

**MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING  
HELD FOR  
PROPOSED EXPANSION OF  
FOODGRAINS BASED DISTILLERY FROM 30 KLPD TO 58 KLPD  
OF  
M/S. VIRAJ ALCOHOLS AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES LTD.,  
GAT NO: 511, A/P: KAPARI, TAL: SHIRALA, DIST: SANGLI,  
MAHARASHTRA STATE**

A public hearing for proposed expansion of foodgrain based distillery from 30 KLPD to 58 KLPD in respect of M/s. Viraj Alcohols And Allied Industries Ltd. was held on 08-11-2017 at 11.00 A.M. at factory site at Gat No. 511, A/p. Kapari, Tal: Shirala, Dist: Sangli.

Following panel members were present for the public hearing:-

Hon'ble Shri. Tushar Thombre, - Chairman  
Deputy Collector, Sangli.  
(District Collector, Sangli's Marathi letter No.  
गृह-१/कार्या-६/पोल-१/समिती/आरआर/१०१४.१०१५/१७,  
दिनांक ०७ नोव्हेंबर २०१७, on behalf of  
District Magistrate Sangli.)

Shri. Dilip Khedkar, - Member  
Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Kolhapur.  
(Representative of Maharashtra Pollution  
Control Board)

Shri L. S. Bhad, - Convener  
Sub Regional Officer, MPC Board,  
Sangli.

First of all, Shri L.S. Bhad, convener of the environmental public hearing welcomed the participants and with the permission of Hon'ble Chairman started the public hearing. He informed that the project proponent submitted proposal to M.P.C. Board in respect of the proposed project for which public hearing is held. Hence, this public hearing is held in order to take

of the public opinion, their comments and objections regarding the proposed project. For this purpose a committee under chairmanship of the Deputy Collector on behalf of District Magistrate, Sangli vide Marathi letter No. १/कार्या-६/पोल-१/समिती/आरआर/१०१४.१०१५/१७, दिनांक ०७ नोव्हेंबर २०१७ has been formed. The purpose of this public hearing is to inform the people about the impact of the proposed project on the environment, the problems likely to be caused due to the proposed project, the measures to be undertaken by the project proponent to control environmental pollution and to discuss face to face. He further informed that environmental public hearing is mandatory for the projects mentioned in Schedule 'A' and 'B' of Notification No. S.O. 1533 dated 14 September 2006 of MOEF, Government of India. In this respect, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board had published a public notice on 07-10-2017 in daily news papers i.e. Daily 'Pudhari', Daily 'Lokmat' in Marathi language and 'The Times of India' in English language. The copies of EIA report were made available for study of the public at Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai; District Collector Office, Sangli; District Industries Center, Sangli; Zilla Parishad Office, Sangli; Regional Office, MOEF, Bhopal (MP); Head Office of M.P.C. Board, Mumbai; Regional Office, MPC Board, Kolhapur; Sub Regional Office, M.P.C. Board, Sangli, Tahsil Office, Shirala; Gram Panchayat Kapari, Tal: Shirala Dist: Sangli; MOEF, Nagpur Office and Sub Divisional Office, Walwa, Islampur and requested the public to submit their objections, suggestions, complaints etc. regarding proposed project.

He further informed that Environmental Clearance of MOEF is necessary for the proposed project and hence, this public hearing is held as a part of the requirement. He requested public to watch the presentation regarding the proposed project prepared by the technical consultant and then ask questions, objections, instructions etc. during the public hearing orally or in writing which will be included in the minutes of the environmental public hearing and then the minutes along with C.D. will be submitted to MOEF for

her necessary action. Thereafter, he requested the technical consultant of project proponent to present detailed information.

Thereafter, Dr. Sangram Ghugare, Technical Consultant of the proposed project presented information through power point / slide show.

After presentation, following discussion / questions-answers took place.

1. **Shri Dilip Khedkar, Regional Officer, MPC Board, Kolhapur Cum Member of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee.**

He introduced the committee members of the environmental public hearing committee and informed that the project proponents have submitted proposed to environment department for grant of permission but they are not technically sound and hence, they have appointed environmental consultant Equinox Environment Pvt. Ltd. to look after environmental aspects of the proposed project. He said that first of all on behalf of M.P.C. Board I want to ask some questions to which the technical consultant should reply.

Firstly, he asked what is the E.I.A. report and which things are taken into consideration while preparing an E.I.A. report ?

