

Minutes of the Public Hearing in respect of M/s. Athani Sugars Ltd., (Unit-3), At-Shewalewadi, Tal-Karad, Dist- Satara for their Sugar Plant expansion from 2500 TCD to 8000 TCD sugarcane & proposed 90 KLPD Molasses based distillery and 35 MW Co-Gen Power Plant

A Public Hearing of M/s. Athani Sugars Ltd., (Unit- 3), At-Shewalewadi, Tal-Karad, Dist- Satara, for expansion of sugar unit from 2500 TCD sugar to 8000 TCD capacity, proposed 35 MW Co-generation unit & 90 KLPD molasses base distillery was conducted on 9th May, 2017 at 11.30 am in the premises of the existing unit.

Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has constitute following committee vide Office order No.E-35 of 2017 Dt.08/05/2017 for conducting Environmental Public Hearing.

Following are the panel members:-

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| 1) Shri. Bharat Waghmare,
Addl. District Magistrate, Satara,
(Representative of District Magistrate-Satara) | } Chairman |
| 2) Shri. Jagannath. S. Salunkhe
Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune
(Representative of MPCB) | } Member |
| 3) Shri. Babasaheb M. Kukade
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Satara | } Convener |

Shri.Bharat Waghmare, Chairman & Addl. District Magistrate, Satara, Shri. Jagannath H. Salunkhe, Member, Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune (Representative of MPCB) & Shri. B. M. Kukade, Convener & Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Satara were present for the Public Hearing.

Shri. B.M.Kukade, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee welcome Chairman of the committee, project officials and surrounding local villagers.

Shri. B.M.Kukade, Member Convener informed that as per the Notification of Govt. of India dated 14 Sep. 2006, prior Public Hearing has become mandatory for the listed projects whom requires "Environmental Clearance" from Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India, New Delhi, so that general public who is going to be affected have been given an opportunity to put their objections if any from the pollution control and environmental safety point to Government for its consideration while granting permission/Environmental Clearance.

As per the Notification of Govt. of India dated 14 Sep. 2006, this project is categories under category (A) and this has to appraise at the Ministry of Environment and Forest, New Delhi.

Shri. B. M. Kukade, Convener informed that as per the Notification of the Public Hearing advertise regarding Public Hearing was published before one-month in advance in the local Marathi Newspaper Sakal on 08/04/2017 & in English newspaper, The Times of India on 08/04/2017. The public in general were appealed to send their objections if any for the said proposed project. So also the public notice, EIA Report and executive summary in English & Marathi of the said project was also made available at Collector Satara Office, Office of the District Industries Center, Satara, Sub Regional Office, M.P.C

Board, Administrative Building 2nd floor, Behind ST stand, Satara, Grampanchayat Office At-Shewalewadi, Tal-Karad, Dist- Satara, Head Office, MPCB, Mumbai, Regional Office, MPCB, Pune.

Shri. B. M. Kukade, Convener appealed company officials to explain production activities and brief regarding proposed pollution control devices in local language i.e. in Marathi, so that general public who are attending the hearing should know about the efforts, the company is going to take for pollution control and betterment of environment.

Shri. Bharat Waghmare, Chairman of Public Hearing Committee has also welcome all and informed officials of the Project Proponent to explain the details about pollution control devices and Environment Management plan of the project. He further appealed general public to give objection / suggestion if any, about the project after technical presentation of the unit.

The Environment Consultant of the industry has given PowerPoint presentation on proposed project. She informed that, factory is already obtained consent to operate for existing Sugar crushing capacity of 2500 TCD. Now, factory is going for expansion of existing sugar plant from 2500 TCD to 8000 TCD, proposed 35 MW Co-generation unit & 90 KLPD Molasses based distillery. As per the Notification of Govt. of India dated 14 Sep. 2006, this project is categories under category (A) and this has to appraise by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, New Delhi. Also, she informed that, the factory has submitted an application for Environmental Clearance to Ministry of Environment and Forest for terms of reference approval for Sugar, Distillery and Co-gen project. Ministry of Environment and Forest has approved TOR vide letter dtd.21/06/2016.

Further, she has informed that, following control measure will be adopted to control the pollution.

- ESP will be installed for bagasse-fired boiler as an air pollution control system.
- Stack monitoring will be carried out on regularly basis.
- Noise monitoring will be carried out frequently.
- Full-fledged Effluent Treatment Plant will be provided in the form of Primary, Secondary & Tertiary for the treatment of effluent generated from the propose expansion. Treated effluent will be disposed on land for gardening & irrigation purpose.
- For the treatment of spent wash generated from the molasses base distillery unit Multiple Effect Evaporator followed by incineration boiler (spent wash fire boiler) will be installed, so that, Zero Liquid Discharge scheme will be implemented.
- All the measure will be taken to minimize the pollution load by the factory.
- CSR activities will be carried out to community development, schools, vocational training etc.

Further, Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee has requested to raise any questions regarding Environmental issues for the proposed project & also directed to Project Proponent to clarify their questions.

