

**STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY PUNJAB**

Ministry of Environment, Forest &amp; Climate Change, Government of India

O/o Directorate of Environment &amp; Climate Change

MGSIPA Complex, Sector 26,

Chandigarh-160019

[seiaapb2017@gmail.com](mailto:seiaapb2017@gmail.com)**No. 129-132****Through Email****Date: 09.05.2022**

To

1. **The Chief Engineer- 1 & 2,**  
Drainage cum Mining & Geology
2. **The Chairman,**  
Punjab Pollution Control Board
3. **The Director,**  
Directorate of Environment & Climate Change
4. **The Deputy Commissioner,**  
Ropar

**Subject: Proceedings of the Review meeting held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Punjab in compliance with the NGT order 26-02-2021 in OA No 360 of 2015 and other court cases on 29.04.2022 at 11:45 AM.**

\*\*\*

Kindly refer to the subject cited above.

2) Please find enclosed herewith a copy of the proceedings of the review meeting held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Punjab in compliance with the NGT order 26-02-2021 in OA No 360 of 2015 and other court cases on 29.04.2022 at 11:45 AM for information and necessary action please.

**DA/As above.****Environmental Engineer****Endst. No. 133****Through Email****Date: 09.05.2022**

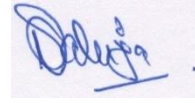
A copy of the above is forwarded to the all other Deputy Commissioners of Punjab for information and necessary action please.

**Environmental Engineer****Endst. No. 134-137****Through Email****Date: 09.05.2022**

A copy of the above is forwarded to the following for their information:

- 1) The Principal Secretary, Mines & Geology,

- 2) The Secretary, Science, Technology and Environment.
- 3) The Chairman, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority.
- 4) The Member Secretary, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority.



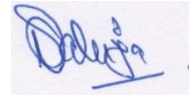
**Environmental Engineer**

**Endst. No. 138**

**Through Email**

**Date: 09.05.2022**

A copy of the above is forwarded to the PS to Chief Secretary, Punjab for information.



**Environmental Engineer**

**Proceedings of the review meeting held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Punjab on 29.04.2022 at 11:45 AM, CR-6, Main Secretariat, Chandigarh in compliance with Hon'ble NGT order dated 26-02-2021 in OA No 360 of 2015 & other related cases.**

\*\*\*\*\*

1. The list of attendees is annexed at **Annexure-A**.
2. The meeting was conducted in compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble NGT dated 26-02-2021 passed in OA No 360 of 2015 which was subsequently partially substituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dated 10.11.2021 in Civil Appeal No (s) 3661-3662/2020.
3. The Secretary, STE provided an overview of the directions issued in the aforementioned orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and Hon'ble NGT as under:
  - i) As per Hon'ble Supreme Court orders dated 10.11.2021 in Civil Appeal No (s) 3661-3662/2020 fresh District Survey Reports (DSRs) are required to be prepared as per Guidelines of the MOEF&CC, GoI by Sub-Divisional Committees consisting of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Officers from Irrigation Department, State Pollution Control Board or Committee, Forest Department, Geological or mining officer, within 06 weeks. Thereafter, the DSRs are to be forwarded to SEAC by the District Magistrate, evaluated/appraised by SEAC and considered/approved by SEIAA within 6 weeks each.
  - ii) District Level Task Forces (DLTFs) are required to be constituted under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioners to regularly monitor the sand / gravel mining activities and their transportation in their respective districts. The DLTFs have only been notified recently on 28.04.2022 and it would be appropriate to ask them to immediately commence field inspections and send Action Taken Reports (ATRs) to Director, DECC every month.
  - iii) As per directions of Hon'ble NGT dated 26.02.2021 in OA No 360 of 2015, all operational Mining Sites are to be visited. The sites of District Ropar have been visited by a 5-member Committee headed and coordinated by SEIAA. The Committee has observed and reported several violations of the conditions of the Environmental Clearances (ECs) in the operation of the mining sites visited by it. These reports need to be forwarded to secretary Mining, Govt. of Punjab and Member Secretary PPCB for immediate action. Also, DC Ropar as Head of DLTF should initiate necessary action in the matter immediately.
  - iv) A Mobile App is required to be developed by the Environment Department for receiving and redressing the grievances of the public / stakeholders in respect of all aspects of sand mining.
  - v) An annual report is required to be published by State Government and furnished to MoEF&CC by 30<sup>th</sup> April every year providing the status of compliance of Hon'ble NGT directions dated 26.02.2021. This report has been delayed inter alia on account of recent elections in Punjab. The Annual report is, therefore, required to be urgently prepared and submitted to the MOEF&CC.
  - vi) Being an important and sensitive issue relating to regulating and controlling sand mining, the detailed directions of the NGT are required to be implemented in letter and spirit so that possible adverse notice is not taken by the Courts in this regard.
4. The Chairman, SEIAA apprised as under:

