

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON 21-06-2019 FOR SETTING UP OF PROPOSED 500 KTA PROPANE DEHYDRATION UNIT INTEGRATED WITH POLYPROPYLENE UNIT AT VILLAGE – USAR, TALUKA – ALIBAG, DIST – RAIGAD, MAHARTASHTSRA PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S GAIL (INDIA) LTD., A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING**

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As per Notification issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi (MoEFCC, Gol) vide No. S.O. 1533 dated 14-09-2006 followed by Amended Notification No. S.O. 3067 ( E), dated 01-12-2009, the Project Proponent M/s GAIL (India) Ltd., has submitted the proposal vide their letter dated 17-10-2018 for conducting prior public consultation for their to be located proposed 500 KTA Propane Dehydration Unit Integrated With Polypropylene Unit at Village Usar, Taluka Alibag, Dist. Raigad, Maharashtra to Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point Building, Sion East, Mumbai 400 022 on 19-10-2018 which was received to Sub Regional Office, MPC Board Raigad - II office on 05-11-2018. Accordingly Sub Regional Office, MPC Board Raigad -II has scheduled the public hearing on 25-03-2019; however due to code of conduct, this scheduled public hearing was postponed as per direction received from Sub-Divisional Office, Alibag vide their letter dtd. 20-03-2019. After that this postponed public hearing is rescheduled on 21-6-2019.

As per the above Notifications, the MoEFCC, Gol, has issued Terms of Reference (ToR) to the project on 26-10-2017.

As per the Terms of Reference (ToR) dated 26-10-2017 issued by the MoEFCC, Gol as per the provision of above Notifications (i.e. 14-09-2006 and 01-12-2009) and as per directives of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-II has published 30 days' advance public notice in local newspaper Dainik Raigad Times in Marathi and in national newspaper Daily Indian Express on 20-05-2019. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, objections regarding environment management plan of the project in writing. Also the copies of Draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report and Executive Summary in English and Marathi were made available to public at various notified offices of Government viz Ministry of Environment, Forest, Climate Change, Govt. of India (MoEFCC, Gol), Western Zonal Office - Bhopal; District Magistrate Office - Raigad ; Additional District Magistrate- Raigad; Zilla Parishad Office- Raigad; District Industries Centre - Raigad ; Sub Divisional Officer, Alibag, Tal-Alibag, Dist-Raigad; Tahsil Office-Alibag, Dist-Raigad; Alibag Nagarparishad, Alibag, Tal-Alibag, Dist-Raigad; Grampanchayat office at Usar, Tal-Alibag, Dist – Raigad and Group Grampanchayat office at Khanav and Beloshi, Tal-Alibag, Dist-Raigad; Head Office of MPCB at Mumbai; Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai; Regional Office, MPCB-Raigad, Raigad Bhavan, CBD Belapur; Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Raigad-II and on website of MPCB.

The public hearing for above project was arranged on 21-06-2019 at 11.00 a.m. at Ganesh Mangal Karyalaya, Sahan Bypass Road, Alibag Roha Road, Sahan, Taluka-Alibag, Dist – Raigad. As per Office Order issued by Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide No.E-38 of 2019 under letter no.BO/JD/WPC/PH/B-2168, dated 20-06-2019, following Public Hearing Committee was constituted to conduct the public hearing :-

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1) Additional District Magistrate,<br>(Representative of District Magistrate,<br>Raigad) | - | <b>Chairman</b> |
| 2) Regional Officer<br>MPCB, Raigad<br>(Representative of MPCB, Mumbai)                  | - | <b>Member</b>   |
| 3) Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-II,<br>MPCB                                              | - | <b>Convener</b> |

Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Raigad-II and Convener of the Public Hearing Committee welcomed Hon'ble Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee, all government officials and officials of project proponent and with the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee informed about the procedure of the public hearing.

Convener of the Public Hearing Committee informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest, Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEFCC, GoI) dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification. MPCB has received proposal for setting up of proposed 500 KTA Propane Dehydration Unit Integrated with Polypropylene Unit at Village – Usar, Taluka – Alibag, Dist – Raigad, Maharashtra. Convener of the Public Hearing Meeting further informed that the project activities fall under Category 'A' 5 (C), which requires Environment Clearance before commencing the project for which prior public consultation is mandatory. Hence this public hearing is arranged. He informed that the statutory procedure is followed before conducting this meeting such as publishing the public notice 30 days in advance, making available the information regarding the project to public in advance.

