

proceedings of the public hearing conducted on 10.09.2021 in connection with application filed by M/s Rakesh Kumar Choudhary, R/o 51 B/D Gandhi Nagar, Distt Jammu for obtaining environmental clearance under EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006 for mining of minor minerals in the revenue estate of Village Mehain, Tehsil Nangal, Distt. Roopnagar.

The following were present to supervise the proceedings:-

1. Sh. Sanjeev Sharma,
Additional Deputy Commissioner (U),
Roopnagar
2. Er. Gurinderpal Singh Chhina,
Asstt. Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office, Roopnagar.

Apart from above officers, Er. Sukhwinder Singh Kalsi, Executive Engineer-cum-Mining Officer and Er. Satwinder Singh Kang, SDO, Department of Mines & Geology, Roopnagar was special invitee as per the direction of the ADC, Rupnagar.

At the outset of the public hearing, Asstt. Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Roopnagar welcomed the Supervising-cum-Presiding Officer and people from adjoining towns/villages, who came to attend the public hearing of this proposed project. He explained that M/s Rakesh Kumar Choudhary, R/o 51 B/D Gandhi Nagar, Distt Jammu has proposed to set up mining project for mining of minor minerals @ 3,31,537 TPA in an area of 22.47 hectares in the revenue estate of Village Mehain, Tehsil Nangal, District Roopnagar. After considering the application of the company, the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Punjab had issued 'Terms of Reference' to the company for preparation of draft EIA study report. The company has submitted draft EIA report incorporating the overall impact of the project on the Environment to the Punjab Pollution Control Board. To consider the application of the project proponent the public hearing is being conducting of the project as per the procedure prescribed in the EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006. He also apprised the public present there about the requirement of conducting the public hearing before deciding the application filed by the company for getting the said clearance for mining of minor minerals for the above mentioned site. He also brought to the notice of public that a copy of the draft EIA report alongwith the executive summary of the same submitted by the company to the office of Chairman, Zila Parishad, Roopnagar; Deputy Commissioner, Roopnagar;

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General Manager District Industries Centre, Roopnagar; Executive Engineer, District Mining Officer, Roopnagar; Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Chandigarh and Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board Regional Office, Roopnagar and also uploaded the same on the official website of Punjab Pollution Control Board for access to the public and other stakeholders. He further brought out that a notice of public hearing was published on 05.08.2021 in two prominent newspapers namely, 'Hindustan Times' (English) daily and 'Rozana Spokesman' (Punjabi) to make the public aware of the date, time & venue of the public hearing and about the offices, where the public can access the draft EIA report and its executive summary report before the said hearing and also to submit suggestions, views, comments and objections, if any, via - writing/email or in person, on the proposed project, to the Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala, within 30 days of the publication of the public notice. Thereafter, he requested the representative of the company i.e. the Environmental Consultant of company to elaborate the main features of the project and the draft EIA study report.

The representative of the company brought out the details of the project before the public that the proposed mining project is located in the revenue estate of Village Mehain, Tehsil Nangal, district Roopnagar and got sanctioned the mining lease area of 22.47 hectares for the mining of minor minerals @ 3,31,537 TPA. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 4 cr. The Department of Mines & Geology, Punjab has issued letter for mining for a period of three years. The nearest city near the mining site is Shri Anandpur Sahib and various hospitals, educational institutions and railway station also exists there. He also informed that the mining area does not cover under Pollution Control Laws and is covered under earthquake zone (Zone-IV). The EIA study was conducted during December 2020 to February, 2021. About 7.5 KLD of water will be used at the project site (dust suppression, drinking & plantation purpose). The total manpower will be of 90 persons. There will be 300 days in a year and there will be one shift of 8 hours in a day. The maximum depth of the mining area will be upto 3 m. The water level at the mining site is 3-11 m. The water will be sprayed at the loading point/roads to control dust emissions and the trucks carrying the material will be covered with 'Tarpals' & overloading will be avoided. It will also be ensured that the all transport vehicles will be having a valid PUC certificate. The plantation @ 2000 plants/hectares will be planted per year near schools, Gram Panchayats & hospitals. There will be a supervision every half yearly regarding mitigating the dust due to loading & movements of vehicles and efforts will be done to reduce the same. The characteristics of the water will not be affected as the mining

will be done near the Bank of river. The mining will not be done during monsoon season. There will not be any generation of trade effluent during mining process and effluent will be generated only from the office toilets for which there will be provisions of soakage pit. Lubrication/greasing of vehicles will be done at regular intervals to control noise pollution. The safety equipments will be provided to all the operators & workers. The green belt will be developed along the Katcha roads to control the noise pollution. Noise levels will be measures at regular intervals. The guidelines of Covid-19 will be followed at the mining site and masks/PPE kits will also be provided and social distancing will also be maintained. The mining will be carried out in an area of 18.19 hectares and the remaining 4.28 hectares area will be kept as protection zone. The necessary precautions will be taken under the provisions of Management Mines Act.

