

1202

Place: Rupnagar
Date: **22.10.2024**
Officer,



(Tushar Goyal)
District Mining

Rupnagar,
Department of
Mines and Geology,
Punjab

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 52 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF

Navjot Singh Sidhu & Others ...APPLICANT(S)

Versus

State of Punjab & Others ...Respondents

Reply by way of short affidavit of Tushar Goyal, District Mining Officer, Rupnagar, Department of Mines and Geology, Punjab on behalf of respondent no, 2 & 5 (in compliance of Order dated 09.09.2024 .

Respectfully Showeth:

I, the above named deponent do hereby solemnly declare and affirm as under:-

1. That the above mentioned Original Application is fixed for hearing on 19.11.2024 before this Hon'ble Tribunal.



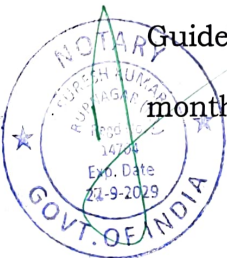
2. That, on 09.09.2024 this Hon'ble Tribunal, while hearing this matter issued the directions to file response, the operative part of the order is reproduced herein as below:

1. In the OA the applicant had questioned the DSR published for District RoopNagar, Punjab in 2023, under the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016 and enforcement and monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2023. Various lapses have been pointed out by the applicant.

2. The reply by way of affidavit has been filed by the Respondent No. 2 and 5. Learned AAG representing Respondent No. 2 and 5 has submitted that after considering the lapses/errors pointed out by the applicant a revised/amended DSR for District RoopNagar has been prepared. Learned Counsel for Respondent No. 2 and 5 has sought time to clarify by way of an affidavit if the revisions/amendments in the revised DSR have gone through the process of public hearing. Let the same be filed within 4 weeks.

3. List on 19.11.2024."

3. That the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change formulated the Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines of Sand Mining, 2020 (EMGSM-2020) in the month of January, 2020. Chapter 4 of the Guidelines deals



Al

with identification of possible sand mining sources and preparation of District Survey Report (Annexure-P8). It will be relevant to refer to Clause 4.1.1(a), (o) and (p) of the 2020 guidelines:

“4.1 Identification of possible sand mining sources and preparation of District Survey Reports (DSR)

4.1.1 Preparation of District Survey Report.

a) District Survey Report for sand mining shall be prepared before the auction/e-auction/grant of the mining lease/Letter of intent (LoI) by Mining Department or department dealing the mining activity in respective states.

o) Potential site for mining having its impact on the forest protected area, habitation, bridges etc. shall be avoided. For this, a sub-Divisional committee may be formed which after the site visit shall decide its suitability for mining. The list of mining lease after the recommendation of the Committee needs to be defined in the following format give in as Annexure-II. The Sub-Divisional committee after the site visit shall make a recommendation on the site for its suitability of mining and also records the reason for selecting the mining



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lease in the Patta land. The details regarding cluster and contiguous cluster needs to be provided as in Annexure-III. The details of the transportation need to be provided as in Annexure-IV.

p) **Public consultation-** The Committee of the various stakeholders may be sought on the list of mining lease to be auctioned. The State Government shall give an advertisement in the local and national newspaper for seeking comments of the general public **on the list of mining lease included in the DSR**. The DSR should be placed in the public domain for at least on month from the date of publication of the advertisement for obtaining comments of the general public. The comments so received shall be placed before the sub-divisional committee for active consideration. The final list of sand mining area (leases to be granted on riverbed & Patta Land/Khatedari land, de-siltation location (ponds/lakes/dams), M-Sand Plants (alternate source of sand) after the public hearing needs to be defined in the final DSR in the format as per Annexure-V. The details regarding cluster and contiguous cluster needs to be provided in Annexure-VI. The Details of the transportation need to be provided in Annexure-VII^r



4. That the DSR has been prepared while adhering to the guidelines prescribed in the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as "the 2016 Guidelines") and the Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 (hereinafter referred to as "the 2020 Guidelines").

5. That in accordance with the 2020 Guidelines, the office of District Mining Officer, Roopnagar, Department of Mines and Geology invited applications from landowners who wished to have their lands included in the DSR. The invitations were widely published in newspapers, and the public was duly informed about the draft DSR being made available for review.

