

PROJECT: PAPOLILAGGA, KAFLI & ODIYAR SOAPSTONE MINING
PROPONENT: SHRI DIWAN SINGH PAPOLA
VILLAGE: PAPOLILAGGA, KAFLI & ODIYAR
TEHSIL-DUG NAKURI & DISTRICT-BAGESHWAR,
STATE- UTTARAKHAND
AREA: 2.413 HA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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“Papolilagga, Kafli & Odiyar Soapstone Mining Project”

At

**Village- Papolilagga, Kafli & Odiyar,
Tehsil- Dug Nakuri & District-Bageshwar, State-
Uttarakhand
(Area- 2.413 Ha)**

Submitted by

Shri Diwan Singh Papola

R/o - Village & Po- Kafli, Tehsil- Dug Nakuri



Prepared by

**COGNIZANCE RESEARCH INDIA PRIVATE
LIMITED**

Suit No-B02, H-61, Sector-63, Noida-201301 (U.P.)

Contact: +91-9910047760, +91-9415102339



Cognizance Research India Pvt Ltd
NABET-QCI Accredited Consultant



1.0 INTRODUCTION OF PROJECT & PROPONENT

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a decision-making tool, identifies the extent of the environmental, social and economic impacts of a project prior to decision-making. EIA systematically examines both beneficial and adverse impacts of the proposed project over and above the prevailing conditions of environmental parameters and ensure that these impacts are taken into account during the project designing stage itself and the values of the combined impacts are never allowed to exceed and remain within the statutory norms.

The proposed project of Papolilagga, Kafli & Odiyar Soapstone Mining Project by Shri Diwan Singh Papola is for soapstone mineral mining which covers an area of 2.413 Ha at Village- Papolilagga, Kafli & Odiyar, Tehsil & District- Bageshwar, and Uttarakhand. LOI has been granted in favour of Shri Diwan Singh Papola; vide letter no. 1273/VII-1/17/Soapstone/2016 dated 16/08/2016, for a period of 25 years attached as Annexure II. The EIA-EMP report has been prepared as per the TOR granted under the EIA Notification of September 14th 2006. In order to assess the impact on environment due to proposed mining, it is necessary to ascertain the present status of environment prevailing at the project site and identification and assessment of impacts on the environment of the proposed operations.

As per NGT Order Dated 13-09-2018 and MOEF & CC OM No L-11011/175/2018-IA-II (M) Dated 12-12-2018 the project comes under B1 Category as the area is more than 5 Ha. Environmental Impact Assessment report is prepared to comply with the Terms of Reference (TOR) received from SEIAA, Uttarakhand, under EIA Notification of the MoEF, Ref. No. 328/SEAC Dated 29 August, 2023.

1.1 LOCATION

Village	Tehsil	District	State	Area in Ha.
Papolilagga, Kafli & Odiyar	Dug Nakuri	Bageshwar	Uttarakhand	2.413

Table1.1- Detail of site & surrounding around Lease Area

Nearest Settlements	Odiyar Village – 190 m, in South direction Siralagaon Village- 162 m, in South west direction
Nearest Road	National Highway (NH-309A) 6.16 km* towards S direction. Banlekh Reema Road 70m Towards W direction
Nearest Airport	Naini Saini, Pithoragarh Airport, towards SE direction (86.12 km*)
Nearest Railway Station	Kathgodam Railway Station, towards SSW direction (approx. 81.4 Km*)
Water body	Saryu River 4.57 km in N direction Pungar River 2.51 km in S direction
Nearest School/ college	Government Primary School, 0.53 km in N Direction SVM Public School NE Direction 1.20 KM
Nearest Hospital	Community health centre 2.92 km S in direction. District Hospital Bageshwar in W direction 17 Km
Temple	Hanuman Mandir 0.64 m in N Direction *

