



Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Issued by the State Environment Impact Assessment
Authority(SEIAA), Uttarakhand)

To,

The contractor
LOHAKOT MINES AND MINREALS
Lohakot mines Minreals, Village- Bajwalpur, Rampur Road, Haldwani,
Nainital, Uttarakhand -263139

Subject: Grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) to the proposed Project Activity
under the provision of EIA Notification 2006-regarding

Sir/Madam,

This is in reference to your application for Environmental Clearance (EC)
in respect of project submitted to the SEIAA vide proposal number
SIA/UK/MIN/68901/2019 dated 02 Nov 2021. The particulars of the environmental
clearance granted to the project are as below.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. EC Identification No. | EC21B001UK134695 |
| 2. File No. | EC-01(103)/2019 |
| 3. Project Type | New |
| 4. Category | B1 |
| 5. Project/Activity including
Schedule No. | 1(a) Mining of minerals |
| 6. Name of Project | Soapstone Mining at Village- Lohakot,
Tehsil- Didihat, District- Pithoragarh,
Uttarakhand by M/s Lohakot Mines &
Minerals |
| 7. Name of Company/Organization | LOHAKOT MINES AND MINREALS |
| 8. Location of Project | Uttarakhand |
| 9. TOR Date | 18 Nov 2019 |

The project details along with terms and conditions are appended herewith from page
no 2 onwards.

Date: 13/11/2021

(e-signed)
Sushanta Kumar Pattnaik
Member Secretary
SEIAA - (Uttarakhand)

*Note: A valid environmental clearance shall be one that has EC identification
number & E-Sign generated from PARIVESH. Please quote identification
number in all future correspondence.*

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PARIVESH

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and Virtuous Environmental Single-Window Hub)



राज्य स्तर पर्यावरण समाघात निर्धारण प्राधिकरण, उत्तराखण्ड, 653, इन्दिरानगर कालोनी, सीमाद्वार रोड, देहरादून- 248006 (पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली द्वारा गठित)

दूरभाष: 0135-3510581

ईमेल: seiaa.seac.uk@gmail.com



State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, 653, Indiranagar Colony, Seemadwar Road, Dehradun- 248006 (Constituted by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Government of India.)
Phone No- 0135-3510581
Email- seiaa.seac.uk@gmail.com

E.C.No- 319-01(164)/2021

Dated- 12 -11-2021

To,

M/s Lohakot Mines & Minerals.
Village- Lohakot, Tehsil- Didihat, District-Pithoragarh.

Sub: Environmental Clearance under EIA notification dated 14.09.2006 for Extraction of Soapstone at Village- Lohakot, Tehsil- Didihat, District- Pithoragarh. (Area-3.720 Ha).

Kindly take reference to your online proposal No SIA/UK/MIN/68901/2021 submitted to SEIAA Uttarakhand regarding aforementioned subject. The details about the project site and proposal for EC as per the documents submitted by the project proponent is as under:-

S. No	Details	Reply
1	Name of the Proponent	M/s Lohakot Mines & Minerals
2	Project Site	Village- Lohakot, Tehsil- Didihat, District-Pithoragarh.
3	Project Site Coordinates	Lat - 29°41'36.69"N(Pillar No. 1) Long- 80°12'55.90"E
4	Type of project	Mining as per Schedule 1(a) of EIA Notification 2006
5	Mine Lease Area	3.720 Ha
6	Project Category as per EIA Notification 2006	B1
7	New or Ongoing Site	New Site
8	Letter of Intent	The State Govt. willing to grant Mining Lease over an area of 3.720 Ha. to M/s Lohakot Mines & Minerals, Village- Lohakot, Tehsil- Didihat, District-Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, vide G.O./letter of intent No. 3960/77-5-2000-449/83, dated 26.08.2000, for a period of Twenty (20) years. Renewal of LOI has already been applied and is in process.
9	Method of Mining	Opencast semi- mechanized method
10	Total Mineable Reserve	20270Tonne(in 2 years)
11	Estimated Quantity	11311Tonnes/Annum(Max. Production)
12	Thickness of soil	0.75 m
13	Mining Shall be carried out from	1293M to 1269 M
14	Mine area under cluster	Yes, Cluster certificate has been submitted
15	Slopes and ultimate face slope	Face slope of the benches shall be 70° and ultimate slope will be 45°
16	No. of Pits	3 Pits
17	Project Cost/EMP Cost	₹ 30 Lakhs
18	Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER)	2 % of the project cost
19	Whether any tree felling is involved	No

