

SUMMARY
OF
DRAFT EIA / EMP REPORT
FOR
ROUGH STONE AND GRAVEL QUARRY

EXTENT	3.33.50 Ha
REVISED PRODUCTION	ROUGH STONE – 3,53,641.5 m³ WEATHERED ROCK GRAVEL – 62,157 m³ TOP SOIL EARTH – 46,476 m³
PERIOD	5 YEARS
ULTIMATE DEPTH	35 M

SURVEY NO: 919/1 & 919/2A (P)
NATHIKUDI VILLAGE, VEMBAKOTTAI TALUK,
VIRUDHUNAGAR DISTRICT, TAMILNADU.

PROJECT PROPONENT

THIRU J. SAIPREETHAM

81, SRIVILLIPUTHUR TOWN & TALUK,
VIRUDHUNAGAR DISTRICT.

CONSULTANT

CREATIVE ENGINEERS & CONSULTANTS

NABET ACCREDITED, NABL ACCREDITED

TESTING LABORATORY

9B/4, Bharathwajar Street, East Tambaram, Chennai-600059.

Ph: 044-22395170, Cell: 09444133619

Email : cecgiri@yahoo.com,



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JULY 2023

DRAFT EIA/EMP REPORT FOR ROUGH STONE AND GRAVEL QUARRY OF THIRU. J. SAIPREETHAM, AT SURVEY NO. 919/1 & 919/2A (P) OVER AN AREA OF 3.33.50 HECTARES IN NATHIKUDI VILLAGE, VEMBAKOTTAI TALUK, VIRUDHUNAGAR DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU

SUMMARY

1.1 INTRODUCTION:

Thiru. J. Saipreetham proposes to operate a Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry at Survey No. 919/1 & 919/2A (P) over an area of 3.33.50 hectares In Nathikudi Village, Vembakottai Taluk, Virudhunagar District, Tamil Nadu. It is proposed to mine the revised quantity of 3,53,641.5 m³ of Rough Stone, 62,157 m³ Weathered rock gravel and 46,476 m³ of top soil earth upto depth of 35 m for the period of Five years after complying with ToR condition as against the mining plan approved quantity of 5,08,494 m³ of Rough Stone, 71,127 m³ Weathered rock gravel and 47,418m³ of top soil earth upto depth of 35 m for the period of Five years and has initiated action towards obtaining environmental clearance.

Although the individual lease area of this project is less than 5 Ha, the other existing and proposed quarries within the 500m radius cluster along with this subject project works out to >5 Ha. Hence, this proposal is considered under Category – B1 and as per MoEF & CC notification necessitates preparation of EIA/EMP report and public hearing. As per TOR Condition, EIA/EMP report is prepared for Thiru. J. Saipreetham. The impact assessment and mitigative measures is carried out for the peak production of the mine lease period.

Salient details of the report is given below.

1.2 STATUTORY APPROVALS:

1.	Precise Area Communication Letter	KV1/33/2022-Kanimum, dated 19.10.2022
2.	Mining Plan Approval	KV1/33/2022-Kanimum, dated 06.12.2022
3.	Terms of Reference	Received from SEIAA, Tamil Nadu vide their Lr No.SEIAA-TN/F.No.9851/ToR-1443/2023 dated 09.05.2023

2.1 SITE DESCRIPTION:

Table No.1: SITE DETAILS

PARTICULARS	DETAILS
Name of the project	Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry of Thiru J. Saipreetham
Extent	3.33.50 Ha
Revised 5 year production	3,53,641.5 m ³ of Rough Stone, 62,157 m ³ Weathered rock gravel and 46,476 m ³ of top soil earth upto depth of 35 m
Villages	Nathikudi
Tehesil	Vembakottai



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PARTICULARS	DETAILS
District	Virudhunagar
State	Tamil Nadu
Latitude	9° 26' 13.6"N to 9° 26' 21.9"N
Longitude	77° 41' 35.8"E to 77° 41' 40.4"E
Toposheet	58 G/11
Type of land	Own Patta Land
Topography	Plain terrain. Small part of the lease area contains mined out pit.
Accessibility	Lease area can be approached from the Malliputhur – Paraipatti Road which connects to the SH-42 (Srivilliputtur – Sivakasi).
Nearest Major RS	Sivakasi RS - 10Km (NE)
Nearest Airport	Madurai Airport -62Km (NE).
Nearest major water bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasonal Odai- 150m-E • Drainage channel-230m-W • Sevalkulam-480m-S • Kayalkudi River -1.6km (SW) • Marugal odai - 6.8km-(SW)
Notified Archaeologically important places, Monuments	Nil within 10Km Radius.
Local Places of Historical and Tourism Interest	Nil within 10 Km radius
Environmental sensitive areas, Protected areas as per Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (Tiger reserve, Elephant reserve, Biospheres, National parks, Wildlife sanctuaries, community reserves and conservation reserves)	Nil within 10 Km radius
Reserved / Protected Forests	Nil within 10 Km radius
Defence Relocations	Nil within 10 km radius
Seismic Zone	Zone – II (Least Active)
Other Industries in the area	Other than crushers, Roughstone quarries, match box, fire works factories no other major industries are located in the study area.