Table 1.2 Project Salient features

On-line proposal No.	SIA/UK/MIN/434329/2023		
File No. allotted by SEIAA, UK	EC-01/(59)/2023		
Name of Proponent	Prop: Shri Diwan Singh Papola		
Full correspondence address of Proponent	R/o, Village & Po- Kafli, Tehsil- Dug Nakuri District- Bageshwar, State-Uttarakhand		
Name of Project	Papolilagga, Kafli & Odiyar Soapstone Mining Project		
Name of Village	Papolilagga, Kafli & Odiyar		
Tehsil	Dug Nakuri		
District	Bageshwar		
Name of Minor Mineral	Soapstone		
Sanctioned Lease Area (in Ha.)	2.413 Ha		
Category of the project	“B1”		
Max & Min mRL within lease area	Max- 1605 mRL & 1548 mRL		
Pillar Coordinates (Verified by DMO)	Pillar No	N	E
	1.	29°54'12.2"	79°56'49.8"
	2.	29°54'11.1"	79°56'51.2"
	3.	29°54'07.2"	79°56'46.2"
	4.	29°54'09.9"	79°56'44.4"
	5.	29°54'09.6"	79° 56'43.5"

	6.	29°54'08.7"	79°56'43.1"
	7.	29°54'07.4"	79°56'40.0"
	8.	29°54'09.6"	79°56'39.9"
	9.	29°54'10.3"	79°56'39.4"
	10.	29°54'11.1"	79°56'44.6"
	11.	29°54'12.1"	79°56'45.0"
	12.	29°54'12.1"	79°56'47.6"
	13.	29°54'10.9"	79°56'46.9"
Maximum Proposed Production	14,874 TPA (in Vth year)		
Sanctioned Period of Mine lease	Maximum 25 years		
Method of Mining	Open Cast Mechanized Method		
No. of working days	200days		
Working hours/day	8hrs		
No. of workers	62		
Type of Land	Agriculture land		
Ultimate Depth of Mining	12 m		
Nearest metalled road from site	0.60 km		
Water Requirement	Purpose	Requirement (KLD)	
	Drinking	0.62	
	Suppression of dust	2.50	
	Plantation	4.00	
	Mobile Toilet	0.62	
	Total	7.74	
Any litigation pending against the project or land in any court	No		
Details of Lease Area in approved DSR	Yes, given in the DSR At Page No. 25 Serial No. 91		
Proposed Project cost	Rs 20, 00,000 /-		
Proposed EMP budget including the CER Cost as per OM dated 30 Sep 2020	Recurring Cost- 6.85 Lakh CER Cost – 1.00 Lakh		
Length and breadth of Haul Road	Length: 400 m, width: 6 m		
No. of Trees to be planted	1250 plants (250 plants per year)		

1.2 MINING PROCESS

Briefly describe the existing/proposed method for developing/working the deposit with all design parameters:

(I) Existing Method of mining:

It is fresh grant case of mining lease & mining operations yet to be commenced.

(II) Proposed method of mining:

The mine is proposed to be worked by opencast mechanized method using JCB excavator on contract. The mineral soapstone occurs intermix with dolomitic and magnesitic rocks the analysis report shows that the OB is calcitic and high silica with low MgO and therefore is not marketable. The over lying soil of 0.2-0.3m thickness will be removed separately by excavator and will be kept separately by making a toe wall at the bottom of soil dump. However before rainy season soil will be spread over the backfilled area/dumps. The soapstone mineral will be separated by manual labour from interburden waste and interburden waste will be kept initially near the mining pits where backfilling space is not available however later on it will be backfilled in the mining pits after extracting total mineral from the pits/before rainy season. And for further continuing mining the inter burden waste will be re-handled and stacked by making toe wall at the bottom where the height of inter burden dump is more terraces will be made, the height and width of the dumps and its terraces will be kept 5-6m. Over the dumps grass will be planted. The mined out pits will be backfilled by the inter burden waste and where essential terracing will be also done and also grass plantation will be done.

