

Present status of Proceedings

Date of Visit	Name of the Site	Findings of the visit.	Present status of Proceedings
11.11.21	Village Dayapur and Nangran, Tehsil Nangal, District Ropar	Mining activities have been carried out beyond the permissible depth as well as beyond the boundaries of the mining site. The contractor 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.	Show cause notices u/s 5 of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 have 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 the environmental clearance granted for mining of minor minerals (Sand/ Gravel) in the revenue estates of Villages Dayapur, Nangran and Surewal, Tehsil Nangal, Distt. Ropar.
26.11.21	Village Surewal, Tehsil Nangal, District Ropar	The site inspections indicated that mining has been carried out without requisite control/monitoring by the concerned State agencies	After considering the replies submitted by the Mining contractor and affording an opportunity of a personal hearing, SEIAA in its 204 th meeting held on 12.04.2022 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 the 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. In this regard, Direction u/s 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to stop the mining of minor minerals (Sand) from the leased sites also be issued to the mining contractor.

			<p>Accordingly, Direction u/s 5 has been issued vide letter no 107 ,110 and 113 dated 22.04.2022 to Sh. Rakesh Kumar Chaudhary to stop mining or extraction activities in the mining sites located in the Revenue Estates of Village Dayapur, Nangran, and Surewal, Tehsil Nangal, District Ropar, respectively. A copy of the said letter has been endorsed vide letter no 108, 111 and 114 dated 22.04.2022 to the Chief Engineer, Drainage cum Mining & Geology and vide letter no 109, 112 and 115 dated 22.04.2022 to 5 members Inspection Committee, which have been sent through email.</p> <p>Mining contractor vide letter dated 08.06.2022 submitted a copy of the Remediation Plan and Natural & Community Resource Augmentation Plan of mining sites located in the Revenue Estates of Village Dayapur, Nangran, and Surewal, Tehsil Nangal, District Ropar for approval and requested to consider the same to set aside the show cause notice issued and not to revoke the Environment Clearance granted to the mining leases.</p> <p>SEIAA considered the said request in its 208th meeting held on 23.06.2022 which was attended by Sh. Sameer Singh, Environmental Consultant of the Contractor. SEIAA observed that monsoon season is due to commence within a few days during which sand mining operations are required to be totally suspended.</p> <p>In compliance with the decision of SEIAA, Member Secretary, SEAC has been requested vide letter no. 249 dated 11.07.2022 to examine the Remediation Plans and Natural & Community Resource Augmentation Plans of mining sites and the Chief Engineer-1, Drainage cum Mining &</p>
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			<p>Geology has been requested vide letter No. 250 dated 11.07.2022 to send the detailed action taken report on the site visit reports of the Inspection Committee sent by SEIAA vide letter no 5080-81 dated 17.02.2022 within 15 days. Further action in the matter shall be taken after getting report from the SEAC and Mining Department.</p> <p>Till a final decision is taken in the matter, all mining and extraction activities in these mining lease sites will continue to be barred as per directions already issued by SEIAA vide letter No's 107,110 and 113 dated 22.04.2022.</p>
26.11.21	Village Bhallan and Plassi Tehsil Nangal, District Ropar	Mining sites were found not in operation on date of visit	No action is required to be taken by SEIAA
21.12.21	Bari Haveli, Tehsil & District Ropar	Large-scale commercial sand mining was in progress for which no prior EC had been obtained and environment aspects have been ignored.	<p>Show cause notice 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 till the grant of Environmental Clearance under EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006 for the mining site.</p> <p>Show cause notice 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 for the mining site.</p>

			<p>No reply has been received from the mining contractor with respect to the show cause notice issued to stop sand/gravel mining activities being carried out under the classification of “Desilting” in the State of Punjab.</p> <p>The reply of the Chief Engineer Mining dated 14.03.2022 was considered by SEIAA in its 203rd meeting held on 29.03.2022 and found to be unsatisfactory. SEIAA thereafter provided an opportunity for Personal Hearing to the Chief Engineer. After considering the revised reply submitted by the Chief Engineer during the course of the personal hearing, SEIAA in its 205th meeting held on 26.04.2022 decided to conditionally accept the request and keep the show cause notice in abeyance for an initial period of 4 months during which the DSRs should be prepared and submitted to SEAC for appraisal. Subject to timely submission of the DSRs within 4 months, the notice would be held in abeyance for a further period of 2 months during which the DSRs would be appraised by SEAC and considered for approval by SEIAA. Immediately after approval of the DSRs, Mining Department would ensure that applications for grant of ECs for all desilting sites are submitted by the respective concessionaires to SEAC.</p> <p>SEIAA further decided that Mining Department shall direct all the concerned mining concessionaires who have been permitted to undertake commercial Sand Mining in the “Desilting” Sites to ensure meticulous compliance of the standard conditions prescribed by the MoEF&CC for sand mining activities in river beds as specified at Pages 73-78 of the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines (SSMG), 2016 during the period the show cause notice is held in abeyance. Mining Department shall also provide a list of all the desilting sites in operation</p>
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			<p>from which Commercial Sand Mining activities are being carried out to SEIAA, Punjab</p> <p>Accordingly, Chief Engineer Mining has been informed vide letter no. 154 dated 12.05.2022.</p> <p>SEIAA in its 208th meeting held on 23.06.2022 observed that the Mining Department vide letter no. 368 dated 08.06.2022 has informed that necessary directions have been issued to all Executive Engineers-cum-District Mining Officers vide letter no. 266 dated 26.05.2022 to direct concerned contractors to ensure compliance of the said conditions of SSMG, 2016.</p> <p>Fresh DSRs for all districts in which commercial sand mining is to be undertaken are presently under preparation by the District Authorities through NABET accredited consultants in accordance with the template provided in the Model DSR prepared under the guidance of SEIAA. These scientifically prepared DSRs with an accurate assessment of existing deposits of sand and gravel as also the replenishment/depletion rates of the same are required to be submitted to SEIAA by 30.09.2022. Upon approval of the DSRs, the applications for grant of ECs will be appraised by SEAC and considered for approval by SEIAA.</p> <p>Effective action is, therefore, being taken by SEIAA Punjab to bring the hitherto unscientific and unregulated sector of commercial sand mining in the state to a scientific, properly regulated and environmentally sustainable regime.</p>
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