

Minutes Of The Public Hearing For Proposed 60 KLPD Molasses Based Distillery Unit Of M/s. Sopanrao Balkrishna Dhasal Agro Products Limited, Gut No.223, At Post – Village Malkup, Taluka – Parner, Dist- Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.

The Public Hearing for proposed 60 KLPD Molasses based Distillery Unit M/s Sopanrao Balkrishna Dhasal Agro Products Limited, Gut No.223, At Post – Village Malkup, Taluka – Parner, Dist. - Ahmednagar, Maharashtra was conducted on Wednesday, 10th February, 2021, 11.00 am at the site of the said industry.

Following were the Panel Members as per MPCB Office Order No. E- 07 of 2020 and letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 201215-FTS-0241, dated 15/12/2020.

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| 1) District Magistrate-Ahmednagar
or his representative not below
The rank of an Additional District
Magistrate | - | Chairman |
| 2) Regional Officer, MPCB, Nashik
(Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board) | - | Member |
| 3) Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB, Ahmednagar | - | Convener |

Shri Sanjeev A. Redasni, I/c Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Ahmednagar and Convener of the Public Hearing Committee welcomed all participants and informed that the meeting is called in the background of Covid-19. Hence, it is requested all the participants to follow strict guidelines of Govt. of India.

Shri Redasni, Convener of the Public Hearing Meeting welcomed all participants & started procedure of public hearing with approval of Chairman of Public Hearing Panel.

Convener informed that the aim of conducting prior public consultation is to make aware. Local people who can be participant in the hearing and they should know the project activities and Environment Management Plan of the unit. Convener also briefed procedure adopted for conducting the said Public Hearing.

The Convener further informed that not a single objection/complaint is received by local MPCB Office, Ahmednagar however two supporting letters are received by MPCB.

With the permission of Chairman, Project Environment Consultant gave information of project geographical location of the proposed unit, proposed impact on the environment due to proposed project and details of Environment Management Plan of the proposed distillery unit.

After presentations, the participants were appealed to raise their views, suggestions or objections regarding propose plant in environmental angle only.

Following persons have participated in the discussions and the information given by Project Environment Consultant/Project PropONENT/ Environment Public Hearing Committee:-

1) Shri Raosaheb Kashinath Bhand, Resident-Dhotre Budruk, Tal – Parner, Dist -Ahmednagar:-

Which benefits local people will get from this project and whether local people will get job opportunities?

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that the question raised is real. Which benefits the local people will get should be answered.

Project Environment Consultant informed that as shown in the presentation, 77 persons will get direct job opportunities in the project. As per the policy adopted by the management of the factory, local people will be given priority while extending job opportunities. This project is molasses-based distillery; hence sugarcane crop is required as raw material. Naturally the workers working on the fields of nearby farmers will also be benefitted. There will be tremendous increase in local business opportunities. The vehicles will require for the transportation. Due to which local peoples will get the jobs. The dependents on them will also be benefitted.

2) Shri. Manik Ranaba Bhondave, Resident- Dhavalpuri Bhondave Vasti, Tal – Parner, Dist – Amednagar:-

Shri Manik Bhondave stated that while commissioning of the project, the farmers should not suffer. The Project Proponent has erected the pipeline. There is channel. There was a downpour, due to which stream /Odha is formed.

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The big stones are lying there, due to which villagers cannot move freely for daily needs. Hence, care of the villagers should be taken. Though promises are given in the meeting, it should be implemented and then only the local people will not suffer in future. We cultivate vegetables and sale it. The consumers while purchasing it, ask its cultivation spot. It is observed that people do not purchase the vegetables cultivated at Ahmednagar as there are many industries.

He remarked that though the local people will be benefitted due to project, utmost precaution should be taken for avoiding the pollution.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that the question is raised very accurately. He directed Project Consultant to inform the treatment which will be given to the effluent. Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee also directed to remove the lying stones to avoid the troubles of the villagers.

It is directed by the Chairman that stones which are lying due to excavation work carried by the factory should be removed within two days for the free movement of the villagers. Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee directed to note this point in the minutes of the meeting and also asked Project Proponent to inform the present status.

Project Proponent first thanked Shri Bhondave for his support to the project. It is promised by the project officials that today only or tomorrow, the stones which have become obstructions for the free movement of the villagers will be removed.

Project Proponent further informed that it is already shown in the Presentation regarding treatment to the effluent, it's recycle and reuse in the process. It is promised that the local people will not suffer due to this project.

3) **Dr. P. M. Joshi, Regional Officer, MPCB, Nashik and Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee :-**

Dr. P.M. Joshi stated that pollution control devices are proposed in the project. But O & M (Operation & Maintenance) of it should be carried periodically. MPCB officials do visit the projects for inspection and compliance

of consent conditions from time to time. If there is any violation, then action will be initiated as per the provisions in the Environment Laws.