Dr. Ghugare replied that the EIA report has been prepared as per the guidelines of MOEF Notification, 2006. We have carried out environmental study in 10 KM radius considering the factory premises as the centre. In this area of 314 Sq.KM. we have carried out study of air, water, noise, plants, birds and animals, their present status and impact likely to be caused on them including positive and negative impacts.

Shri Dilip Khedkar said you have obtained environment clearance at the time of establishment of this industry and at that time also you had prepared EIA report, whether you have compared that EIA report with this newly prepared EIA report, and whether there is any difference between these two reports. Dr. Ghugare replied that as per new study, concentration of some

mutants like SPM, SO<sub>2</sub> and some water parameters have increased, there has been increase in baseline conditions compared to data in 2006. However, these parameters are within prescribed limits.

Shri Khedkar asked whether you have carried out assessment of the present pollution control measures. Dr. Ghugare replied that the ETP was under capacity, APC system and MDC were not in operation, and hence, it was instructed to provide bag filter and upgrade the ETP. Now, the industry has upgraded the ETP which is in the process of operation and the work of providing bag filter is in progress.

Thereafter, Shri Khedkar asked whether the industry is complying the conditions of the Environmental Clearance granted in 2006. If yes, so far which conditions have been complied? Dr. Ghugare replied that all conditions have not complied, but we have submitted report to the Environment Department in which we have mentioned that some conditions are not complied. MOEF has taken review of the same when they called us for grant FOR. The committee has visited this industry and instructed to effectively implement environment management plan to carry out improvement in present pollution control system and incorporate the same in the EIA report. Shri Khedkar informed him that I have visited the industry today and found that the industry has not complied with the conditions of the Environmental Clearance granted before 10 years and asked what for the industry want permission for expansion even though they have not complied the conditions of previously granted environmental clearance. Dr. Ghugare replied that compliance is of two types i.e. one time compliance and progressive compliance. When ETP was constructed we came to know that the same was not adequate, and hence, the industry spent Rs. 60.00 lakhs for its upgradation. It is not fully operational. The work of providing bag filter as well as providing chimney of 15 mtrs. height going on. Shri Khedkar instructed him to mention in EIA report that the conditions of previously granted environmental clearance have not been complied with by the industry so that MPCB will not face any difficulties as there are any complaints. In fact, you should have mentioned this non

compliance in the EIA report. Dr. Ghugare said that we have not mentioned this non-compliance in draft EIA report, but in final EIA report we will correct the same.

Thereafter, Shri Khedkar told that the Board will recommend the Environment Department not to grant environmental clearance to the proposed project until the industry comply the Consent conditions granted by the Board as well as the conditions of environmental clearance granted in 2007.

2. **Shri Vishwas Rajaram Patil, Village Karanjavade, Tal: Walwa, Dist: Sangli.**

For how many days will this project run in a year ?

ns.

Dr. Ghugare replied that the proposed project will run for 10 months in a year. It will be closed for two months for the purpose of maintenance and overhauling.

3. **Shri Shamrao Maruti Kinare, Village Kinarewadi, Dist: Sangli.**

From where will you make available raw material for the proposed project ?

ns.

Dr. Ghugare replied that the foodgrains are purchased when their prices are down in summer. About 4500 to 5000 Tons of foodgrains including maize are purchased and stored in large sacks and used after grinding.

4. **Shri Anil Maruti Vanale, Village Latavade, Dist: Sangli.**

What is the difference between the waste water generated through distillery based on molasses and distillery based on foodgrains ?

ns.

Dr. Ghugare replied that the waste water of molasses based distillery is called spent wash which is highly polluted and with high quantity. For

production of one litre of alcohol it generates about 9 to 10 litres of spent wash. But in the food grain base distillery, the waste water generations is 4.5 to 5 litres for production of one litre of alcohol and it is completely reused in the process. If recycled properly, not a single drop of waste water is discharged outside.

15. **Shri Wasim Naim Momin, Shirala, Dist: Sangli.**

What will be the effect of the present and the proposed project on health of the people living in this area?

ms.

Dr. Ghugare replied that effect on health is caused if pollution control measures are not taken. If pollution control systems are operated continuously and environment management plan is implemented properly, then there will not be any bad effects on the health. We are going to amend our environment management plan as per the instructions given by Hon. Shri. Khedkar, Member. After taking all precautionary measures, there will be no bad effects on public health.

16. **Shri Parameshwar Namdeo Patil, Village Chandur, Dist: Sangli.**

Which pollution control equipment are you going to provide to the boiler to control smoke emission ?

ms.