6. That the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority, Punjab in its meeting dated 12.04.2022 recommended that since the preparation of DSRs is an elaborate technical and scientific exercise, a NABET accredited consultant may also be associated by the District Committees to guide and assist them in this regard (**Annexure-R1**). Accordingly, for taking technical assistance in preparation of the DSR, an Expression of Interest (EOI) was invited from agencies accredited by the National

Accreditation Board of Education and Training



(NABET)/Quality Council of India (QCI) as per the Office Memorandum dated 16.03.2010 of the MoEF&CC. After a thorough evaluation process, the work was awarded to RSP Green Development and Laboratories Private Limited, Kolkata, an NABET-accredited agency.

7. That the agency conducted two rounds of surveys, pre-monsoon and post-monsoon, to assess the replenishment rate and identify potential minor mineral sites for mining. The following methodology was used for identifying these sites:

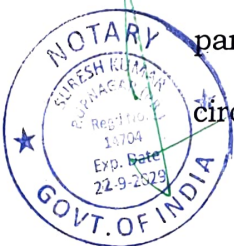
A. Satellite imagery from the United States Geological Survey (Sentinel-2 Satellite, Resolution: 10 meters, October 2022) was utilized to identify potential riverbed zones.

B. DGPS field surveys were carried out to determine riverbed depths and potential zones for mining during both pre-monsoon and post-monsoon periods.

C. The Sub-Divisional Committee conducted site visits to finalize deposition zones, which were included in the DSR.

9. That the Draft District Survey Report was uploaded on the District Rupnagar Web Portal (<https://rupnagar.nic.in>) on 01.09.2022 for a period of one month. To ensure public

participation, notifications were published in widely circulated newspapers such as Ajit Punjab, The Tribune,



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Jagbani, Punjabi Tribune, and others. The public was invited to submit objections and suggestions regarding the draft DSR, either by email or in person at the office of the Executive Engineer, Drainage-cum-Mining Division, Rupnagar (**Annexure-R2**).

9. That on 07.09.2022, a meeting was held by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Rupnagar with all Sub-Divisional Magistrates and Mining Officers via video conference, where the draft DSR was thoroughly discussed. The public comments and objections received during the one-month period were reviewed, and necessary amendments were incorporated into the final DSR.

10. That the District Survey Report (DSR) was prepared in strict adherence to the 2016 and 2020 Guidelines. The finalized DSR reflects all necessary amendments based on the public consultations, scientific surveys, and replenishment studies.

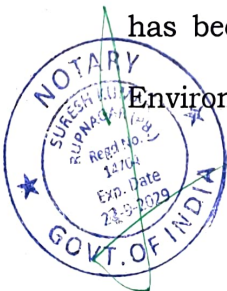
11. That in light of the aforementioned facts, it is humbly submitted that the DSR for District Rupnagar has undergone the due process of public hearing and consultation, as prescribed by the 2016 and 2020 Guidelines. All objections and suggestions from the public



all

were taken into consideration before the final approval of the DSR.

12. That it is humbly submitted that the DSR for District Rupnagar was initially approved on 27.12.2022. However, after identifying certain discrepancies, the Department of Mines & Geology submitted an amended DSR for reconsideration and approval to the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority, Punjab (SEIAA). Following the fresh recommendations from the State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), the amended DSR was approved on 17.08.2023. Subsequent there upon, another amendment was carried out due to some discrepancies which came in the notice of department and the amended DSR was finally approved on 15.07.2024. It is pertinent to mention that the amendments carried out in the approved DSR were with regard to some calculation and clerical mistakes. The list of changes made in the approved DSR is attached at **Annexure-R3**. From the perusal of the changes made in the approved DSR it is evident that it did not involve any change in the list of mining sites, hence it was not kept in public domain for one month. The amendment in the DSR has been approved by the competent authority i.e. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Punjab after



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due deliberation and in the light of 2016 & 2020 Guidelines.

13. That in the view of above mentioned facts, the answering deponent is filing an additional affidavit for kind perusal of this Hon'ble Court and the same may kindly be taken on record.

It is, therefore, respectfully prayed that in view of the above submissions, the instant original application may kindly be dismissed with costs being devoid of any merit and substance, in the interest of justice.

Place: Rupnagar


DEPONENT

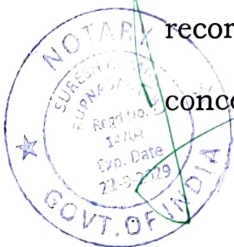
Date:

(Tushar Goyal)

District Mining Officer, Rupnagar,
Department of Mines and Geology,
Punjab

Verification:

Verified that the contents of para nos.1 to 15 of the reply of my above affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge and as per information derived from the official record. No part of it is false and nothing relevant has been concealed or mis-stated therein.



