Proceedings of the Public Hearing conducted on 16.03.2012 at 02.30 p.m. in connection with application filed by Department of Industries & Commerce, Govt. of Punjab, for obtaining environmental clearance under EIA Notification dated 14/9/2006 for the mining site at 12.40 Hectare Village Barsoon, Tehsil & District Pathankot.

The following were present to supervise the proceedings:-

1. Smt. Sarojini Gautam Sharda, (PCS)
   Additional Deputy Commissioner,
   Pathankot.

2. Er. Ashok Kumar Chalotra,
   Asstt. Environmental Engineer,
   Punjab Pollution Control Board,
   Regional Office, Hoshiarpur.

3. Er. Prem Kamal,
   Asstt. Environmental Engineer,
   Punjab Pollution Control Board,
   Regional Office, Hoshiarpur.

4. Sh. Balwinder Pal Singh
   General Manager,
   District Industries Centre-cum-Mining Officer,
   Pathankot.

Assistant Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Hoshiarpur welcomed the Supervising-cum-Presiding Officer and people from the Barsoon Village who came to attend the public hearing for mining sites in the revenue estate of Village Barsoon, Tehsil & Distt. Pathankot. He apprised the public about the requirement of conducting the public hearing before grant of environmental clearance under EIA Notification no.1533 (E) dtd.14.9.2006 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India, New Delhi. He also brought into the notice of public that the Department of Industries & Commerce, Govt. of Punjab has submitted copies of draft rapid EIA report alongwith the Executive Summary of the same and a copy of each such document was placed in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Pathankot; Zila Parishad, Gurdaspur; General Manager District Industries Centre, Pathankot; Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Pathankot, Regional Office of MoEF at Chandigarh and Regional Office, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Hoshiarpur for access to the public and other stakeholders. He further brought out that a notice of public hearing was published in three prominent newspapers 'Hindustan Times' & 'The Tribune' & ' Daily Ajit' on 9.2.2012**(Annexure –A)**to make the public aware of the date, time & venue of the public hearing and about the places/offices where the public could access the draft EIA report and its Executive Summary report before the said hearing. He informed that today's Public hearing is being conducted for the mining area of 12.40 Hectares located in Village: Barsoon, District: Pathankotas per application submitted by the Project Proponent i.e. Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh through Mining Officer, Pathankot. District Pathankot.

He further intimated that pursuant to the publication of Public Notice regarding conduct of Public Hearings; an office order was issued by Deputy Commissioner, Pathankot Vide No. 926-27 dated 16.02.2012 (copy enclosed **Annexure-B**) regarding Supervision of Public hearing and direction to concerned area Sub-Divisional Magistrate for conducting Mustri Munadi through Halqua Patwari on a day prior to Public hearing to ensure maximum participation of public for decision making. Further District Public Relation Officer was also requested to give wide publicity in the print & electronic media to ensure maximum participation of the public vide Punjab Pollution Control Board vide letter No. 1278 dated 13.02.2012. Sarpanch & Chowkidar of the Village Barsoon, Tehsil &Distt.Pathankot has also submitted Certificate regarding conducting of Munadi through Village Chowkidar& Local Gurudwaras/ Mandir as well as through distribution of Pamphlets **(Annexure C)**. He also informed that details of khasra Nos. duly signed by Mining Officer alongwithColoured copies of proposed mining area has been displayed on the Notice Board at the venue of Public hearing for convenience of the public which are placed as per **Annexure – D&E**. Proposed Mining site was properly explained by the HalquaPatwari, which has also been video recorded, photographed and forms a part of the proceedings of Public hearing.

He also informed that Divisional Forest Officer, Pathankot was requested vide Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Hoshiarpur Letter No. 1406 dated 17.02.2012 to be present during the Public Hearings for their comments, views, suggestions & objections regarding proposed mining projects on behalf of his department, considering the fact that near most of the proposed river bed mining sites, there is possibility of forest land / wild life sanctuary/ protected forest area.

He further informed the audience that being a Category **'A'** project the EAC / SEAC has determined detailed and comprehensive TOR (Terms of Reference) addressing all relevant environmental concerns for the preparation by an EIA report in respect of mining project for which prior environmental clearance is sought of Department of Industries & Commerce through Mining Officer, Pathankot. Copy of the TOR (Terms by Reference) enclosed as per **Annexure-F.** He apprised the audience of some of the following important points of Terms of the Reference (TOR), which are part of Draft EIA report submitted by the Project Proponent.