Dr. Ghugare replied that we are going to provide bag filter to the boiler to control emission of ash. A mechanical dust collector was provided. But now we the work of providing bag filter is in progress. After its erection, the ash generation will be within prescribed limit. We have placed an order to a company for installing the same. Therefore, there will be upgradation in the existing pollution control system.

**Q.7. Shri Ashok Dinde, Village Aitwade Budruk, Tal: Walwa, Dist: Sangli.**

How much will alcohol be produced in the proposed project ?

Ans.

Dr. Ghugare replied that daily about 50000 to 55000 litres of alcohol will be produced.

**Q.8. Shri V. Sunanda Reddi, Environmentalist, Hyderabad.**

My best wishes to the management of M/s. Viraj Alcohols and Allied Industries Ltd. I am firstly congratulating selection of the environmental consultancy as experienced and experts. I have studied thoroughly the EIA report which is perfectly right. I am the first environmentalist in India supporting the industries. Generally, environmentalist, NGOs oppose industry. In my opinion, unemployment is the major pollution to the society. In this regard I am whole heartedly supporting the management. At this juncture, as the environmentalist, I am giving you few suggestions to make an ecological balance. If there is any possibility to collect the data of health status of the public, crop production status and ground water level status of this area. It is very useful in the future to take effective measures to maintain ecological balance. For excess water available in rainy season, please collect water harvesting and storage system. As an environmentalist, if there is any possibility I am suggesting to carry out plantation on 40 to 50 % land because population of India increasing. In this plantation also instead of normal plants in there is any possibility please take up plantation of fruit bearing plants and medicinal plants. Please provide employment to the local people. Promote skill development through government and CSR fund, it is useful to the youth to get jobs in other places. Skill development is most important. Regarding CSR fund I am suggesting that form a co-ordination committee of villagers, MPCB officials, government officials and your company's officials and help for demand oriented works in the village. Finally, I am requesting you to take proper pollution control precautionary measures for control of water, air and

noise pollution. Once again my best wishes and supporting the management. I congratulate environmental consultant for preparing a good EIA report. I am requesting the public hearing panel to recommend MOEF to give unconditional permission to the proposed project. I am a senior environmentalist, I am 60 years old. I am working in this field from last 25 years and I am a practical environmentalist.

Ans.

Dr. Ghugare replied that we have already complied with some of the suggestions made by Shri. V. Sunanda Reddi. We have considered status of public health under socio-economic heading in EIA report. There is no health problems in this area. We will undertake rain water harvesting. We have developed green belt on 33% of total land and on additional 5 to 10 % of land green belt will be developed. About 80 to 90% of total workers of the factory are residents of this area. As per guidelines of the new Notification issued by MOEF, a committee is required to be formed for the purpose of CSR fund in which representatives of the company, State Pollution Control Board and grampanchayats are mandatory. Remaining suggestions of Shri Reddi will be included in final EIA report.

**Q.9. Shri Raghunath Patil, Village Nathoji, Tal: Shirala, Dist: Sangli.**

What precautionary measures will be taken to control pollution from waste water ?

Ans.

Dr. Ghugare replied that the work of upgradation of Effluent Treatment Plant is in progress. All waste water generated from distillery will be treated and disposed after the ETP becomes operational with fully capacity. We have fully set up waste water treatment system.

**Q.10. Shri Ghodake, Village Aitwade Budruk, Tal: Walwa, Dist: Sangli.**

What is the difference between molasses based distillery and the distillery based on foodgrains ?

Ans.



Dr. Ghugare replied that while producing alcohol from molasses more impurities are generated as compared to producing it from foodgrains. Alcohol is mainly used in medicines. Also, alcohol produced from foodgrains gets relatively more price/rate.

**Q.11. Shri Sayaji Dive, Village Mangale, Dist: Sangli.**

Which by-products will be produced in the proposed project and how will they be disposed ?

The Hon. Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing told that as per provisions of article 21 of the Constitution of India clean water, clean air and clean environment is the right of people. When a new project is established, it must be seen that these rights of people shall not be violated and hence public hearing is convened to record objections and views of the public regarding their problems from environmental angle. Hence, your questions should be related to environmental issues only. The minutes of the public hearing will be sent to Government for further necessary action.

