सत्यमेव जयते

STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TAMIL NADU

Inspection Report of the Committee constituted as per the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (PB) order dated 26.02.2021 in O.A. No. 360 of 2015 – Sand Quarry in Palar River at SF No. 1588(P) Sakkaramallur Village, Arcot Taluk, Ranipet District

AUGUST 2025

Inspection Report of the Committee constituted as per the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (PB) order dated 26.02.2021 in O.A. No. 360 of 2015 – Sand Quarry in Palar River at Sakkaramallur Village, Arcot Taluk, Ranipet District

Date of Inspection 20.08.2025

The Member Secretary, State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority, Tamil Nadu vide Letter No. SEIAA-TN/C.No. 019855/2025-2/2025, dated 04.08.2025 has re-constituted the Committee for inspection of sand mining areas as per the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (PB) order dated 26.02.2021 in O.A. No. 360 of 2015 . The Committee comprises of the following members

1	Dr N.Vasudevan	Expert Member, SEIAA-TN
2	Thiru P.Ramasamy	Expert Member SEAC 1-TN
3	Dr R.Rajamanickam	Expert Member SEAC 2-TN
4	Tmt H.D.Varalaxmi	Scientist-E & Regional Director, CPCB
5	Tmt S.Vasuki	Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, TNPCB

The above Committee has inspected the proposed river sand quarry in Palar river at SF No. 1588 (P) in Sakkaramallur Village, Arcot Taluk, Ranipet District on 20.08.2025. During inspection the following officers were present at the site.

Thiruvalargal

1	M.Selvakumar	DEE, TNPCB, Ranipet
2	G.Anbarasan	Executive Engineer, WRD, Mining and Monitoring Division, Villupuram
3	R.Balaji	Assistant Executive Engineer, WRD, Arcot
4	A.Sureshkumar	Assistant Engineer, WRD, Arcot
5	R.Vikram	Assistant Engineer, WRD, Arcot
6	EIA Consultant	Ms. Adhi Boomi Mining & Envirotech P Ltd

About the Project

The SEIAA-TN has granted environmental clearance to the Executive Engineer, PWD (Now Water Resources Department) to carryout sand mining in river Palar in SF No. 1588 (P) of Sakkaramallur Village, Arcot Taluk, Ranipet District in an

area of 4.95.0 hectares, vide Lr No. SEIAA-TN/F.No. 11613/EC/1(a)/2025, dated 27.01.2025 subject to certain conditions. The sand quarry land is a government land (river poramboke) maintained by Water Resources Department. It is a fresh sand quarry and the EC was issued to mine 49,565 m^3 of sand in a period of one year (from the date of issue of proceeding by the District Collector). The quarrying shall be done up to 1 metre depth from Theoretical Bed Level (TBL). The size of the quarry site is 330 m x 150 m. As per the EC condition, the quarrying shall be done manually. The latitude and longitude of the quarry site as per the EC is as follows:

Point No.	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
1	12°52'08.0595"	79°25'00.0787"
2	12°52'12.9366"	79°25'00.0401"
3	12°52'12.9961"	79°25'10.9927"
4	12°52'08.1137"	79°25'11.0216"

The District Collector, Ranipet has issued precise area communication Letter vide Rc.No. 119/2023 (Mines) dated 30.06.2023. Mining Plan approval letter was issued vide Rc. No. 119/2023 (Mines), dated 10.08.2023. The project proponent has issued press release on 25.02.2025 in Daily Thanthi and on 27.02.2025 in Business Standard by informing the grant of environmental clearance by the TN-SEIAA. Mining Proceeding is yet to be issued by the District Collector.

The Hon'ble NGT (PB) in its order dated 26.02.2021 in O.A. No. 360 of 2015 have directed interalia that periodic inspection should be conducted by the five-member committee and such inspection must be conducted at least thrice for each lease (i.e) after expiry of 25% of the lease period, then after 50% of the period and finally six months before expiry of the lease period for midway correction and assessment of damage, if any. Accordingly, the above committee has inspected the said sand quarry on 20.08.2025. During inspection the following were noticed.

Observations during Inspection

1. The Project Proponent has not yet started sand quarry activity in the site SF No. 1588 (P) of Sakkaramallur Village, Arcot Taluk, Ranipet District. The EE, WRD has informed that they are awaiting for the proceedings of District Collector. Once they get Collector's proceeding, they will commence sand mining activity.

2. The said sand quarry site is located within the Palar river aligning southern side (nearing right bank of the river). The river flow direction is west to east. At the time of inspection, there is no flow of water in the river. Only stagnation of rain water was noticed in the pits here and there.

3. On the southern side of the river bank, wetlands with paddy cultivation was noticed. Few habitations are located at about 410 metres on the southern side of the site and Sakkaramallur village is located at about 700 metres on southern side of the site. At the time of committee inspection, few local people have made objection for sand mining in this area in anticipating depletion of ground water and pollution of river water.

4. There is no drinking water supply headworks within 500 metre in the upstream and downstream side of the river. One TWAD Board headwork is located within the river at the upstream side (near left bank side) which is beyond 500 m.

5. The Project proponent has provided pole with red flag on the four corners of the proposed mining area. The size of the mining area is 330 m (west-east) x 150 m (south – north).

6. The site is located in the downstream side of Palar Anicut at a distance of about 4.8 Km east.

7. A temporary bench mark (TBM) was transferred from a permanent mark from the Palar Anicut. But the Proponent has not provided TBM with pillar for referring Mean Sea Level (MSL) at the site. However, during inspection they have shown Bench mark reference point marked near electric post on southern bank. From this point, MSL were transferred to the site. The latitude and longitude of the four corners were measured using Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) instrument. The measured values are given below.

