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 TARANGAN PADA, TALUKA-IGATPURI, DIST-NASHIK UPTO, MOUJE BORLI, TALUKA - IGATPURI, DIST-NASHIK, 9.0 KILOMETER (PACKAGE - V).

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 Tarangan Pada, Taluka - Igatpuri, Dist-Nashik upto Mouje Borli, Taluka - Igatpuri, Dist - Nashik, 09.0 Kilometer (Package-V) was conducted on 24th January, 2018 at 15.00 hrs. at R. G. Chandak Maheshawari Mangal Karyalaya, Igatpuri, Tal-Igatpuri, Dist-Nashik.

Following were the panel members for conducting public hearing as per Maharashtra Pollution Control Board's Office Order E - 02 of 2018 under letter no BO / JD (WPC) / PH / B-245, dated 19th January, 2018 :

 Shri Radhakrishnan B., District Magistrate, Nashik Chairman,

2) Shri R. U. Patil.
1/c Regional Officer, MPCB, Nashik
(Representative of the MPCB, Mumbai)

Member

Shri A. J. Kude
 Sub Regional Officer, MPCB
 Nashik

Convener

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, Gol) dated 14th 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 Tarangan Pada, Taluka – Igatpuri, Dist-Nashik up to Mouje Borli, Dist – Nashik, 9.0 Kilometer (Package-V) for Nashik District.

The Convener of the Committee further informed that, as per said Notification, the project falls under Category '7 (f), hence, the said public hearing is conducted. 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 159th 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 5th, 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- Igatpuri, Dist-Zilla Parishad - Nashik; District Industries Centre - Nashik; Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Igatpuri, Taluka- Igatpuri, Dist-Nashik; Tahsildar- Igatpuri; Dist-Nashik and at Grampanchayat offices of Tarangapada, Pimpri Sidroddin, Nandgaon Sado, Phangun Gavan, Vaghyachi Wadi, Taluka-Igatpuri, Dist-Nashik. (Total 05). The public in general were appealed to send any suggestions/comments regarding the above project. The Convener further informed that 02 (Two) 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 and 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 R. U. Patil, Member of the Public Hearing Committee and I/c Regional Officer, MPCB, Nasik informed in the meeting that the role Maharashtra Pollution Control Board is to convene the meeting and submit the suggestions, objections of general public on the issues related to environment to the Expert Committee of Govt. of India.

Shri Radhakrishna B., District Magistrate and Chairman of Committee welcomed all present 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.

Shri Toke, Environment Advisor of Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation gave the presentation of the construction of proposed project and Environment Management Plan in detail. He 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 The proposed NMEW is being implemented by development of the area. 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 proposes 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 MSRCDC 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 that, 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 question or give suggestion if any regarding the project.

Following were participant in the meeting:

1) Shri Bhaskar Gunjal, resident of Kaloshi village, Tal-Igatpuri, Dist-Nashik informed that this area is fertile and famous for paddy crop. But most of the agriculture land is acquired for one or another project of this area. Now meager land is available for the cultivation of paddy. Hence local people fears that remaining agriculture land will be affected and polluted due to construction and after completion Nagpur Mumbai Express Way.

Convener of the meeting here asked project proponent to give the answer. The officials of project proponent informed that all the preventive steps have been planned while constructing the expressway project. The water will be sprinkled to avoid dust pollution. The noise barriers will be installed wherever it is demanded in the residential area.

2) Shri Laxman Tatyarao Gavane, resident of Kanchangaon, Tal-Igatpuri, Dist. Nashik informed that almost 43% of the land in the vicinity is acquired. He has written a letter on 27-10-2017 to the District Administration of which the reply is still awaited. He further handed over an article of the ill-effects of noise pollution to the Public Hearing Committee.

Shri Gavane further informed that Igatpuri and Shahapur area was famous for paddy. Now Expressway will pass very near of agriculture fields, which will definitely affect the crops and even human life.

He further objected for the compensation paid and informed that various fields adjoining each other have been paid different compensation. There should be practical approach of District Administration.

Shri Gavane further reiterated that the local people are not against the project, but how neighbor fields have been compensated by different rates.

The Chairman of the Committee and District Magistrate Shri. Radhakrishnan B. informed that if any lacuna is observed, it will be rectified. He appealed to give the case.

3) Arun Bhikaji Gaykar, resident of Khairgaon informed that he is project affected person and asked to clarify the distance in-between Khairgaon and proposed Expressway. He further appealed that if more distance is kept, then the Khairgaon agriculture fields can be saved. He gave his objection in writing.

Shri Laxman Tatyarao Gavane has handed over certain downloaded documents/article regarding the ill effects of noise pollution. As it is downloaded from Wikepedia, Chairman of Committee informed general public that only Government directives will be considered. The downloaded information from any source will not be considered in the meeting.

4) Shri Karbhari Dubhash, local resident objected that while granting compensation, the crops which cultivated since five last years should be considered.

The Chairman of the Committee informed that the entry which is taken on 7/12, will be considered for the compensation.

5) Navale Dubhashi, resident of Auchityawadi objected that if the land pattern is same, different rates of compensation is given in different locations. Hence rates of Ready Reckoner should be modified.

While concluding the meeting, Chairman of the Committee appealed local farmers to take an opportunity of compensation. He informed that Maharashtra State is only State in our country, who gives maximum compensation for the land acquired for social welfare projects.

The Chairman of the Committee further informed that the project proponent has already promised in the presentation about the pollution control measures to be taken while developing the project. The project proponent is bound for the same. After completion of this project, the noise barriers will be installed to prevent the noise pollution as per the requirement.

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 of the Public Hearing Committee and District Magistrate, Nashik

Member and I/c Regional Officer,

MPCB, Nashik

(A. J. Kude)

Convener and

Sub Regional Officer,

MPCB, Nashik