

M/S NEEL KANTH MINING

Deals in Construction Material-Sand, Stone and Bajri etc.

To
DFO
Joginder Nagar

Subject : Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favors of M/s Neelkant Mining for non-Forestry use of 1.5452 ha Unclassed Forest for extraction of Sand , Stone and Bajri at Sarshkan Tehsil Dharmpur Distt Mandi Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No FP/HP/MIN/118435/2021).

Please find the below reply

The **Son Khad (Soan) River** Son Khad River is a seasonal river system where flow characteristics are primarily governed by monsoonal precipitation. During lean periods, the discharge remains negligible to very low, whereas in the rainy season, the river exhibits high velocity and increased sediment transport.

1. Assessment of Possible Impacts on Water Flow

(a) Alteration of Natural Flow Regime

Since the proposed mining lease area is located on the **bank/outside the active flowing channel**, no in-stream mining or obstruction to the thalweg (main flow channel) is proposed. Therefore, the natural flow regime of the Son Khad River will not be altered.

(b) Channel Morphology & Bank Stability

Improper excavation near riverbanks can potentially:

- Induce bank erosion,
- Cause channel widening or shifting,
- Increase sediment load downstream.

However, the proposed mining operations shall be restricted to the approved lease boundary outside the active channel, maintaining a safe setback distance from the riverbank as per statutory norms.

(c) Surface Runoff and Siltation

During monsoon, runoff from mining areas may carry suspended solids into the river if not controlled. This could temporarily increase turbidity.

(d) Groundwater–Surface Water Interaction

Given the seasonal nature of the river and limited base flow, mining restricted above the groundwater table will not interfere with groundwater recharge or base flow contribution.

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2. Conclusion on Impact

Considering:

- The seasonal nature of the Son Khad River,
- Very low discharge during non-monsoon months,
- Mining confined to bank area outside the active channel,
- No diversion, obstruction, or in-stream excavation proposed,

The proposed mining activity will not affect the natural water flow of the Son Khad River.

Flow variations will continue to be governed solely by seasonal rainfall patterns.

3. Proposed Mitigation Measures

To ensure zero or negligible hydrological impact, the following measures shall be implemented:

1. Safety Buffer / Setback Distance

- Maintain a minimum safety distance from the active river channel as per State Mining Rules and MoEF&CC guidelines.
- No excavation within the floodplain or active flow channel.

2. Controlled Mining Depth

- Mining depth shall be restricted as per approved mining plan.
- No excavation below the groundwater table.

3. Riverbank Protection

- Retain natural berm/barrier between mining area and river.
- Strengthening of banks through:
 - Boulder pitching where required,
 - Plantation of native grass and shrubs for slope stabilization.

4. Drainage & Silt Control

- Construction of garland drains around mining pits.
- Installation of siltation ponds/sedimentation tanks to trap suspended solids before discharge.
- Check dams/temporary silt barriers during monsoon.

5. Monsoon Management Plan

- Suspension of mining operations during peak monsoon/high flow conditions.

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- Regular inspection of lease boundary for erosion risk.

6. Regular Monitoring

- Periodic monitoring of:
 - Surface water quality (TSS, turbidity, pH),
 - Riverbank stability,
 - Channel morphology.
- Submission of monitoring reports to regulatory authorities.

7. Progressive Reclamation

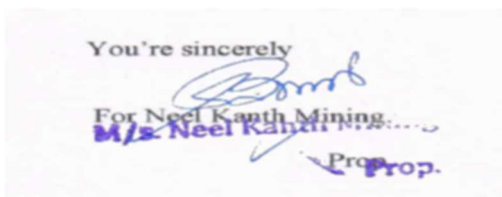
- Backfilling and grading of mined-out areas.
- Development of green belt along lease boundary.

4. Overall Environmental Safeguard Statement

The mining activity is confined to the bank area and does not involve diversion, channel modification, or obstruction of the Son Khad River. With the implementation of the above mitigation measures, the project will ensure:

- No alteration of river hydrology,
- No adverse impact on seasonal water flow,
- No significant increase in sediment load,
- Maintenance of natural drainage pattern.

Thanks, and Regards



You're sincerely
[Handwritten Signature]
For Neel Kanth Mining
M/S Neel Kanth Mining
Prop.