Thereafter, Asstt. Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Roopnagar brought into the notice of public present at the venue of hearing that as per the provisions of EIA notification dated 14.09.2006, as amended from time to time, the persons present at the venue may seek any information or clarifications on the proposed project from the project promoter and may also raise objections, if any. It was also brought into the notice of the persons present there that the information or clarifications or objections raised by them and reply given by the project proponent will be recorded in the proceedings of the hearing, which will be sent to the SEIAA, Punjab for further consideration. Accordingly, he requested the persons present in the hearing to seek information or clarifications or raise objections, if any on the project one by one. He also informed that no information / clarifications / comments / views / suggestions / objections on the project have been received from the public in writing by the Board so far.

The details of the information/ clarifications sought by the persons present at the venue of hearing and the reply given by the project proponent is as under:

Sr. No.	Name & address of the person	Detail of query/ statement / information / clarification sought by the person present	Reply of the query / statement / information / clarification given by the project proponent
1.	Sh. Sucha Singh Khatra, Ex-Sarpanch r/o Village Mehain,	He wanted to know where the company has planted trees in the past as told by the	Environmental consultant of the company replied that 4.28 ha will be kept as buffer/protection zone and all the existing

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	District, Roopnagar	<p>consultant in his presentation. He further stated that the mining is still going on in the nearby areas. He also stated that the water table of the village has gone down and the lakhs of Rupees spent in installation of tubewells have gone to waste.</p> <p>He also stated that the proposed mining site includes veterinary hospitals and Community Centre. As such, the Village has already passed the resolution for opposing the mining from the mining site. Moreover, the village already has temple and mosque in good condition and they do not want anything from the contractor of the proposed mining site.</p>	<p>structures will not be impacted by the mining activity. Further, he ensured that the mining will be carried out as per the norms fixed by the Department of Mines & Geology.</p>
2.	Sh. Shiv Kumar, Reporter, r/o Village Mehain, Tehsil Sri Anandpur Sahib, Distt. Rupnagar	<p>He stated that due to mining the water level of the open wells has gone down and these have dried-up. He further stated and warned that in coming times there will be scarcity of water. As such, insisted that the mining shall be completely barred.</p>	<p>Environmental Consultant replied that the mining activity will not impact on the water table as the mining on the proposed site will only be carried out upto 3 mtrs.</p>
3.	Sh. Gurmeet Singh Dher, Village-Dher, Distt. Rupnagar	<p>He stated that his village is at approximately 1 km from village mehain. Further, the Govt. after 4 1/2 years is now asking from the people about the consent w.r.t mining</p>	<p>Environmental Consultant explained that the public hearing is a part of environmental clearance, as per the provisions of EIA notification dated 14.09.2006.</p>

			activity in the area, had they asked it earlier the area could have been saved from various problems mentioned by speakers before me.	
4.	Sh. Avtar Singh, Village Mehain, Distt. Roopnagar		He stated that as resolution has already been passed at the village level against the proposed mining site. We all oppose for mining from the proposed site. (copy attached)	The Sarpanch of the Village given a memorandum to Addl. Deputy Commissioner, Roopnagar during public hearing (copy attached as Annexure-A) vide which it has been mentioned that the Village Panchayat has passed a resolution to exempt this land from mining, as the population of the village is very near to the mining area & fertile crop will be damaged and requested that the whole area of Gram Panchayat may be exempted from the mining.
5.	Sh. Tikka Singh, Sangharash Committee, Village Bhallan, District Roopnagar	Yashvir Ilaqa r/o	He opposed the establishment of the mining project at the proposed mining. If the mining is carried out at the site, then there are chances of floods and soil erosion. He also stated that they have already filed court case in the Hon'ble High Court. He further stated that earlier, the illegal mining was carried out from the land of nearby villages resulting landslide of the nearby area. There was a bridge, but the same was damaged due to the carrying out mining. The company has already carried out 10 mtr. mining against the permissible limit of 3 mtr. in the mining of nearby area	Environmental consultant of the company replied that by the upcoming mining site the people of the village will get jobs as there is proposal for employment of 90 persons. Moreover, all the mining will be carried out as per the norms fixed by the Department of Mines & Geology.

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		in another village. As such, he oppose for mining of minor minerals from the site in question.	
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22	17/11/2012	90062
23	18/11/2012	81160
24	19/11/2012	24278
25	20/11/2012	
	21/11/2012	
	22/11/2012	
	23/11/2012	
	24/11/2012	
	25/11/2012	


It is added here that some person present during the hearing also raised the issue of agitation by farmers against the farm laws, and they asked to address the above said issue prior to the approval of the current mining site.

Thereafter, the Asstt. Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Roopnagar requested the public that if anyone else want to ask any more question or objection about the proposed project, he may come forward, but no one came forward. After that people were asked to raise their hands who are in favour of this project, but no one, present in the public hearing, raised his hands in favour of this project. He then asked the people to raise their hands who are not in favour of this project, almost all the people present in the hearing, raised their hands in disfavor of this project. The public hearing was attended by 58 persons.

The public hearing ended with vote of thanks to the Chair and public present in the public hearing.

DA/Resolution of Panchayat and copy of attendance.


(Er. Gurinderpal Singh Chhina),
 Asstt. Environmental Engineer, Punjab
 Pollution Control Board,
 Regional Office, Roopnagar


(Sh. Sanjeev Sharma)
 Additional Deputy Commissioner
 (U), Roopnagar