Point No.	Location	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)	Bed level Elevation from MSL
	Bench mark (TBM)	12°52'01.6609"	79°24'59.9497"	+145.353 m
1	South-West Corner	12°52'08.0573"	79°25'00.0785"	+139.316 m
2	North-West Corner	12°52'12.9393"	79°25'00.0412"	+138.168 m
3	North-East Corner	12°52'12.9975"	79°25'10.9941"	+137.429 m
4	South-East Corner	12°52'08.1134"	79°25'11.0155"	+139.094 m

The survey shows there is no variation in the bed level elevation and the corner coordinates except very minor variation, and this may be attributed due to manual error.

8. From the site inspection, it is understood that sand mining is not yet started in the said area by the Project Proponent. In certain portion of the earmarked mining area, there is no much sand deposit for mining and certain portion there is good deposition of sand. Comparing the existing bed level and the previous bed level , it is observed that there is no marked replenishment of sand for the last two year with in the area granted for EC.

9. The Executive Engineer has informed that they have identified the stockyard on the northern side of the river. The mined sand will be transported through trucks/tippers by crossing the river. For that purpose temporary road will be laid using bio-degradable materials and it will be dismantled after completing the mining activity. He mentioned that there is no habitation en-route to the stockyard.

10. Since the sand mining is not yet commenced, the verification of compliance of EC conditions was not carried out by the committee during the inspection. Once they commence the activity, and after completion of 25% lease period, the committee shall inspect and verify the compliance.

Recommendations

1. This sand quarry was issued precise area communication letter in June 2023 based on the survey conducted at that point of time. Now it is two years over, still mining is not yet commenced. Hence before the commencement of mining, the Project Proponent shall carryout Drone survey and submit the report along with Theoretical Bed Level (TBL), Shoal level and sand deposit in the proposed mine area.

2. The Project Proponent shall inform the TN-SEIAA before commencement of sand mining after getting District Collector's proceeding and CTO from TNPCB.

3. The Project Proponent shall conduct survey on water level and water quality of the ground water in the existing wells located in the vicinity of the sand mine area and submit the report to TN-SEIAA before commencement of mining.

4. The Project Proponent shall construct and maintain a permanent bench mark concrete pillar at the mining site, clearly indicating the bench mark level with reference to Mean Sea Level (MSL), for monitoring of mining depth and compliance. Photograph shall be submitted before commencement of mining.

5. The Project Proponent shall provide stone pillars painted in red and white color with proper marking of number at the four corners of the sand mining area and submit the photograph before commencement of mining.

6. The Project Proponent shall strictly comply with the conditions mentioned in the environmental clearance issued in Lr No. SEIAA-TN/F.No. 11613/Ec/1(a)/2025, dated 27.01.2025.

7. The project proponent shall inform the TN-SEIAA after completion of 25% of the lease period and the committee shall inspect the site.

8. Lot of encroachments on the southern side of the riverbed were observed by the Committee .WRD may take steps to clear the encroachments for free flow of water.

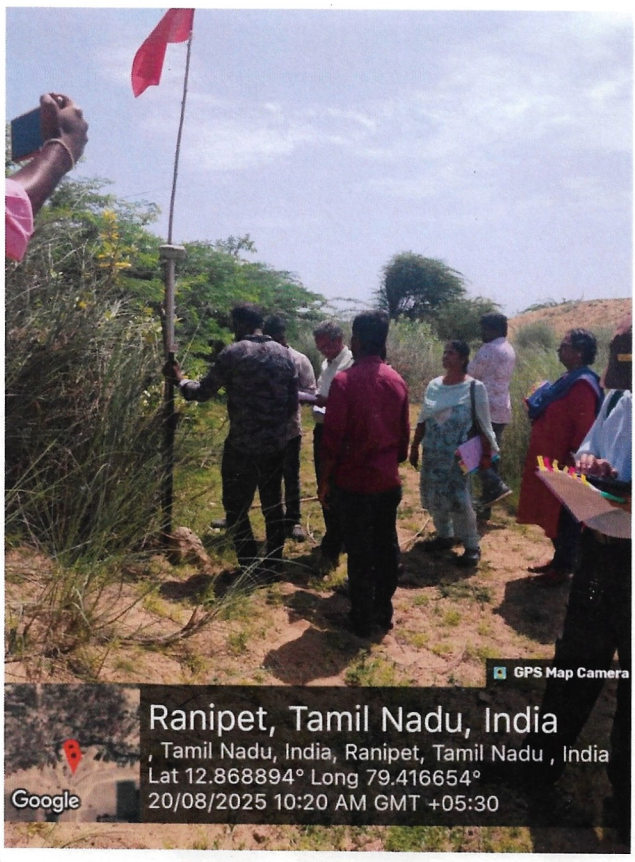
Tmt S Vasuki JCEE, TNPCB	Tmt H D Varalaxmi Scientist-E & RD CPCB	Dr R Rajamanickam Expert Member, SEAC-2, TN
Thiru P Ramasamy Expert Member, SEAC-1, TN	Dr N Vasudevan Expert Member, SEIAA-TN	

Photographs taken during inspection of sand quarry site by the Committee on 20.08.2025 at SF No. 1588 (P) in Sakkaramallur Village, Arcot Taluk, Ranipet District

Palar River bed – Proposed Sand Mining area

Palar River bed – Proposed Sand Mining area

Measuring at Temporary Bench Mark Reference Point



Measuring of Latitude Longitude at one of the Corners of the site

Measuring of Latitude Longitude at one of the Corners of the site

Inspection Committee along with WRD Officials

Photographs taken during inspection of sand quarry site by the Committee on 20.08.2025 at SF No. 1588 (P) in Sakkaramallur Village, Arcot Taluk, Ranipet District

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