**Q.12. Shri Vijayrao Nalavade, Shirala, Tal: Shirala, Dist: Sangli.**

I heard the discussion regarding environmental pollution problems due to the proposed project. But I want to explain the other side. The public hearing committee should consider the benefits of the project to the people in this area. This taluka is a hilly place. There was no other industry in this taluka except M/s. Vishwas SSK Ltd. People in this area have left for Mumbai for labour work as there is no employment opportunity in this area. After establishment of such type of industries in this area, people here got opportunities to work in these companies. It is important that there shall not be any kind of pollution like water, air etc. and it should not cause nuisance to the public and animals. At the same time, it is equally important to see the benefits from establishment of the industries in this area. Presently, industries in this area have provided employment to 500 to 600 peoples in this area. The environmental public hearing committee should take into consideration the

feelings of the people and development of this area caused due to the industrial units. I am sure that the industry will totally comply with the conditions of Environmental Clearance granted in 2007. The industry should not discharge its spent wash outside the factory premises.

**Q.13. Shri Arjun Ramchandra Patil, Ex-Sarpanch, village Kapari, Dist: Sangli.**

This factory was established in the year 2007. This is a hilly taluka. After establishment of the factory thousands of people in this taluka have got employment opportunities and this taluka has become economically developed. My agricultural land is located within the vicinity of the factory. This factory is pollution free, and I request to grant permission to the proposed project.

**Q.14. Shri. Bhimrao Shankarrao Gaikwad. Shirala, Dist: Sangli.**

I am living at a distance of arial  $\frac{1}{2}$  Kms. From this factory. This factory has not caused us any kind of nuisance. Our cattle get good quality food from this industry. There is no complaint of water pollution due to this factory yet. Initially, there were complaints of discharge of waste water in odha. But it has been stopped totally. Presently, no waste water is discharged into any nalla or water source. Thousands of birds feed on the foodgains spelt from loading and unloading of trucks. There was no greenery before this industry. But now the industry has undertaken massive tree plantation. And hence, the farmers are also planting trees in their farmers. Hence, there is no environmental pollution and no ill effects on public health. There is no water or air pollution. The emission of dust from the factory has been reduced to some extent. We have not seen any effect on tree plants due to dust deposition. This factory has provided job opportunities to the local people and has helped us in all respects. Hence, permission should be given to the proposed expansion after compliance of conditions of MPCB.

**Q.15. Shri. Madhubabu, Environmentalist, Hyderabad.**

I have already written a letter regarding the proposed project which you might have gone through. I am giving two to three suggestions regarding the proposed project. Extensive/maximum tree plantation should be carried out for the protection of environment. Employment should be given to the local people. In socio-economic development programme, emphasis should be given on water, education and health. Health campus should be arranged.

Thereafter, Shri Dilip Khedkar informed that it is a government policy to boost industrial development. But earlier, industries were established without any knowledge to the local people. This lead to complaints of environmental pollution. Hence, government published a notification in which it was provided that every project which come in the schedule of the notification must conduct public hearing and obtain Environmental Clearance. We are representative of the government and not against any industry. Hence, it is our responsibility to prevent deterioration of our environment. The industry has to comply all environmental conditions. The technical consultant prepares EIA report and if there are any shortfalls, it is amended as per the suggestions of the people and the same is submitted to the government. The experts of different government departments take decision whether to grant permission or not. The Environmental Public Hearing Committee has no right to take decision regarding proposed project. We have recorded the views, suggestions of the public and the same will be included in the minutes of the public hearing. These minutes will be sent to the government for final decision.

Thereafter, the Hon'ble Chairman of the environmental public hearing committee told that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board had published a public notice in local newspaper regarding today's public hearing and relevant documents along with EIA report were made available with concerned offices of government departments for the study of the people and called objections, complaints, suggestions etc. from the public regarding proposed expansion.

The technical consultant presented information about the proposed project. Shri Dilip Khedkar expressed his views on behalf of MPC Board and also public have expressed their views. The technical consultant has replied queries raised by the people. Some people have submitted their written representations. The public hearing committee has taken this on record and it will be included the minutes of the public hearing. The minutes will be submitted to the government for final decision. Thereafter, on behalf of the administration, Hon'ble Chairman thanked all public for their participation in the public hearing and concluded the environmental public hearing.

The copies of written representations received in respect of the proposed project are enclosed with these minutes.



**(L. S. Bhad)**  
Sub Regional Officer,  
MPC Board, Sangli  
Cum  
Member



**(Dilip Khedkar)**  
Regional Officer,  
MPC Board, Kolhapur  
Cum  
Convener



**(Tushar Thombre)**  
Deputy Collector Sangli  
or Representative of District  
Magistrate, Sangli  
Cum  
Chairman.