

SUMMARY
OF
DRAFT EIA / EMP REPORT
FOR
ROUGH STONE AND GRAVEL QUARRY OF
THIRU K.A.RAJAGOPAL

Proponent	THIRU K.A.RAJAGOPAL
Extent	1.10.5 HA
Survey Nos.	293/1A(P) & 293/2B(P)
Type of Land	PATTA LAND
ToR letter	SEIAA-TN/F.NO.8743/SEAC/TOR-1052/2022 DATED 31.01.2022

**VILLAGE – MELUR-DURASAMPURAM , TALUK – RAJAPALAYAM TALUK,
DISTRICT – VIRUDHUNAGAR, STATE – TAMILNADU.**

CATEGORY- B1

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DECEMBER 2022

ROUGH STONE AND GRAVEL QUARRY OF THIRU K.A.RAJAGOPAL AT 293/1A(P) AND 293/2B(P) OVER AN AREA OF 1.10.5Ha IN MELUR DURAISAMPURAM VILLAGE, RAJAPALAYAM TALUK, VIRUDHUNAGAR DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU

SUMMARY

1.1 INTRODUCTION:

Thiru. K.A.Rajagopal proposes to operate a **Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry** Survey No. at 293/1A(P) and 293/2B(P) over an area of 1.10.5Ha in Melur-Duraisampuram village, Rajapalayam Taluk, Virudhunagar District, Tamil Nadu and has initiated action towards obtaining environmental clearance.

It is proposed to mine 56,890 m³ of Roughstone and 45,468 m³ of Gravel for a period of five years upto a depth of 21m as per approved ToR as against the mining plan approved quantity of 64,390 m³ of Roughstone and 45,468 m³ of Gravel for a period of five years upto a depth of 26m.

Although the individual lease area of this project is less than 5 Ha, the other quarries within the 500m radius along with this subject project works out to > 5Ha and as such this proposal is considered under Category – B1 Necessitating preparation of EIA/EMP Report and public hearing .

1.2 STATUTORY APPROVALS:

1.	Precise Area Communication Letter	Rc.No: KV1/932/2018, dated 01.06.2019
2.	Mining Plan Approval	Rc.No: KV1/932/2018, dated 15.10.2019
3.	Terms of Reference	SEIAA-TN/F.No.8743/SEAC/ToR-1052/2022 dated 31.01.2022

Based on the conditions of Precise Area Communication letter, a safety distance of 7.5m for periphery and 10m safety distance for nearby Government poromboke lands. As per TOR Condition, EIA/EMP report is prepared. Salient details of the report is given below.

2.1 SITE DESCRIPTION:

Table No.1: SITE DETAILS

S.No	Particulars	Details
1.	Name of the Project	Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry of Thiru K.A.Rajagopal
2.	Location of the project	Melur-Duraisampuram village, Rajapalayam Taluk, Virudhunagar District, Tamil Nadu
3.	Proposed production	Roughstone – 56,890cum , Gravel – 45,468cum for a period of 5 years.

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S.No	Particulars	Details			
4.	Latitude & Longitude	Latitude: 9°21'50.40"N to 9°21'53.70"N Longitude: 77°26'26.00"E TO 77°26'31.33"E			
5.	Mining Lease area	1.105Ha			
6.	Type of land	Private Patta Land in the name of the applicant			
7.	Mine site topography	Almost Plain Terrain			
8.	Accessibility	The lease area can be approached from Devipattanam Road which joins Tenkasi – Madurai Road on the eastern side of the lease area at a distance of 0.5Km			
9.	Nearest Highway	NH-744 (Sivagiri-Rajapalayam) – 0.48Km (SE)			
10.	Nearest Railway station	Rajapalayam – 16Km (NE)			
11.	Nearest Airport	Madurai – 100Km (NE)			
12.	Nearest major water bodies		Name	Distance (Km)	Direction
			Devi Ar	1.9	E
			Nagarai Ar	4.7	NW
			Vadamalai Ar	6.0	E
			Kombai Ar	7.1	SW
			Piravadi Ar	7.6	NE
			Manamaki Ar	8.8	NE
13.	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)	Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary is located at a distance of 4.6Km on the eastern side of the lease area. Based on MoEF&CC Notification S.O.2794(E) dated 02.08.2019, the eco sensitive zone is at a distance of 3.5Km. Hence, NBWL clearance is not applicable. Srivilliputhur-Meghamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR) is located at a distance of 6.3Km from the lease area. As final notification is awaited, application for NBWL clearance has been made.			
14.	Local Places of Historical and Tourism Interest	Nil within 10 Km radius			
15.	Reserved / Protected Forests	Sivagiri R.F-4.7Km (W) Settur R.F – 6.6Km (NW)			
16.	Seismic Zone	Zone – II (Least Active)			