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Table No.2: TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

PARTICULARS	DETAILS			
Geological reserve	Rough stone – 10,00,744 cub. m , Weathered rock gravel - 87,732 cub.m & top soil earth -58,488 cub. m.			
Revised Mineable reserves	Rough stone – 3,53,641.5 cub. m , Weathered rock gravel - 62,157 cub.m & top soil earth - 46,476 cub. m.			
Method of Mining	Open cast mechanized mining method with shallow jack hammer drilling, blasting, excavation, loading and transportation of Roughstone to needy buyers.			
Revised Production	YEAR	TOP SOIL EARTH IN CU. M	WEATHERED ROCK GRAVEL IN CU.M	ROUGH STONE IN CU.M.
	I	18644	22612.5	51,702.5
	II	10360	14232	69,652.5
	III	17464	25312.5	114544
	IV	-	-	105305
	V	----	----	57127.5
	TOTAL	46,476	62,157	3,53,641.5
Waste Generation and Management	There is no waste generation anticipated in this quarry operation since the entire excavated material will be utilized. The top earth will be used for peripheral bund formation and plantation. Balance if any & weathered rock Gravel will be loaded into tipper and marketed to needy customers on payment of necessary Fees to Government. The excavated rough stone will be excavated and loaded into tipper to the needy buyers for producing crusher aggregates, M Sand.			
Ultimate Depth	35m.			
Man power	Direct – 15, Indirect – 50			
Mode of transport	By Road			
Water requirement	10 KLD			
Source of water	The required water will be procured from outside agencies initially. Later, water collected in the mine pit will be used to meet the needs.			

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PARTICULARS	DETAILS
Power requirement	All the equipment will be diesel operated. No electricity is needed for mining operation. The minimum power requirement for office, etc will be met from state grid.
Life of the mine	5 Years
Project cost	Rs. 1,88,19,924/-

3.1 EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL SCENARIO:

The studies and data collection have been carried out systematically and meticulously as per relevant IS codes, CPCB and MoEF&CC guidelines and as per approved ToR during **Winter Season (December 2022 to February 2023)** For the purpose of this study, the area has been divided into two zones, namely, core and buffer zones. Core zone is considered as the total lease area, while buffer zone encompasses an area of 10 km radius distance from the periphery of core zone. Based on 2011 census data, in the 10km radius there are 28 Rural villages and 7 urban areas from Three Taluks namely Rajapalayam, Sivakasi, Srivilliputhur

Table No.3: SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

Details	Population	Percentage
A. Gender-wise distribution		
Male Population	134570	49.67
Female Population	136384	50.33
Total	270954	100
B. Caste-wise population distribution		
Scheduled Caste	48390	17.86
Scheduled Tribes	292	0.11
Other	222272	82.03
Total	270954	100
C. Literate and Illiterate population		
Literate Males	107012	39.49
Literate Females	91000	33.59
Total Literate Population	198012	73.08
Others Males	27558	10.17
Others Females	45384	16.75
Others Population	72942	26.92

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Details	Population	Percentage
Total	270954	100
D. Occupational structure		
Main workers	119491	44.10
Marginal workers	10992	4.06
Total Workers	130,483	48.16
Total Non-workers	140471	51.84
Total	270954	100