- The terms and conditions imposed, if any, by the Competent Authority in the State Government while granting mining lease/ permit/ contract should be built into the mine plan (Eco friendly Mine Plan) as well as the EIA report. It may inter-alia include; area of working (length and breadth of the river stretch), mode of working, working shift, transportation of mineral, restriction, if any imposed for working etc.
- Involvement of the forest land, if any, in the project and status of forestry clearance should be given.
- The study area will comprise of 10 km zone around the mine lease from lease periphery and the data contained in the EIA such as waste generation etc should be for the life of the mine/ lease period.
- Land use of the study area delineating forest area, agricultural land, grazing land, wildlife sanctuary and national park, migratory routes of fauna, water bodies, human settlements and other ecological features.

- Land use plan of the mine lease area should be prepared to encompass pre-operational, operational and post operational phases.
- Impact of the project on the wildlife in the surrounding and any other protected area and accordingly detailed mitigate measures required should be worked out with cost implications.
- The vegetation in the RF/PF in the study area, if any.
- A study shall be got done to ascertain the impact of the mining project on wildlife of the area including on the elephant population.
- Location of National Parks, Sanctuaries, Biosphere Reserves, Wildlife Corridors, Tiger/Elephant Reserves (existing as well as proposed) within 10 KM of the mine lease should be clearly indicated.
- A detailed biological study for the study area [core zone and buffer zone (10 KM radius of the periphery of the mine lease)] including the aquatic fauna in the riverine system shall be carried out.
- Impact on topography, drainage, agricultural fields, wildlife, water logging leading to water borne diseases, if any. It may also be shown whether it will lead to change of water course of the river. Modeling exercise should also be carried out through an expert agency to show the change in river flow dynamics, if any.
- Collection of one season (non-monsoon) primary baseline data on ambient air quality (PM10, SO2, and NOx), water quality, noise level, soil and flora and fauna.
- Air quality modeling should be carried out for prediction of impact of the project on the air quality of the area.
- Impact of the project on the water quality should be assessed and necessary safeguard measures, if any required should be provided.
- Information on site elevation, working depth, groundwater table should be provided both in AMSL and bgl. A schematic diagram may also be provided for the same.
- Quantity of solid waste generation, if any, to be estimated and details for its disposal and management be provided.
- Impact on local transport infrastructure due to the project, Projected increase in truck traffic as a result of the project in the present road network (including those outside the project area) and whether it is capable of handling the increased load. Arrangement for improving the infrastructure, if contemplated including action to be taken by other agencies such as State Government, if any, should be covered.
- Details of the infrastructure facilities to be provided for the mine workers.
- Phase-wise plan of greenbelt development, plantation and compensatory afforestation clearly indicating the area to be covered under plantation and the species to be planted.
- Occupational health impact of project should be anticipated and prevention measures initiated. Details in this regard should be provided.
- Details of pre-placement medical examination and periodical medical examination schedules and medical facilities proposed to be provided should be incorporated in the EMP.
- Measures of socio economic influence to the local community proposed to be provided by project proponent. As far as possible, quantitative dimension to be given.
- Detailed environmental management plan to mitigate the environmental impacts. Specific safeguard measures to control PM10 as well as pollution due to transportation should be given.
- Public hearing points raised and commitment of the project proponent on the same along with time bound action plan to implement the same should be provided.
- Details of litigation pending against the project, if any, with direction/ order passed by any Court of Law against the project should be given.
- The cost of the project (capital cost and recurring cost) as well as the cost towards implementation of EMP should clearly be spelt out.
- All documents to be properly referenced with index, page numbers and continuous page numbering.
- Where data are presented in the report especially in tables, the period in which the data were collected and the sources should be indicated.
- Where the documents provided in a language other than English, an English translation should be provided.

- The questionnaire for environmental appraisal of mining projects as devised earlier by the ministry shall also be filled and submitted.
- Approved mine plan along with copy of the approval letter for the proposed capacity should also be submitted.
- While preparing the EIA report, the instructions for the proponents and instructions for the consultants issued by MoEF vide O.M. No. J-11013/41/2006-IA.II(I) dated 4th August , 2009, which are available on the website of this ministry should also be followed.