The soil and inter burden waste will be removed by excavator, mineral soapstone will be manually sorted, grading will be done by using chisel and picks & sorted mineral will be packed in bags and will be transported on mule head to road point and from road head mineral is transported by trucks to Haldwani.

The mining benches will be formed along the contours, the height of the benches will be kept of 3m and width more than 4m initially to facilitate separation of soapstone and remove the mineral and interburden and soil by mules. The mule track of 3-4m width with a gradient of 1 in 3 to 1 in 4 will be made. The mineral will be transported by mules to the road point. So that the mineral can be loaded on to the trucks for further transportation to Haldwani. All the benches will be connected by mule track, so that mule can reach to the working faces the slope of the benches will be kept 70° but for exploitation of mineral benches will be steepened and width will be reduced and average slope of the faces will be kept 65 – 70°.

The portion of the mining pits, which will reach to the economical depth, as per the contract with the cultivators the backfilling done, and the land will be handed over to the cultivators, However the land if further will be required for stacking of soil/inter burden will be taken from cultivators for a particular period for temporary storage of soil and inter burden and which will be re-handled and land will be handed over back to the cultivators. The mining will be done from higher level to lower level depending on the availability of space. The soapstone after sorting and sizing will be filled into 40-50kg plastic bags, which will be transported by labours up to road point or on mule head to the road point.

Excavator on contract will be used for re-handling of waste & also proper stacking & backfilling of waste. The permission for mechanization under regulation 106 2(b) will be obtained from Directorate of Mines Safety.

Table 1.3- Proposed productions in mining plan period – 05 years

Yr	Pit no.	Total excavation (mt)	Top soil (mt)	ROM (mt)		ROM/Waste Ratio	Mineral (Mt)	Waste (mt)
				Mineral (mt)	Waste (mt)			
First Year	Pit -1	19413	1376	10822	7215	1:0.4	10822	7215
Second Year	Pit -1	21088	1320	11860	7908	1:0.4	11860	7908
Third Year	Pit -1	21619	1496	12074	8049	1:0.4	12074	8049
Fourth Year	Pit-1	25135	1595	14124	9416	1:0.4	14124	9416
Fifth Year	Pit-1	25911	1123	14872	9916	1:0.4	14872	9916
Grand Total		113166	6910	63752	42504	1:0.4	63752	42504

Total Proposed Production:

Maximum Production: 14,872 TPA (end of 5th Year)

1.3 WATER DEMAND

The water requirement will be around **7.74 KLD**. About 0.62 KLD for domestic and 4.0 KLD will be required for dust suppression. Water for drinking purpose will be supplied from the tube well and naulla's from nearby villages. This water will be supplied by private tankers. For dust suppression and Plantation, the water supplied from nearby naulla's and treated water.

Table 1.4- Water Demand

S.NO.	Purpose	Manpower/Area	Water Demand (KLD)	Source

1.	Drinking	Manpower (62) 62*10 L = 620 lpcd	0.62	Nearby village Tubewell
2.	Toilet	Manpower (62) 62*10 L = 620 lpcd	0.62	Private tanker
3.	Plantation	1250 trees 2L = 2500L	2.5	Private tanker
4.	Dust Suppression	Length= 400m, Width= 5m Area= 400 x 5= 2000m ² 2000*2L =4000 lpcd	4.0	Private Tanker
Total			7.74	

1.4 BASELINE DATA

This section contains the description of baseline studies of the 10 km radius of the area surrounding Village- Papolilagga, Kafli & Odiyar, Tehsil- Dug Nakuri and District- Bageshwar, Uttarakhand. The data collected has been used to understand the existing environment scenario around the proposed mining project against which the potential impacts of the project can be assessed.