3.2.1 EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY:

Table 1: Baseline Data

A) AMBIENT AIR QUALITY	Monitoring Location – 6 locations		
PARAMETER	RESULT (µg/m3)		*LIMIT (µg/m3)
Location	Core Zone	Buffer Zone	
Particulate Matter (Size <10 µm)	54.1 – 76.3	41.4 – 60.6	100
Particulate Matter (Size <2.5 µm)	26.5 – 36.8	19.6 – 29.8	60
Sulphur Dioxide (as SO ₂)	5.6 – 7.8	4.7 – 8.3	80
Nitrogen Dioxide (as NO ₂)	7.6 – 10.6	5.4 – 11.3	80
Conclusion: The existing Ambient Air Quality levels for PM10, PM2.5, SO2 and NO2, are within the NAAQ standards prescribed CPCB limits of 100 µg/m3, 60 µg/m3, 80 µg/m3 & 80 µg/m3. The CO values in all the locations were found to be below detectable limit. Silica values in the study area are found to be below detectable limit. (Detection limit – 0.05 mg/m3)			
B) WATER QUALITY	Monitoring Location – 6 locations		
PARAMETER	Result	*LIMIT (µg/m3)	
pH at 25 °C	7.32 – 8.02	6.5-8.5	
Total Dissolved Solids, mg/L	265 – 982	2000	
Chloride as Cl ⁻ , mg/L	35.6 – 346	1000	
Total Hardness (as CaCO ₃), mg/L	182 – 434	600	
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃), mg/L	149– 331	600	
Sulphates as SO ₄ ²⁻ , mg/L	15.8 – 214	400	
Iron as Fe, mg/L	0.05 – 0.12	0.3	
Nitrate as NO ₃ , mg/L	1.95 – 4.26	45	
Fluoride as F, mg/L	0.12 – 0.48	1.5	
Conclusion: The water quality of ground water is found to be within the prescribed Permissible limits of IS: 10500 Norms in the absence of an alternative source as per Drinking Water Specifications.			

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C) NOISE LEVELS		Monitoring Location – 6 locations	
PARAMETER	RESULT dB(A)		*LIMIT (µg/m ³)
	Day Equivalent	Night Equivalent	
Core Zone	52.4	39.9	90
Buffer Zone	48.2 – 50.3	37.9 – 43.5	Day Equivalent - 55dB(A), Night Equivalent - 45dB(A)
*Permissible noise for industrial workers as laid down by CPCB (at 8 hrs Exposure Time). While comparing with the MoEF&CC Norms, the monitored ambient noise levels are generally within the limit values.			
D) SOIL QUALITY		Monitoring Location – 4 locations	
PARAMETER		Range of values	
pH		6.94 – 7.99	
Electrical Conductivity (µmho/cm)		103.2 – 172.4	
Organic matter (%)		1.22 – 1.63	
Total Nitrogen (mg/kg)		278 - 742	
Phosphorus (mg/kg)		1.05 – 1.62	
Sodium (mg/kg)		210 – 398	
Potassium (mg/kg)		582-760	
Soil is of silty loam type.			

3.2.2 LAND ENVIRONMENT:

Landuse pattern study carried out through remote sensing satellite data around the 10km buffer zone shows that 44.72 % of of the buffer area is classified under fallow land followed by 26.91% Agriculture/ Plantation, 12.01 % constitutes land with scrub, 7.10 % constitutes land without scrub and the balance falls under other land use categories.

3.2.3 BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT:

Flora: The lease area is a non forest, private land. Part of the lease area is already mined, exposed with rock. The lease area is almost plain land with grasses , Prosopis juliflora. The Dominated species in the buffer zone are Albizia lebbeck, Acacia auriculiformis, Sygygium cumuni, Borassus flabellifer, Azadirachta indica, Prosopis juliflora, etc. Patches of coconut and casurina farms are also observed.

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Fauna: There is no Wild Life Sanctuary or National Park within the study area of 10 km. Domesticated animals like Cows, Buffalos, Dogs, Cats etc., are commonly found. The lease and 10 Km buffer zone does not fall in the Western Ghats ESA boundary. No wild mammalian species was directly sighted during the field survey. There is no Schedule I species in the core & buffer zone. The list of fauna within the study area is given in Table No – 3.27.

3.2.4 HYDROLOGICAL STUDY:

In the study area, the shallow aquifer is developed through dug wells and deeper aquifer through tube wells. The groundwater has revealed that potential fractures are encountered at deeper levels. The occurrence of groundwater mainly in the porous soil are weathered layers, very negligible amount of groundwater percolated through the poorly fractured layer, after that there is no existence of groundwater. Besides, the mining area consists of hard compact rock, no major water seepage within the mine is expected. From the nearby working mines, no such seepage is also observed.

4.1 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

This is a proposed project and Mechanized Open Cast mining will be carried out to quarry out Rough Stone, & Gravel. The identified impacts due to this mine during mining and associated activities have been studied in relation to various environmental components like Air, water, noise, vibration, land, transport etc.

