

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION IN EXISTING MOLASSES BASED DISTILLERY UNIT FROM 45.0 KLPD TO 100.0 KLPD OF M/s. MULA SAHAKARI SAKHAR KARKHANA LIMITED, GUT NO. 848 to 865, 867 to 872, AT POST – SONAI, TAL – NEWASA, DIST-AHMEDNAGAR, MAHARASHTRA

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

The public hearing for proposed expansion in the existing Molasses Based Distillery Unit from 45.0 KLPD to 100.0 KLPD of M/s. Mula Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited, Gut No. 848 to 865, 867 to 872, At Post – Sonai, Tal. – Newasa, Dist. – Ahmednagar, Maharashtra was conducted on Friday, the 19th March, 2021 at 11.00 am 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) , 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-21 of 2021 issued under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B-210224-FTS-0187, dated 24-02-2021 as below:-

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

Shri. Sanjeev Redasni, I/c. Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Ahmednagar 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.




ADP



no. (3)] above. Hence, 50 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 Shri. Sandeep Niche, Additional District Magistrate, Ahmednagar and Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee, Dr. P.M. Joshi, Regional Officer, MPCB, Nashik 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) dated 14th 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.

He informed that the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of application of Project Proponent M/s. Mula Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited, Gut No. 848 to 865, 867 to 872, At Post – Sonai, Tal.– Newasa, Dist.– Ahmednagar, Maharashtra to conduct public hearing for their proposed expansion in the existing Molasses Based Distillery Unit from 45.0 KLPD to 100.0 KLPD.

Project Proponent had sought permission from Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai for sanction of Terms of Reference (ToR) and for preparation of Environment Impact Assessment and Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai has sanctioned ToR on 04-01-2021.

Shri. Redasni, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee informed that this public hearing on 19-03-2021 is approved by District Collector, Ahmednagar 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 Times of India on 13th 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. The public were appealed to send any suggestion or objection regarding the expansion of above project. He informed that not a single objection is received by Sub Regional Office, Ahmednagar. Shri. Redasni requested Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to start the proceeding.

With the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman of the meeting, the Environment Consultant appointed by the company gave the presentation regarding Environment Management Plant of the proposed project in detail. He informed that this project is

Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) and informed that in the proposed project, there will be requirement of 47 manpower.

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

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

1) Shri. Vitthal Baburao Shinde, Resident – Kharvandi, Tal – Newasa, Dist – Ahmendnagar:-

The good presentation is given. But which benefits the farmers will get due to the proposed expansion of the project?

Project Environment Consultant informed that the expansion of the distillery project will be from 45.0 KLPD to 100.0 KLPD. The Central Government has declared certain new policies.

The mixing of Ethanol with Petrol is one if it. Now the target is of 5% of mixing of Ethanol with Petrol. In 2025, it is planned up to 10%. We can produce Rectified Spirit (RS), Ethanol from the molasses of the sugar factory and after its sale, the factory will get additional profit/money. Hence, the project proponent will be able to give additional rate to the local farmers for their sugar cane crop. We have planned that after expansion, Ethanol will be produced from Molasses and sugarcane juice also. It will help to increase the rate of sugarcane crop, which will beneficial to the local farmers.

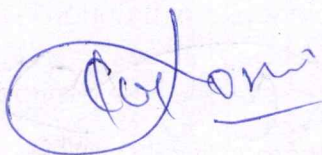
2) Shri Uddhav Bhanudas Tandale, Resident – Ganeshwadi, Tal – Newasa, Dist.- Ahmednagar:-

Though this expansion of the project will be beneficial to farmers, how much fresh water will be required for this project ? Whether approval from the Government is obtained?

Project Environment Consultant answered that at present the fresh water requirement is 309.0 M3/day. After expansion, the fresh water requirement will be 835.0 M3/day. The permission from the Irrigation Department is already obtained.

3) Shri Prasad Harkale, Resident – Sonai, Tal-Newasa, Dist – Ahmendnagar:

There is no doubt that the expansion of the project will be beneficial to the farmers only. But for the expansion of the project, how much will it cost overall?



Environment Consultant answered that this project will be ZLD (Zero Liquid Project) project. Here for Distillery, Boiler, MEE (Multi Effective Evaporator) and CPU (Condensing Polishing Unit), it will cost around 82.24 Crores.

4) Shri Balasaheb Tukaram Sonawane, Resident – Hingoni, Tal – Newasa, Dist – Ahmednagar:-

In how many days the expansion will be completed?

Here, Member, of the Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that the answer should be given by Managing Director or Chief Engineer of the project.

The Managing Director answered that the modernization and expansion will be completed around 12 months.

5) Shri Dattatraya Mithu Nimse, Resident – Sonai, Tal – Newasa, Dist – Ahmednagar:-

This meeting is called for the expansion of the distillery project from 45.0 KLPD to 100.0 KLPD. This is definitely creditable for our taluka. He asked that after expansion, what steps have been planned to control air pollution?

Project Environment Consultant answered that new Boiler will be installed after expansion to avoid air pollution. The proposed boiler will be of 22.0 TPH capacity for which bagasse and coal will be used as fuel. The stack with the height of 75.0 meters will be installed to the 22.0 TPH boiler to avoid air pollution. The Electro Static Precipitator (ESP) will be installed to the stack to control the air pollution. The utmost care will be taken to discharge in the prescribed limits as specified by the MPCB.

Here Convener and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee expressed the opinion that nothing is mentioned in the Presentation regarding the boilers which are in operation. At this moment, Managing Director of the Project informed that both the boilers have been provided the ESP to control air pollution and ESP will be provided to the new boilers also.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee here remarked to Shri. Nimse that satisfactory answer is given to his question by the Project Proponent.