Question raised by public & clarification submitted by the industry representative during course of Public Hearing are as under-

1. Shri Tukaram Krishna Patil, resident of Nandgaon, Tal-Karad, Dist- Satara asked about the time schedule for the electricity generation from the new co-generation plant. He also asked about the proposed quantity of electricity generation.
- Shri. Waghmare, Chairman of the committee informed that, the Government has prepared certain parameters after hearing the public views for the project in public hearing. This is proposed project and what time it will start is not under the purview of this Committee.

2. Shri Nanasaheb Patil, resident of Patilwadi, Tal-Karad, Dist- Satara has raised objection that, the project proponents mentions in the report that they have 196 acres of land. But it is not true. They have only 74 acres of land and for remaining 122 acres of land, the litigation is pending in the High Court. The information given by project proponent is misleading.
 - Chairman of the Committee informed that the Committee is aware about the matter which is subjudice and the Judgment being passed by the Hon'ble High Court is binding on everybody.
3. Shri Rajaram Shewale, resident of Shewalewadi opined that, project is definitely beneficial for the development of the area, but the project proponent planned to increase sugarcane crushing from 2,500 TCD to 8,000 TCD, for which there is need of extra water. The water supply for the area and nearby villages of the project is from Yewti dam, which is planned and built for domestic & drinking purpose only. While constructing the dam, the usage of industrial purpose is not taken into account. The dam is built up only for the purpose of drinking water and irrigation. The adjacent villages are suffering water scarcity and the people are not getting drinking water regularly. Hence project proponent should plan for water management and information about the quantity of lifting of water from Yewti dam should be given. The local people also desires the information regarding the land availability to the project proponent for the project.
 - Chairman & Managing Director of the factory informed that, modern production equipment's will be installed in the project, hence 80% water during the process will be recycled. The effluent will also recycled. It is planned that the project should be "zero discharge" project. If required, the factory will directly lift the water from Krishna River, but the common farmer and people from the area will not affect any hardship.
4. Shri.Bhaskar Shewale from Shewalewadi, Tal-Karad, Dist-Satara has told in the meeting that local people openly discusses that the requirement of water of this area is cut by the Govt. officials and it has been diverted for the industry. This is injustice and hence, there is non-availability of water for agriculture cultivation.
 - Chairman of the Committee informed that it is promised by the project proponent that if required, the project proponent will lift the water directly from the Krishna river after following due procedure.
5. Shri.Ravindra Madhavrao More, resident of Yewti, Tal-Karad, Dist- Satara has informed that, even sufficient drinking water is not made available to the resident of the area.
 - Chairman & Managing Director appealed to all to give any scheme for availability of water full year and for irrigating the land. It is promised to implement the same committedly.
6. Advocate S. B. Patil, who was representing Grampanchayat, Shewalewadi, Tal-Karad, Dist-Satara informed that, the Grampanchayat Shewalewadi opposed the project as the land acquisition matter is sub-judice, there are various complaints

from local people against this project, local people complains that their drinking water sources such as, bore wells are affected due to the untreated effluent discharge from the existing project. The domestic animals such as cows, buffaloes are not drinking the water of stream, wells. It is also blamed by the local people that project proponent do discharge the industrial effluent anywhere in the nalla (canal) especially in the night.

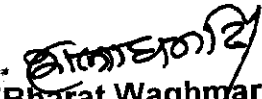
- Chairman of the public hearing committee informed that, the complaints in past were due to negligent attitude of previous management for existing sugar factory. Now the present management given promise to install modern anti-pollution control system for expansion as well as for new distillery and co-generation plant. Also, the project proponent given promise that, this propose project is based on zero liquid discharge.
7. Advocate Patil representing Grampanchayat informed that, as the issue of acquisition of land is sub judice matter, the Grampanchayat has passed a resolution for not allowing the project.
- Chairman of the Committee further said that, this Committee has taken the cognizance of this issue and informed that though this meeting is for Environmental issues, as a "Authority under Land Acquisition Act," he will definitely try to solve the issue.
8. Shri Hemantkumar Patil, resident of Patilwadi, Tal-Karad, Dist- Satara blamed that, the project proponent used the provisions of Notification, 2006 for the benefit of the projects and not for environment. The project is covered by three sides of the hill. The project proponent mentions in the report, present status of environment of 10 k.m. radius as per the Notification. The results of analysis for water, air will be normal only in the 10 k.m. radius which are enclosed on page no. 53. The project proponent should have collected the water samples in the periphery of the project. The residents of Shewalewadi and Patilwadi will suffer due to this project.
- Technical consultant informed that the samples were taken within the area of 10 k.m. radius only. Also the sample of Shewalewadi where the project is running was also taken. The reports are enclosed in EIA draft.
9. Shri Lala Patil, resident of the Patilwadi, Tal-Karad blamed that, the previous management of the project grabbed the land of poor farmers by power and money.
10. Advocate S. B. Patil informed that in the report, it is mentioned that forest is 10 k.m. away from the project. But it is observed that the forest is nearby the project.
- Project Proponent has inform that, there are patches of forest, but there is no "Notified Forest Area" in the radius of 10 k.m. of the project.
11. Shri Hemantkumar Patil, resident of Patilwadi informed that, project proponent mention in the report about the use of bagasse as a fuel. But it is observed that coal will be also used as a fuel. The local people are not against the project, but they have reserved opinion for the three project and the water requirement for the project.