Table No.2: TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

S.No	Particulars	Details
1.	Geological reserve	Roughstone – 2,16,160 cum , Gravel- 64,848cum
2.	Mineable reserve	Roughstone – 56,890cum , Gravel – 45,468cum

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S.No	Particulars	Details			
3.	Method of Mining	Opencast semi mechanized mining using jackhammer drilling, blasting, excavation through excavator & mineral transport through tippers.			
4.	Production		YEAR	RoughStone m³	Gravel in m³
			1	13,015	18,558
			2	11,475	7,038
			3	10,800	6,624
			4	10,800	6,624
			5	10,800	6,624
		Total	56,890	45,468	
5.	Life of the mine	5 Years			
6.	Waste Generation and Management	No waste generation anticipated in this quarry operation since the entire excavated material will be utilized.			
7.	Ultimate Mine depth	21m			
8.	Manpower	10 People directly and more than 50 people indirectly			
9.	Water Requirement & source	Total water – 6 KLD Will be procured from outside agencies initially. Later, water collected in the mine pit will be used to meet the needs.			
10.	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.			
11.	Site services	Mine office, first aid room, rest shelters, toilets etc. will be provided as semi-permanent structures.			
12.	Project cost	Rs. 47,12,380/-			
13.	CER cost	Rs.5.0 Lakhs			

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 2021 to February 2022)** 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 23 Rural villages and 4



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urban areas from 5 Taluks namely Rajapalayam, Virudhunagar, Sivakasi, Sivagiri and Sankarankoil.

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

Details	Population	Percentage
A. Gender-wise distribution		
Male Population	90635	49.60
Female Population	92101	50.40
Total	182736	100
B. Caste-wise population distribution		
Scheduled Caste	45970	25.16
Scheduled Tribes	835	0.46
Other	135931	74.39
Total	182736	100
C. Literate and Illiterate population		
Literate Males	68646	37.57
Literate Females	55261	30.24
Total Literate Population	123907	67.81
Others Males	21989	12.03
Others Females	36840	20.16
Others Population	58829	32.19
Total	182736	100
D. Occupational structure		
Main workers	85219	46.60
Marginal workers	11817	6.50
Total Workers	97,036	53.1
Total Non-workers	85700	46.90
Total	182736	100

3.2.1 EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY:

The details of the same are provided below:

Table 1: Baseline Data

A) AMBIENT AIR QUALITY PARAMETER	Monitoring Location – 6 locations		
	RESULT (µg/m ³)		*LIMIT (µg/m ³)
	Location	Core Zone	
Particulate Matter (Size <10 µm)	60.2 – 84.4	43.1 – 69.7	100
Particulate Matter (Size <2.5 µm)	29.5 – 45.2	20.3 – 36.2	60
Sulphur Dioxide (as SO ₂)	5.2 – 6.6	4.2 – 8.6	80
Nitrogen Dioxide (as NO ₂)	7.6 – 10.1	6.6 – 10.3	80

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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	7.01 – 7.89	6.5-8.5	
Total Dissolved Solids, mg/L	496 – 1100	2000	
Chloride as Cl-, mg/L	56.7 – 362	1000	
Total Hardness (as CaCO ₃), mg/L	84 – 521	600	
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃), mg/L	223– 492	600	
Sulphates as SO ₄ ²⁻ , mg/L	21.7 – 268	400	
Iron as Fe, mg/L	0.05 – 0.14	0.3	
Nitrate as NO ₃ , mg/L	1.61 – 10.9	45	
Fluoride as F, mg/L	0.14 – 0.66	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.