The SEAC during its meeting held on 8th- 9th November, 2021 had undertaken appraisal of the above project. It has been found that the proposal is classified under Category B1 of EIA Notification 2006. The proponent has submitted PFR, EMP and other relevant documents as desired. After due examination of the relevant documents/certificates submitted by the project proponent and additional clarification furnished in response to its observations earlier, SEAC has recommended the grant of Environmental Clearance for the above project, subject to compliance of the EMP and other stipulated conditions. SEIAA during its meeting dated 11th November, 2021 considered the above proposal based on the recommendation of SEAC. After due examination and deliberation, the SEIAA Uttarakhand hereby accords Environmental Clearance for the above project under category B-1 of EIA notification 2006 (as amended from time to time) subject to the strict compliance with the General, Specific and other conditions mentioned below:-

1- General Conditions

1. The mining/extraction of mineral and progressive mine closure should be done as per the approved mine plan. The mine plan should have validity till the mining period

2. The Proponent will ensure that mine site should have well demarcated safety zone i.e. mining operation will not be carried out in the vicinity of 100 m from nearby bridges, educational institution or structures of historical importance.
3. The project area shall be strictly used for the activities permitted. The workers will be strictly instructed to not to enter in the adjoining forest and not to harm any wildlife and existing vegetation for their various needs. No work shall be carried out after sunset
4. The overall manpower will be restricted to bare minimum. Though mostly local labour will be deployed, but for the essential manpower staying at site, not fuel wood based support will be provided for cooking purpose.
5. Sufficient numbers of dustbins will be provided to labourers for collection of their daily use garbage, Bio-degradable & solid garbage will be collected in separated bins & proper disposal of these garbage will be ascertained.
6. At no stage mining shall be carried out after exhausting extraction of the estimated mineable quantity as stated above.
7. The mining operation would provide local employment and bring economic benefits to local population.
8. The Proponent should provide Eco-friendly toilets for the workforce. The workers shall be directed to use the sanitation facilities provided at project site and instructed not to litter the project site. Sufficient numbers of Bio-Toilets will be provide to workers at safe distance from river flow bed.
9. Wild Animals being sensitive to noise, no project activities shall be carried out at night (sunset to sunrise) time.
10. All workers shall be imparted basic knowledge regarding the Do's and Don'ts of working within Forest Areas.
11. Photography of the proposed mining site (preferably using Drone) should be done and submitted to SEIAA along with half-yearly compliance report.
12. The project proponent shall submit half yearly compliance report of stipulated conditions of Environment Clearance in soft copy through PARIVESH PORTAL given link: <https://parivesh.nic.in>. The compliance report shall also be e mailed to the Regional Office in Dehradun in moef.ddn@gov.in

2- Conditions for operation phase

1. The project proponent should advertise with basic details at least in two widely circulated local newspapers, within seven (7) days of the receipt of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Dehradun and a copy of the same be sent to the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India located at 25 Subhash, Road Dehradun.
2. The legal status of the mining lease area shall remain unchanged and the Environment Clearance shall remain co-terminus with lease period. The mined lease area shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
3. The mining/extraction of soapstone shall not be done without approved mine plan from designated authority. The mine plan should be revised every 5 years and no fresh mine plan shall be prepared without site inspection by designated authority.
4. The boundary of the mined lease area shall be demarcated on ground by erecting pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, DGPS coordinates, forward and back bearing, and distance from adjoining pillars etc. This demarcation will be ensured by the Revenue Department. A bench mark will be established to monitor depth of the mining. A safety zone of 7.5 mt (surrounding the mine site) shall be left free from mining.
5. The mining shall be carried out by open cast Semi mechanized method without adopting drilling and blasting operation. The use of hand held mechanically driven equipment is permitted. The use of any electrically driven machinery shall remain prohibited and only hand held tools shall be used for extraction of the mineral.
6. Soapstone mining shall be carried out during sunrise to sunset period only. It shall not involve felling of trees and clearance of vegetation. There shall be no permanent construction at the site except temporary erection of first aid room, office, store, drinking water shed, rest shelter etc.
7. The process of mining and quantity of extractable mineral and subsequently progressive mine closure shall be as per the approved mine plan. The mining operation shall be carried out from Upper level to Lower level by formation of benching pattern. The maximum height of benches shall not exceed 1.5 mt and ultimate pit slope shall be kept at 45 degrees.
8. The maximum permissible depth for mining of soapstone shall not exceed 6 meters or depth of ground water table whichever is less. During first five years of mining lease the depth of mining shall not exceed 3 meters. Mining beyond 6 meters will be considered after site visit by SEAC.
9. Extraction of minor mineral is permitted from 1st October of every year to 15th June of the subsequent year. It shall be ensured that no mining activity is carried out during the monsoon season. Workers should be advised and protected against flash flood during 1st June to 15th June and 1st Oct to 31st Oct during which there may be rains in the hills.
10. Reclamation of the mine lease area shall be through back filling, stabilization and cultivation. The waste and top soil generated during mining shall be temporarily stacked in external dump which will be subsequently vacated and back filled in mined out pits. The waste generated in the area will be backfilled during rains and land made suitable for cultivation. Back filling shall be done in a retreating manner from Lower level to Upper level. Mining activity and back filling shall be done simultaneously once space is available.
11. No disturbance to natural drainage system around the mining lease area shall be done. No mixing of wastes is allowed. The dump site shall be kept away from the nearby nallahs/water bodies and maintained at a distance of at least 100 meters. The external dump shall be protected against slide/slip by adopting suitable mechanical and vegetative measures. Proponent should construct a retaining wall, along the nallah side,