4.1.1 AIR ENVIRONMENT:

The principal sources of air pollution in general due to mining and allied activities will be Excavation, Drilling, Movement of HEMM such as Excavators, tippers etc., Loading and unloading operation and transportation. In case of this mine, the following measures will be adopted to control impact on the air quality due to mining operations in the lease area:

- Regular wetting of transport road using mobile water tanker.
- Wet drilling / Covering of drill holes with wet clothes
- Proper maintenance of roads.
- Avoiding overloading of tippers & Transportation of material by tarpaulin covered trucks
- Proper maintenance of HEMM to minimize gaseous emission

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- Setting up of tyre washing facility in the lease area exit.
- Vehicular emission tests with digital smoke meter.
- Enclosing peripheral lease area with green net
- Development of green belt/ plantation in various areas within the mine lease area etc.

By adoption of all these measures, no adverse impact on air quality is envisaged due to this proposed opencast mining operation.

The impact on air quality due to the proposed project is estimated using AERMOD View Gaussian Plume Air Dispersion Model.

The resultant added concentrations with baseline figures even at worst scenario, show that the values of ambient air quality with respect to PM₁₀ are in the range of 54.1µg/m³ to 80.8µg/m³ and with respect to PM_{2.5} are in the range of 26.6µg/m³ to 39.7µg/m³ which are within the statutory limits in each case.

. For preservation of environment in this mine strict enforcement of management schemes will be undertaken for taking corrective actions, as needed. By adopting the effective implementation of all the mitigative measures, no adverse impact on Air quality due to the mining operation in this lease area is expected.

4.1.2 WATER ENVIRONMENT:

The total water requirement for this project will be 10.0 KLD comprising 1.0 KLD for drinking water and domestic use, 8.0 KLD for dust suppression and 1.0 KLD for greenbelt. The water will be sourced initially from outside agencies. Later the rainwater collected in the mine pit sump will be used for this purpose.

The domestic effluent to be generated from the project will be collected in septic tank with soak pits arrangements. This being a mining project there will not be any process effluent. The rain water falling in the quarry will be harvested in the sump at the lowest level of the quarry. This sump will act as a settling pond to prevent solids escaping along with discharge, before outlet. etc. Towards surface runoff management, garland drain will be constructed around the quarry and will be connected to a settling pond with silt traps. The supernatant clear water from the settling pond will be flow to the downstream users.

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4.1.3 NOISE ENVIRONMENT:

During mining operation there will be noise generation due to working of excavators, movement of vehicles, etc. However, it will be felt near the active working area only and at away from its source it will get reduced. There will also be attenuation due to vegetation, tin sheet/ green netting to be erected by the proponent all around the lease and as such there will not be any adverse noise propagation outside the lease boundary Due to natural attenuation effects, by proper green belt development, design / maintenance of machines, etc., the impact on noise levels will be negligible and are expected to be well within the prescribed limits.

4.1.4 VIBRATION:

In the proposed mine workings, blasting & vibration effects will be controlled by adopting following measures.

- Carrying out controlled blasting using Nonel delay detonator.
- Optimum design for burden and spacing.
- Reducing explosive charge per delay to minimum.
- Using rock breaker wherever possible
- Proper care and supervision during blasting by a competent and experienced person to be carried out.
- Besides, different blasting time for both the projects is suggested and the timing is to be mentioned in the display board in the mines entrance.

By adoption of above measures, it will be ensured that ground vibrational levels due to blasting will be maintained within the prescribed DGMS conditions of 10 mm/s for the domestic houses/structures.

4.1.5 IMPACT ON LAND ENVIRONMENT:

At the end of the life, 2.89.5 Ha of mined out area will be left as water body, 0.08.0 Ha will be the mine roads & infrastructure, 0.27.0 Ha will be covered with vegetation and 0.09.0 will be fencing. Entire mined out area will be properly fenced to prevent inadvertent entry of men and animals. In the post mining stage the rainwater harvested in the mined out void shall be utilized.

4.1.6 BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT:

Necessary mitigative measures like dust suppression, proper maintenance of equipment's, greenbelt and plantation etc., will be carried out to prevent dust generation & any further impact on the vegetation or agricultural activity nearby. Greenbelt / Plantation will be carried out to enhance the vegetative growth and aesthetic in the safety zone area.

