

Proceedings of the public hearing conducted on 11.07.2024 in connection with application filed by Govt. of Punjab, District Mining Officer, Distt. Hoshiarpur for obtaining environmental clearance under EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006 for mining of minor minerals(Sand) in the revenue estate of Village Talwandi Sibhu,Laalewal and Khuja Tehsil and Distt. S.B. S Nagar.

The following were present to supervise the proceedings: -

1. Dr. Akshita Gupta (IAS)
Sub Divisional Magistrate,
Nawanshahr.
2. Er. Shiv Kumar,
Addl. Senior Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Hoshiarpur.
3. Er. Bhavuk Sharma,
District Mining Officer,
Drainage –cum-Mining Officer,
Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar.
4. Er. Jatinder Kumar,
Asstt. Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office, Hoshiarpur.
5. Er. Gurjit Singh
Asstt. District Mining Officer,
Drainage –cum-Mining Officer,
Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar.
6. Er. Lovepreet Singh,
Junior Engineer, Nawanshahr
Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar.

At the outset of the public hearing, Asstt. Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Hoshiarpur 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 Govt. of Punjab, District Mining Officer, Distt. S.B.S Nagar has proposed to set up mining project for mining of minor minerals (Sand) @ 441,862 TPA and total for 03 years of area 3,313,983 Ton in an area of 32.55 hectares in the revenue estate of Village Talwandi Sibhu-2 (62,63,64,66),Laalewal(67,67A,68) and Khuja-3(71,71A) B1 Category semi-mechanized (Commercial Mining site), Tehsil and Distt. S.B.S Nagar and @ 184,808 TPA and total for 03 years of area 1,385,478 Ton in an area of 13.01 hectares in the revenue estate of Village Laalewal Khuja (69a.69b) & Khuja-2(69) & Khuja-1(70) & Khuja-4(72) B2 Category Manual Tehsil and Distt. S.B.S Nagar. After considering the application of the project proponent, the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Punjab had issued 'Terms of Reference' to the Project Proponent for preparation of draft EIA study report. Now, the project proponent has submitted draft EIA report to the Punjab Pollution Control Board for conducting public hearing 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 Project Proponent 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 Project Proponent to the office of Chairman, Zila Parishad, S.B.S Nagar ; Deputy Commissioner, S.B.S Nagar; General Manager District Industries Centre, S.B.S Nagar; Executive Engineer-cum-District Mining Officer, S.B.S Nagar; Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Chandigarh and Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board Regional Office, Hoshiarpur 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 09.06.2024, 12.06.2024 (Indian Express corrigendum) in two prominent newspapers namely, 'Punjabi Tribune'(Punjabi) and 'The Indian Express' 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 written/email/in person suggestions, views, comments and objections, if any, 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. Before the day of the public hearing, the surrounding villages of the mining site were visited by officers of Punjab Pollution Control Board along with officers of Mining Department for giving publicity and banners, has been placed in the villages showing the detail of the project with time and venue of the public hearing. The Sparanch/ Lamberdar of the surrounding villages Talwandi Sibhu,Laalewal and Khuja were contacted and make them aware regarding the public hearing project and time and venue of the public hearing. Also, announcements regarding the project, time and place of the public hearing has been given through the nearby Gurdwaras to the public and also through Van/Car. Thereafter, he requested the representative of the Project Proponent i.e. the Environmental Consultant of Project Proponent to elaborate the main features of the project and the draft EIA study report.

The representative of the Project Proponent brought out the details of the project before the public that the proposed mining project is located in the revenue estate of @ 441,862 TPA and total for 03 years of area 3,313,983 Ton in an area of 32.55 hectares in the revenue estate of Village Talwandi Sibhu-2 (62,63,64,66),Laalewal(67,67A,68) and Khuja-3(71,71A) B1 Category semi-mechanized (Commercial Mining site), Tehsil and Distt. S.B.S Nagar. The estimated cost of the project is Rs.6,55,00,200/-for site 62,63,64,66 & 4,60,17,000/-for site 67,67A,68 & 4,75,53,120 /-for site 71,71A i.e sand from the bed of river Sutlej in Vill. Talawandi Sibhu-2/Laalewal and Khuja-3 Distt. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar and 184,808 and total for 03 years of area 1,385,478 Ton in an area of 13.01 hectares in the revenue estate of Village Laalewal Khuja (69A,69B) & Khuja-2(69) & Khuja-1(70) & Khuja-4(72) B2 Category Manual Tehsil