Assistant Environmental Engineer further apprised the audience of the fact that mining has to be carried out as per Environmental Impact Assessment Guidance Manual for Mining of Minerals as published by Ministry of Environment Forests, New Delhi through Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad which includes some of the additional points to be taken into consideration for Environment friendly mining.In addition to some of the points already raised in Term of Reference; following issues will also be monitored:

- The mining has to be carried out only upto 3 mtrs. (BGL) Below Ground Level and Mining has to start after date of opening of Mining Activities i.e. after grant of Environmental Clearance.
- Whether there is involvement of any Forests land in proposed area of Mining.
- Whether there is any Wild Life Sanctuary within 10 Kms. from the area of proposed mining project.
- There will not be any quarry operation within the distance of 75 m from railway line / 50 m from reservoir tank, canal, public road, building and in-habitat sites etc.
- Whether there is any Defence establishment near by the area of proposed mining project.
- Mining will not be allowed below water the table.
- The mining should be prohibited to distance of 500 m on upstream and downstream from the high level bridge and 250 m form the other bridges on upstream and down stream

He also pointed out that project proponent is legally bound to get necessary approvals 'if applicable' from other departments like Forest Department & Ground Water Board under relevant Acts & Rules for the Proposed Mining Projects. He further informed that around 30 persons are present in the Public hearing out of which 26 have signed the attendance register.

Thereafter, he requested the Project Proponent i.e. Mining Officer, Pathankot to elaborate the main features about the project and the draft EIA study report. Mining officer, Pathankot Sh. Balwinder Pal Singh gave the description of the site for which Environmental clearance is sought. He intimated to the public that total proposed mining land as indicated in Draft EIA Report has been shown as Govt. waste land and he also submitted copy of signed list of khasra Nos. of proposed mine lease which has not been demarcated as of now.

However these Khasra Nos. of proposed mining site includes Private Land. In majority of the proposed mining area, deep mining has been carried out in patches at some places, even beyond 3 Mtrs. BGL thereby surpassing restrictions to be imposed in proposed Environmental Clearance which was videographed and photographed depicting damage already done to the Environment.

Then he introduced and invited Sh. N.K. Sharma Representative of M/s Grass Roots Research & Creation India (P) Ltd, Noida, Consultant of Department of Industries & Commerce to elaborate about the main features of the project and the draft EIA study report.

Sh. N.K. Sharma of M/s Grass Roots Research & Creation India (P) Ltd, Noida engaged by Department of Industries & Commerce,for conducting the EIA study for this project brought out the details of the project before the public as under:-

1) The development of the infrastructure is based upon the building materials such as sand and gravel for which controlled mining at the source is required. Govt. of Punjab has to allot / earmark the various sites from which the mining of minerals has to be undertaken. Accordingly, this site is also one of such site from where mining is to be carried out,hence the environmental clearance is required.

2) PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As per the Eco-friendly Mining Plan, it is a proposed project to mine Sand/Gravel and the estimated project cost is 45.00 Lacs. Department of Industries and Commerce, Chandigarh (Punjab), though has not yet notified the mining lease of Sand/Gravel in the name of Barsoon, Taluka: Pathankot, Punjab. The mining lease / proposed project area falls in Survey of India Toposheet No. 43P/11. The mine lease area is located between 32°15' 41.96'' to 32°15' 52.49" N Latitude and 75°41' 5.97" to 75° 41' 28.36" E Longitude.The River bed is having 12.40 Hectare area which with approx. 1,00,000tonneper year of Sand/Gravel deposit in it, which is replenishable due to sediment Inflow.

3) The mining will be carried out by excavator of 1.1 cubic meter capacity. No drilling or blasting will be carried out at the site and the mining will be with simplest procedure of lifting the material and loading to the vehicles mechanically. The mining will be doneupto working depth of 3 m BGL only.

4) Baseline data has been collected with respect to land, water, air, ecological and noise in the area of 10 km radius surrounding the site.

He further informed that as mentioned in Draft EIA item No. 1.2 as well as in TOR (Terms of Reference), the mining area has not been notified by Department of IndustriesGovt. of Punjab.

5) Mitigation measures for different Environment parameters:

A) **Air Environment**: The dust emitting will only be possible from the movement of the vehicles for which water spraying will be carried out on the road.Overloading of vehicles will not be allowed.

B)**Water Environment:**

- There will be no degradation of water quality, only natural flow of the river will be maintained.

C)**Soil Environment**:

- The mining will not effect in any way the quality of the soil as the level of the area lowered by the mining will be compensated by the flowing river, during rainy season.

D)**Noise Environment:**

- There will be no heavy machinery to be used in the mining, the possible noise will be from movement of vehicles only.

- The movement of vehicles will be restricted to the day time only with minimum use of horns.

E)**Social Aspects**

- River channel will be controlled and protection of banks will lead to safety of adjoining agricultural land.
- Employment will be generated hence improvement of socio-economic aspects of the area.