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Place: Rupnagar

DEPONENT

Date:

(Tushar Goyal)

District Mining Officer, Rupnagar,
Department of Mines and Geology,
Punjab

*Ashish
Jeepran
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... of the ...
... has been read over & explained
... deponent/accusant & he/she has
... the same to be correct & he
... she has signed/Thumb marked in the
register at Sr No. ... Page No. ... on

2284
22/10/2024
Suresh Kumar NOTARY
Dist. Court, Rupnagar



22 OCT 2024

Declared before me
ATTESTED

NOTARY
Suresh Kumar (PB, 1704)

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Item No. 204.08: Judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Civil appeal No. 3661-3662/2020 in continuation of Hon'ble NGT orders dated 14.10.2020 regarding District Survey Report.

Background and salient features of the matter are as under:

SEIAA was apprised in its 194th meeting held on 29.11.2021 that various representations have been received from various mining contractors on 24.11.2021, seeking relief from SEIAA in light of the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 10.11.2021 (passed in Civil Appeal no. 3661-3662/2020 titled the State of Bihar and Others Vs. Pawan Kumar & Ors. against the directions issued by the Tribunal vide judgement and order dated 14.10.2020).

After deliberations, it was decided that a copy of the Hon'ble Supreme Court order be sent to State Geologist and Chief Engineer Mines for information and necessary action. It was also decided that a detailed note be prepared regarding this matter which should be included as an Agenda Item in the next meeting of SEIAA.

In compliance with the aforesaid decision, the following actions have been taken:

- (i) A copy of the Hon'ble Supreme Court order has been sent vide email dated 07.12.2021 to State Geologist and Chief Engineer Mines for information and necessary action.
- (ii) A detailed note in the matter has been prepared and attached as Annexure-3 of the agenda.

1.0 Deliberation during 195th meeting of SEIAA held on 14.12.2021

The matter was considered by SEIAA in its 195th meeting held on 14.12.2021. SEIAA perused the brief of the various orders of Hon'ble NGT passed on 14.10.2020, 04.11.2020, 26.02.2021 and order of Supreme Court of India passed on 10.11.2021.

SEIAA noted that since many months have already elapsed since the orders of the Hon'ble NGT in October, 2020 and this important aspect is to be reviewed by Hon'ble NGT, by the Secretary, MoEF&CC as also by the Chief Secretary Punjab, it is imperative that the Sub-Divisional Committees consisting of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, officers from Irrigation Department, State Pollution Control Board or Committee, Forest Department and Geological or mining officer may be immediately constituted in all Districts in which sand mining is either presently being carried out or is proposed to be undertaken.

The Committees need to be directed by the Government to prepare the DSRs in accordance with the SSMG 2016 and EMSGM 2020 guidelines of the MoEF&CC and asked to submit the DSRs to SEAC for evaluation within 6 weeks. Since this is an elaborate technical and scientific exercise, it is recommended that an NABT accredited consultant may also be associated by the District Committees to guide and assist them in this regard.



After detailed deliberation, SEIAA decided that detailed agenda note be prepared for the review meeting to be conducted under the Chairmanship of worthy Chief Secretary, Punjab in compliance of orders issued by NGT on 26.02.2021 in O.A. No. 360/2015 and be placed in the next meeting of SEIAA scheduled on 28.12.2021.

In compliance with the aforesaid decision, detailed agenda note has been prepared for the review meeting to be conducted under the Chairmanship of worthy Chief Secretary, Punjab in compliance of orders issued by NGT on 26.02.2021 in O.A. No. 360/2015 and a copy of the same has been annexed as **Annexure-3** of the agenda for kind perusal please.

2.0 Deliberation during 196th meeting of SEIAA held on 28.12.2021.

SEIAA was apprised as above. SEIAA perused the agenda prepared for review meeting to be conducted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Punjab in compliance of the order issued by the NGT on 26.02.2021 in OA No. 360/2015 and observed the salient features of the same as under:

- (i) SEIAA will not be able to consider cases for issuing any fresh Environmental Clearances (ECs) till the DSRs of the concerned Districts are duly prepared and approved as per directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and Hon'ble NGT.
- (ii) Periodic inspections conducted till date by the 5-member committee headed and coordinated by SEIAA reveal that most of the conditions of the Environmental Clearance have not been complied with.
- (iii) The provisions/stipulations of the Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines (SSMG), 2016, as also of the Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining (EMGSM), 2020, of the MoEF&CC are not being followed at all by any of the stakeholders.
- (iv) Large scale commercial sand mining is being carried out under the head of "desilting" for which no prior EC has been obtained.
- (v) District Level Task Forces which were required to be constituted for monitoring of mining activities as per NGT orders have not commenced working so far.
- (vi) Interaction and coordination between the various departments needs to be improved.