Table 1.5: BASELINE ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

Attribute	Baseline status
Ambient Air Quality	Ambient Air Quality Monitoring (AAQM) has been carried out at eight locations during post-monsoon season from October to December 2023. The minimum and maximum level of PM2.5 recorded within the study area was in the range of 40.4 µg/m ³ to 58.9 µg/m ³ with the 98th percentile 58.23 µg/m ³ . The minimum and maximum level of PM10 recorded within the study area was in the range of 47.58 µg/m ³ to 97.15 µg/m ³ with the 98th percentile 95.95 µg/m ³ . The minimum and maximum concentration of SO ₂ recorded within the study area was in the range of was 4.9 µg/m ³ to 15.4 µg/m ³ with the 98th percentile 14.54 µg/m ³ . The minimum and maximum level of NO ₂ recorded within the study area was in the range of was 5.7 µg/m ³ to 29.4 µg/m ³ with the 98th percentile 28.11 µg/m ³ . The results thus obtained indicate that the concentrations of PM10, PM2.5, SO ₂ and NO ₂ in the Ambient Air are well within the National Ambient Air Quality (NAAQ) standards for Industrial, Residential, Rural and other areas.

Noise Levels	Noise monitoring was carried out at 4 locations. The results of the monitoring program indicated that both the daytime and night time levels of noise were well within the prescribed limits of NAAQS, at all the four locations monitored.
Water Quality	3 Groundwater samples and 2 surface water samples were analyzed and concluded that: The ground water from all sources remains suitable for drinking purposes as all the constituents are within the limits prescribed by drinking water standards promulgated by Indian Standards IS: 10500-2012. From the surface water analysis it is evident that most of the parameters of the samples comply with 'Category C' standards of CPCB Drinking water source with conventional treatment followed by disinfection.
Soil Quality	Samples collected from identified locations indicate the soil is sandy type and the pH value ranging from 6.75 to 7.85, which shows that the soil is alkaline in nature.
Ecology and Biodiversity	There are no Ecologically Sensitive Areas present in the study area
Traffic analysis	From the analysis it can be seen that the LOS is not Likely to change near village

1.5 BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

FLORA - Flora of the Core Zone

The core zone comprises of barren stony waste land, where mining operation is proposed. The flora on the mining site is naturally occurring but is very few in number. Most among them are weeds. No ecologically sensitive plant species has been reported from this area. The faunal variety is rather poor.

Flora of the Buffer Zone

Buffer zone of the proposed project is mainly agricultural land. The flora of buffer zone comprises of plants growing on the edges of agricultural land, village woodlots and trees planted along the roads. Many important species such as Sisam (*Dalbergia sissoo*), *Terminalia tomentosa* (*T. elliptica*), and Khair (*Acacia catechu*) with other associated tree species like Dhak, Palash (*Butea monosperma*), *Bombax ceiba*, *Aeglemarmelos*, *Adina cordifolia*, *Syzigium cumini*, etc.

Agricultural Crops

Vegetation pattern in villages and surrounding areas are slightly different and lesser from the rest of the regions of Bageshwar district. The common species grown near villages are mostly edible or useful plants such as *Mangifera indica*, *Albizia lebeck*, *Delonix regia*, *Ficus religiosa*, etc.

Fauna

Fauna Reported in Core zone:

During the faunal survey in the area no wildlife corridor or movement of animals was recorded from proposed project area. As far as the reptile community was concerned, Indian cobra, garden gecko and house lizard are recorded from the study area. No established habitats of any mammals or birds are noticed along the banks. No bird's habitats like nesting, breeding and foraging patterns are noticed in the core zone.

Fauna reported in Buffer zone:

Many domesticated mammal species are reported from buffer zone during the field survey. Common domestic animals like Buffalo, cow, goat etc. can be noticed in open grass fields while grazing. Small mammals like Indian palm squirrel (*Funambulus palmarum*) and field mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) are noticed in vicinity of the village. Inquiry from village people regarding wild animals reveals that monkey (*Macaca mulata*), Indian hare (*Lepus nigricollis*), fruit bat (*Pteropus conspicillatus*), mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsii*), jackal (*Canis aureus*), etc. are often seen in the area. The bird population consists of Common teal (*Anas crecca*), White throated kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*), Pied kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*), Red wattled lapwing, House crow (*Corvus splendens*), House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Common hill Myna (*Gracula religiosa*), Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*), Hoopoe (*Upupa epops ceylonensis*) etc are noticed.

