

Proceedings of the Environmental Public Hearing in connection with the proposed quarrying of ordinary river Sand by Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Ltd, Upper Tunga Project Division in Tunga River bed, Block no 1, Adjacent to Sy. No. 248, 249 and 250 of Buklapura Village, Thirthahalli Taluk, Shivamogga District.

Date: 16.12.2021 at 11.00 AM

Place: Near to proposed Quarry land, Tunga River Bed, Block no 1, Adjacent to Sy. No. 248, 249 & 250, Buklapura Village, Thirthahalli Taluk, Shivamogga District.

Public Hearing Panel Members Present:

Sl no	Name	Designation
1	Sri K.B.Sivakumar I.A.S.,	Deputy Commissioner and Presiding Officer of Environmental Public Hearing Panel, Shivamogga.
2	Sri Y.S. Harishankar	Environmental Officer and Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Panel, KSPCB, Shivamogga

List of Officers/staff Present:

1. Dr. S.B Sripada, Tahasildar, Thirthahalli Tq.
2. Smt Asha Latha, Executive Officer, Taluk Panchyat, Thirthahalli
3. Sri P.S. Naveen, Senior Geologist, DMG, Shivamogga
4. Sri S. Avinash, Geologist, DMG, Shivamogga.
5. Smt K. Shilpa, Deputy Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Shivamogga
6. Sri H.N. Manjunath, Panchayat Development Officer, Gram Panchayat, Melinakuruvalli, Thirthahalli Tq,
7. Sri R. Mounesh, Village Accountant, Thirthahalli Taluk.

I List of project Proponent and Consultants present.

1. Sri B. Suresh, Project Proponent, Executive Engineer, Upper Tunga Project Division, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Ltd, Shivamogga.

2. Sri K. T. Harish, Assistant Executive Engineer, No 5, UTP Sub Division, Gajanur
3. Sri B. Veerappa, Assistant Engineer, No 5, UTP Sub Division, Gajanur
4. Sri M.U. Sachin, Horizon Venture, Environment Consultant, Bengaluru
5. Sri Santhosh, Horizon Venture, Environment Consultant, Bengaluru

II List of Participants as per Attendance Register (Enclosed as Annexure-A).

Sri Y.S. Harishankar, Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Shivamogga welcomed the Deputy Commissioner, Officials, representatives of Environmental Consultancy, public and Media persons.

As per the guidelines stipulated in the EIA Notification, 2006 and further amendments, the Environmental Public Hearing was scheduled on 16.12.2021 and the same was published in leading news papers "Hosa Diganta" (Kannada) on 17.11.2021 & 18.11.2021 and "The Times of India" (English) on 17.11.2021 and also published in Shivamogga District local News paper "Belagina Chalagara Patrike" on 21.11.2021.

The Regional Officer of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Shivamogga were apprised about public hearing required for the process to facilitate local residents, Environmentalist and the public who are directly or indirectly affected by the proposed project to submit their suggestions/objections/views/opinions/comments through E-mail/in writing to the presiding Officer of Environmental Public Hearing Panel (Deputy Commissioner, Shivamogga District)/ Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Shivamogga or orally during the time of public hearing.

The copy of the EIA draft report and Executive summary of the EIA report both in Kannada and English were placed at the following Offices for references to the general public and requested the said Offices to submit the details of suggestions/ objections/ views/ opinions/ comments of the general public.

1. Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Shivamogga.
2. Office of the Chief Executive Office, Zilla Panchayat, Shivamogga.
3. Office of the Joint Director, District Industries Centre, Shivamogga
4. Office of the Taluk Panchayat, Thirthahalli Taluk, Shivamogga.
5. Office of the Village Panchayath, Melinakuruvalli, Thirthahalli Tq, Shivamogga District.

6. The Regional Office, KSPCB, Shivamogga.
7. Office of the Regional Senior Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Chitradurga.
8. Ministry of Environment and Forest, South Zone Office, Koramangala, Bengaluru
9. Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Parisara Bhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru.

Sri Y.S. Harishankar, Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Shivamogga in his preamble said that Executive Engineer, Upper Tunga Project Division, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Ltd, Shivamogga District has proposed to carry out quarrying of River sand of capacity 39,249 TPA in Block No 1 in Tunga River Bed, Adjacent to Sy. No.248, 249 and 250, Buklapura Village, Thirthahalli Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka in a total area of 10.00 acres. The project proponent has to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) from State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Govt. of Karnataka as per the EIA Notification dated: 14.09.2006 and further amendments and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing.

The Proponent has obtained Terms of Reference (TOR) from the State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Govt. of Karnataka vide no. SEIAA 24 MIN 2021, dated: 28.05.2021 and requested the Karnataka State pollution Control Board (KSPCB) on 04.09.2021 to conduct Environmental Public consultation/ Public Hearing.