After deliberations, SEIAA decided as under:

- (i) A point-wise brief Agenda be prepared for the review meeting to be conducted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Punjab keeping in view the aforesaid observations. A background note covering the important issues in each Agenda item may be attached with the agenda.



- (ii) Requisite action be taken immediately regarding violation of the terms and conditions of the Environmental Clearance by the sand mining contractor as and when reports from the Inspection Committee constituted by the NGT are received.

In compliance with the aforesaid decision, the following actions have been taken:

- (i) Brief Agenda has been prepared for the review meeting to be conducted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Punjab keeping in view the aforesaid observations which is annexed as Annexure-A of agenda. A background note covering the important issues in each Agenda item has also been prepared and is attached as Annexure- B of the agenda.
- (ii) Show cause notices u/s 5 are being issued to M/s Rakesh Kumar Chaudhary for revocation of Environmental Clearances granted for mining of minor minerals (sand) from the mining sites located at village Dayapur, Suryawal and Nangran, District Ropar.

Further, as per the decision of Inspection Committee taken in its 5th meeting held on 05.01.2022, all the Inspection reports and proceedings of the meetings held by the Committee up to date, have been received through email on 02.02.2022, which are enclosed herewith as per the index attached as **Annexure-C** of the agenda for kind perusal please.

3.0 Deliberations during 200th meeting of SEIAA held on 08.02.2022.

SEIAA perused the Annexure-A, B, C attached with the agenda and observed as under:

- (i) Inspection Committee has forwarded the brief agenda (Annexure-A) along with detailed background note (Annexure-B) for the review meeting to be conducted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Punjab containing six agenda items as under:
- Item No 1.0: Preparation of District Survey Reports (DSRs) for mining of minor minerals.
- Item No 2.0: Periodic inspections conducted by 5-Member Committee headed and coordinated by State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).
- Item No 3.0 Adherence to the SSMG and EMGSM Guidelines of the MoEF&CC.
- Item No 4.0 Requirement of Environment Clearance (EC) for "Desilting" sites.
- Item No 5.0: Constitution of District Level Task Force for monitoring of mining activities.
- Item No. 6.0: Interactions for effective enforcement.

SEIAA observed that all the agenda items have been well drafted, all the important issues have been addressed and requisite actions required to be taken in compliance of the order dated 26.02.2021 issued by Hon'ble NGT on 26.02.2021 in OA No. 360/2015 and Others titled National Green Tribunal Bar Association Vs. Virender Singh and Others have been enlisted.

- (ii) SEIAA observed that in compliance of the NGT order dated 26.02.2021, periodic inspections have been conducted by the Inspection Committee constituted by the

Hon'ble NGT in District Ropar. Inspection Committee in its 5th meeting held on 05.01.2022 decided as under:

- a) All mining operations being carried out at the Desilting sites are required to be stopped immediately and not to be permitted till the environmental clearances are obtained under the provision of EIA notification, 14.09.2006. The other directions of Hon'ble NGT in this regard are also required to be implemented by all concerned agencies and departments.
- b) All the Inspection reports and proceedings of the meetings held by the Committee up to date be sent to SEIAA and copy to Chief Secretary, Punjab for information and taking further necessary action at their end.

SEIAA has received all Inspection reports (6 no.) and proceedings of the meetings (5 no.) of Committee constituted by the Hon'ble NGT on 02.02.2022 which are annexed as Annexure-C of the Agenda of the present meeting. SEIAA perused all the said reports and proceedings and concluded as under:

- (a) From the perusal of visit report of mining site of Village Dayapur, Nangran, Surewal, Tehsil Nangal, District Ropar, it was observed that the mining activities have been carried out beyond the permissible depth as well as beyond the boundaries of the mining site. The contactor has violated most of the conditions of the Environmental Clearance granted to him and has operated the sites without adhering to the provisions/stipulations of the Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines (SSMG), 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining (EMGSM), 2020 of the MoEF&CC. The site inspections indicated that mining has been carried out without requisite control/monitoring by the concerned State agencies.
- (b) From the perusal of visit report of mining site of Village Bhallan and Plassi, Tehsil Nangal, District Ropar, it was observed that these mining sites were not in operation on date of visits.
- (c) From the perusal of the visit report of desilting site of Bari Haveli, Ropar, it was observed that large-scale commercial sand mining was in progress for which no prior EC had been obtained and environment aspects have been ignored.

