

Minutes of Environmental Public Hearing

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED EXPANSION THROUGH CAPACITY UTILIZATION OF BULK DRUGS & INTERMEDIATES MANUFACTURING UNIT PROPOSED BY M/S SMRUTHI ORGANICS LTD., (SOL), PLOT NO.27, MIDC CHINCHOLI, TAL-MOHOL, DIST - SOLAPUR

The public hearing for proposed expansion through Capacity Utilization of Bulk Drugs & Intermediates Manufacturing Unit proposed by M/s Smruthi Organics Ltd., (SOL), (Unit-II), Plot No.27, MIDC Chincholi, Tal-Mohol, Dist-Solapur was conducted on 13th June, 2017 at 01.00 pm, at Plot No. P-7, Udyog Bhavan, Solapur Industries Association Building, MIDC Chincholi.

Following Public Hearing Panel members were present as per Board's Office Order No. E-44 of 2017 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B-2267, dated 03-06-2017:-

- 1) Shri Ajit Relekar, - Chairman,
Addl. District Magistrate, Solapur
(Representative of District Magistrate,
Solapur)
- 2) Shri J. S. Salunkhe, - Member
I/c Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune
(Representative of MPCB, Mumbai)
- 3) Shri N. S. Awatade - Convener
I/c Sub Regional Officer, MPCB
Solapur

Shri N. S. Awatade, Convener of the public hearing welcomed Hon'ble Chairman of the public hearing, company officials, government officials and public who were present and informed that, as per the EIA Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEFCC, GoI) 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, Solapur was in receipt of application of M/s Smruthi Organics Ltd., Unit-II, Plot No.A-27, MIDC Chincholi, Tal-Mohol, Dist-Solapur for

enhance production quantity of existing products at Unit – II through 'Capacity Utilization' at the existing site of the industry.

The Convener further informed that, as per EIA Notification, 2006, though the unit falls under Category B, item 5 (f), applicability of General Condition due to project location at 2.22 Km, from boundary of Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary and due to project partly established on adjacent non-MIDC land, the proposal is treated as Category A. Convener of the meeting informed that the aim of conducting public hearing is to make aware, local people who can be participant in the hearing and they should know the developmental activities and environment management plan of the unit. The project proponent had submitted prescribed application alongwith pre-feasibility report to the MoEFCC for Terms of Reference (ToR) for conduct of EIA studies and MoEF CC, New Delhi, considered the project in the 36th Reconstituted Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry) held during 16-17th March, 2015. As per said Notification, one month advance public notice was published in the local newspapers in Daily Lokmat and in Dainik Sanchar in Marathi & English language on 13th May, 2017.

So also a copy of EIA report and executive summery was also made available at various offices of government i.e. District Magistrate Office, Solapur, Additional District Magistrate, Solapur, Zilla Parishad, Solapur, District Industries Centre, Solapur, Tahasil Office, Mohol, Dist-Solapur, Grampanchayat offices at Chincholi, Savaleshwar, Bibidarpal, Pakani & Kondi, Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur, Regional Office, MPCB, Pune and at Head Office of MPCB, Mumbai, Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai and at Western Zone Office of MoEFCC at Nagpur. The public in general were appealed to send any objections / suggestions regarding the above project. The Convener further informed that some of written objections are received by the Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur and concerned persons have been informed to attend this public hearing. He appealed Chairman of the Committee to allow starting the proceedings.

Shri Ajit Relekar, Chairman of Committee welcomed all and informed officials of the project to explain the details of pollution control devices and environment management plan of the project in local language Marathi

through power point presentation. He also appealed general public to give objections / suggestions if any about the project after their technical presentation.

The Environment Consultant of the company has given the presentation of the expansion project and Environment Management Plan in detail.

After completion of the presentation, Chairman of the Committee and Convener of the Committee appealed general public to ask any questions to project officials.

Shri Kisan Kerappa Dhoot, Chincholi-Kati village informed that whatever shown in the presentation is totally wrong. He said that his agriculture field is near the plant only. Since the inception of the plant, the management has not given attention towards pollution control since 15-16 years. The drinking water sources and wells in the vicinity are polluted. The agriculture land of the nearby fields has become barren. If cattle animals like cow, buffaloes drinks the water, they die. The management even not allows entering in the front gate for submitting the complaints. Hence the problems of pollution control are not solved in the existing unit only, after the expansion it will increase. The project proponent should not be allowed for expansion.

Shri Rajesh Haridas Patil, Dy.Sarpanch of Chincholi village informed that many writing complaints have been sent to project officials. No action is taken. The company has grabbed the private agriculture land in the vicinity and shown the Panchanama. The adjoining agriculture fields have become barren.

Answer- Company officials Shri. Shaikh, informed that as per the new Guidelines of Govt. of India, the project will be "Zero Liquid Discharge" project. At present, 35% of the total effluent is recycled and reused in the process and after the expansion, 51% of the total effluent will be recycled and will be reused in the plant. The management has planned to install Reverse Osmosis system and not a single drop of effluent will be generated outside the factory. Sometimes the issue of discharge outside the factory arises especially in the rainy season due to rain water flow. But we are trying hard to avoid the same.

Shri Dharmaraj Maruti Koli, Chincholi Kati village, though the project proponent promises for total zero discharge, nothing will happen. The local agriculturists have given their land for development of MIDC with a dream of socio-economic development and job opportunities to local people. The local people have been deprived from the promises. The hard working local youths are unemployed. The nearby wells natural water reservoirs have been contaminated by the factory. Hence fishing business is totally hampered. The management does not take any responsibility of giving jobs to local people. He blamed that there is no immediate action from MPCB and Environment Department.