- with suitable height to protect soil erosion. The construction of toe wall, check dam and planting of grass species/soil binding dwarf species in dump yard shall be done.
12. The project proponent shall undertake transportation of mineral from pit head to road head manually or by mule. Further it shall strictly adhere to the norms of Transport Department in refraining from use of polluting and less fuel-efficient vehicles for transporting extracted minerals to final destination. There shall be no over loading of vehicles as against standard norms fixed by Central Government/State Government/Hon'ble Courts from time to time.
 13. The project proponent shall regulate and maintain record of the quantity of soapstone extracted during a season. The monitoring shall be ensured by Mines Department/District Administration from time to time.
 14. There shall be no labour camp in the mining lease area for the labour engaged in mining of soapstone. The labour engaged in mining shall be provided free fuel wood/alternate source of energy to avoid any pressure on adjoining forest land
 15. Proponent should submit surface water quality and ambient air quality monitoring report as committed in EMP, with suitable parameters.
 16. Under corporate social responsibility proponent should develop community services such as drinking water, education, housing, sanitation, health, safety and medical facilities, public transportation and communication, social welfare etc.
 17. The proponent shall erect eco-friendly mobile toilets for the workforce at site and shall ensure disposal of solid waste as per the existing provisions/rules/guidelines.
 18. Minimum 4000 plants will be planted in nearby Van Panchayat first and second year followed by their maintenance in the next three years. The species selection shall be site specific and cater to the demand of the Van Panchayat. The Divisional Forest Officer, Bageshwar shall ensure the compliance. Besides this the proponent shall develop 5 meter wide dense plantation of shrubs around the mining site.
 19. The Geology and Mining department shall identify an agency for regular/periodical monitoring of quality of ground water of existing hand pumps and tube wells in the vicinity of the mining site.
 20. The project proponent shall formulate a transparent and unbiased procedure for engagement of laborers for sustainable extraction of the minerals from the mining lease area. The project proponent shall ensure that maximum local labour be engaged and hence opportunities of employment be provided. The project proponent shall follow all safety measures for labour force engaged in accordance with relevant Acts/Rules.
 21. The project proponent shall prepare the plan of mining in conformity with the mine lease conditions and the Rules prescribed in this regard thereby clearly delineating the 'No Work Zone' in the mine lease area i.e. at least 100 mt distance from Nallahs/Water Bodies, bridges, educational institution or structures of historical importance.
 22. Effective safeguard measures, such as regular water sprinkling shall be carried out in critical areas prone to air pollution and having high levels of particulate matter such as loading and unloading point and all transfer points. It shall be ensured that the Ambient Air Quality parameters conform to the norms prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board in this regard.
 23. The project proponent shall provide protective respiratory devices to workers working in dusty areas and they shall also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects. Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the project shall be carried out and records maintained.
 24. The proponent shall provide eco-friendly mobile toilets for the workforce at site and shall ensure disposal of solid waste as per the existing provisions/rules/guidelines.
 25. The project proponent shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project
 26. Photography of the proposed mining site as well as the plantation sites undertaken by the project proponent showing GPS coordinates should be done (preferably using Drone) and submitted to SEIAA and regional office of MoEF&CC, Govt of India at Dehradun along with half-yearly compliance report.
 27. Project proponent will strictly comply with EMP/EIA.
 28. Project proponent will have to submit EMP/EIA report to Mining Department (Lessee) and Pollution Control Board before getting work order/Consent to Established or Operate.
 29. The project proponent shall submit half yearly compliance report of stipulated conditions of Environment Clearance in soft copy through PARIVESH PORTAL given link: <https://parivesh.nic.in>.