With the permission of Hon'ble Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee, the Convener informed project proponent to give information regarding the project before all the participant.

Chairperson of Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Raigad welcomed all and informed officials of the project to explain the details of

pollution control devices and environment management plan of the proposed project in local and official language Marathi.

Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee appealed all to keep calm and raise any doubts, suggestions and objections against the project after the presentation. It will be included in the Minutes of Meeting which will be submitted to the Expert Committee of MoEFCC, Gol.

The Project Proponent gave the presentation of the proposed project, Environment Management Plan (EMP) and Disaster Management Plan (DMP) in detail in local and official language Marathi.

After the presentation, Regional Officer, MPCB, Raigad and Member of the Public Hearing Committee welcomed all and informed the participants to inform the name and place of residence before informing the suggestion or objection.

Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee appealed all to raise any doubts, suggestions and objections against the project. She also directed officials to take note of credentials of all the participants.

**Followings have participated during the discussions and the Answers given by the Project Proponent / Project Consultant / Public Hearing Committee:-**

**1) Shri Gajanan Patil, Resident of Khanav village, Tal-Alibag, Dist – Raigad**  
:-

Shri Gajanan Patil while objecting informed that the land of the local people is acquired for the various projects since 1983. Many big promises were made. But experience of local people is very bitter. Nearly 215 hecters of land is acquired. But Project Affected Persons (PAPs) and poor farmers have not given any benefit and deprived from their right of partnership in the project. As per the information of the local people, 246 persons are PAPs/Khatedar. Only 23 persons is given job opportunities. Others are fighting since last 36 years. The project proponent has not made available the list of PAPs, their present condition. It should be made available.

The local youths and youth woman should be given job opportunities in the project. The Government Administration should prescribe the guidelines to Project Proponent to co-operate with the local people.

He further informed that while acquiring the land, very less rate was given. As per the new policy, the rate is given five times of the present market rate, which is given to PAPs residing at other areas in the country. The same rate i.e. five times of present market rate be given to PAPs.

Shri Patil further remarked that just like RCF Project, this project management should extend the training to qualified local youths and youth women and give job

opportunities after commissioning of the project. The same policy should be made mandatory to GAIL project also.

**2) Shri Anant Narayan Gondhali, Resident of Khanav village, Tal-Alibag, Dist-Raigad :-**

Before giving suggestions, he thanked Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee for giving directives to give presentation in Marathi, as local people understand it, being local language.

He objected that the land of the local people was acquired in 1981. Only 24 PAPs were given job opportunities in the project. The justice was not given to other PAPs till to date. Hence, they do not have any source to survive. All the PAPs have been issued Certificate. Nothing is done till to date and now most of the PAPs who have been issued Certificate have become grandfather. Still no job opportunities is extended to them.

He further demanded that list of PAPs should be made available by the Project Proponent and qualified local youth and youth woman be given training for minimum six months and then job opportunities should be extended. An agreement in writing be executed for the above points.

**3) Shri Shridhar Madhukar Bhopi, Resident of Beloshi village, Tal-Alibag, Dist-Raigad :-**

He said that local peoples are supporting the project. They are not against the project. But the problems of PAPs and farmers should be solved. The agriculturists were given fixed rate, but the rate given previously and given today has a vast difference. All the PAPs should be given job opportunities. The policy should be made that farmer should be economically self-sufficient. An agreement in writing should be made with project proponent for solving the issues of PAPs and farmers.

He further suggested that Skill Development Programme should be implemented for the local school students. The wells, lakes in the area be developed and maintained well for drinking purposes. There is need of Hospital in the area. These points should be inserted in the writing agreement.

**4) Shri Sachin Krishna Shinde, Resident of Usar village, Tal-Alibag, Dist-Raigad :-**

The proposed project falls under the two Grampanchayat. But no development work is carried in the Usar village by the Project Proponent. It is requested to solve the long pending issues of PAPs and local farmers. Our experience is very bitter.

Project Proponent should take in hand the Skill Development Programme for the local youths and youth women, for which the survey is essential for the present status of local youths and youth woman, their education qualification. It will be beneficial to the project only.

The insurance facility be extended to the people residing near and around the project. The Committee should be constituted for all the suggestions and to work as Convener in between Project Proponent, Local People. Each point should be discussed with officials of the project and then only the project should be sanctioned.