After detailed deliberations, SEIAA decided as under:

- (i) Brief agenda (Annexure-A) along with detailed background note (Annexure-B) and all the reports of the Inspection Committee be sent to the Chief Secretary, Punjab through Principal Secretary Environment via e-office file in continuation of the previous e-office file on the subject.
- (ii) All the Inspection reports of the Committee be forwarded to the Chief Engineer, Mining with a copy to the Secretary-cum-Director, Mines & Geology with a request to take



necessary action to ensure compliance of the conditions of Environmental Clearance granted to the contractor and enforce the stipulation as envisaged in the Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines (SSMG), 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining (EMGSM), 2020 of the MoEF&CC in whole state of Punjab as it is apprehended that sand mining is being carried out in other parts of the Punjab without adhering to the conditions stipulated in the EC's and with similar violations as those which have been observed in Ropar District.

- (iii) Show cause notices to issue direction u/s 5 of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 to stop sand /gravel mining activities being carried out under the classification of "Desilting" in the State of Punjab be issued to the Chief Engineer, Mining and to Sh Rakesh Kumar Choudhary, Mining Contractor.
- (iv) Show cause notice to initiate action u/s 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for revocation of environmental clearance granted for mining of minor minerals (Sand/ Gravel) in the revenue estates of Villages Dayapur, Nangran and Surewal, Tehsil Nangal, Distt. Ropar along with other action be issued to the mining contractor namely Sh Rakesh Kumar Choudhary.
- (v) In compliance of the directions of the Hon'ble NGT in para 28 of its order dated 26.02.2021, the site visit reports and action taken thereon be uploaded on the website of SEIAA.

In compliance with the aforesaid decision, the following actions have been taken:

- (i) Brief agenda (Annexure-A) along with detailed background note (Annexure-B) and all the reports of the Inspection Committee has been sent through e-office file on 19.02.2022 to the Member Secretary, SEIAA for forwarding the same to Chief Secretary, Punjab through proper channel. Meeting was fixed on 07.03.2019 which was postponed due to certain administrative reason. The file was again put up through e-office file on 17.03.2022 for seeking fresh date for conducting the meeting under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Punjab. The file is pending at the level of PSSSTE.
- (ii) All the Inspection reports of the Committee (Annexure-2 to Annexure-7) has been forwarded vide letter no 5080-81 dated 17.02.2022 to the Chief Engineer, Mining and a copy to the Secretary-cum-Director, Mines & Geology with a request to take necessary action in the matter.
- (iii) Show cause notices u/s 5 of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 has been issued to the Chief Engineer, Mining vide letter no 5067 dated 17.02.2022 to stop sand /gravel mining activities being carried out under the classification of "Desilting" in the State of Punjab.
- (iv) Show cause notices u/s 5 of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 has been issued to Sh Rakesh Kumar Choudhary, Mining Contractor vide letter no 5068 dated 17.02.2022 to stop



sand /gravel mining activities being carried out under the classification of “Desilting” at Mining Site of Bari Haveli, Ropar till the grant of Environmental Clearance under EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006 to such mining sites.

- (v) Show cause notices u/s 5 of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 has been issued to Sh Rakesh Kumar Choudhary, Mining Contractor vide letter no 5070-71 dated 17.02.2022, vide letter no 5072-73 dated 17.02.2022 and vide letter no 5074-75 dated 17.02.2022 respectively for revocation of environmental clearance granted for mining of minor minerals (Sand/ Gravel) in the revenue estates of Villages Dayapur, Nangran and Surewal, Tehsil Nangal, Distt. Ropar.
- (vi) The site visit reports and action taken thereon has been uploaded on the web page of SEIAA maintained on the website of DECC on 22.02.2022.

Further, Chief Engineer, Mining and Sh. Rakesh Kumar Chaudhary, Contractor Mining has submitted their reply to the Show Cause notice which is annexed as Annexure A, B, C and D respectively.

4.0 Deliberations during 203rd meeting of SEIAA held on 29.03.2022.

The matter was considered by SEIAA in its 203rd meeting held on 29.03.2022. SEIAA was apprised that in compliance with the decision taken by SEIAA in its 202nd meeting held on 16.03.2022, a copy of the reply submitted by Chief Engineer, Drainage-cum-Mining and Geology, Water Resources Department vide letter no. 1222 dated 14.03.2022 has already been forwarded vide email dated 24.03.2022 to the Inspection Committee constituted by the NGT with a request to send their comments on the reply. Accordingly, Inspection Committee has scheduled its meeting on 01.04.2022.

