

**Minutes of Environmental Public Hearing in respect of proposed
Dahej Nagothane Ethane Pipeline Project of M/s. Reliance Gas Pipelines
Limited Passing through Karjat, Khalapur and Pen Talukas of Raigad
District in Maharashtra**

Date of Public hearing: 04/4/2015.
Time: 11.30 Hrs.
Venue: Vishwaniketan Institute of Management and Engineering Technology
Campus, Survey No.52, Kumbhivli, Near Khalapur Express Toll, Off
Mumbai-Pune Express Way, Tal. Khalapur, District Raigad – 401
202.

M/s. Reliance Gas Pipelines Limited (RGPL) has proposed to lay 486 km length pipeline from Dahej to Nagothane for transport of liquid Ethane. Out of the total length 486 km, 87 km pipeline will pass through Karjat, Khalapur and Pen Talukas of Raigad Dist. The Public Hearing for the proposed pipeline in Raigad District was conducted on 04.4.2015 as per EIA Notification dated 14.9.2006 issued by MoEF.

The following Committee memers were present during the Public Hearing:

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|----|---------------------|---|---|
| 1. | Shri Satish Bagal, | - | Additional District Magistrate (ADM), Raigad,
Chairman |
| 2. | Shri Dilip Khedkar | - | Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control
Board, Raigad |
| 3. | Shri S. L. Waghmare | - | Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control
Board, Raigad-I, Convener |
| 4. | Shri H. D. Gandhe | - | Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control
Board, Raigad-II, Convener |

The Convener of Public Hearing and Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-2 provided information regarding the Public Hearing to the people present and informed that notice for the public hearing was published in local daily "Dainik Krushival" in Marathi and national daily "The Times of India" in English on 02.3.2015. Draft EIA Report and Executive Summary of draft EIA were made available at various notified offices for public study purpose. Also, people were appealed to forward their comments, suggestions and objections, if any about the project. He further informed the people that they can submit written objections and can orally raise their queries during the public hearing.

Before the commencement of presentation, few people objected that Public Hearing is being held on Hanuman Jayanti and should be postponed because of which religious sentiments are being hurt. Due to the programs organized on Hanuman Jayanti, all the farmers have not been able to come to the public hearing. Thus the attendance could have been more and public hearing should be conducted taluka-wise. The Chairman and Regional Officer tried to convinced people, but people objected and went out of the seminar hall. However after some time, few people returned and gather infront of the dias and started arguing that the public hearing should be cancelled and be conducted taluka-wise.

Regional Officer then explained the purpose of conducting public hearing. He explained that notice for the environmental public hearing was published in widely circulated news papers as it is not possible to publish in all news papers. All the concerned grampanchayats have been informed. Separate hearing will be conducted by Collector for the issues related to land acquisition. Also separate notice will be issued to the land owners through whose land the pipeline is passing. This is an environmental public hearing and environment related questions can be asked. These will be noted and recordings will be forwarded to the Central Government.

The Chairman explained that once declared, public hearing can not be postponed except in the event of an untoward emergency. So, everyone's comments, objections and questions will be noted and the recording will be forwarded to the Central Government for final decision.

Regional Officer said that the public hearing has been organized in consultation with District Collector and all the requirements as per the EIA Notification have been fulfilled. As per notification, public hearing can be postponed only in the event of an untoward emergency. So, everyone's comments, objections and questions will be noted and the recording will be forwarded to higher authorities.

Chairman requested the people to understand the project and ask questions. If further clarification is required, Project representative will provide complete information about the project.

Thereafter people expressed their willingness to view the presentation.

Regional Officer said that the people have agreed to view the presentation and he requested the project representative to start the project presentation.

With the permission of Chair, Ms. Gauri Vaidya, Manager-Environment, Reliance Gas Pipelines Limited (RGPL) made audio visual presentation in Marathi about project providing detailed project information which included project details, route selection, purpose and benefits of the project, Baseline Monitoring, Environmental Impact Assessment, Risk assessment and Disaster Management, Safety Measures, Environmental Management Plan, CSR activities, benefits of pipeline transproation and comparision with other modes of transport, RoU acquisition as per PMP Act.

After the presentation, the Chairman requested people to ask questions. He informed the project proponent to provide response after all the questions are noted.

Regional Officer said that MPCB works just an agency for conducting environmental public hearing as directed by Central Government. As the local affected persons cannot communicate directly, Central Government nominated MPCB to organise Public Hearing in the vicinity of the project to note the views of the people and forward the recordings to the Central Government. The committee for public hearing is constituted as per EIA Notification, 2006. District Collector or Additional District magistration is the chairman of the committee. MPCB is only a representative to conduct public hearing. Regional Officer then explained the procedure of the public hearing stating that public hearing is to be completed within 45 days. Public Hearing notices are published 30 days before the date of public hearing. EIA notification provides details of the authorities where the project related documents are to be made available. MPCB has accordingly provided the documents at the concerned government offices. Concerned persons can provide their objections in writing within 30 days before the public hearing. Also, written and oral objections can be presented during the public hearing. It is MPCB's responsibility to note all the objections, comments and questions as it is and to

forward the recordings to the Government. He then requested all present to ask questions about the project. He also requested people to mention their name and village prior to asking the question.