6) Budget for Implementation of Environmental Management Plan

Cost of EMP

S. No	Description	Cost to be incurred (in lakhs/annum)
1	Air Quality a) Monitoring in the vicinity of the mine b) Monitoring in the vicinity of the transportation network c) Cost of dust suppression	0.75
2	Water Quality a) Water quality of surface and groundwater around the site b) Drinking water must conform to drinking water standards	0.54
3	Ambient Noise Level	0.15
4	Soil Quality	0.24
5	Socio-economic condition of local, population, physical survey	0.12
6	Man power cost for environmental cell	0.45
	TOTAL	**2.25**

Thereafter, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Pathankot informed the public present that as per the provision of EIA notification dated 14.9.2006 as amended from time to time, the persons present at the venue may seek information or clarifications on various issues related to proposed mining project from the project proponent/consultant. He also informed the public that the information or clarifications sought by them and reply given by the project proponent / consultant will be videographed and will also be incorporated in the proceedings of the hearing, which will be sent to the Ministry of Environment & Forests, for further consideration. Accordingly, she requested the persons present in the hearing to seek information or clarifications on the project one by one without any fear, pressure or favour.

Thereupon, the detail of the information/ clarifications raised by the persons present at the venue of hearing and the reply given by the consultant of the industry / project proponent is as under:

S. No	Name of the person	Questions/ query / statements of the person	Reply / clarification given by the company/ panel member
1.	Sh. Ravi Kumar Sarpanch, Village	• I want to know that if your project is started then to whom you will	• G.M. DIC-cum-mining Officer, Pathankot said that

	Mamoon, Tehsil & Distt. Pathankot	supply this material? • Crusher industry is already existing there. Mining Department as well as Environment Department know the condition of Chakki but level of our chakki has gone down approximately upto 70-80 ft. • 20-25 years ago A-class basmati rice was harvested in this area and plenty of drinking water was available. Due to mining approximately 2000 acres of land of village Mamoon has become barren. Like this 12-13 hectare land of Barsoon has gone into Chakki River. • You will do mining in right way but where the material will go. Crusher industry already exists in village Mamoon, Haryal and on the other side of Chakki in Himachal. Till now the Govt. is unable to demarcate that where the chakki exists in Himachal and Punjab. • Farmers are worried about the lowering of water level. Earlier we all were dependent on the land which has now become barren. • You are saying that mining should be carried out in proper way but material will come out from this area. • 15 years ago drains carrying water for irrigation were running in chakki and we used to drink this water. But now that water is not even suitable for bathing, the polluted water of stone crusher's is being discharged into Chakki which is polluting the water of Chakki River. • The water of upper village hard is very clear, people drink that water as no mining has been carried out over there. The industries have grown from Haryal and are spreading upto Pathankot and Himachal.	the project will come into existence only if you approve it and if you do not approve it project will not come into existence. • Material will not directly be taken by the Govt. After getting Environmental Clearance for the project, the material will be auctioned to the contractor and he will lead the project as per terms & conditions imposed on him in Environmental Clearance. Before it he will submit security to us if he will do any thing illegal. • He also clarified that if the Panchayat land has been auctioned in the year 2008, we have written letters which you may get within 1-2 days to distributions of compensation to Panchayat out of the security deposited by earlier contractors with Mining Department. Till now the Govt. has kept the security of 2008, the security has not been returned to the contractor. Because if anyone has objection, he will be compensated. • In regard to the polluted water, The project representative/ consultant said that after sand washing, water will not be discharged into Chakki. It will only discharged after treatment. That is also another provision of the project. • The whole land of the village is of private owners. If anyone observes that the mining is being done forcefully he doesn't want

		• You will carry out mining in proper way but the material will be taken from Chakki and will be handed over to crushers and they will discharge their polluted water into Chakki. What the farmers are going to get, chakki has gone approx. 100 ft. deeper. • I mean to say that we are opposing the project as due to this we are facing problems. • According to the Letter which we received from Mining Office, mining has been banned in Mamoon, Barsoon, Bahdroya. And if anybody notices mining there, Mining Department must be informed. After that we have not received any letter. • Anyone who gets contract for mining is creating nuisance. We need material for our own need but we are not allowed to get the same. If we want one trolley of sand then we have to pay 1600/- Rs. which was earlier available for 400 rupees. We are the owners of Chakki, it is our property, I want that these families must be exempted to some extent, as far as royalty payment is concerned. • Mining is being carried out round the clock in Village Mamoon and Barson. All the bridges which got eroded are the result of mining. Initially Railway Bridge got eroded then Saili Kullian bridge. Due to mining the distance between National Highway and Chakki River got narrowed. If mining is legally banned, then how the mining is still being carried out. • We don't want to establish this mining project. There is a ban in Mamoon Village. It seems as it is not your project. You have imposed ban on mining and still the polluted water is being discharged into Chakki. • Till now it has not been known	mining in his land, he may come to my office. • Earlier mining was being carried out without public hearing. There after High Court directed to do mining only after getting EIA clearance from Punjab Pollution Control Board. Mining Department requested that mining can't be stopped. They demanded some time for EIA Clearance. Thereafter we demanded more time and it was permanently stopped. Thereafter it was requested that if there is less than 05 hectare then that should be allowed for auction. As it doesn't required EIA. There are 27 drain, your village is not covered under this category. • Now your village has been covered under the project, we haven't auctioned this village. • He said that if the project is passed, the unauthorized mining will also not be carried out. Unauthorized mining also carried out in the convenience with private owners. It may be fact that in your case mining is being carried out forcefully. But in many cases it has been seen that the private owners say that mining is being carried out by him. • Mining should be carried out legally so that you may get compensation. • Regarding demarcation he said that many times land was demarcated by us. We also face problem at the