The reptilian's species commonly reported are Garden lizard (*Calotes versicolor*), *Eutropis macularia*, rat snakes (*Ptyas mucosus*), Cobra (*Naja naja*) and Banded krait (*Bungarus multicinctus*) etc.

Impact on Biodiversity

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Present data have been collected through direct inventory as well as various Government Departments such as forests, agriculture, fisheries, animal husbandry and various offices to establish the pre-project biological environmental conditions. There are no endangered species, wildlife sanctuary, wildlife corridors, faunal migratory routes or eco-sensitive area near the whole study area. Save the flora/fauna around the project area, is one of the basic objectives of present project. For this, mine owner agency will plant a good roadside plantation along both side of the mine road.

Plantation shall be carried out side the lease area over van panchayat land & shall be undertaken all along prominent wind direction to arrest the airborne dust particulate matter. The

Tree species to be planted is as below:

Peach (Aadu) - *Prunus persica*, Walnut (Akhrot) - *Juglans spp.*, Apricot (Khumani)- *Prunus armeniaca*, Oak Tree- *Quercus leucotrichophora*, Bayberry (Kaaphal) - *Myrica esculenta* Buch, Amla- *Embllica officinalis*, Lemon (Jamini Nimbu)- *Citrus medica* Linn, etc.

The mining shall be carried out from lower levels to upper levels through the Formation of benches. During plan period as the mining pit shall reach its maximum economical depth backfilling shall be commenced to restore maximum original topography of one area. The Backfilled shall again utilize for agriculture purpose.

Impacts on aquatic ecology

Mining activities may result in affecting the riverine ecology by polluting the river water. But in this case, Rivers lies almost 0.7 km or more away from mine site and also nothing is being discharged into the River. Thus, it is recommended that adequate surveillance measures are implemented during project operation phase to ameliorate such impacts.

Mitigation Measures

There is a requirement to establish a stable ecosystem with both ecological and economic returns. Minimization of soil erosion and dust pollution enhances the aesthetic value of the core and the buffer zone. To achieve this, it is planned to increase the area of green cover of plantation and green belts activities. The basic objectives of plantations are as follows:



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- Improvement of Soil quality,
- Quick vegetative cover to check soil erosion,
- Improvement in mining site stability,
- Conservation of biological diversity of plants, birds and animals,
- As dust receptor and dust filter, this is likely to be produced during mining.
- If birds are noticed crossing the core zone, they will not be disturbed at all;
- Labors will not be allowed to discards food, plastic etc., which can attract animals/birds near the core site;
- Only low polluting vehicles having PUC will be allowed for carrying mining materials.
- Noise level will be maintained within permissible limit (silent zone-50dB (A) during day time or residential zone 55dB (A)) as per noise Pollution (regulation and control), rules, 2000, CPCB norms.

1.6 LAND ENVIRONMENT

The proposed opencast mine will result in change of land use pattern of the mining lease area. The proposed opencast mine will result in change of land use pattern of the mining lease area. The land degradation is expected during mining activities like excavation, overburden dumping, soil extraction etc. Land requirement for the project has been assessed considering functional needs. The potential adverse impact of opencast mining is the change in land use pattern. So reclamation of mined out land will be given due importance as a step for land resource management.