SEIAA perused the reply submitted by Sh. Rakesh Kumar Chaudhary, Contractor and observed that the reply is incomplete and unsatisfactory. After deliberations, SEIAA decided as under:

- (i) Comments of the Inspection Committee as and when received, be placed in the forthcoming meeting of SEIAA so that further necessary action in the matter can be taken.
- (ii) Sh. Rakesh Kumar Chaudhary, Contractor be given an opportunity of personal hearing on 12.04.2022 at 3:30 pm before the Chairman SEIAA with a direction to submit complete replies along with the documentary proofs to the show cause notice failing which proposed actions mentioned in the show cause notice will be taken.

In compliance with the decision mentioned at (i), it is submitted that the Inspection Committee (Constituted in compliance of NGT order dated 26-02-2021 in OA No 360 of 2015) has conducted its 7th meeting held on 01.04.2022 and the proceeding of the said meeting has been recorded as under:



“Reference has been received from SEIAA in which the reply submitted by the Chief Engineer Drainage cum Mining vide letter dated 14.03.2022 in response to the show-cause notice issued by SEIAA to stop mining activities being carried out under the classification of ‘Desilting’ in the State of Punjab was considered. Chief Engineer in his reply to the notice has stated that desilting sites have been allotted to mining contractors as per the Punjab Sand Mining Policy, 2018 and further stated that desilting activities are exempted from obtaining EC as per MoEF Notification dated 15.01.2016. This issue has been examined and the Committee did not find any merits in the reply. The committee, therefore, reiterates the position and findings given in its earlier Inspection reports.”

In compliance with the decision mentioned at (ii), Sh. Rakesh Kumar Chaudhary, Contractor, and his consultant has been asked vide letter no 35 dated 07.04.2022 to appear before the Chairman, SEIAA in the 204th meeting of SEIAA to be held on 12.04.2022 (Tuesday) at 3:00 pm in Conference Hall no. 1 (Room No 311), 2nd Floor, MGSIPA Complex, Sector-26, Chandigarh and present their revised reply/plan to the show cause notice failing which proposed actions mentioned in the show cause notice will be taken without giving any further opportunity.

5.0 Deliberations during the 204th meeting of SEIAA held on 12.04.2022.

SEIAA perused the comments send by the Inspection Committee and observed that Committee has found no merit in the reply submitted by the Chief Engineer, Mining. SEIAA also perused the reply submitted by Chief Engineer Mining and was of the same opinion as the 5- member NGT Committee. After deliberations, SEIAA decided that Chief Engineer, Mining 1 & 2 be given an opportunity of personal hearing on **26.04.2022 at 3:00 pm** before the Chairman SEIAA with a direction to submit a complete reply along with the documentary proofs to the show cause notice failing which proposed actions mentioned in the show cause notice will be taken.

Further, Sh. Sachin Chaudhary, duly authorized by Sh. Rakesh Chaudhary, Contractor Mining has appeared on 12.04.2022 at 3:00 PM before the SEIAA along with his Environmental Consultant and presented the pointwise reply to the observations of show cause notice. Representative of Project Proponent stated that the non-compliance of some of the EC conditions was primarily on account of the Covid pandemic and assured full compliance of EC conditions in future. He, therefore, requested that the Environmental Clearances granted to the Mining sites located in the Revenue Estates of Village Dayapur, Nangran, and Surewal, Tehsil Nangal & District Ropar should not be revoked. SEIAA perused the replies submitted by the project proponent and was not satisfied with the same. SEIAA also observed that Environmental Consultant has not yet submitted the proposed Remediation plan and Natural and Community Resource Augmentation Plan with respect to the violations made by the Contractor. The Environmental Consultant sought 30 days' time to submit the same.



After deliberations, SEIAA decided to accept the request of the project proponent and asked the Environmental Consultant to submit the remediation plan and Natural & Community Resource Augmentation Plan within 30 days failing which proposed action as mentioned in the show-cause notice shall be taken without giving any further opportunity. SEIAA also directed that till a final decision is taken regarding revoking the EC's/ approval of Remediation Plan, no mining or extraction activities shall be carried out in the mining sites allotted to the contractor in the Revenue Estates of Village Dayapur, Nangran, and Surewal, Tehsil Nangal, District Ropar.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



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Published in Ajit Punjab, The Tribune Punjab Chandigarh, Jagbani Chandigarh, Punjabi Tribune Punjab, Chandigarh.