3- Entire Operation

- 1) The Environmental Clearance is being granted for mining/extraction of Soapstone in the approved Mine Lease Area. Legal status of the mining lease area shall remain unchanged and the Environmental Clearance is being granted only for the lease period. The mined lease area shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- 2) The maximum permissible depth for mining of Soapstone shall not exceed 6 meter or depth of ground water table whichever is less. During first five years of mining lease the depth of mining shall not exceed 3 meters. Mining beyond 6 meters shall be granted after site visit by SEAC. However, Authority may also visit the site in operational phase, whenever it is found to be necessary.
- 3) Reclamation of the mine lease area shall be through back filling, stabilization and cultivation. The waste and top soil generated during mining shall be temporarily stacked in external dump which will be subsequently vacated and back filled in mined out pits. The waste generated in the area will be backfilled during rains and land made suitable for cultivation. Back filling shall be done in a retreating manner from Lower level to Upper level. Mining activity and back filling shall be done simultaneously once space is available.
- 4) The dump site shall be kept away from the nearby nallahs/water bodies and maintained at a distance of at least 100 meters. The external dump shall be protected against slide/slip by adopting suitable mechanical and vegetative measures. The construction of toe wall, check dam and planting of grass species/soil binding dwarf species in dump yard shall be done as given in mining plan.
- 5) The project proponent shall undertake transportation of mineral from pit head to road head manually or by mule. Further it shall strictly adhere to the norms of Transport Department in refraining from use of polluting

and less fuel-efficient vehicles for transporting extracted minerals to final destination. There shall be no over loading of vehicles as against standard norms fixed by Central Government/State Government/Hon'ble Courts from time to time.


- 6) The project proponent shall regulate and maintain record of the quantity of Soapstone extracted during a season. The monitoring shall be ensured by Mines Department/District Administration from time to time.
- 7) There shall be no labour camp in the mining lease area for the labour engaged in mining of Soapstone. The labour engaged in mining shall be provided free fuel wood/alternate source of energy to avoid any pressure on adjoining forest land.
- 8) The project proponent shall formulate a transparent and unbiased procedure for engagement of labourers for sustainable extraction of the minerals from the mining lease area. The project proponent shall ensure that maximum local labour be engaged and hence employment opportunity provided. The project proponent shall follow all safety measures for labour force engaged in accordance with relevant Acts/Rules.
- 9) Under CER, Project Proponent apart from other activities, will also install Solar lights and distribute forest fire fighting equipments to the local groups (Mahilamangal dal/Yuvakmangal dal/Vanpanchayat) in the adjoining villages close to forest areas in consultation with local Forest Officials.
- 10) The project proponent shall provide protective respiratory devices to workers working in dusty areas and they shall also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects. Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the project shall be carried out and records maintained.
- 11) The project proponent shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
- 12) The above environmental safeguards shall be implemented in letter and spirit. The project proponent shall establish Environment Monitoring Cell and also submit six monthly compliance reports to this Authority and regional office of MoEF&CC, Govt of India at Dehradun.
- 13) The SEIAA reserves the right to include additional safeguard measures if found necessary and also to take action including revoking of the EC granted under provision of EIA Notification 2006. This EC is being granted subject to compliance of Hon'ble Court Orders issued from time to time.
- 14) Any appeal against this Environment Clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under relevant section of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
- 15) If it is found that if conditions laid down by the Authority are violated, the Authority may suspend or cancel this Environmental Clearance.

4- Specific Conditions:- (To be followed by Director Industry, Geology and Mining Unit, Govt. of Uttarakhand).

- 1- Mining and Geology department of the State Government should recalculate the maximum production levels and inform the Authority accordingly.
- 2- A study shall be carried out at least in over a year through mines and geology department to avoid over exploitation of mineral, which may adversely affect the dynamics of site. A copy of said study report shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at Dehradun and SEIAA, Uttarakhand.
- 3- The Geology and Mining unit of Industry Department shall identify an agency for regular/periodical monitoring of quality of ground water of existing hand pumps and tube wells in the vicinity of the mining site.
- 4- Digital processing of the entire lease area using remote sensing technique should be done by Geology and Mining department regularly and report should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Regional office at Dehradun and SEIAA, Uttarakhand.

In view of the COVID-19 scenario, social distancing at work-place shall be maintained, and such other conditions and safeguard shall be ensured as directed by Government of India, Government of Uttarakhand and concerned District Magistrate from time to time.


Your's Faithfully


(Sushanta Kumar Pattnaik)
Member Secretary,
SEIAA, Uttarakhand

No - 319 01(164)/2021 dated- as above

Copy for information and necessary action to-

1. APCCF, Regional office (Central) MoEFCC Govt of India, 25 Subhash Road, Dehradun.
2. Additional Chief Secretary, Forests & Environment, Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.
3. Director Industries, Geology & Mining Unit Govt of Uttarakhand Dehradun
4. District Magistrate, Pithoragarh.
5. Member Secretary, UEPPCB, IT Park Dehradun.
6. Divisional Forest Officer, Pithoragarh.
7. Guard File for uploading in Parivesh Website.


(Sushanta Kumar Pattnaik)
Member Secretary,
SEIAA, Uttarakhand