The details of questions asked by the people and responses provided by the project proponent are as follows:

1. Shri Santosh Ganesh Bailmare, Khalapur – Land value depreciates after the company acquires the land for the project. Compensation is not discussed in the presentation. Tanker drivers will become unemployed due to the project. There is no plan to provide employment to farmers and local people. The project is not beneficial for ordinary people. Farmers have not received suitable land compensation under the previous projects like Tata Power and Express way. So I oppose the project. There is also no reference to employment generation.

2. Shri Kashinath Narayan Jagtap, Grampanchayat Sadasya, Kharsundi Village – Appropriate compensation was not provided for earlier project implemented in this region. Hence I oppose the project.

3. Shri Abhishek Narayan Darge, Savaroli Village – Being a farmer, I oppose the project.

4. Shri Sanjay Ananat Padwal, Gagode Budruk Village, Tal.Pen – Resolve previous land related issues and nullify 7/12. I oppose the project.

5. Shri Bharat Mahadik, Gagode Budruk Village, Tal. Pen - Resolve previous land related issues and nullify 7/12. I oppose the project.

6. Shri Sanjay Haribhau Panse, Gagode Budruk Village, Tal. Pen – Oppositon to the project.

7. Shri Sandip Subhash More, Jambhivali Village, Tal. Khalapur – Not received prior intimation regarding survey work carried out in my land. I oppose the project and demand to conduct hearing in each taluka.

8. Shri Vijay Patil, Ta.Khalapur - Proposed pipeline passes through hilly area and many trees will be cut during pipeline laying. What arrangments the company has made for the loss of trees due to proposed project.

9. Shri Sunanda Reddy, NGO, Hyderabad – I am an environmentalist. I have studied the project and it is beneficial from environmental angle. Due to pipeline transporation, there will be no requirement of tankers. As a result, proposed project will lead to fuel saving in large scale. These savings will be utilized for taking up water conservation measures. The company should undertake plantation of trees in each village through which pipeline is passing. Fruit bearing and medicinal plants should be planted. The profits incurred should be utilised by the company for construction water tanks or for implementation of similar CSR activities. Preference shall be given to local people for employment.

10. Shri Chetan Mokal, Pen – I will not allow the implementation of the project unless the meeting is conducted in Pen Taluka. Before implementing the project, meeting should be conducted in every village.

11. Shri Nivrutti Motiram Sanekar, Vill. Kharsundi, Ta. Khalapur – Farmers were not benefited by the Express Highway project. I do not oppose the project. But compensation given to the farmers is very less. Monthly income should be provided to farmers through whose land the pipeline is passing instead of one time compensation.

12. Shri Sanjay Arjun Tambole, Grampanchayat Sadasya, Vill. Wakas, Ta. Karjat - Farmers did not get proper compensation from previous projects. Hold meetings at grampanchayat level so that proper compensation can be decided after discussion with farmers. Or else I oppose the project.

Regional Officer informed that written representations have been received from Grampanchayat Amtem, Grampanchayat Nigade, Arun Shivkar and Grampanchayat Pabal. He further informed that other people can also submit written similar representations. Then he requested the company representative to answer the questions raised.

Shri Shirish Pathak, Vice President, RGPL Representative answered the questions. He mentioned that the survey referred to in one of the questions above was undertaken by forest department and not by RGPL.

On compensation related issues, **Shri Shirish Pathak** informed that Government appointed Competent Authority will decide the compensation.

Shri Satish Bagal, Chairman provided the information related to RoU acquisition under PMP Act. He further informed that for all the objections/questions raised by the land owners, Competent Authority (CA) will hold objection hearing meetings for every village.

For tree felling in private land, **Shri Shirish Pathak** informed that as per Government Rule, 10 trees will be planed for every tree felled.

People questioned about the location for undertaking tree plantation.

Regional Officer said that project proponent will have to purchase land for tree plantation. Further in this connection he provided information on procedure as per Government rules.

Shri Shirish Pathak said that maintenance of trees will be undertaken till 7 years. He further said that compensation for trees felled in private land will be provided before cutting the trees.

13. Shri Abhishek Narayan Darge, Vill. Savaroli – Whether the company will provide ‘Project Affected Person Certificate’ to the land owners through whose land the pipeline will be passing. Monthly rental is to be provided instead of one time compensation.