PUBLIC NOTICE
GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY

As per instructions of the Punjab Government, Mining Department, Punjab, the District Administration has prepared Draft District Survey Report (Preliminary Survey) of District Ropar 2022 as per Sustainable Sand Management (SSMG), 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 issued by MOEF & CC and as per various instruction/orders passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court and Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and uploaded on Public Domain/District Ropar website (<https://rupnagar.nic.in/>) on dated 01.09.. In this regard, a press note was also issued in the newspapers on 07.09.2022 for taking suggestions and objections from the general public. After completion of Post Monsoon Survey, the final Draft DSR was uploaded on the website of District Ropar (<https://rupnagar.nic.in/>) on 11.11.2022. Final District Survey Report of District Rupnagar is available on District Ropar website (<https://rupnagar.nic.in/>).

-Sd-
Executive Engineer -Cum-
District Mining Officer,
Drainage-Cum-Mining and Geology
Division,
Ropar.

DPR/NA/12/13225/2022/19440

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Executive Engineer / Ropar
Drainage-cum-Mining & Geology Division
WRD Punjab



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4 August 2022- Punjab Kesri, Danik Baskar, Punjabi Jagran, Ajit, Danik Jagran, Jag Bani.

The work of district survey report related to mining continues at war level

Physical verification of potential sites for preparation of District Survey Report in full swing

Rupnagar, August 3 (Vijay)- The district administration Rupnagar is in the process of preparing the District Survey Report (DSR), which Consultant R.S.P. It is being prepared by Green Development and Laboratories Limited. This district survey report is being prepared as per the various directives issued by the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines-2016, Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020, MoEF&CC, Supreme Court of Indian and National Green Tribunal to curb illegal mining and facilitate smooth mining operations.

By issuing a notice in this regard, the mining department will also seek objections from the general public for one month. Deputy Commissioner Rupnagar Dr. Preeti Yadav reviewed the district survey report being prepared by Mining in a high-level meeting at the District Administrative Complex. The Deputy Commissioner said that the report should be completed keeping in mind the rules/criteria laid down for preparing the District Survey Report. Deputy Commissioner SP. Giving instructions to the headquarters, Manwinder Bir Singh said to submit a report on seized vehicles and other matters related to illegal mining. He said that the Penalties should be recovered from the owners of seized vehicles as per the orders of NGT.

The chairman of the sub division level committee formed regarding the district survey report, sub divisional magistrate Rupnagar Jasveer Singh said that the physical verification of the potential sites is being done on a war footing to prepare the district survey report.


Executive Engineer / Ropar
Drainage-cum-Mining & Geology Division
WRD Punjab



Executive Engineer, Water Drainage-cum-District Mining Officer, Rupnagar Punit Sharma said that in coordination with Sub Division Committee members, RSP. Ground level action is being taken by Green Development and Laboratories Limited regarding the given potential sites of District Rupnagar and the route plan of these potential sites is being prepared.

Puneet Sharma said that according to the instructions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal regarding inclusion of agricultural land in the district survey report, a notice has been issued that if any person includes his agricultural land for mining. If he wants to do it, the applicant has to apply to the mining department, which is under process. .

In the meeting, besides Additional Deputy Commissioner Harjot Kaur, Forest Department, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Water Supply and Sanitation, PWD B & R Officials of various departments were present.

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25 August 2022- Jag Bani, Punjab Kesri, Danik Jagran, Spokesman, Danik Baskar, Ajit, Punjabi Jagran.

District survey report prepared to stop illegal mining and smooth running of mining - D.C.

Rupnagar, August 24- Deputy Commissioner Rupnagar Dr. Preeti Yadav held a high-level meeting with the staff of the mining department of the district at the district administrative complex. In this meeting, the district survey report being prepared by the mining department was reviewed.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the reporter should be completed keeping in mind the rules/standards laid down for preparing the District Survey Report. Deputy Commissioner Rupnagar also discussed with the officials of the department about the new sites that are going to be built in the district under the new mining policy of the Punjab government.

It was told by the employees of the department that in coordination with the subdivision committee members, action is being taken at the ground level regarding the given potential sites of district Rupnagar and the route plan of these potential sites is being prepared. Physical verification of assembly sites is being done on a war footing to prepare the district survey report. He said that according to the instructions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal regarding the inclusion of agricultural land in the District Survey Report, a notice has been issued that if a person wants to include his agricultural land for mining. If yes, the applicant will have to apply to the mining department, which is under process.

District Administration Rupnagar, is in the process of preparing District Survey Report (DSR), Sustainable-Sand-Mining-Management-Guidelines-2016, Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining-2020, MOEF. & CC, Supreme Court of




India and National Green Tribunal, this District Survey Report is being prepared to curb illegal mining and to run the mining smoothly. By issuing a notice in this regard, the mining department will also seek objections from the general public for one month. Apart from Additional Deputy Commissioner Harjot Kaur, officials of Mining Department were present in this meeting.