Project Environment Consultant informed that Effluent Treatment Plant will be in operation in the project. Also Online Monitoring for water and stack will be installed and operated in the project. Here, Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee stated that though Online Monitoring systems for water and stack is specified in the Terms of Reference (ToR) by Govt. of India for 24 x 7, Environment Consultant has not given any details of it in Environment Impact Assessment Report and in Presentation.

Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee asked Project Consultant that though they have carried scientific study, the details of pollutants travelling to the villages as per Wind Rose is not given in the report. Project Environment Consultant answered that coal and spent wash will be burnt in the process, due to which SPM (Suspended Particulate Matter) and Sulphur-Die-Oxide pollutants will increase at Malkup village. The SPM level will increase by 0.3 microgram/Nm³, which will be very negligible.

The Sulphur-Die-Oxide level will increase by 1.0 microgram/Nm³. At present the SPM level at Malkup is 64.5 microgram/Nm³, whereas the level of Sulphur-Die-Oxide is 27.3 microgram/Nm³.

If the present level and proposed level if both are added, then the combined level of SPM will be 64.8 microgram/Nm³, which will be low than the prescribed National Quality Standards of 100.0 microgram/Nm³. It means that there will not be any threat of SPM to saplings, birds and animals and human beings.

Also the combined level of Sulphur-Die-Oxide will be 28.3 microgram/Nm³, which will be very low than the prescribed limits of 80.0 microgram/Nm³ as specified by National Quality Standards.

Hence, there will not be any ill-effects on the public. The increase level will be in the area of Malkup village only.

- 4) At this moment, Shri Sanjeev Redasni, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that as Project Consultant has carried the scientific survey, the names of the villages which are likely to be affected should be informed as per the Wind Rose.

Environment Consultant informed that Malkup, Bhalawani, Hivare-Korda, Bhandgaon villages will be affected. The villages which are 1-2 k.m. away are likely to be affected.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee here informed that the Project Consultant has not also mentioned the updated information regarding the operational projects in the District.

- 5) Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee here remarked that Project Consultant has not carried the study in detail. The information given in the report is not at all updated. Hence, updated information should be incorporated in the Final Environment Impact Assessment report.

- 6) Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee here stated that there is no comments on Coal Crushers. ESP (Electro Static Precipitator) is not at all source of pollution. The coal crushers are at Coal Handling Sections. The pollution control devices at Coal Handling Sections are not mentioned. There is noise pollution at Steam Pressing Section. It is not mentioned. The impact of environment should be mentioned. Just as Air Quality Index is mentioned at Google. If there is bad air quality, we can inform in advance to people regarding proposed impacts. The people should be informed in advance the impacts of proposed project, this is important aspect.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that we are not at all against the project. Vasantdada Sugar Institute is the Government Agency. Hence, all the scientific points should be complied as per the directives of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee & updated information be included in the Final Environment Impact Assessment Report. Environment Consultant promised for the same.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all the participants to raise any suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only.

7) Shri Sunanda Reddy, Environmentalist, President, Dharitri Paryavaran Parirakshana Sanstha, Dist – Nalgaonda, Telangana State :-

Shri Sunanda Reddy, Environmentalist stated that he is first Environmentalist in India who supports the industrial development.

He congratulated Project Proponent for planning to commission new Distillery Unit. He said that “unemployment” is the major pollution in India. When we got an independence, the population of 35 Crores and now it is 135 Crores. At this moment, Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee directed him not to give lecture, but just to point out suggestions.

Shri Reddy further said that Environment Consultant has carried the survey of water, air and noise pollution. He suggested that health status data, present crop pattern and present status of ground water of 10 km radius of the project be studied and report should be made.

He said that there is 24 acres of land in the project. Rain Water Harvesting should be implemented. He suggested that large tank should be built to preserve the rain water. The water of the tank should be utilised after rainy season. It will increase the ground water level. While developing green belt, fruit bearing plants and medicinal plants should be given priority. The green belt development at both sides of road and avenue green belt development should be taken in hand. Local young males and females should be extended Skilled Development Programme. Local youths and young girls be given priority in the job opportunities.

Shri Sunanda Reddy congratulated Project Proponent for planning to commission the project and also congratulated Environment Consultant for preparing Environment Impact Assessment Report. Shri Reddy suggested Environment Public Hearing Committee to recommend the project for obtaining

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the Environment Clearance from the Department of Environment & Climate Change, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai.

He informed that he has also given his suggestions in writing.

Environment Consultant while thanking Shri Reddy informed that the suggestions while developing green belt are already promised in the EIA report by the Project Proponent.

8) Shri. Santosh Chaudhary, Dhavalpuri, Ranmala Vasti, Tal – Parner, Dist – Ahmednagar:-

Shri Santosh Chaudhary said that in the project affected area, we are implementing Environmental Projects through Watershed Institute Trust. The project of Soil Protection & Rehabilitation is in operation. He said that he had carried various programme of water shed.

Shri Santosh Chaudhary said that he requires clarification for the certain points raised during the Presentation.

a) It is mentioned in the Presentation that the study of groundwater is carried. In the proposed project, spent wash and spent lees will be generated. Then which steps will be undertaken to avoid mixing of spent lees into the ground water to avoid the ground water pollution. This is not at all mentioned in the Presentation. If the rain water mixes with spent lees, then definitely there will be ground water pollution.

b) In the Presentation, there is mentioned about water and air pollution. But due to manufacturing process, there is possibility of Smell Nuisance in the area. The steps to avoid Smell Nuisance are not mentioned in the Presentation. As Molasses will be the main raw material, it smells heavily. Nothing is mentioned in the Presentation regarding the steps to be undertaken to avoid trouble of smell nuisance to the people residing in the vicinity.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked Environment Consultant to inform the steps to prevent the smell nuisance which will be undertaken.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked to Project consultant to explain the steps to be undertaken to avoid mixing of rain water with spent lees to avoid ground water pollution in the meeting.

Environment Consultant informed that all the CREP guidelines will be strictly followed for the spent wash. It is already mentioned in the presentation.

The spent lees will be treated in the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) and it will be recycled and reused in the manufacturing process. Not a drop of effluent will be generated outside the factory.

It is informed that Rain Water Harvesting Lines and Storm Water Lines and ETP Lines will be separated from each other. The guidelines will be strictly followed. Hence, there will not be ground water pollution due to spent lees.

The directives for storage of molasses will be strictly followed to avoid smell nuisance. Also the directives for storage of spent wash will also be followed. The directives are to keep molasses and spent wash storage for only 5-7 days. Hence, all the directives will be followed.

Shri Santosh Chaudhary asked whether there are any directives for the smell nuisance. Environment Consultant informed that previously the molasses and spent wash used to store in katcha pits. The recent directives will be followed.

At this moment, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the participant has raised the issue of water. The answer for it that storm water drain should be separate. Spent wash should be transported through closed pipe line for the treatment, due to which rain water will not mix with spent wash. The pipeline which is carrying spent wash should be closed. It storm water should be stored separately. In any case, storm water should not be mixed with spent wash.

Second question is raised regarding smell nuisance. The smell comes through Distilleries. Hence, the preventive measures should be taken. If the spent wash carrying pipeline and spent wash storage is closed, there will be minimum smell nuisance. Whatever preventive steps are possible should be implemented by the Project Proponent. If the thick green bell is developed

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around the factory, the smell nuisance will reduce. These are expectations of the participants. Hence, inform the participants about the steps which will be taken.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked here that the objections raised are real. But in India Odour Nuisance Norms are not still prescribed. It is prescribed in USEPA. It does not mean that smell nuisance should not be controlled. We can control smell nuisance. Previously, there was Lagoon Technology. But at that time, MEE (Multi Effective Technology) was not available. The MEE Technology is available in this plant. Now the molasses is stored in closed steel tanks. But due to characteristics of molasses, the smell will occur. Alcohol is produced by molasses only. In India, there is no Odour Nuisance Norms. The only options remain is storing of molasses in closed tanks or evaporation. Now MEE and ZLD technology are available. The ToR as sanctioned by Govt. of India prescribes that "not a drop of effluent should be disposed outside the factory."

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee here opined that previously there was tremendous trouble of smell nuisance in old distilleries. But now it will be minimised. But due to characteristics of the molasses, there will be smell which can be minimised by stored in closed steel tank.

Environment Consultant informed that previously the spent wash used to store in open lagoons. Now it is not allowed.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee directed that Project Proponent should adopt all the available technology/steps to control the smell nuisance. As discussed in detail, development of green belt around the plant, storage of molasses in closed tanks etc. are to be adopted. There should be least smell nuisance in the area.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that participants can raise their views in writing also.

9) Shri Y. Chenne Kesana Reddy, Environmentalist and Social Worker, Telangana :-

He suggested that the Effluent Treatment Plant should be kept in operation for 24x7. The separate meter should be installed to ETP. It is not mentioned in the report the capacity of proposed ETP. It should be mentioned. Otherwise there will be ground water pollution. The various social welfare schemes should be carried in Project Affected Villages through CSR Fund. While developing green belt, if the banana trees are cultivated, there will be income and job opportunities to local gardeners. The priority in job opportunities be given to project affected persons.

He said that it is request to Environment Public Hearing Committee to recommend to Government for sanction of the project. He has also submitted his written suggestions.

10) Shri Sudarshan, Environmentalist, Telangana :-

While supporting the project, he has given few suggestions that there should not be any environment degradation due to this project. The project should be installed. Local people should be given priority in job opportunities. The CSR fund should be spent for Skilled Development to the local young boys and girls. The child labourers should not be appointed in the project. He wished success to the project. He has submitted written suggestions also.

11) Dr. Rajesh Bhanagade, Sarpanch, Dhavalpuri Grampanchayat, Tal - Parner, Dist - Ahemednagar :-

He stated that while discussing the planning of the project, two points were raised. First the Smell Nuisance. At this moment, Project Proponent informed that there will not be smell nuisance just as it comes in old distilleries. Second point was discussed of waste water. At this moment, Project Proponent informed that the project will be ZLD i.e. Zero Liquid Discharge. Hence, Project Management should take care so that local people, farmers should not suffer. The details of CSR Fund is shown in the presentation. But it should not

just remain on paper. The priority should be give to the affected villages i.e. Malkup and Dhavalpuri while spending CSR fund. This should be noted that only sugarcane crop gets the guaranteed rate. Other crops do not get it. The local agriculturists who have plenty of water may cultivate sugarcane crops. The local farmers are familiar to cultivate onions, wheat, jowar, they do not know how to cultivate sugarcane crops. Hence, the guidance and awareness training should be extended to local farmers. After getting Guaranteed Rate to the sugarcane crops, the local farmers will get stability.

He further asked whether pollution level monitoring is carried annually. He suggested to make available the data to Grampanchayat office, so that the information can be made available to local villagers.

Environment Consultant informed that the monitoring programme is already fixed by the Government. It will be implemented as per schedule. The report will be pasted on the gate of the factory.

Dr. Bhanagade answered that there is always discussions in Gramsabha that whether the factory follows environmental norms. It is essential to keep healthy relation between factory and local people. The project proponent should follow all the norms as stipulated in Environmental Laws. We appreciate Project Management who are trying to change the face of this drought prone area.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee while concluding the points, suggested that –

- a) As suggested by Dr. Rajesh Bhanagade, Sarpanch, Dhavalpuri the factory after starting operations shall inform all the environmental norms to local Grampanchayat office periodically;
- b) The Electronic Board should be installed to show pollution level in the factory, so that local people will be aware of it. The report of the same be made available at the time of Gram Sabha. This should be followed strictly;

- c) The promises of commissioning of Pollution Control Devices be implemented 100 %.
- d) The Suggestion/Complaint Box be fixed at the main gate of the factory. Though online facilities are available, it is difficult to use it to local farmers and people. Those who cannot use online system, can give their suggestions and objections. Hence, Suggestion/Complaint Box should be fixed. When there will be monthly meeting of the Directors of the Factory, the action should be initiated on writing complaints.

While concluding the discussions, Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that participants have raised real suggestions/objections. The have thought the issue by both sides. When there is industry, some will get direct job opportunities & some will get indirect job opportunities. The suggestion raised by Dr. Bhanagade regarding utilization of CSR fund at affected villages is right. The affected villages should get more CSR fund. The work of water conservation should be taken on priority.

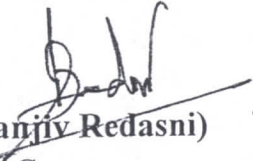
Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the suggestions, objections raised during the meeting are noted and it will be included in the minutes of meeting. This minutes along with written objections and Final EIA will be submitted to Govt. an Expert Committee will take further suitable action on it. He thanked participants for raising real issues.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee while concluding the meeting asked to follow all the guidelines as directed by Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee. He said that Environment Consultant should insert the suggestions given in the meeting. Convener of the meeting thanked all local people, NGOs, Journalists, Factory Management for attending the meeting and on behalf of the Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee declared that the meeting is concluded.

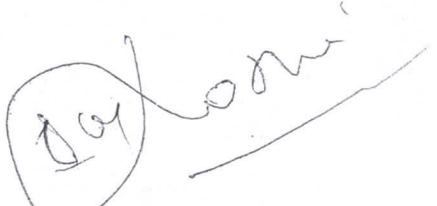
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The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.


The objections / suggestions are enclosed herewith for ready reference.


(Sanjiv Redasni)
Convener,

Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
I/c. Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB, Ahmednagar


(Dr. P. M. Joshi,)
Member,

Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
I/c. Regional Officer,
MPCB, Nashik


(Sandip Nichit)
Chairman,

Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate-Ahmednagar,
Dist. - Ahmednagar