Impact on land use & reclamation of mined out areas

The impact on land form or physiography will be land use on the hilly terrain will undergo radical changes due to the open cast mining. During the first five years mining, 1.235 ha land will be degraded due to mining & allied activities. The breakup of the land to be affected during first five years and end of conceptual period of due to mining operation is given below:

At the beginning of the mining	Area (ha)	During life of mining	Area (ha)	Reclamation at the end of the mining	Area(ha)
Agriculture and other land where	1.6318	Mining	1.6318	Backfilling, stabilization and cultivation	1.6318

mining permitted					
		External dumps (waste)	0	Waste dump area vacated	0
Mining can be done with permission[total]	1.6318	External top soil stack	0	Top soil area vacated	0
		Mule track	0	Mule track backfilling	0
		Sub Total (area used)	1.6318	Sub total	1.6318
		Area not disturbed	0.7812	Area not disturbed	0.7812
ML Area	2.413	Total	2.413	Total :	2.413

At the end of conceptual period, there shall be no mining pits & all the mined-out pit shall be Backfilled/reclaimed to retain its maximum original topography of the area. The mining shall be Carried out from lower levels to upper levels through the formation of benches. During plan period as the mining pit shall reach its maximum economical depth backfilling shall be commenced to restore maximum original topography of one area. The backfilled shall be leveled & put it use for agriculture.

(b) Solid waste generation and management

Solid waste is generated at the project site. Below soil cover boulders of weathered magnesite & Dolomitic occurs having average thickness 2.0 m & same is treated as overburden/waste Material. All quantities of waste material to be generated each year shall be dumped with in lease Area secured with Gravity retaining wall (Gravity retaining wall having width & height 2.0m & 1.0m shall also be erected at the base of backfilled pit at the base & side of dump). All quantities of waste generated during plan period shall be used for backfilling the mined-out pits. The dumps are temporary in nature & all quantities shall be used in premature back filling over mined out pit before commencement of monsoon. After over the monsoon, the waste material shall be rehandled from mining pits & dump on the earmarked dump area. From third year onwards all quantities of waste material shall be used in backfilling.

Waste generation from Working Mules at the Mining lease Area

There are sloppy terrains in hilly regions and so metalled roads cannot be constructed anywhere.

Soapstone is a kind of mineral found in various hilly regions and areas where roads are connected to haul paths which are poorly maintained and also “Kuccha” in nature. To load the mineral in trucks for market, it needed to be transported by mules (khachhars) from the haul paths to the main metalled road.

Mules are needed to be deployed by the proponent for mineral transportation and so waste is being excreted by mules. The waste is being collected simultaneously by the labors on their way back and collected by mule operators in a separate bag tied on the mule, and dumped or collected at a specific location of the mining lease area which is not under operation at that time. Of this large amount of waste, portions of this can be taken away by the local people for vermicomposting or composting or as manure to their fields. Rest of the Waste will be transported at the end of the day to the nearby biogas facility. Biogas plant will be constructed after due discussion and consultation with the Gram Panchayat.

1.7 AIR ENVIRONMENT

Proposed Soapstone mine where emissions of Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x) contributed by vehicles movement were considered marginal as branded make and vehicles with PUC certificate will be operated only. Fugitive dust and particulates are major pollutants which will occur in the mining activities. Fugitive emissions will be settled by 70- 80% by use of multiple water sprinklers. Prediction of impacts on air environment will be made with proposed production at the 10 km radius of study area due to mining activities.

Air pollution sources in the operating mine was classified into two categories

- Impact due to wind erosion & road maintenance
- Loading and unloading of mineral and OB, IB
- Transportation on the haul road

Water tankers with spraying arrangement of sprinklers with high efficiency will be used for regular water sprinkling on the haul roads to ensure effective dust suppression. The trucks and tippers are well maintained so that exhaust smoke does not contribute abnormal values of noxious gases and un-burnt hydrocarbons.

Control of Fugitive Emissions

- Use of Personal Protection Equipments (PPE) like dust masks, ear plugs etc. by the mine workers.
- No Blasting will be done.
- Regular water sprinkling on haul roads & loading points will be carried out.
- Development of green belt/plantation around the lease boundary, roads, dumps etc.
- Ambient Air Quality Monitoring will be conducted on regularly basis to assess the quality of ambient air.