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7-Sep-2022- Ajit, Jag Bani, Spokesman,

D.S.R. Objections and suggestions were sought regarding the area found in the draft

Rupnagar, September 6 (Vijay) - Today, under the leadership of Additional Deputy Commissioner (J) Rupnagar Harjot Kaur, a meeting was held with all the sub divisional magistrates and mining officers of the district through video conference regarding the district survey report at the district administrative complex. In this meeting, the draft DSR A discussion was held regarding Harjot Kaur, giving information, said that after the preliminary survey of Rupnagar district was completed, its draft DSR. After preparing the report, it has been uploaded on the website of district Rupnagar on September 1. He said that this draft DSR has been kept in the public domain for one month as per the guidelines of MoEF&CC. Regarding disposition or objection may be made by approaching the office of the Executive Engineer, Drainage-cum-Mining Division, Rupnagar or by mail to the Engineer Engineer.

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Published in Ajit Punjab, The Tribune Punjab Chandigarh, Punjab
Kesri Punjab, Chandigarh.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY

District Administration Rupnagar is in the process of preparing District Survey Report, which is being prepared by the Consultant RSP Green Development & Laboratories PVT. LTD. DSR will be prepared as per Sustainable Sand Management (SSMG), 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 issued by MOEF & CC and as per various instruction/orders passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court and Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. If any land owner wants to auction his land for Sand and Gravel mining, please submit your applications along with the revenue records to office of Executive Engineer-Cum-District Mining Officer, Rupnagar and SDM Office (Rupnagar, Shri Anandpur Sahib, Shri Chamkour Sahib, Morinda and Nangal). So that these purposed sites will be included in the District Survey Report.

-Sd-

Executive Engineer -Cum-
District Mining Officer,
Drainage-Cum-Mining and Geology
Division,
Ropar.

DPR/NA/12/10839/2021/15939


Executive Engineer / Ropar
Drainage-cum-Mining & Geology Division
WRD Punjab

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**STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY
PUNJAB**

 Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India
 PBTI Complex, Knowledge City, Sector-81,
 Mohali-140306
 seiaapb2017@gmail.com

DPA

No. SEIAA/MS/2024/671

Registered/E-Mail

Date: 15/07/24

To

 The Deputy Commissioner,
 Ropar.

Subject:

Regarding approval of District Survey Report (DSR) of District Roopnagar.

It is intimated that the Mining Department vide its vide memo No. 488/MS/24-E- file no.690147 dated 31.05.2024 has requested for granting approval of 2nd amendment in District Survey Report (DSR) of District Roopnagar.

Accordingly, the matter regarding approval of DSR of Ropar was placed in 292nd meeting of SEAC held on 06.06.2024 and 296th meeting of SEAC held on 01.07.2024, wherein the SEAC recommended the case to SEIAA to approve the amendment in DSR of District Roopnagar.

The matter was considered by SEIAA in its 301st meeting held on 09.07.2024. After careful examination and keeping in view the recommendations made by SEAC, the amended DSR of Rupnagar District as submitted by Mining Department during the meeting was approved by the Authority subject to the conditions stipulated by SEIAA vide its letter No. SEIAA/MS/2022/1318 dated 27.12.2022 & letter no. 1086 dated 17.08.2023 and further relevant advisories / amendments thereto as issued by SEIAA from time to time and additional condition that Mining Department shall also comply with the orders of the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court and other relevant judicial directions, if any.

As such, the amendment in DSR as approved by the SEIAA is also enclosed herewith for ready reference.

This is for information and necessary action in the matter.

DA/As above

Environmental Engineer

Dated: 15/07/24

Endst 672

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Chief Engineer, Department of Water Resources (Mines & Geology), Punjab for information and necessary action. It is requested to ensure the following:


1. Mining Plans for river beds sites should be prepared by the Registered Qualified Person (RQP) and approved by the mining department taking into consideration that prevalent replenishment rates and guidelines issued by MoEF&CC from time to time.
2. Bench-marks used in the DSRs for establishing levels be protected and it be ensured that their integrity is not compromised.
3. Annual proposal be submitted by the Mining Department in the month of October/November each year along with justification thereof for updating the mining sites to be included as an addendum to the respective DSRs.

DA/As above

Endst 673


A copy of the above is forwarded to the Member Secretary, State Expert Appraisal Committee, Punjab for information, please.


DA/As above


Environmental Engineer
Dated: 15/07/24

Endst 674

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Principal Secretary, Department of Water Resources, Punjab for information, please.


Environmental Engineer
Dated: 15/07/24


Environmental Engineer



TRUE COPY