- i) The Inspection Reports of the 5 member NGT Committee dated 11.11.2021, 26.11.2021, and 21.12.2021 in respect of the operational sand mining sites of Ropar District have already been sent vide letter no 5080-81 dated 17.02.2022 to the Chief Engineer, Mining with a copy to the Secretary-cum-Director, Mines & Geology for necessary action in the matter.
  - ii) Besides the above, a “Desilting” site located at Bari Haveli in Rupnagar District was also visited by the Committee constituted by Hon’ble NGT on 21.12.2021 and commercial sand mining was observed to be in progress for which Environmental Clearance needs to be obtained.
  - iii) No exemption is available from obtaining Environmental Clearance under the provision of EIA Notification, 14.09.2006 in respect of commercial sand mining operations even if such commercial sand mining is classified as a “Desilting” operation.
  - iv) Chairman SEIAA also stressed the need for the urgent preparation of the DSRs in accordance with the Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines (SSMG 2016) and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining (EMGSM 2020) of the MOEF&CC, GoI as this was a mandatory pre-condition for grant of ECs as per Hon’ble Supreme Court and Hon’ble NGT orders referred above.
5. The Principal Secretary, Mining apprised as under:
- i) District Level Task Force has already been notified by the Department of Mining for regular monitoring and checking of mining activities and transportation of minerals in the district.
  - ii) A Mobile App. has already been developed and Control Room has been set up for receiving and redressing grievances against sand mining.
  - iii) Several new initiatives using IT Technology are being taken for effective monitoring of sand mining. Further, end to end computerized process for monitoring and controlling the transportation of extracted minerals is also being developed shortly.
  - iv) With respect to Desilting operations, as per MoEF&CC Notification S.O 1224 (E) dated 28.03.2020, dredging and de-silting of dams, reservoirs, weirs, barrages, rivers and canals for the purpose of their maintenance, upkeep, and disaster management have been exempted from the requirement of Environmental Clearance under the provision of EIA Notification, 14.09.2006.
6. Deputy Commissioner, Ropar apprised that the DSR is a very technical and detailed document and the Sub-Divisional Committees do not have the expertise to prepare the same. She requested that a model DSR may be provided to the District Committees so that the Hon’ble NGT orders can be complied with.
7. After detailed deliberations, the review Committee took the following decisions:
- i) PPCB shall prepare a model DSR in consultation with SEIAA by 31.05.2022 at all costs. The Model DSR will be of generic nature (without specific Survey/Data) so that it may be adopted for preparing the DSRs of all the Districts after incorporating their

respective surveys, plans and other technical / administrative data. Chairman PPCB shall circulate the Model DSR to all DCs by 31.05.2022.

- ii) Secretary, STE and Director, DECC, shall conduct a VC with all the DCs/ADCs immediately after receiving the Model DSR from the PPCB. The Model DSR will be forwarded by Director DECC to all the DCs/ADCs for preparing the DSRs by Sub-Divisional Committees on the pattern of the Model DSR within next two months. As per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the DSRs so prepared will be forwarded by the Deputy Commissioners to SEAC for evaluation / appraisal. SEAC will appraise the DSRs within 6 weeks of receipt from the DC's and forward the same to SEIAA, which in turn shall consider / approve the DSRs within 6 weeks of receipt from SEAC.
- iii) Secretary, STE and Director, DECC shall ask the District Level Task Force (DLTF) constituted under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner during the VC as under:
  - a) to visit all the mining sites of the district,
  - b) to conduct regular monthly meetings to reconcile the information from the mining activity, and other observations made during the month
  - c) to take appropriate corrective and remedial action including:
    - ✚ Initiating process for revoking mining lease/ environmental clearance granted for the lease if need be.
    - ✚ Proposing Environmental compensation to PPCB, undertaking seizure and release of vehicles involved in illegal Mining based upon the State Action Plan for assessment and recovery of compensation for illegal sand mining and utilization of recovered compensation for restoration of environment based on methodology prescribed in the NGT Order dated 26.02.2021.
    - ✚ to send its proceedings/Action taken report to the 5-member Inspection Committee constituted by Hon'ble NGT and to the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) for preparing the Annual Report and further submission to the MoEF&CC.
    - ✚ To ensure that mining happens as per the prescribed norms in the District.
- iv) Director, DECC shall prepare the Annual Report of the State within two months after obtaining the inputs / reports from stake holder departments (District Level Task Force, Mining Department, SEIAA and PPCB) and submit the same to the Govt. for onwards submission to MoEF&CC.
- v) Mining Department shall take necessary action against the mining contractor on the basis of the Inspection Reports sent by the 5-members Inspection Committee / SEIAA for assessment and recovery of compensation for illegal sand mining and utilization of recovered compensation for restoration of the environment. Further, end to end computerized process for monitoring and controlling the mineral movement shall be developed as soon as possible.
- vi) Mobile App. for receiving and redressing the grievances against sand mining which has already been developed by the Mining Department shall be utilized jointly by the

Mining Department as well as the Environment Department and link of the same shall be placed on the website of both the Departments as well as on the website of GoP.

- vii) The process of preparation of District Survey Reports (DSRs) be started immediately by the Sub-Divisional Committees and completed within a period of 4 months for all the Districts in which sand mining is to be undertaken. Thereafter, Environmental Clearance be obtained under the provision of EIA Notification, 14.09.2006 for all sites in which commercial sand mining is to be undertaken.
- viii) The file be put up again for the next review meeting after 3 months.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

\*\*\*\*

**Annexure-A**

**List of Attendees**

1. Sh. Krishan Kumar, IAS  
Principal Secretary, Water Resources Department,  
(Mines & Geology), Punjab
2. Sh. Rahul Tiwari, IAS  
Secretary, Science, Technology and Environment, Punjab
3. Sh. Hardeep Singh Gujral,  
Chairman, SEIAA, Punjab
4. Ms. Preeti Yadav IAS  
Deputy Commissioner, Ropar
5. Sh. Charchil Kumar  
Director, DECC, Chandigarh.
6. Dr. Adarsh Pal Vig,  
Chairman, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala
7. Sh. Devinder Singh  
Chief Engineer, Drainage CUM Mining & Geology-1
8. Er. Parveen Saluja  
Environmental Engineer, SEIAA
9. Er. Ashwinder Singh,  
Scientist-B- DECC