the approach katchapath (through which the vehicles ply) between the bund of the river and the main road by the proponent at his cost.
- xl.vii. The proponent shall take appropriate measures to ensure that the GLC shall comply with the revised NAAQ norms notified by MoE&F, GoI on 16.11.2009.
- xl.viii. Hydro geological studies in the mine lease area are to be carried out by the Ground Water Department.
- xl.lix. Regular monitoring of Ground Water levels shall be carried out in and around the mine lease area to assess the quality of the groundwater.

B. Special Conditions:

The project Proponent shall implement the following special conditions so as to mitigate

the environment impact of mining activities:-

- i. To submit annual replenishment report certified by an authorized agency. In case the replenishment is lower than the approved rate of production, then the mining activity / production levels shall be decreased / stopped accordingly till the replenishment is completed.
- ii. In River flood plain mining a buffer of 3 meters to be left from the River bank for mining.
- iii. The EC holder shall keep a correct account of quantity of mineral mined out, dispatched from the mine, mode of transport, registration number of vehicle, person in-charge of vehicle and mine plan. This should be produced before officers of Central Government and State for inspection.
- iv. The State / District Level Environment Committee should use technology like Bar Coding, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Web based and ICT enabled services, mobile SMS App etc. to account for weight of mineral being taken out of the lease area and the number of trucks moving out with the mineral.
- v. Restricted working hours. Sand mining operation has to be carried out between 6 am to 6 pm.
- vi. The pollution due to transportation load on the environment will be effectively controlled and water sprinkling will also be done regularly.
- vii. No mining lease shall be granted in the forest area without forest clearance in accordance with the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the amendments made there under.
- viii. Protection of turtle and bird habitats shall be ensured.
- ix. The EC holder shall take all possible precautions for the protection of environment and control of pollution.
- x. Mining shall not be undertaken in a mining lease located in 200-500 meter of bridge, 200 meter upstream and Downstream of water supply / irrigation scheme, 100 meters from the edge of National Highway and railway line, 50 meters from a reservoir, canal or building, 25 meter from the edge of State Highway and 10 meters from the edge of other roads except on special exemption by the Sub-Divisional level Joint Inspection Committee.
- xi. Vehicles used for transportation of sand are to be permitted only with of

fitness and PUC Certificates.

- xii. Project Proponent shall ensure that the road may not be damaged due to transportation of the mineral; and transport of minerals will be as per IRC Guidelines with respect to complying with traffic congestion and density.
- xiii. Health and safety of workers should be taken care of by the proponent.
- xiv. The Project Proponent shall make arrangement for drinking water, first aid facility (along with species specific anti- venom provisioning) in case of emergency for the workers.
- xv. Project Proponent shall appoint an Occupational Health Specialist for Regular and Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the Project and records maintained; also, Occupational health checkups for workers having some ailments like BP, diabetes, habitual smokers, etc. shall be undertaken once in six months and necessary remedial/preventive measures taken accordingly. Recommendations of National Institute for Labour for ensuring good occupational environment for mine workers would also be adopted.
- xvi. **The lease holder shall comply with the Sustainable sand mining Management Guidelines, 2016 and Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining issued by MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi.**

C. General Conditions:

- i. “Consent to Establish” & “Consent to Operate” shall be obtained from Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board under Air and Water Act to carry out mining.
- ii. No change in mining technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the SEIAA, A.P. No further expansion or modifications in the mine shall be carried out without prior approval of the SEIAA, AP/ MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi, as applicable.
- iii. The half-yearly compliance reports in respect of the terms and conditions stipulated in this order & monitoring reports shall be uploaded in the website of the project periodically. It shall simultaneously be submitted in hard and soft copies to the SEIAA, A.P., District Collector and Ministry’s Regional office, Vijayawada on 1st June and 1st December of each calendar year.
- iv. Officials from the Regional Office of MoEF&CC, Vijayawada / The SEIAA, Andhra Pradesh through the Regional Offices of Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board who would be monitoring the implementation of environmental safeguards should be given full co-operation, facilities and documents/data by

the project proponents during their inspection. A complete set of all the documents shall be submitted to the CCF, Regional Office to MOEF&CC, Vijayawada.

- v. 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 in consultation with concerned Regulatory Authority.
- vi. The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures (**Capital cost Rs.4.20 Lakhs and Recurring cost Rs.5.19Lakhs/annum**) should be kept in separate account and should not be diverted for other purpose. Year wise expenditure should be reported to the Ministry and its Regional Office located at Vijayawada.
- vii. At least 2% of the total project cost shall be allocated for Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) and item-wise details along with time bound action plan shall be prepared in accordance to the MoEF&CC's office Memorandum No.F.No.22-65/2017- IA.III, dated.01.05.2018 and submit to the SEIAA, A.P and Ministry's Regional Office, Vijayawada.
- viii. The project proponent shall submit the copies of the environmental clearance to the Heads of local bodies, Panchayats and Municipal Bodies in addition to the relevant offices of the Government who in turn has to display the same for 30 days from the date of receipt.
- ix. The project authorities should advertise at least in two local newspapers widely circulated, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned, within 7 days of the issue of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and a copy of the clearance letter is available with the State Pollution Control Board and SEIAA,A.P.
- x. The SEIAA or any other competent authority may alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.
- xi. The proponent shall obtain all other mandatory clearances from respective departments.
- xii. 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.

- xiii. Concealing the factual data or 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.
- xiv. The SEIAA may revoke or suspend the order, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory. The SEIAA reserves the right to alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.
- xv. The above conditions will be enforced inter-alia, under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their subsequent amendments and Rules.

**MEMBER SECRETARY,
SEIAA, A.P.**

**MEMBER,
SEIAA, A.P.**

**CHAIRMAN,
SEIAA, A.P.**

To

The Assistant Director of Mines & Geology,
The District Mines & Geology Officer, Konaseema,
AIMS Engineering College,
Government Offices Complex,
2nd Floor, Mummidivaram,
Dr.B.R.AmbedkarKonaseema District,
Amalapuram – 533216.

Copy to:

1. The Chairman, SEAC, A.P. for kind information.
2. The Member Secretary, APPCB for kind information.
3. The EE, RO: Kakinada, APPCB for information.
4. The Regional Officer, MoEF&CC, GOI Vijayawada for kind information.
5. The Secretary, MoEF&CC, GOI New Delhi for kind information.
6. Monitoring cell, MoEF&CC, GOI, New Delhi for kind information.
7. The District Collector, Dr.B.R.AmbedkarKonaseemaDistrict, Andhra Pradesh for kind information.

Signature Not Verified

Digitally Signed by : S Sri Saravanan
Member Secretary, SEIAA

Date: 21/11/2024