As per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006, the Public Hearing was conducted on 16.12.2021 at 11.00 AM near to proposed Quarrying of Ordinary River Sand, Block no 1, Adjacent to Sy. No. 248, 249 and 250, Buklapura village, Thirthahalli Taluk, Shivamogga District under the Chairmanship of Sri K.B.Sivakumar, Deputy Commissioner, Shivamogga District.

The Presiding Officer/Chairman informed the Environment Consultant to make presentation on the project including Environmental issues (Impact on Environment). On behalf of proposed project, Sri M.U. Sachin, Environmental Consultant representing the M/s. Horizon Ventures, Bengaluru, explained the public about the proposed project of quarrying of natural sand through presentation. The Salient feature of the project, the Environmental base line data, present scenario of existing Environment in the project area, the impact of the project on the

surrounding Environment, Environment Management Plan, Measures proposed to control/mitigate the Environmental Pollution and CSR activities. Further he has informed that, the activity will be carried out by open cast quarrying through semi mechanized method. The hard copy of the presentations made in the Public Hearing is enclosed as **Annexure-B**.

The Presiding Officer/Chairman informed the gathered public to express their views/opinions about the proposed project with respect to Environmental issues by submissions either in writing or orally. During the time of Public Hearing, Eleven (11) persons expressed their views orally and are summarized as below.

1. **Sri. K. Sarvothama Nayak, Buklapura**

He informed that he is doing agriculture at Sy.No.248. The village is connected from Highway no 165 Pattana Panchayat has done 300 mts good road 20 years back. One small bridge is constructed by Government. This road was constructed under Pradanamantri Gram Sadak Yojane to connect two Panchayats to highway and is about 9 kms. Some statistics are wrong in the presentation. Previous year the road was damaged and it affected movement of school children. 200 trucks were parking in this dumpyard. This is a small narrow road and movement of 200 trucks was affecting school children, aged people, doctors, Software engineers. Previous year dumping yard caused lot of problems and this land belongs to Horticulture Department. This plantation area has earned money to the Taluk Panchayat and Village Panchayat. The earlier Deputy Commissioner has sanctioned road and it is there from Anganawadi to his house. The quarry owners are filling 40 to 45 tons of sand in the trucks. Government has ordered for manual mining but the consultant has informed that they are using JCB and Hitachi. He informed that he is staying in the agriculture land but the consultant has informed that there are no inhabitants near to the quarry area. The details of consultant who came for enquiry/examination was not known. The ladies are going in the night to start pump sets and they are facing problem from the quarry peoples. He is staying in Sy.No.248 and many tortoises are there in the sand mining area. The fish species in Sringeri and Chippalagudde are also there in this area. But the consultant has mentioned that nothing is there in the said area. The Hon'ble High Court has ordered not to carry out quarry in 1 km distance and it may affect Kushavati Bridge. He informed that earlier he was carrying out sand mining in the said area. The sand mining will affect farmers. Earlier

mango plants were there in this dump area and acacia plants is causing lot of problems to the mango plants.

2. **Sri. Prabhakar, Vice President, Melinakuruvalli Gram Panchayat**

He informed that stockyard shall not be allowed in this plantation area. The Coconut trees are damaged due to stockyard. The dust will deposit on the road side houses. The road is very narrow hence stockyard is not required in this place. The sand is not available to the local people and road has damaged due sand mine activity. The road repair work shall be completed before starting sand mining activity. The truck carrying sand without tarpaul cover and same trucks are coming 3 times a day. The Panchayat has not received any royalty for 5 years, he requested for release of the same and same may be used for road work.

The rules mentioned should be followed otherwise it will create lot of problem. He informed that sand quarry is not required since it is causing lot of problem. The road width is very less and it was damaged due to sand mining activity. The sand will be lifted more than the limits. The stockyard shall not be located in this location and they will make resolution from the Panchayat.

3. **Sri Ananda, Member, Melinakuruvalli Gram Panchayat**

The sand is not available to the local people. The government is giving Rs.1 lakh to 1.5 lakhs to the Ashraya Yojane houses. The cost of the sand including royalty will be about Rs.15,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-. The sand shall be given free of cost to the Ashraya Yojane houses. The royalty should be given to the Panchayat. The stockyard should not be given in the existing place and it should be shifted to other place.

4. **Sri Mukunda, Gouri Bailu**

The Government land at Sy.No.230 was blocked. He informed that they have made complaint to Panchayat and also to Tahsildar. They have left space only for movement of one vehicle and they have encroached the Government land. He requested to remove the fence.

5. **Sri Subramanya, Melinakuruvalli**

He informed many sand quarries are working. As per the statement of consultant is implemented, then each quarry could have very good green belt around the quarry. The quarries are not having green belt. In this road only one vehicle can move and about

100 vehicles are moving during quarry season. Basic infrastructure shall be given and quality of one minor bridge shall be verified. The sand will be filled more than the limit. In Melinakuruvalli one stone quarry is there and it is not working and he requested the Deputy Commissioner to conduct similar type of meeting in that area to solve the issues and it will help laborers.