		that where the boundary of Himachal & Punjab lies. There is no proper demarcation.	time of demarcation. 1
2.	Sh. Kehar Singh, Village Barsoon, Tehsil & Distt. Pathankot	• The demarcation pillars exists in Punjab only. I got land by investing 05 lacs Rs. Where the land has gone. If we stop anyone from mining he says that there is ban on it. Which type of ban is this, Mining should not be carried out in any ways.	• Comments/Suggestions/ Views /objections, were well recorded.
3.	Sh. Dharam Singh, Member Panchayat village, Mamoon, Tehsil & Distt. Pathankot.	• Mining should be fully stopped, Water level of Chakki River has been lowered and the mining which has been carried out upto date has not benefited to the private owners on land having minerals.	• Comments/Suggestions/ Views /objections, were well recorded.
4.	Sh Mehar Singh, Village Barsoon, Thesil & Distt. Pathankot	• No mining should be allowed in our area. Due to mining our 400 acres land has become barren. Crushers has been established, mining is being carried out and material is being taken out illegally.	• Comments/Suggestions/ Views /objections, were well recorded.
5.	Sh. Balram Singh, Village Mamoon, Tehsil & Distt. Pathankot.	• I have writes letter to the Mining Officer regarding royalty that I don't want compensation. But mining is still being carried out there till date. The vehicles pass through out night. There is also no proper demarcation of land.	• Comments/Suggestions/ Views /objections, were well recorded.

Assistant Environmental Engineer requested the public if anyone else want to ask any question about the proposed project, but no one came forward. The residents of Village Barsoon have also submitted written complaint against mining during Public Hearing **(Annexure – I).**

As EIA study has been carried out by the Project Proponent through its consultant without demarcation of proposed mining site and without taking into consideration site specific ground realities. The Project Proponent was asked to officially own data used/ generated during EIA study which has been incorporated in Draft EIA Report. General Manager, DIC-Cum-Mining Officer, Pathankot has submitted a letter issued by Director of Industries & Commerce, Punjab, Chandigarh in this regard stating that "*it is not feasible to certify the data and other information included in the EIA / EMP reports prepared by the Consultant Firm at this juncture as the reports are yet to take final shape*" has been annexed alongwith this report as **Annexure –H**.

The representative of the Project Proponent i.e. Mining Officer, Pathankot asked to furnish details of Khasra Nos. of Village Barsoon for which Environmental Clearance is sought. Consequently, **Sh.Balwinder Pal Singh, Mining Officer, Pathankot clarified that the proposed mining area as recorded in TOR issued to them is 12.40 Hectares and accordingly Draft EIA report the land has been prepared for12.40 Hectares.** He also submitted duly signed copies of the actual proposed mining area falling in Khasra Nos. 244/198 (61-15), 245/198(95-13), 200 (4-11), 201 (8-7), 202 (16-4), 203 (0-16), 204 (1-4), 205 (1-5), 206 (4-12), 207 (17-0), 208 (0-4), 209 (1-14), 246/210 (3-6), 247/210 (6-10), 211 (2-1), 248/212 (6-12) Village Barsoon which is attached herewith as per **Annexure-G. It is reiterated that total proposed mining land as indicated in Draft EIA Report has been shown as Govt. waste land however actually it is Private land.**

The public hearing ended with vote of thanks to Presiding Officer-cum-Supervisor and the public present in the hearing.

Copies of DVD's of video recording and still photography of the Public Hearing are enclosed which may please be considered as a part of the proceedings.

(Smt. Sarojini Gautam Sharda) **(PCS)** Additional Deputy Commissioner, Pathankot.	**(Er. Ashok Kumar Chalotra)** AEE Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Hoshiarpur	**(Er. Prem Kamal)** AEE Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Hoshiarpur