C) NOISE LEVELS		Monitoring Location – 6 locations	
PARAMETER	RESULT dB(A)		*LIMIT (µg/m³)
	Day Equivalent	Night Equivalent	
Core Zone	50.5	40.2	90
Buffer Zone	43.9 – 47.7	39.3 – 42.5	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 – 3 locations	
PARAMETER	Range of values		
pH	7.31 – 7.73		
Electrical Conductivity (µmho/cm)	23.71 – 77.35		
Organic matter (%)	0.62 – 1.21		
Total Nitrogen (mg/kg)	98.8 – 157		
Phosphorus (mg/kg)	1.59 – 2.28		
Sodium (mg/kg)	342 – 479		
Potassium (mg/kg)	656 - 820		

Soil is of Clay Loam type.

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3.2.2 LAND ENVIRONMENT:

Land use pattern 12.21 % of the study area is agriculture land and 12.98 % are fallow land. Land with scrub constitutes 11.37 %, lands without scrub constitute 22.36 %, Reserve Forest constitutes 33.22 % and waterbodies and the balance 7.86% falls under other land use categories.

3.2.3 BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT:

Flora: The lease area is a non forest, private land. Lease area is exposed with rock and bushy area. The lease area is dominated with *Prosopis juliflora*. The Dominated species in the buffer zone are *Acacia auriculiformis*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Borassus flabellifer*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Albizia lebbek*, *Acacia leucophloea*, *Prosopis juliflora* are also observed, etc.

Fauna: Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary is located at a distance of 4.6Km on the eastern side of the lease area. Based on MoEF&CC Notification S.O.2794(E) dated 02.08.2019, the eco sensitive zone is at a distance of 3.5Km. Hence, NBWL clearance is not applicable. Srivilliputhur-Meghamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR) is located at a distance of 6.3Km from the lease area. As final notification is awaited, application for NBWL clearance has been made. Domesticated animals are commonly found. No wild mammalian species was directly sighted during the field survey. There is no Schedule I species in the core & buffer zone.

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. Rain water collected in the tanks in the region acts as a good source of water during post monsoon. The water in the wells are available mainly after post monsoon and it reduces during summer. Deeper bore wells in the area reflects that the yield is only better at deeper water levels.

The occurrence of groundwater mainly in the porous soil are weathered layers, very negligible amount of groundwater percolated through the poorly fractured layer and the area is considered to be of poor ground water potential up to 50m. 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 Semi – 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
- Setting up of tyre washing facility in the lease area exit.
- Vehicular emission tests with digital smoke meter.
- Provision green netting around the lease periphery on all sides.
- 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 55.8 µg/m³ to 86.0 µg/m³ and with respect to PM_{2.5} are in the range of 26.8 µg/m³ to 46.2 µg/m³ which are within the statutory limits in each case.

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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 6.0 KLD. 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.

There is a tank located at a distance of 230m on the southern side of the lease area. There is no proposal to discharge any effluent into these water bodies.

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 , 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:

Ultimately the entire mined out area of 0.700 Ha will be left as water body. 0.030 Ha will be the mine roads & infrastructure, 0.375 Ha will be covered with vegetation. 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.

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

- Direct Employment for about 10 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 2 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.
- ❖ 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.

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- ❖ 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.6.50 Lakhs is allocated under capital cost. Besides, Rs.7.8 Lakhs per annum per annum is allocated as recurring cost. The baseline monitoring carried out for this project reflects the cumulative impact of this existing quarry.

6.1 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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