6. **Sri Poornesh Kelakere, Melige Panchayat**

He informed that he is working for Malenadu Sangarsha Samiti NGO. The presentation is not understandable to the general public and it should be in local understandable language. In agrahara very small road is there, children are walking on this road and some incident may happen in future due to movement of trucks. They are not covering the vehicles with tarpals. In Thirthahalli about 27 quarries are there and if 50% quarries will open then scarcity of sand will not be there. Already one quarry is there hence starting of this quarry is not reasonable. The small particles will deposit on the grass and cattle (Malenadu gidida) will eat the same and it is affecting the cattle. Respiration and health problem will be there due to mining activity. Bats are there on the bank of Tunga River. Birds and bats will be affected due to noise pollution from JCB and Hitachi. One quarry is sufficient and local people are not getting sand. Illegal transportation of sand is there. Simple life style to be adopted to protect environment. He requested for free sand to the local people. In the same Panchayat limit one stone quarry is there and around 300 people were affected due to stoppage of quarry. He requested to conduct similar type of meeting to receive their opinion. The acasia plants were planted on the bank of Tunga River. He requested to prevent unauthorized sand quarry.

7. **Sri Nischal, Member, Melinakuruvalli Gram Panchayat**

He informed that the President of the Village Panchayat should have been offered chair in the dais and he informed that he is not aware of protocol. He informed that they have passed many resolutions regarding sand quarry. The implementation of resolution should be carried out by the Officers. The Panchayat has taken resolution to stop dumping in stockyard, even then many loads of sand transported. The Panchayat roads are damaged by the Government near stone quarry. Rs 30 to 40 lakhs royalty was not released to Panchayat and requested to release the royalty to the Panchayat. The Panchayat will pass necessary resolution on sand quarry issues.

8. **Sri. K.V. Ananthraj, Horabylu**

He informed that in the presentation it was mentioned that stockyard is sloping towards East but actually it is sloping towards North. The sand quarry is causing lot of problem to the public, plastic and other waste are disposed in the surrounding area by the lorry drivers. The lorry drivers are not covering the sand with tarpals and sand is not given to the local people. He requested to stop quarry activity. He informed that they have not encroached any Government land and they are paying necessary taxes. The complaint of encroachment is mainly from illegal poultry farm and they are dumping the poultry waste unscientifically and it is causing problem. Many accidents have taken place and he requested to give suitable directions to the lorry drivers.

9. **Sri Poornesh, Horabylu**

He informed that sand quarry has damaged the roads. The sand is not available to the local people and they are getting the sand from the outside. The water is not sprinkled in the quarry area. In Hunsavalli illegal sand mining is there and he informed that they will protest if any proper action is not taken.

10. **Sri Nagaraj, Buklapura**

He informed that now it is harvesting time, hence many people have not attended the meeting. The sand quarry is running since many years. The roads are not repaired and they are very narrow and the movement of vehicles is causing problem to the school children. The road shall be repaired before starting of quarry, the sand should be given free of cost to the local people who are constructing the houses. Some local people are having vehicles and they should be allowed to transport the sand.

11. **Smt Anitha, Member, Melinakuruvalli Gram Panchayat**


She informed that demand of majority people who are present and absent is that they do not want mining activity in this area. The sand mining is causing lot of problems. The Panchayat has made resolution not to permit stockyard in this area. The royalty shall be given to the Panchayat.

One mail was received from Sri. K. Sarvothama Nayak, Buklapura to Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Shivamogga on the said sand quarry and copy of the same is enclosed.

The Deputy Commissioner and Presiding Officer informed that President, Vice President, members and villagers have attended this Environmental Public Hearing to express their views. Members expressed the views on protocol and they have to approach Government or Pollution Control Board a regulatory body in this regard. This meeting will be conducted to know the views of the public directly. Opportunity is given to people to express their views without any pressure and fear in front of District Magistrate or Additional District Magistrate. If any influential person is allowed to sit on the dais, he may influence the people. Hence, Deputy Commissioner and Pollution Control Board official are allowed to sit on the dais. People have mentioned about Melinakuruvalli stone quarry, road issues, stockyard issues and traffic issues and suitable action will be taken on these issues.

Finally the Presiding Officer informed the public that, all the views, concerns and grievances expressed here are noted and the entire program has been video recorded and same would be made into CD's and the proceedings of this meeting as it is would be sent to Government for further action.

Thereafter, the Environmental Public Hearing was concluded with vote of thanks.


**Deputy Commissioner and Presiding Officer of
Environmental Public Hearing Panel,
Shivamogga District,**