and Distt. S.B.S Nagar. The estimated cost of the project is Rs.39,25,440/- for site 69A,69B & 1,91,37,240/-for site 69 & 2,15,37,000/-for site 70 and 2,19,20,040/-for site 72. The estimated project cost of the mine is approximately Rs.22,55,90,040. i.e. sand from the bed of river Sutlej in Vill. Talwandi Sibhu, Laalewal and Khuja Distt. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar. The Department of Mines & Geology, Punjab has issued letter for mining for a period of Three year. The nearest city near the mining site is Rahon. The EIA study was conducted during April, 2023 to June, 2023. The Mining proposed by opencast semi-mechanized method and manual method without drilling and blasting. The minor mineral i.e. sand is proposed to be excavated by backhoe type excavator/JCB and directly loading in to trucks/dumpers & dispatch to market. The loading of the minerals shall be mechanical while transport of minerals from river bed shall be done by private trucks/dumper operators. The mining plan has been prepared for three years. River bed mining is for extracting sand from River bed. Area is 15.20 Ha for site 62,63,64,66 & 9 Ha for site 67, 67A, 68 & 1.12Ha for site 69A,69B & 4.30 Ha for site 70 & 3.58 Ha for site 69 & 8.35 Ha for site 71,71A & 4.10 Ha for site 72, whereas proposed minable area is 13.68Ha & 8.1 Ha & 1.008Ha & 3.87Ha & 3.222 Ha & 7.515 Ha & 3.69 Ha (Total mining lease area 45.65 Ha and Proposed minable area 41.085 Ha) respectively after leaving the safety zone of the proposed lease. Mining activity will be carried out in allocated areas only. There will be no OB or waste generation as the sand is exposed on the river bed.

Mining shall be carried out by systematic manner so that there would be no obstruction to the movement of water flow. Sand will be excavated in slices of 1 metre thickness upto a depth of Mining Depth: 3.0 m (as per DSR report). Sand deposit falls in replenish able area of the river bed. The height of slices of layer will be kept 1 M each with face slope of 45 degrees. 7.5 m barrier zone will be provided along with the lease boundary as stated under MMR 1961. No mining will be done during the rainy season (monsoon season). A distance of 3m or 10% of width of river whichever is more to be left intact as no mining zone. Mineral extraction will be done for a period period of about 270 days. No mining will be done in rainy season.

About 15.85 KLD (for both sites) of water will be used at the project sites (dust suppression, drinking & plantation purpose). The total manpower will be of (50+36+12+20+24+36+20) 198 persons. There will be 270 days in a year and there will be one shift of 10 hours in a day. The maximum depth of the mining area will be 3.0 m. The water level at the mining site is below 5.0 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 @ 50 plants/hectares will be planted per year with consultation of Forest Department Vill. Panchayat. 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 in the 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 for scientific disposal of the wastewater. 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 mining will be carried out in an area of 41.085 Ha hectares and the remaining 4.57 hectares area will be kept as protection zone. The necessary precautions will be taken under the provisions of Management Mines Act. He further stated that Environment Management Plan has been prepared in which fixed amount as mentioned in the EIA Study has been reserved for the Environmental Management Activities.

Thereafter, Asstt. Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Hoshiarpur 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. Bhupinder Singh, Khoja	What will be done for the road that will be broken due to the tipper passing over the embankment.	The District Mining Officer said that the government has already proposed E.M.P. in which money is already reserved to do this work be 7.00 lakhs in this site will be used to preserve the environment.
2)	Sh. Kishan Lal, Khoja Ex Sarpanch	Let we know that mining will be allowed only day and night	The District Mining Officer, mining told that mining will be allowed only in summer i.e. from 1st April to 30th June from 6 am to 7:00 pm and in winter

			from 1st October to 31st March from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm for approximately 270 days. will be done and there will be no mining during monsoon season.
3)	Sh. Ram Singh, Lalewal	This work is good and will start at the earliest.	Noted
4)	Mrs Sunita Rani, Talwandi Sibhu	This work must go on, this is our livelihood.	Noted
5)	Sh. Narinder Kumar	What action can be taken if the miners violate the rules?	The district mining officer told that you can complaint and action will be taken against them.

Thereafter, the Asstt. Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Hoshiarpur 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 and 32 people were raised their hands in favour of this project and people were again asked to raise their hands who are not in favour of this project and 0 no. people raised their hands in disfavor of this project and 06 no. people were not raised their hands. The public hearing was attended by 38 persons.

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


(Er. Jatinder Kumar)

Asstt. Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office, Hoshiarpur


(Er. Shiv Kumar)

Addl. SEE
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office, Hoshiarpur.


(Dr. Akshita Gupta (IAS))

Sub-Divisional Magistrate
Nawanshahr