**5) Shri Nilesh Gaykar, Resident of Usar village, Tal-Alibag, Dist-Raigad :-**

He suggested that there is requirement of 600 personnels in the new project. Hence all the 225 PAPs personnels be appointed in the project. Then only the project proponent should be granted Environmental Clearance. He further said that during the process there will be release of Nitrate and Sulphate. It will affect the surrounding areas. Hence policy of compensation should be worked out on priority. There is scarcity of drinking water in the area. The project proponent has not carried any development work in the Usargaon. Only one bus stop is built. The CSR fund used outside rather than in the local area by the project proponent.

All the PAPs should be given job opportunities. A committee should be constituted with two representatives of each village to take the follow up.

**6) Shri Ashok Karnikar, Resident of Usar village, Tal-Alibag, Dist-Raigad :-**

Shri Karnikar while objecting informed that there are 250 PAPs, but only 22-23 PAPs are given the job opportunity. Only 5% farmers have got the Fixed Rate amount. 25% people did not get the Fixed Rate amount.

Shri Gajanan Patil, Resident of Khanavgaon, Tal-Alibag Dist-Raigad has appealed all to unite irrespective of any difference. He appealed that a Committee can be constituted of all parties and as suggested, an agreement in writing be made with the Project Proponent. He informed that local people has brought one Appeal/Nivedan to hand over to Project Proponent in presence of the Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee. The Project Proponent should discuss all the issues with the constituted Committee.

Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee asked Project officials to come on stage and accept the appeal which will be given by the local people. Project officials have accepted the Appeal.

The participants/local people here demanded that whatever suggestions made during the meeting should be answered by the Project Proponent. Chairperson, Public Hearing Committee directed officials of the Project Proponent to answer the objections.

The Project Proponent informed that this project is Government of India Undertaking. When the project was in operation, five crores were spent under CSR Fund. The operations were closed for five years. The project proponent had informed that 24 PAPs out of 243 were given direct employment in GAIL, even though the LPG plant was shut down for almost 5 years, neither these PAPs nor indirect workers were removed. Some of the PAPs had retired at superannuation age as prescribed by Government. There is no additional land requirement for this project. The recruitment

rules as prescribed by the Gov.t of India will be followed strictly for the project. Shri Salunkhe, Regional Officer, MPCB, Raigad and Member of the Public Hearing Committee asked Project Officials to give answers in detail. At this time, most of the participants/local people were in agitating mood for the answer that 23 PAPs were adjusted out of 243.

Shri Gajanan Patil, Resident of Khanav village, Tal-Alibag, Dist-Raigad informed that as per the news published in the newspaper, the senior most Executive Shri A.K.Zha was expecting to attend the meeting. If he is not attending, the senior level officer should attend the local people. Junior level officer should not answer the local people. All the participants supported the same.

At this time, Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee informed all that all the suggestions, objections or opinions are noted. The recording and video shooting is in process. This will be considered by the High-Level administration of the Government. Some suggestions will be kept before the State Government. The subjects which are not under the jurisdiction of Project Proponent, they will not be able to answer. Hence participants are requested to raise any suggestion, objection or opinion for the proposed project as per the rule/guidelines only.

Convener of the Public Hearing Committee informed that this meeting is arranged which gives an opportunity to local people to raise their suggestions, objections regarding the pollution control and environment management plan of the proposed project.

As demanded by the participants, Senior Officer of the project proponent has started to give answers. He informed that due to non-availability of gas, the operations of the project is stopped. As promised, the local people will be given job opportunities in the project.

He further informed that as per the recent directives of Govt. of India, along with CSR Fund, CER i.e. Corporate Environment Responsibility Fund will be in operation and 3.7 cores for five years will be spent in the 10 KM radius of the project on the environmental issues. This meeting is called to understand the views of the local peoples. Due to this project, the economic and living standard of the area will be increased. This project is Govt. of India undertaking works under Petroleum & Natural Gas Ministry; hence it has to follow all the guidelines of the Government of India. Hence the recruitment rules as prescribed by the Govt. of India is mandatory to this project also. Hence, this administration has no right to make a written agreement with any agency. We are aware that without co-operation of the local people, any project cannot succeed. This concerned manufacturing process activity is only one which will be operated first time in India.

Shri Sandip Patekar, local resident brought to the notice that local people are not made aware regarding the job opportunities. But the persons residing outside State are appointed. Project Proponent informed that officers in the project are selected at All India Level and lower grade scale appointees i.e. Skilled, Semi-skilled

and Unskilled are called from the local employment exchange only. He requested to co-operate the project.

Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee interfered and remarked that the participants are asking the same question and talking on the same points only. All the points have been discussed and all the participants have understood it. But section of the participants desires to create misunderstanding. She said that following can be concluded –

- 1) During the meeting, it is suggested by the local people that a Committee should be constituted to work as co-ordinator to solve their long pending demands. Hence, the follow up will be taken at District Magistrate Office-Raigad to constitute the Committee.
- 2) There are some PAPs, who did not get anything. Hence efforts should be made for them and how compensation and job opportunities can be given to them. The follow up is needed.
- 3) This project will be in operation after 3-4 years or even more. After commissioning, how many job opportunities in all cadres will be available, this information should be made available to the Committee. The project proponent should share the information with the Committee.
- 4) This project is Gov.t of India Undertaking and there will huge investment of Rupees 8,000/- crores. After commissioning of the project, project proponent should spend the CSR fund to the social development work in local villages only. The budget and the annual spending on each programme will be made available to the local people. District Administration will inform Project Proponent accordingly.
- 5) To make available the minutes of meeting of PAPs and MIDC. In this meeting, all the points were discussed. Some PAPs have approached to the Court of Law. It is necessary to solve the problem amicably. MIDC is also wishes to solve the issue, for which we have to give time to MIDC administration.
- 6) The proposed project is Govt. of India Undertaking. The land which is acquired, is used for the said purposes only. The PAPs have right to ask the cost of the land as they desire. The presentation is already made to the MIDC. MIDC is also Govt. of Maharashtra Undertaking. Hence, it has to implement all the policy of Govt. of Maharashtra. So MIDC should be given certain time. MIDC has acquired land for Phase-I and Phase-II. The representative of the local people should be given opportunity to take part in the Committee for finalising the rate.
- 7) This project is ZLD (i.e. Zero Liquid Discharge). Project officials have given the presentation. The job opportunities will be available after 4-5 years i.e. after commissioning of the plant. Hence local youths and youth women should be given training to empower them for the job opportunities. Efforts will be made to Project Proponent to have a skill development centre.
- 8) The Committee which will be constituted should also work in the future for the development of local area.

Chairperson, Public Hearing Committee appealed participant to give suggestions for the constitution of the committee. District Administration will play the role of Mediator of the Committee. Copy of the letter will be made to the local people.

After the discussions, Shri Ashish, Local Resident here remarked that this project will produce plastic and all hazardous chemicals will be used in the manufacturing process. Mother Earth will not allow us to do the same. Polymer is produced through the plastic only. Hence local people should think whether we should pollute our Earth. The temperature of the World is increasing. This is due to pollution only.

Shri Dilip Shinde, local resident opposed the opinion expressed by Shri Ashish and informed that we want development. All the participant supported for development.

Chairperson, Public Hearing Committee remarked that the views of the local peoples are definitely appreciated. This is also success of Administration also. The suggestions and demands of the local peoples are realistic. The local youths and youth women who are skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled should be given job opportunities as per the recruitment policy of Govt. of India. District Administration will definitely take the follow up.

Convener of the meeting while concluding the meeting informed that the suggestions, objections raised by the participant in the meeting are noted and will be included in the minutes of the meeting. The minutes will be submitted along with final Environment Impact Assessment Report to the Expert Committee, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India. The Expert Committee will take further decision regarding the project.

Convener of the meeting thank to all local peoples who came in large number, Project officials, Government officials who have attended the meeting.

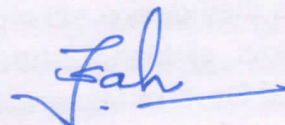
The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.



Convener,

Public Hearing Committee  
and

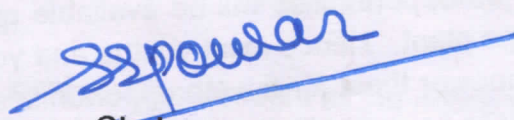
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB Raigad-II,  
CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai.



Member,

Public Hearing Committee  
and

Regional Officer, MPCB Raigad, CBD  
Belapur, Navi Mumbai.



Chairperson,

Public Hearing Committee  
and

Additional District Magistrate, Raigad  
District – Raigad.