In this regard, **Shri Shirish Pathak, RGPL representative** explained that RoU will be acquired as per PMP Act and there is no permanent land acquisition involved for the project. Therefore such certificates cannot be provided. If required, such cases can be referred to Government appointed Competent Authority and decisions in this regard will be taken by Competent Authority.

Shri Satish Bagal, Chairman said that minutes of the public hearing will be provided to Competent Authority also.

Shri Abhishek Darge asked about the company’s policy regarding employment for land owners.

Shri Shirish Pathak explained that the pipeline will be buried underground and there are no permanent employment opportunities in the project. He further said that during pipeline construction, local people will be given preference for employment based on qualification and skill set.

Shri Abhishek Darge asked that whether the project is owned by Government or private.

Shri Shirsh Pathak answered that it is a private project and Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has given consent for laying the pipeline.

14. Shri Santosh Ganesh Bailmare, Khalapur – The company should build a hospital in villages through which pipeline is passing and give preference to farmers for treatment.

Shri Shirish Pathak replied that based on the need assessment and discussion with concerned people, CSR schemes will be implemented through Reliance Foundation.

Shri Satish Bagal provided information on provision of CSR activities in the Government Rules to everyone.

Regional Officer said that as an ordinary citizen, he would like to ask what is pipeline pressure, what are the measures for emergency response, where and what distance will the pipeline markers be placed.

15. Shri Vijay Patil, Tal. Khalapur – what arrangement has been made by the company for obtaining immediate information in case of pipeline leak? How long will the emergency response vehicle take to reach at the site in case of an emergency. What will be the effect of pipeline leak on the land?

Shri Shirish Pathak replied that the pipeline operations will be controlled through SCADA and online leak detection system. Information of leak will be immediately transmitted to the pipeline operation center. All activities along the pipeline RoU will be monitored through Pipeline Intrusion Detection System (PIDS). Compensation will be paid for any loss during pipeline maintenance.

16. Shri Santosh Ganesh Bailmare, Khalapur - Officers from the revenue departments should be present while taking the decisions for land and compensation.

Regional Officer said that this is an environmental public hearing. MPCB's responsibility is only to conduct the public hearing, note the environment related objections and comments and forward the proceedings to Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). Yet, all issues presented during the public hearing have been noted. Final authority of granting environmental clearance lies with the MoEF. All this was clarified at the start of the public hearing itself. Decisions on all compensation related issues will be taken by Government appointed Competent Authority.

Also, MPCB received written representations from grampanchayat offices and other locals. These are attached along with the minutes. The brief summary of these letters is mentioned here below.

- 1. Group Grampanchayat Nigade:** Grampanchayat in its monthly meeting, opposed the proposed pipeline project. Request to change the public hearing venue. Please make available draft Environmental Impact Assessment Reports and outline scheme available, etc.
- 2. Group Grampanchayat Pabal:** Grampanchayat opposes the proposed project. There is a danger of pipeline getting ruptured across the river. Also the proposed pipeline is proposed next to village which will be dangerous to villagers.
- 3. Group Grampanchayat Amtem:** Grampanchayat opposes the proposed project. Many people will not attend the public hearing as this is scheduled on Hanuman Jayanti on 04.04.2015. Please change date and venue of the public hearing. Proposed pipeline passing through rivers, there is a danger of pipeline getting ruptured. If the trench is not restored properly after laying pipeline, there will be change in course of river water.

4. **Social Worker Arun Shivkar**, at Devli, Post Kharpale, Taluka Pen, Dist.Raigad: Grampanchayat opposes the proposed project. Many people will not attend the public hearing as this is scheduled on hanuman jayanti on 04.04.2015. Please change date and venue of the public hearing. Proposed pipeline passing through rivers, there is a danger of pipeline getting ruptured. If the trench is not restored properly after laying pipeline, there will be change in course of river water.

The Chairman requested the project representatives to note all the questions raised during the public hearing. He further said that report on environment related questions and other local issues will be forwarded to the Environment Department of Central Government. Further he informed the people that all the points have been noted, public hearing has been videographed and all points will be included in the minutes and forwarded to the Environment Department of Central Government for further action.

At the end, Chairman concluded the Public Hearing with vote of thanks.



(H.D.Gandhe)

**Sub Regional Officer, MPCB Raigad-2 and
Convener of the
Public Hearing Committee**



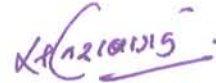
(S.L.Waghmare)

**Sub Regional Officer, MPCB Raigad-1 and
Convener of the
Public Hearing Committee**



(Dilip Khedkar)

Regional Officer, MPCB Raigad



(Satish Bagal)

**Resident Deputy Collector and Additional
District Magistrate, Raigad and Chairman of
the Public Hearing Committee**