Emissions due to mineral handling during mining operation are not much and restricted to the lease area only. Air pollution is caused mainly due to dust generation added with gaseous emission from transportation activities along with mining operation like evacuation, loading, haulage etc. Proper mitigation measures will be practiced during mining activities to control air pollution load below the prescribed limits. The same are as follows:

Prevention and control of Gaseous Pollution

- In mining activities, the sources of gaseous emissions would be through truck movements
- Proper maintenance of vehicles improves combustion process & makes reduction in the pollution. Good maintenance and monitoring of fuel and oil will not allow significant addition in the gaseous emission.
- All the vehicles used will have PUC certificate.
- Taxi mode of vehicles carrying mined out material while loading and unloading will not be allowed.
- Vehicles carrying mineral will be covered with tarpaulin sheet. This will prevent dust emission.

1.8 WATER ENVIRONMENT

Damage in the water body, depends on its assimilative capacity. To find out assimilative capacity of receiving water body, water samples were collected from different groundwater and surface water sources. The study indicates that assimilative capacity of the River water bodies still exists, but effective measures shall be taken to check water pollution. To find out the effect on ground water an extensive hydro-geological study has been conducted and from the study it can be safely

concluded that there is no noticeable adverse effect on surrounding ground water resource due to mining. The mining activity does not require water. Mining of soapstone does not have any significant impact on the water quality and parameters as the mining does not intercept with the ground water level. In this project, it is not proposed to divert or truncate any stream. No proposal is envisaged for pumping of water from the river. There will not be any adverse impact on surface hydrology and ground water regime due to this project. The water collected in the mine during monsoon season will be extracted with the help of pump & will be drained in nearby water body with the help of tankers approach road and area demarcated by gram panchayat. Thus, the project activities shall not have any adverse effect on the physical components of the environment and therefore may not have any effect on the recharge of ground waters or affect the water quality.

(a) Impact on Water Resources& Surface Water Resources:

The topography of the area will not be largely changed in view of the proposed concurrent reclamation. No surface water body exists and passes through the lease area. During the mining activity period, there is a possibility of mixing of freshly disturbed material with the rain water. To take care of such events, retaining walls have been provided along the backfilled pits and along the soil and inter-burden dumps. Before the commencement of rain all the mining pits shall be backfilled so that rain water does not accumulate in the mining pits. Rain water will be channelized along the slopes it shall not carry suspension to natural streams.

1.9 NOISE ENVIRONMENT

Anticipated impacts and evaluation

Noise generated at the mine is due to semi-mechanized mining operations, mechanized loading and truck transportation activities. The noise generated by the mining activity dissipates within the mine. However, pronounced effect of above noise levels is felt only near the active working area. The impact of noise on the villages is negligible as the villages are far located from the mine workings. Since there is no involvement of machinery, the impact of noise levels will be minimal.

(a) Noise Abatement and Control

In this mine the noise level will be up to tolerable limit (70 dB (A)) and the noise level can be reduced by:

- Proper maintenance, oiling and greasing of transport vehicles at regular intervals will be done to reduce the generation of noise.
- Adequate silencers will be provided in all the diesel engines.
- Plantation along the sides of approach roads, around office building and mine area will be done to minimize the propagation of noise.
- Personal Protective Equipments (PPE) like earmuffs/earplugs will be provided to all operators and employees working near mining machineries or at higher noise zone.
- Periodical noise level monitoring will be done.

The noise level in the working environment are compared with the standards prescribed by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA-USA) which has been adopted and enforced by the Govt. of India through model rules framed under Factories Act, 1980 and CPCB 2000 norms. The off-site receptors are not significantly affected as they are located far away from the mine site. But some disturbances due to vehicle movement cannot be avoided. Plantation will be done along the barrier zone and roadsides etc. which will more or less dampen the off-site noise level.