- The Project officials informed that, 15% use of coal is allow as per the CPCB Guidelines. Generated ash will be sale to local brick manufacturers. Also promised that, if requires water will be directly lifted from Krishna River. The water availability of Yewati dam will not be disturbed.
12. The local people also blamed that the land available with the project proponent is in the patches, hence project proponent will use bad tactics to grab the land.
- Chairman of the Committee informed that the said point is already noted by the Committee.
13. Shri. P. B. Shinde, resident of Ond village, Tal-Karad, Dist-Satara asked whether the pollution would occur due to co-gen project.
- Company officials informed that, to control the Air pollution ESP is propose to install & water will be recycle in the project. Generated ash will be disposed off as per the guidelines of Central Government.
14. Shri. Arun Rajaram Thorat, resident of Ond, Tal-Karad asked about the manpower requirement for the proposed project and whether local people will be given job opportunity.
- Company officials informed that, we are aware that without co-operation of the local people, the project will not be a success. There will be requirement of nearly 150 personnel's in various categories.
15. Shri. Hindurao Nana Patil, resident of the Nandgaon asked whether local people will suffer due to sugar and distillery project.
- Company officials informed that, 80% wastewater generated from the sugar factory will be used in process. Distillery wastewater i.e. spent wash will be concentrated & feed into incineration boiler, hence, there will be no water pollution problem due to operation of distillery & sugar.
16. Shri. Hemant Patil, resident of Patilwadi and others informed that though company promises to implement social development programmes, project proponent has not paid the local Grampanchayat taxes.
- Company officials informed that, they were ready to pay, but as some issues of previous management are not resolved, the Grampanchayat officials have not allowed paying the local taxes. Shri Waghmare, Chairman of the Committee opined that as per the Rule, the liability is to be bear by new management also, hence the Grampanchayat taxes should be paid accordingly.
17. Shri. Sarjerao Vithal Thorat, resident of Ond, Tal-Karad asked the period of completion of project.
- Chairman of the committee informed that, this committee will send proceeding of Public Hearing to MoEF Department & after considering the local people views/objections Environment Clearance will be issued to the propose project & after that, construction of the project will be start.

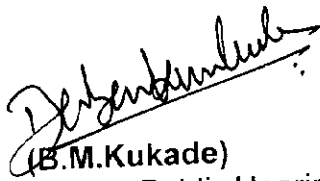
18. Shri. Bharat Pandurang Thorat, resident of Ond asked about the pending land acquisition issues.
- Chairman of the committee informed that, this issue is already discussed.
19. Shri. Bharat Thorat, further appealed company officials to provide saplings free of cost for green development in the area.
- The committee members appreciated the suggestion and directed company officials have to make the plan accordingly. Shri Waghmare, Chairman of the Committee explained that, the project proponent will be asked to develop Nursery in the area.
20. Shri. Dilip Pawar, resident of Nandgaon remarked that for expansion of production, additional quantity of sugarcane will require, for which there should be availability of plenty of water.
21. Shri. Dhanaji Shamrao Patil, resident of Salshirambe village, Tal-Karad requested to give priority to lift the local sugarcane.
- Company officials appealed that local people may form a co-operative society and cultivate the sugarcane on barren land, the project proponent will help for the same with getting the sanction of water scheme for cultivation.
22. Some of the residents informed in the meeting that, the road goes just adjacent to the boundary of school on which the vehicles and tractors do carry sugarcane. The mishap may happen as the road is just adjacent to school and school has no boundary wall.
- Shri Waghmare, Chairman of the Committee and other members asked project proponent to carry the work of construction of boundary wall under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund. The process for construction be started before ensuing education year i.e. June, 2017 and the construction should be completed as early as possible. Company officials promised for the same.
23. The writing submission of 7 no's of Sarpanch from nearby Grampanchayat's are received to the Committee in the meeting for the support of the project and to start early operations of the project for the socio-economic development of the area, which are enclosed herewith.
- Chairman of the Committee while concluding the meeting informed that, as per the presentation, the company is committed for eco-friendly environment and promises to implement the pollution control measures wholeheartedly. He thanked local people who came with detailed study and raised objections and gave suggestions.
 - Chairman of the committee informed that the suggestions, comments made in this hearing will be incorporated in the proceedings and the report will be submitted to the Expert Committee of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF & CC) for further consideration.

Chairman of the Committee thanks all government officials, company officials and general public who attended the public hearing/meeting and informed that the said public hearing is concluded.

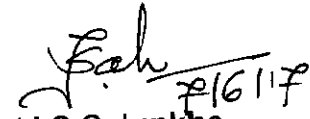
The Public Hearing was concluded with vote of thanks to the Chair.


(Bharat Waghmare)

Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee
& Addl. District Magistrate, Satara,
Dist -Satara


(B.M.Kukade)

Convener of the Public Hearing Committee
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB


(J.S.Salunkhe)

Member of the Public Hearing Committee
Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune