

## MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING

### MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION IN EXISTING MOLASSES BASED DISTILLERY UNIT FROM 30.0 KLPD TO 100.0 KLPD PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S VITTHAL CORPORATION LIMITED (VCL), VITTHALRAO SHINDE NAGAR, POST – MHAISGAON, TAL – MADHA, DIST- SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA

---

- Ref : 1) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi's Notification Dated 14-09-2006 and Amended Notification Dated 01-12-2009;
- 2) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi's Office Memorandum Dated 14-09-2020;
- 3) Maharashtra Pollution Control Board's directives vide no. B-200917-FTS-0082, Dated 17-09-2020;
- 4) Ministry of Environment & Climate Change, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai's directives vide dated 03-12-2019;
-

The public hearing for proposed expansion in the existing Molasses Based Distillery Unit from 30.0 KLPD to 100.0 KLPD proposed by Project Proponent M/s Vitthal Corporation Limited (VCL), Vitthalrao Shinde Nagar, Post – Mhaisgaon, Tal – Madha, Dist-Solapur, Maharashtra was conducted on Friday, the 05<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 at 12.00 noon at the site of the said industry.

As per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEFCC, GoI), New Delhi and subsequent amendment on 01-12-2019, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has constituted Public Hearing Panel vide Office Order No.E-22 of 2021 issued under letter no.BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B-210226-FTS-0101, Dated 26-02-2021 as below :-

- 1) District Magistrate, Solapur - **Chairman**  
or his representative not below the  
rank of an Additional District Magistrate
- 2) Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune - **Member**  
(Representative of  
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board)
- 3) Sub Regional Officer, - **Convener**  
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,  
Solapur

Shri Prashant Bhosale, I/c Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Solapur and Convener of the Public Hearing Committee while welcoming all informed that as this Physical Public Hearing is arranged in the background of Covid-19, we all have to follow the directives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi dated 14-09-2020 [referred at sr. no. (2)] and subsequent Order as issued by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board dated 17-09-2020 [referred at sr. no. (3)] above. Hence, 100 persons are allowed in the meeting hall in a session. If the participants are more, subsequent sessions will continue until all the participants are given opportunities to attend the meeting.

As per the directives, it is requested all the participants to follow strict guidelines of Govt. of India. The thermal checking and use of sanitizer is kept at the entrance of the meeting hall and in the meeting hall, it is compulsory to wear mouth mask and follow the social distancing amongst the persons.

Convener of the Public Hearing Meeting welcomed Additional District Magistrate, Solapur and Hon'ble Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee, Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune and Member of the Public Hearing Committee, Company Officials, Government Officials, Environmentalist, Journalists and public who were present in large number and informed that as per the EIA Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEFCC, Gol) dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 as amended on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification

He informed that the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of application of Project Proponent M/s Vitthal Corporation Limited (VCL), Vitthalrao Shinde Nagar, Post – Mhaisgaon, Tal – Madha, Dist-Solapur, Maharashtra to conduct public hearing for their proposed expansion in the existing Molasses Based Distillery Unit from 30.0 KLPD to 100.0 KLPD

The Convener further informed that the project is in operation outside of notified industrial area and as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of project falls under Category A (5)S as Maldhok Bird Sanctuary falls 5 k.m. away from the project site.

Convener of the Public Hearing Committee 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 developmental activities and Environment Management Plan of the unit.

Project Proponent had sought permission from MoEFCC, Gol for sanction of Terms of Reference (ToR) and for preparation of Environment Impact Assessment and MoEFCC, Gol has sanctioned ToR on 12-03-2019.

Shri Bhosale, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee informed that this public hearing on 05-03-2021 is approved by District Collector, Solapur for which 30 days in advance public notice was published as per provisions in the Notification in local newspaper Daily Sakal in Marathi and in national newspaper Daily Indian Express on 05<sup>th</sup> February, 2021. The people were appealed to send any suggestions, objections regarding expansion of the proposed project in environmental angle only.



Also a copy of EIA report and executive summary were made available to general public at various notified offices of Government i.e. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, West-East Division Office, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Lines, Nagpur – 440 001; District Magistrate Office-Solapur; Additional District Magistrate Office- Solapur; Zilla Parishad Office- Solapur; District Industries Centre-Office, Solapur; Tahsildar, Tahsil Office- Madha, Dist – Solapur; Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Madha, Tal – Madha, Dist – Solapur; Gram Sevak / Sarpanch, Grampanchayat Office – Mouje Akulgaon, Chinchgaon, Tadval, Mhaisgaon, Vadshinge, Papnas, Lahu, Tal – Madha, Dist – Solapur; Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur; Regional Office, MPCB, Pune and at Head Office of MPCB at Mumbai; Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai and on the website of MPCB. The public were appealed to send any suggestion or objection regarding the expansion of above project. He informed that one objection on email from Shri Sandipan Reddy is received by Sub Regional Office, Solapur. The person is informed to attend the meeting.

Convener of the Public Hearing Committee informed all participants that an opportunity is given to raise suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in writing and orally. He requested Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee

With the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman of the meeting, the Environment Consultant appointed by the company while giving presentation He informed that this

project is Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) and informed that Maldhok Bird Sanctuary is 5.0 k.m. away from this project site and gave the presentation of the expansion project and Environment Management Plan in detail.

After the presentation, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed participants to raise their suggestions, objections.

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

**1) Mrs. Archana Somnath Pol, Resident-Mhaisegaon, Tal-Madha, Dist – Solapur, Occupation-Teacher :-**

Mrs Archana Pol informed that she is teacher. She said that just now here, the information of production activities and environment protection steps are informed. We also inform the parents how to take study of the pupils. The information given by the Project Environment Consultant is true, as we do bring the education trip here. If the factory administration is asked the permission for the trip, it is also granted without any hesitation. The students are shown the compost fertiliser plant. It is observed that at other places, the spent wash is released on the streets. We, the villagers are proud of this project that this project does not release the

spent wash on road. When we bring education trip here, it is observed that they are producing manure/fertilizers. The villagers have no threat from the factory.

Mrs. Pol further informed that we feel relaxed, when we come here. But it is observed that there seems to be a lack of trees/green belt. Hence, as informed in the presentation, the green belt should be developed. She further asked the question that whether this project will be operated in rainy season?

While giving answer, Environment Consultant remarked that Mrs. Pol has very beautifully analysed the present status of the project. He informed that as shown in the Presentation, the plant can be operated for whole year. He said that compost yard is shown in the presentation. If there is rain, we cannot carry composting. But when we will start incineration, the plant can be operated for 330 days.

**2) Shri Ashok Laxman Tarange, Resident-Papnas, Tal-Madha, Dist -Solapur :-**

Due to expansion of this project, whether there will be any effects on the health of the surrounding people?

Environment Consultant answered that we have to think about two types of health. First, the personnels working in

the factory and the people working outside the factory. We study both the aspects. There is threat to the people, who are working in the project. As per the survey and study carried by us, it is observed that there was no major accidental incidence in the factory. While preparing the Environment Impact Assessment Report, the survey of 10 k.m. radius is carried. Since the inception of the plant, the disastrous incidence is not at all occurred at the plant.

**3) Shri Pandurang Jadhav, Resident – Mhaisegaon, Tal – Madha, Dist – Solapur :-**

How much will the project cost?

Environment Consultant answered that the project cost will be approximately 40 crores.

**4) Shri Rajendra Gudekar, Resident – Vadshinge, Tal-Madha, Dist – Solapur**

Where such type of project is in operation in Maharashtra?

Environment Consultant while giving answer informed that in Maharashtra, 70% of sugar mills have distillation plant. Environment Consultant further informed that he is personally monitoring the operation of 27 distillery projects in Western Maharashtra. But if



the incineration technology is considered, then this plant is first in Solapur district in Madha Taluka. This incineration technology is adopted after detailed study and it is proved successful.

**5) Shri Nitin Shinde, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee :-**

Shri Nitin Shinde, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee expressed the opinion that by raising the issues by the local people, it seems that people desire the information of air pollution and its treatment. It should be explained in detail. Secondly, one lady participant asked here about spent wash and whether the plant will be operated in rainy season? He further remarked that the information be given in simple language, even the common person can understand it. At this moment, Shri Bhagwat Deshmukh raised to ask the question. Hence, the Environment Consultant informed that first he gives the answer to Bhagwat Deshmukh.

**6) Shri Bhagwat Deshmukh, Ex. Sarpanch, Lahu Grampanchayat, Tal – Madha, Dist – Solapur :-**

The information on the manufacture and use of spent wash be given.

Here Environment Consultant informed that both the questions can be answered at a time. Environment Consultant informed that the effluent generated through Distillery Unit is called as Spent Wash. There are two types of effluent. One is concentrated, it is called as Spent Wash. Other is diluted. It is called as Spent Lease. Both are different. While producing one litre of Alcohol, 7-8 litre of Spent Wash is created. 1 ½ - 2 litre of Spent Lease is created. The colour of spent wash is like the muddy water in rainy season. The color of the molasses comes to the spent wash. There are 68-70% organic components in spent wash. There are also some inorganic substances. Though the spent wash is not poisonous, if it is thrown in the water, it absorbs oxygen due to which aquatic life is in endangered.

Environment Consultant further informed that after bio-methinization, the spent wash will be concentrated in MEE Due to which volume will be reduced by 60-70%. The color changes. Then concentrated spent wash will be sent to the Incineration boiler for Zero discharge. The condensate water from MEE will be treated in CPU and it will be recycled and reused in the process. The spent wash will be treated in the closed tank only, hence there will not any

exposure to the environment and there will not be any environment degradation.

Another point is raised regarding air pollution due to burning of spent wash. The ESP (Electro Static Precipitator) will be installed to the stack, which proved 99.5% to 99.8% efficiency. Hence, the ash will not be released in the air. In this process, Sulphur-Die-Oxide is produced, so the chimney is erected as per the prescribed standards. Hence, there will not be any threat as it will dissolve in the environment. There will not any effect on the air due other substances also. Due to burning of spent wash, there is no release of toxic gas, hence there will not be any threat.

**7) Shri Hanumant Gudekar, Resident – Vadshinge,  
Tal-Madha, Dist-Solapur:-**

Whether different raw material can be used other than Molasses?

At this moment, there is no such plan. We are using Molasses as raw material as it is available in the sugar factory. The alcohol is also made from corn, rice, and jowar/sorghum. As per recent research, the alcohol can also be made from sugar cane grass leaves. Alcohol can also be obtained from the bagasse that is

sent outside the sugar factory, Research on this is ongoing.

In this project, the alcohol will be produced from molasses only.

**8) Shri Bapu Jagtap, Residnet-Akulgaon, Tal-Madha, Dist-Solapur:-**

Whether Compost fertiliser will get?

It is informed by the Environment Consultant that the composting will be stopped. As the project will be operated for 330 days, the composting will be stopped.

Here, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed the participants to raise suggestion, objections regarding the proposed project.

**9) Shri Chandrakant Bobade, Resident – Akulgaon, Tal-Madha, Dist – Solapur :-**

Whether there will be any Noise Pollution in the project?

It is informed by the Project Environment Consultant that there is no machineries in the project which generates noise in the project. The D.G. sets which requires in the project is also gets available in closed system. Now also, the factory is in operation. But there is no noise. He informed that the detailed survey is carried and it is observed that there is no noise pollution.



**10) Shri Balaji Patil, Resident – Chinchgaon, Tal – Madha, Dist – Solapur :-**

Due to this project, 150-200 unemployed will get job opportunities. Hence, the unemployed youths will be minimised. This is good work.

**11) Shri Nitin Shinde, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee :-**

Shri Nitin Shinde raised few questions –

- a) In the presentation, the plan of Rain Water Harvesting is not shown;
- b) The preventive measures to avoid Odour Pollution are not shown in the Presentation. It should be included.
- c) There is no mention of treatment for the domestic effluent. It should be mentioned.
- d) The Govt. of India has granted ToR (Terms of Reference) on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, it includes forest and wildlife issues. But nothing is mentioned regarding this in the EIA report. Here Maldhok Bird Sanctuary is near, Sina river is also near. Hence utmost care should be taken for environment protection.

e) The NOCs be obtained first for the issues regarding Forest and Wild Life. The measures adopted be informed before the Committee;

Environment Consultant answered that an application is already made to N.B.L. for Maldhok sanctuary. It was withheld due to technical reasons.

It is agreed that nothing is done for the storage of rain water. Now roof top and harvesting will be carried and agriculture pond will be prepared.

Environment Consultant further informed that if the molasses is thrown outside the project or stored in large quantity, the smell releases. Here it is kept in closed tank. It will be kept for fermentation. The suggestions will be included in the Final EIA Report.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that we have gathered here for Public Hearing Meeting for the expansion of the Molasses Based Distillery of Vitthal Corporation Limited. It is observed from the emotions of the participants that they are supporting the project. Few have raised some doubts also. Member of the Public Hearing Committee has also given few suggestions. It should be noted in the Final EIA report.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that number of trees planted are less. It should be increased.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee here said that as there is Industrial Safety Week, he informed officials of the factory to have a few words.

The Chief Executive Officer shri. Sanjay Jamdade of the Project Proponent informed various measures adopted by the factory for safety purposes. He informed that due to hard efforts made by the project officials, the reflectors to the vehicles which are coming in the plant for handing sugar cane crop and signs of traffic were installed on the road.

**12) Shri Appasaheb Ubale, Social Worker,  
Mhaisegaon, Tal – Madha, Dist – Solapur:-**

He informed that as informed just now, the water has started to release through the tunnel in the year 2000 in our area. Previously the villages on the river bank were not getting water. The situation was worse. It was scary to walk down the street. The factory is started in 2008. At that time, nobody was ready to purchase the plot for Rupees One lakh for one acre. Now there is rise. Now for one acre, Fifty lakhs are getting. The local business of Chinchgaon, Mhaisegaon, Vadshinge is increased a lot. Local people have got job

opportunities. If there is requirement of water, the services of our tankers are utilised. We all support the expansion of the project.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee while talking about Industrial Safety Week remarked that many factories keep blind eye for the small safety measures and then suffer due to big loss. Then fixing of reflectors on tractor is to be made mandatory.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that in the meeting the letters are received from Chinchgaon Grampanchayat, Mhaisgaon Grampanchayat and Tadvale Grampanchayat regarding the supporting the expansion of the project.


Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that good suggestions have been raised in the meeting and it is answered very nicely by the Environment Consultant. The suggestions, objections raised during the meeting are noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. The minutes will be prepared in English and Marathi. It will be submitted alongwith Final EIA report, the writing suggestions, supporting letters to Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry, Govt. of India, New




Delhi. An Expert Committee will take further decision accordingly. He thanked all for attending the meeting and declared that the meeting is concluded.

The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

The supporting 03 letters for expansion of the project and 01 letter is for suggestion are enclosed herewith.

  
(Prashant Bhosale),  
Convener,  
Environment Public Hearing  
Committee  
And  
I/c Sub Regional Officer,  
MPCB, Solapur

  
(Nitin Shinde),  
Member,  
Environment Public Hearing  
Committee  
And  
I/c Regional Officer,  
MPCB, Pune

  
(Bharat Waghmare ),  
Chairman,  
Environment Public Hearing Committee  
And  
Additional District Magistrate, Solapur  
Dist - Solapur