1.10 TRAFFIC ANALYSIS

From the above analysis it can be seen that the V/C ratio for mines w.r.t MDR Road is likely to change from 0.084 to 0.0914 with LOS being no Change with 'A' as per classification LOS stated above & also for NH 309/A V/C ratio changed from 0.173 to 0.1763 with LOS being same "A" which is 'Excellent' as per classification LOS stated above.

The minerals excavated will be loaded directly into trucks and transported to the concerned market.

1.11 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (EMP)

Table 1.6: Budget allotted for Environmental Management Plan

S. No.	Description	Capital Cost	Recurring Cost (Rs.)
Expenditure on Environment Protection & Environment Management			
1.	Haulage Road Repair & Maintenance Annual 300 m (L) x 5 m (W) = 1500 m ²		1, 00,000
2.	Water Sprinkling on Haulage Path for Dust Suppression	Assuming Rs.800/day for 200 days of working Tanker Capacity: 4000 liter, No. of Tankers required: 1	1,60,000
3.	Plantation & post plantation care (250 Plants per year)		1, 25,000 (Plantation @500/sapling)
4.	Environmental Monitoring (Half Yearly Submission of Compliances)	Half Yearly Monitoring of Environmental Parameters viz. Air, water, Noise & Soil.	1, 00,000
5.	Corporate Social Responsibility	1, 00,000	
6.	Miscellaneous Budget		2, 00,000
	Total	Rs. 1,00,000	Rs. 6,85,000 (6.85 Lakhs)

1.12 BENEFIT OF MINING

➤ PHYSICAL BENIFITS

The impact on the civic amenities will be substantial after the commencement of mining activities. The basic requirement of the community needs will be strengthened by extending health care, educational facilities developed in the township to the community, providing drinking water to the villages, building/strengthening of existing roads in the area. The proponent will initiate the above amenities either by providing or by improving the facilities in the area, which will help in uplifting the living standards of local communities. Medical facilities will be provided in the form of first-aid facility at the mine. These medical facilities will also be available to local people in the surrounding in case of emergencies.

➤ **SOCIAL BENEFITS**

- Generation of employment and improved standard of living;
- Increased revenue to the State by way of royalty, taxes and duties; and
- Superior communication and transport facilities etc.
- There will be significant change in the socio-economic scenario of the area.
- The proposed project will enhance the prospects of employment. Recruitment for the unskilled and semiskilled workers for the proposed project will be from the nearby villages.
- The development of the basic amenities viz. roads, transportation, electricity, drinking water, proper sanitation, educational institutions, medical facilities, entertainment, etc. will be developed as far as possible.
- Overall, the proposed project will change living standards of the people and improve the socio-economic conditions of the area.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

➤ **Enhancement Of Green Cover**

Plantation/afforestation will be done as per program 1250 plants will be planted over van panchayat land and Benap land or the area demarcated by Gram Panchayat/Local Administrative body with consultation & permission of forest department or concerned authority along with provision for maintenance for 5 years. Post plantation, the area will be regularly monitored in every season for evaluation of success rate. For selection of plant species local people will also be involved. The management will provide free saplings of fruit and other trees, etc. to local during rain for plantation. This will increase the consciousness in workers and near-by villagers for greenery. Fruit trees can contribute towards their financial gains.

1.13 CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Table 1.7 Budget allotted for Corporate Environmental Responsibility per annum

S no.	Activity	Quantification	Capital cost
1	Installation of Computer in Primary School	1	1, 00, 000
Total			1, 00,000

1.14 CONCLUSIONS

- The mining operations will meet the compliance requirements of MoEF & CC;
- Community impacts will be beneficial, as the project will generate significant economic benefits for the region;
- Adoption of Best Available Technology and Best Management Practices with more environmental friendly process
- With the effective implementation of the Environment Management Plan (EMP) during the mining activities, the proposed project can proceed without any significant negative impact on environment.