6) Shri Vikas Nanasaheb Banakar, Resident– Shani Shingnapur, Tal.– Newasa, Dist.–Ahmednagar :-

It is informed here that after expansion, modern technology will be adopted to treat the spent wash. Then whether local agriculturists will get compost?

Environment Consultant answered that after expansion, there will not be any composting activities. But in the existing project, composting will be carried as per previous practice. Hence, farmers will get the compost.

At this moment, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked whether both activities will be continued by the Project Proponent? The environmental consultant answered in the affirmative. In the old Distillery Unit, composting will be continued and in the new Distillery, incineration will be carried. The affirmative answer is given by the Project Proponent to Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee, when he asked whether incineration only will be carried in the 55.0 KLPD Distillery and not composting.

7) At this moment, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked how much composting will be carried and asked to read the directives issued in the previous Environment Clearance. Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked whether composting will be carried in season and in off-season.

Here Environment Consultant answered that the old 45 KLPD Distillery Unit will be in operation for 270 days and new 55 KLPD Distillery Unit will be in operation for 300 days. Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee here remarked that composting is not allowed in the rainy season.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee here remarked that there should be clear cut policy and asked whether 45 KLPD distillery unit has different production activities and treatment and whether 55 KLPD distillery unit has different production activities and treatment? The Project Environment Consultant agreed that both have different production activities and treatment.

Here again Convener further asked whether 45 KLPD distillery will be in operation for 270 days and 55 KLPD distillery will be in operation for 300 days? The Project Proponent agreed that it will be operated accordingly.

At this moment, Member, Environment Public Hearing asked to read the directives issued during the previous EC. Environment Consultant answered that in the previous EC, the directives were Bio-Methazation followed by MEE followed by Composting. It is informed that the Boiler of Thermax will be installed.

8) Dr. P. M. Joshi, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee :-

Dr. Joshi remarked that nothing is mentioned in the Presentation regarding Odour Nuisance. Whether any study is carried as Molasses do emit bad odour? The specific condition is prescribed in the ToR. He asked to give detailed explanation.

Environment Consultant answered that there will be Closed System. Also, the spent wash will not be stored more than five days. The HDPE lining and only five days storage will be carried as per the directives of Central Pollution Control Board. Previously, the spent wash used to store for 30 days. Now the storage tank has the capacity of five days only.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked to give information about the Odour Nuisance in the present 45 KLPD plant. He further asked whether Action Plan is prepared as per directives in the previous ToR and if the study is not carried, it should be carried immediately and Action Plan should be carried.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee here remarked that it is mentioned that ear-plugs will be provided to the workers working in the Noise Pollution Area. But nothing is mentioned regarding the workers working near the boiler. The workers working near the boilers do become deaf, as they hear more than 90 dB noise. Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee read the Page No.189 of EIA in which it is mentioned that "The detailed study should be conducted." He asked who should conduct the detailed study? It should be conducted by the Environment Consultant as Project Proponent has allotted the work to them. The study regarding Noise Pollution should be carried by the Project Environment Consultant only.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed the participants to raise any suggestions or objections. There was no response.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee here remarked that Regional Officer, MPCB, Nashik and Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee has raised true and correct suggestions. While concluding the meeting, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that we have gathered here for the public hearing for the expansion of 45 KLPD Distillery Unit to 100 KLPD as proposed by the Project Proponent. ToR is approved by the Government. Chairman further informed that as per Notification of August, 2006, the public hearing should be conducted for the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) and I am presiding it as Chairman. Though, Project Environment Consultant has given good presentation, it is necessary to note the suggestions raised by Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee in the Final EIA. It should be noted.


The suggestions, objections raised by the participants during the meeting and answers are given by the Project Proponent.

But if at all there are objections of the local people, they may submit the same in writing. He further directed the Project Proponent that due to production activities, if the ill-effects are observed on water, air, soil and standing crops in the fields directly or indirectly, the modern system should be adopted to solve the problems. This factory is very old and it has gained the confidence of the local people. But while adopting business activities, the farmers should also be given reasonable rate. While progressing, the utmost care should be taken by the Project Proponent that there should not be any ill-effects on the environment. It is presumed that Marathi copy would have made available to the villages in the 10 k.m. radius. As many people might not have able to attend this meeting due to Covid-19 background, if they submit the writing objections, the Project Consultant should give answers to them in writing only. He appealed the participants to raise any suggestions or objections. There was no response.

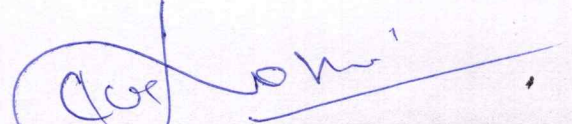
Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee here informed that the objections, suggestions raised during the meeting are noted and the minutes of the meeting will be prepared in English and Marathi which will be submitted alongwith Final EIA to Environment & Climate Change, Mantralaya, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai. An Expert Committee will take further decision about the project. He thanked all for attending the meeting.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the suggestions, objections raised during the meeting are noted and it should be noted by the Environment Consultant for Final EIA. He thanked all for attending the meeting and on behalf of the Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing declared that the meeting is concluded.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.



(Sanjeev Redasni),
Convener,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
I/c. Sub Regional Officer, MPCB,
Ahmednagar



(Dr. P. M. Joshi),
Member,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Regional Officer,
MPCB, Nashik



(Sandeep Nichit)
Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Ahmednagar,
Dist. – Ahmednagar