

## MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING

### MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE PROPOSED NAGPUR - MUMBAI ACCESS CONTROLLED EXPRESSWAY (MAHARASHTRA SAMRUDDHI HIGHWAY) PROPOSED BY M/S MAHARASHTRA STATE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD., FROM MOUJE PATHARE, TALUKA-SINNAR, DIST-NASHIK UPTO MOUJE TARANGAN PADA, TALUKA - IGATPURI, DIST-NASHIK - 91.1 KILOMETER (PACKAGE - IV).

The public hearing for proposed Nagpur - Mumbai Access Controlled Expressway (Maharashtra Samaruddhi Highway) proposed by M/s Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Ltd., from Mouje Pathare, Taluka - Sinnar, Dist-Nashik upto Mouje Tarangan Pada, Taluka - Igatpuri, Dist - Nashik - 91.1 Kilometer (Package-IV) was conducted on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 11.00 hrs at Laxman Lawns, Bhagwati Mangal Karyalaya, Near Devi Mandir, ITI Road, Sinnar, Dist-Nashik.

Following were the panel members for conducting public hearing as per Maharashtra Pollution Control Board's Office Order E - 04 of 2018 under letter no.BO/JD(WPC)/PH/B-247, dated 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 :

- 1) Shri Radhakrishnan B. , : **Chairman,**  
District Magistrate,  
Nashik
- 2) Shri R. U. Patil, : **Member**  
I/c Regional Officer, MPCB, Nashik  
(Representative of the MPCB, Mumbai)
- 3) Shri A.J. Kude : **Convener**  
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB  
Nashik

Shri A. J. Kude, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee welcomed Hon'ble Chairman and Member of Public Hearing Panel, company representatives and general public who were present in large number and informed that, as per Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest, Climate Change, Govt. of India (MoEFCC, GoI) dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006, as amended on 1st December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public hearing to certain projects which are covered in the Schedule of the said Notification. The Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Nashik was in receipt of application of M/s Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Ltd.,(MSRDC) for conducting public hearing for proposed project of Nagpur - Mumbai Access Controlled Expressway (Maharashtra Samaruddhi Highway) from Mouje Pathare, Taluka - Sinnar, Dist-Nashik up to Mouje Tarangan Pada, Taluka - Igatpuri, Dist - Nashik - 91.1 Kilometer (Package-IV) for Nasnik District.

The Convener of the Committee further informed that, as per said Notification, the project falls under Category '7 (f).' hence the public hearing is conducted, local people The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of Ministry of Environment, Forest, Climate Change, Govt. of India (MoEFCC, Gol) has granted the proposal for Terms of Reference (ToR) for conducting EIA studies in its 159<sup>th</sup> meeting. Accordingly, MSRDC, the project proponent prepared draft EIA Report. As per EIA Notification, one month advance public notice was published in the local newspaper on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 in Daily Lokmat for Marathi and in National newspaper in Daily Times of India for English. Also the copies of EIA report and Executive summary in English and Marathi were made available at Divisional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest, Climate Change, Govt. of India, Nagpur; Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai; on the website of MPCB and at offices of District Magistrate - Nashik; Additional District Magistrate -Nashik; Sub Divisional Office, Tal- Sinnar, Dist-Nashik; Zilla Parishad -Nashik; District Industries Centre - Nashik; Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Sinnar, Taluka- Sinnar, Dist-Nashik; Tahsilkar-Sinnar; Dist-Nashik and at Grampanchayat offices Pathare Khurd; Waregaon; Sayale; Maldhon; Dusanwadi; Vavi; Phulenagar; Marhal Khurd; Marhal Budruk; Khambale; Datli; Gonde; Dhondavi Nagar; Patole; Jaiprakash Nagar; Sonari; Sonambe; Konambe; Shivade; Ghorwad; Savatamali Nagar; Pandhurli; Aagas Khind; Belu; Taluka- Sinnar, Dist-Nashik. The public in general were appealed to send any suggestions/comments regarding the above project. The Convener further informed that 25 objections in writing were received by the Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Nashik.

Convener further informed that all the objections will be sent to MSRDC, being project proponent for information & necessary action in the matter. The letters of objection/suggestion will be sent along with the minutes of public hearing to MoEFCC, Gol for their consideration. He appealed Chairman of the Committee to allow to start the proceedings of public hearing.

Shri Radhakrishna B., District Magistrate and Chairman of Committee welcomed all and informed officials of the project proponent to explain the details about proposed project and its Environment Management Plan in local language Marathi. He further appealed general public to give suggestions/comments/opinion if any, about the project after technical presentation of the project.

The officials of Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation gave the presentation of the construction of proposed project and Environment Management Plan in detail. Shri Toke, Environment Advisor of the project proponent informed that Govt. of Maharashtra has planned Nagpur-Mumbai Expressway (NMEW) for diversion and redistribution of heavy traffic on existing corridors and for the sustainable socio-economic development of the area. The proposed NMEW is being implemented by Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Ltd., which will pass through ten districts from Vidharbha through Marathwada to Konkan region. During presentation, MSRDC officials informed that all modern amenities with safety devices will be provided on the NMEW.

The project proponent informed that they propose to convert the stone abandoned stone quarries into water reservoirs with the help of District Administration. He also pointed out that to meet the demand of water storage and supply, the MSRDC is in process of requesting District Administration for handing over abandoned quarries to MSRDC to convert abandoned quarries into water reservoir which will cater the need of water requirement for the construction of proposed Nagpur Mumbai Express Highway.

The Project Proponent further informed they are also in process of calling the tender for development of green belt and re-planting of trees which have to cut for development of the project. He gave detailed technical and Environment Management Plan.

After completion of presentation and detailed information, Chairman of the Committee appealed general public to ask any questions or give suggestions if any regarding the project.