4.1.7 SOCIO ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT:

The entire lease area is private patta land owned by the applicant. There are no habitations or hutments in the core zone area and no rehabilitation or resettlement problems will arise here.

The mining operations in the proposed mine will provide the following socio-economic benefits:

- Direct Employment for about 15 persons.
- Besides through allied opportunities in logistics, trading, repairing works etc. good employment potential will arise in this area, which will provide raising income levels and standards of living in the area through various service-related activities connected with the project operations.
- Benefit to State and central exchequer by way of royalty, taxes.

Towards the socio-economic development of the surrounding area, the proponent has earmarked an amount of Rs.5.0 Lakhs under Corporate Environmental Responsibility. The activities identified under CER will be implemented in a phased manner in the nearby Government school. In consultation with the locals based on the need & priority it will be implemented.

By carrying out systematic and scientific mining and implementing all the environmental mitigative measures it will be ensured that there will be no adverse impact on this front.

4.1.8 IMPACT ON LOCAL LOGISTICAL SYSTEM DUE TO PROJECT:

The material mined out from this lease area will be directly transported to the required customers. During the project operations, there will be 5 trips/hr. The transport route will be properly maintained to absorb this traffic due to this project. The following mitigative measures are suggested for mitigation of adverse impacts on the logistical aspect of the project:

- ❖ Water sprinkling on mineral in the transport vehicles before transporting, so that no dust nuisance during transport will arise.

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- ❖ Plantation on either side of the transport road in consultation with the concerned department.
- ❖ Proper maintenance of transport road.
- ❖ Proper maintenance of transport vehicles.
- ❖ Avoiding overloading of material.
- ❖ Covering of loaded vehicles with tarpaulins sheet.
- ❖ Keeping traffic regulators at vulnerable locations.
- ❖ Limiting of speed
- ❖ Installation of barriers at vulnerable locations

4.1.9 WASTE MANAGEMENT:

There is no process effluent generation from this mine. Hence no liquid waste is generated. Single use plastics/ use and throwaway plastics will be banned in the site as directed by the Tamil Nadu Government vide GO(Ms)No.84 regarding ban on use of plastic products. The employees will be encouraged to use compostable material or reusable material.

5.1 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAMME:

Regular, systematic and sustained programme schedules for implementation and monitoring of various control measures are devised with clear cut guidelines of various concerned plans for keeping a continuous surveillance on the various environmental quality parameters in the area. The Mines Manager in the mine project site will be directly responsible for various environmental activities in the mine and will undertake effective monitoring and implementation of various environmental control measures promptly and effectively and to oversee various environmental management schemes for air quality control, water quality status, noise level control, plantation programme, social development schemes, etc in the mine. Towards EMP measures Rs. 24.92 Lakhs is allocated under capital cost. Besides, Rs. 25.50 Lakhs per annum is allocated as recurring cost. The baseline monitoring carried out for this project reflects the cumulative impact of this existing quarries.

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6.1 CUMULATIVE IMPACT STUDY:

The baseline monitoring carried out for this project reflects the cumulative impact of the existing quarries and other activities. For the proposed quarries, a cumulative impact study has been carried out and salient details are provide below:

Combined cumulative computer Air Quality Model simulations carried out show that the resultant added concentrations with baseline figures with respect to PM₁₀ is in the range of 54.1 µg/m³ to 83.0 µg/m³ and with respect to PM_{2.5} are in the range of 26.6 µg/m³ to 41.5 µg/m³ which are within the statutory stipulations in respective case. It is observed that the peak incremental concentration for PM₁₀, PM_{2.5} is occurring very near the source. At away from the source the values are getting drastically reduced due to dispersion effects no effect is observed. As such no adverse impact on Ambient air quality is envisaged.

Cumulative Noise modeling has been carried out to determine the post project noise levels due to the mining operations of the proposed quarries and it is seen that that the post project concentration in the nearby areas are within the statutory limits of 55dB(A).

For other environmental attributes also, by implementing the mitigative measures as suggested in the report continuously and rigorously, no adverse impact on the surround environment is expected on the cumulative basis also.

7.1 CONCLUSION:

By systematic and scientific mining adhering to all the statutory norms and enforcing and strictly implementing the above said mitigation measures mentioned in this report, no adverse impact is envisaged. The proposed mining project will benefit this region in the fields of potential employment opportunities, improved income for local people, improved social welfare facilities in respect of education, medical healthcare systems, etc. in its own way and also revenue to Government through royalty, taxes etc. Besides, it will meet the raw material requirement of the construction industry also.

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