



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Water Resources Department – Guidelines and NOC Criteria for Quarry Operations near Irrigation Works – Orders issued.

WATER RESOURCES (MP) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(MS)No.6/2025/WRD

Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 20-01-2025

Read:- Letter No. CEIA/6051/2024-PL2(PLG) dated 05.12.2024 of the Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Administration,Thiruvananthapuram.

ORDER

Quarrying and mining operations near irrigation structures pose potential risks and problems, especially regarding the health and functionality of these critical systems. These challenges can negatively affect the structural safety of the structures. Therefore, it is imperative to put in place transparent laid down policy and procedure for grant of NOC for quarrying and mining operations in the vicinity of 'Irrigation Works'. This is mandatory for safeguarding the structures and Ease of Doing Responsible Business. The Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Administration has furnished a comprehensive proposal as per letter read above for consideration.

Government after having examined this matter in detail are pleased to issue following Guidelines and Procedure for granting NOC for mining operations in the vicinity of Irrigation Works.

A) Following Buffer zones or the safe minimum distance is stipulated for sanctioning NOC for maintaining the safety and integrity of Irrigation Work.

Sl No	Irrigation work	Buffer Zone (in which no quarrying /mining operations shall be allowed)
1	All specified dams defined under Dam Safety Act, 2021. All barrages, other small dams,regulators, tunnels and aqueducts of vital importance as decided by Irrigation Officers	Area falling within a radius of 1000 m
2	Weirs/Check Dams	Area falling within a radius of 300 m

3	Small irrigation works such as a tank, over head or Grounded, of any structure or material composition intended or used for the supply, collection, storage or retention of water for agricultural purposes, drinking water purpose or both having storage capacity of more than 20,000 liters of water.	Area falling within a radius of 200 mtr
4	Rivers, Streams, Lakes	Area falling within a radius of 200 m
5	Canals-minor and medium distributaries and Cisterns	Area falling within a radius of 250m
6	Canals, minor distributaries, Ponds, Tanks	Area falling within a radius of 125m
7	Reservoir rims formed through a dam/barrage/Regulator if the water spread area is nearer to the proposed quarry than the structure itself	Area falling within a radius of 125m

B) Small tanks of any structure or material composition having storage capacity of less than 20000L (Twenty thousand liters) of water used for any purpose shall not be considered at par with the structures included in irrigation works. However, a minimum distance of 30 meters shall be the buffer zone or non-mining zone.

C) The District Collector along with Irrigation Officer of Department shall notify the boundary of an irrigation work as per section 40(1) of the Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation Act, 2003. Till District Collectors notify the boundaries, NOC issuing officer shall measure the distance from the outer edge of such structure or works and issue NOCs.

D) The Executive Engineers of Irrigation Department-Major Irrigation or Minor Irrigation for respective projects under which jurisdiction of the Irrigation works fall, and Executive Engineer/District level Officer of the agency/local body/municipality under whose jurisdiction the Irrigation work falls shall be the competent authority to issue NOC.

E) The application for NOC from the Irrigation Department shall be submitted to the 'Irrigation officer' / Concerned Officer under whose jurisdiction the proposed quarry falls.

F)The application shall include:

- i. Project area survey & layout maps and Irrigation structure proximity details.
- ii. EC from SEIAA /MoEF & CC, if the same is already received by the project proponent.
- iii. Copy of EIA & EMP if EC is not received.
- iv. Application in prescribed form with an application fee of Rs.

5000/-.

- v. Possession certificate and land tax receipt.
 - vi. Approved mining plan.
 - vii. Copy of the deed and lease agreement, if any.
- G) The Irrigation officer /competent officer should take suitable decision and convey the same to the applicant within three weeks from date of the receipt of the fully complete application for NOC
- H) The appeal against the order of Irrigation officer /competent officer shall lie in the Chief Engineer and the revision shall lie in the Government.
- I) Quarry operations will be subject to inspection by the Irrigation Officer to ensure compliance with approved plans and guidelines.
- J) The validity of NOC shall be for the same period as in mining license.
- K) The approved technology including for controlled blasting in mining license and Pollution Control Board (PCB)/Environmental approval will be applicable.
- L) Quarry operations must adhere to the distance limits specified in the NOC application, affidavit and survey sketch. Violation of these limits will lead to the cancellation of the NOC without prior notice or explanation.
- M) Use of irrigation canal bund road, if any, for quarrying operation does not come under this NOC.
- N) The NOC is valid only for irrigation structures of Irrigation Department based on the Irrigation and Water Conservation Act, 2003.
- O) The applicant must comply with all laws and Government Orders, Circulars issued by Water Resources Department, Irrigation Department and other concerned Departments.
- P) No waste materials from the quarry shall be deposited in natural water bodies, canals, irrigation department properties or surrounding areas.
- Q) Matter of general pollution due to the quarrying operations does not come under the purview of the NOC.
- R) Quarry operations shall not result in alteration/ vanishing of any water body /stream/riverlets of any order in any form.
- S) The NOC will not hold any restriction/hindrance to the activities of the Irrigation Department.
- T) The mine licensee for quarrying operations in the permitted zone of small tanks shall deposit a bank guarantee of Rs. 10 lakh with Irrigation/competent officer as risk and cost for damage to the tank, if any, during the validity period of NOC.
- U) The proponent shall execute an agreement incorporating the conditions stated above with the irrigation officer of the district in ₹200/- stamp paper for NOC.
- V) The incorrect or incomplete information submitted by the proponent of quarry will lead to cancellation of NOC.

W) The failure to comply these instructions will result in cancellation of
NOC without any prior notice and explanation.

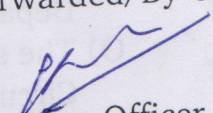
(By order of the Governor)

BISHWANATH SINHA
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY

To

All District Collectors.
The Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Administration, Thiruvananthapuram
The Chief Engineer, Projects - I, Kozhikode
The Chief Engineer, Projects - II, Thiruvananthapuram
The Chief Engineer, (IDRB), Thiruvananthapuram
The Chief Engineer, (Mechanical), Thiruvananthapuram
The Chief Engineer, Kuttanad package and Inland Navigation,
Alappuzha
Finance Department
Industries Department
Revenue Department
Environment Department
Local Self Government Department
Information & Public Relations Department (Web & New Media)

Forwarded/By Order


Section Officer

Copy to

Private Secretary to Minister, Water Resources Department.
PA to Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department.
All Officers in Water Resources Department.
All Sections in Water Resources Department (Concerned sections
shall take necessary action on subjects pertaining to them)