Following were participant in the meeting:-

- 1) **Shri. Vishnu Nivrutti Harak**, resident of Shivade village, Tal-Sinnar, Dist-Nashik opined that this public hearing could have been conducted when the project was in planning stage. Now the Government has planned and the process of land acquisition is already started. He further objected that the poor farmers have to suffer for this road. The promises made by the project proponent in the presentation will not be fulfilled totally. He informed that few years back, the small roads were developed in the Shivade village and there were banayan and Pimpal trees. Thick green coverage was destroyed and promises of re-plantation were made. Nothing is done. The same attitude will be experienced from the Government agencies.

He asked clarification regarding the height of the road and objected that for developing this road, the stones and soil will be removed from other side. Definitely, the project proponent will destroy the small hills of this and other areas. Thus the project proponent will degrade the environment.

Shri Harap further blamed that fertile land is acquired for the project and no scientific study / survey is done by the project proponent for surface and ground water of this area. The construction of the road will stop natural water courses/flow of surface and ground water; hence the ecological imbalance will occur. While carrying the survey for construction of road, they have not considered the surface and underground water. The local farmers are not considered for the development and after destroying the greenery and lovely banayan, pimpal trees, now project proponent informed that the tender for developing green belt will be called.

- 2) **Shri. Raosaheb Harak**, resident of Shivade village, Tal-Sinnar, Dist-Nashik informed that he is local farmer and most of local agriculturists do cultivate the crops on natural course of water which is available in plenty. The Nature

has gifted the same to this area. Shri Harak further expressed that there is fear in the local people that after completion of the project, there will be increase in the air pollution, which will affect the crop production in the vicinity. He further blamed that the local people think that this public hearing is just a farce to mislead the local people and after completion of the road, promises will not be fulfilled. Hence though this public hearing meeting was declared on 6<sup>th</sup> of January, 2018 as per the public notice, it is postponed and conducted today.

- 3) **Shri. Somnath Wagh**, resident of Shivade village asked Public Hearing Committee that whether this public hearing meeting is just a process. The local people think that the steps for prevention of pollution shown in the presentation will remain on paper only. Though the project proponent promises to spray water for prevention of dust pollution, the source of water and quantity is not informed.

He further informed that their village Shivade has natural gift of plenty of water and there are 72 wells constructed by their ancestor, which have plenty of water. Now 55 hector of land will be acquired for this project and natural course of stream will be destroyed. No steps for preservation of this natural water course is mentioned.

- 4) **Shri. Dyaneshwar Kalunge**, resident of Sonari village informed that as per the road development project, the project proponent has planned to acquire only wells of certain farmers. He opined that the agriculture fields without well will be of no use, hence the project plan should be modified.
- 5) **Shri. Vithal Gunjal**, resident of Pathare village informed that most of the local people from Pathare village are cultivating the agriculture fields since generation. Now some of the fields will be divided into parts as the roads will pass through their fields. He appealed that wells, natural ponds and streams should be preserved.
- 6) **Shri. Nitin Vishnu Kalunge**, resident of Sonari village informed that his family cultivates the grape. But it will be affected due to dust pollution which will occur in construction of road and after the completion due to heavy vehicular traffic.
- 7) **Shri. Dnyaneshwar Elag Pathurkar**, resident of Sonambe village informed that he has given land for the development and now some local people have raised the objections. He appealed project proponents to take effective steps for positive approach of local farmers for the development of project. He further informed that his family has 20 cows and became self-sufficient due to hard work carried for cultivation of their fields. But now the right side of the field is acquired.

- 8) **Shri. Somnath Wagh** , resident of Shivade informed that they are cultivating the grape crop in their agriculture fields from generation after generation and exports the same especially to European countries. Now the dust pollution will occur during the construction of road and due to heavy vehicular traffic after the completion of project. The nearby crops will be affected due to dust pollution and there will be loss of foreign exchange. He further informed that most of the agriculture fields of Shivade village will be divided in the parts as the express highway goes inbetween the fields. The local people are in fear that adjoining fields of express way will become barren due to dust pollution. He appealed to take preventive steps to avoid dust pollution.
- 9) **Shri. Raosaheb Harak** , local resident objected that the thick dense trees which might have there since years will be cut and natural greenery will be destroyed for construction of project. The 55 hector of land will be acquired of Shivade village for the project. Nearly 30-40 families are doing the business of transportation. Their livelihood will be affected. He further informed that the local people of Shivade village are carrying the agriculture activities for whole year i.e. 12 months and Scheduled Tribe (ST)/ Adivasi communities residing near the village do assist the local farmers. The livelihood of Adivasis community will also hampered as the agriculture fields will be divided in parts due to this project.
- 10) **Mrs. Bebitai Dnyaneshwar Khetale**, resident of Patole village and former Sarpanch opined that whatever trees will have to cut, it should compensated and tender of green development/re-planting of trees should first be sanctioned simultaneously with this project only. She also appealed for adopting different schemes for preservation of natural course of water.

Shri. Radhakrishnan B., District Magistrate and Chairman of Public Hearing Committee while concluding the meeting reviewed suggestions and objections raised during the meeting. He informed that as there was technical problem, the meeting is postponed from 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 and after due prior intimation in press and in other offices, the said public hearing is conducted today.

He informed that all the objections raised during the meeting as well as objections received in writing will be sent along with report of the public hearing to the Expert Committee of MoEFCC for their consideration.

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

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.



(Radhakrishnan B.)  
Chairman  
Public Hearing Committee  
and  
District Magistrate, Nashik



(R. U. Patil)  
Member and  
I/c Regional Officer,  
MPCB, Nashik



(A. J. Kude)  
Convener and  
Sub Regional Officer,  
MPCB, Nashik