Chairman of the Committee remarked that if the project proponent gives job opportunities to local people, does it mean that there are no other issues. The local people informed that there is severe environment pollution due to this project.

Shri Dilip Algar, Chincholi Kati village appealed the Committee to visit the site after the meeting and observed the agriculture fields of vicinity became barren due to this project. There is threat to environment.

Shri Sunandan Reddy, an Environmentalist from Hyderabad appealed the management to implement Environment Management Plan. He requested to prepare the "Health Data" of the radius of 10 Km, and implement the rain water harvesting. He requested to build the confidence of local youths by extending skilled training programmes under Corporate Social Responsibility Scheme.

Chairman of the Committee informed that the written opinion of Shri Sunandan Reddy is received by the Committee and noted the points.

Shri Relekar, Chairman of the Committee further asked the project proponent that as per strict Guidelines of Govt. of India, the management has to follow zero discharge policy for the proposed project. But the local people are complaining that due to existing plant, the well water and ground water is polluted. The local person complains that the well water has not remained potable. The agriculture land became barren. He appealed the project proponent to develop a mechanism that the local people should visit the

factory openly and supports the environment management plan. The committee directed company officials to explain every issue.

Answer- Company officials while denying the objections, answered that the pollution might have occurred due to other chemical factories running in MIDC. He further informed that the Government has strictly prescribes that well water should be used for drinking purposes after adopting scientific method of disinfection only. It is informed that that Rs. Four Crores have been spent for installation of the system. He informed that industrial effluent generated from existing and proposed expansion activities would be segregated into two streams i.e. Stream-I, which have High TDS and High COD effluent and Stream-II, which have Low TDS and COD. The Stream-I will be treated in an Effluent Treatment Plant followed by Triple Effect Evaporator (TEE) and Agitated Thin Film Dryer (ATFD), which will be sent to Stream-II for treatment. The Stream-II after scientific treatment would be recycled back for washing. The process effluent generated from the existing and proposed activities are given adequate treatment and will be completely recycled, thereby Zero Discharge will be achieved.

Shri Salunkhe, Member opined that it is observed that the present disposal of the project is not proper and reuse is a total responsibility of the project proponent. Also in report, it is mentioned that at present the company has developed the green belt of 14% only and it may be 38% after acquiring the adjoining plot of MIDC. It shows that they have not followed MPCB consent guidelines.

Convener of the Committee informed that cognizance of complaints is taken from time to time by the MPCB Solapur office.

Shri Datta Bhosale, Chincholi Kati village informed that the local person alleges that wood is used by the management in the process by cutting the forest trees unauthorizely. The local people residing the project site do suffer due to smoke.

Answer- Convener of the committee informed that use of wood is not allowed as per consent condition and if it is observed, then the instructions will be given to stop the use of wood.

Answer- Company officials informed that Reverse Osmosis System will be installed and not a drop of effluent will be generated outside the factory.

Shri Mahendra Waghmare, Grampanchayat Member and Narayan Kirappa Dhotre opined that the committee should inspect the site and adjoining area. Also the study should be carried on the effects of ground water system due to present and future expansion of the project.

Answer- Shri Awatade, Convener of the Committee informed that action is always taken by the MPCB by giving directions and forfeiting of bank guarantee. The opinion expressed by the local people in the meeting is considered and separate investigation will be carried out to review the allegations against the existing unit.

Answer- Technical Advisor of the project informed that certain issues may be resolved by interaction only. Hence Environment Management Committee consisting of project officials, Revenue officials, MPCB officials and local people may please be constituted to resolve certain issues.

Chairman of the Committee informed that the Government always desires that there should be sustainable development. He further informed to the note the feelings of local people who have given their land for development, but have been deprived by job opportunities. Chairman of the committee remarked that without co-operation of the local people, any project cannot succeed.

The Committee has discussed the issues raised in the meeting.


After reviewing, Chairman of Committee informed that the present public hearing is for future expansion of the project. The Govt. of India while sanctioning Terms of Reference, prescribed Specific and Additional ToR in addition to Generic ToR. Now it is strict guidelines that the project should be Zero Liquid Discharge. The proceedings of the meeting will be sent to MoEFCC, Govt. of India in which the opinion, suggestions and objections will be included. Also the written objections received during the hearing will be sent alongwith the report. The Expert Committee will consider the objections and suggestions.

The Committee further has taken note of the views expressed by the local people in the meeting for existing plant. It is decided that a Committee consisting of concerned department, 2 representatives from local area & MPCB will be reviewed allegations/opinions expressed against the present unit. The Committee will suggest mechanism to solve the issues. Chairman of the Committee also directed Convener of the meeting, to take follow up for issuance of the Order and periodical visits. The report will be submitted to the Government for consideration.

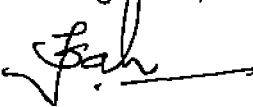
While concluding the meeting, Chairman of the Committee opined that though the development of the industrial zone is necessary for socio-economic development, it should not be at the cost of environment degradation. He suggested that in Environment Audit report, inclusion of social and economic audit issues may be made. He thanked local people who came & raised objections and gave suggestions. Chairman of the committee informed that the suggestions, comments made in this meeting 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 thanked all government officials, company officials and general public who attended the public hearing/meeting and informed that the said public hearing is concluded.

The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.


(N. S. Awatade)
Convener and
I/c Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB, Solapur


(Ajit Relekar)
Chairman of the Committee and
Addl. District Magistrate, Solapur


(J. S. Salunkhe)
Member and
I/c Regional Officer,
MPCB, Pune