

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION IN EXISTING UNIT OF SUGAR FACTORY (FROM 6,000.0 TCD TO 10,000.0 TCD), DISTILLERY (FROM 45.0 KLPD TO 90.0 KLPD) (RS/ENA/ETHANOL) & CO-GEN PROJECT CAPACITY - 22.0 MW TO 34.0 MW PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S SHRI PANDURANG SAHAKARI SAKHAR KARKHANA LIMITED, SHREEPUR, TAL-MALSHIRAS, DIST-SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA

The public hearing for proposed expansion in the existing unit of Sugar Factory (From 6,000.0 TCD to 10,000.0 TCD), Distillery (from 45.0 KLPD to 90.0 KLPD) (RS/ENA/ETHANOL) & Co-Gen Project Capacity - 22.0 MW To 34.0 MW proposed by Project Proponent M/s Shri Pandurang Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited, Shreepur, Tal-Malshiras, Dist-Solapur, Maharashtra was conducted on Monday, the 2nd August, 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, Gol), 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-57 of 2021 issued under letter no.BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B-210729-FTS-0008, Dated 29-07-2021 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 Central Government and State Government from time to time. 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 to 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 Bharat Waghmare, Additional District Magistrate, Solapur and Hon'ble Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee, Shri Nitin Shinde, Incharge, Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune and Member of the Public Hearing Committee, Company Officials, Government Officials, Press Reporters, NGOs 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, GoI) 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 Shri Pandurang Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited, Shreepur, Tal-Malshiras, Dist-Solapur, Maharashtra to conduct public hearing for their proposed expansion in the existing unit of Sugar Factory (From 6,000.0 TCD to 10,000.0 TCD), Distillery (from 45.0 KLPD to 90.0 KLPD) (RS/ENA/ETHANOL)& Co-Gen Project Capacity - 22.0 MW To 34.0 MW. The Convener further informed that the project is in operation outside of notified industrial area and as per Gazette Notification S.O.1960 Dated 13th June, 2019, the project falls under Category B.

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 State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra for sanction of Terms of Reference (ToR) and for preparation of Environment Impact Assessment and SEAC. Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra has sanctioned ToR on 28-10-2018.

As per sanction of District Collector, Solapur, this public hearing was fixed on 08-01-2021. But due to Gram Panchayat elections and Vidhan Sabha Bye Election, it was postponed. Afterwards, after sanction of District Collector, Solapur, this public hearing is fixed on 02-08-2021. As per the EIA Notification, the public notice was published in local newspaper Dainik Sanchar and Dainik Tarun Bharat on 28th July, 2021..

Also a copy of EIA report and executive summary were made available 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-Malshiras, Dist – Solapur; Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Malshiras, Tal – Malshiras, Dist – Solapur; Gram Sevak / Sarpanch, Grampanchayat Office – Mouje Shreepur, Mahalung, Boregaon, Malkhambi, Mire, Tal – Malshiras, 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.

Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that Sub Regional Office, MPCB is in receipt of an email objection/complaint from Shri Dhiraj Dattatraya Jadhav, Residence – Mahalung, Tal – Malshiras, Dist – Solapur and complaint from Shri Ashok' Maruti Jadhav, Residence – Mouje Mahalung, Tal – Malshiras, Dist-Solapur who was present at public hearing and suggestions in 05 numbers for supporting the project. He appealed participants to raise any views, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed expansion of the project

in environmental angle only. He requested Chairman of the Committee to start the proceeding of the meeting.

Convener informed that first the Environment Consultant of the Project will give presentation. After presentation, the participants may raise their suggestions, doubts, objections regarding Environment Management Plan. While raising the suggestions, first name and place of residence be informed. He directed Environment Consultant to give presentation in Marathi, an official language of the Maharashtra State.

With the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman of the meeting, the Environment Consultant appointed by the company has given the presentation of the expansion project and Environment Management Plan in detail. He informed that the investment of proposed is about 150 crores. This project is Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) and Rupees 185 lakh for EMP.

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

1) Shri Sanjay Pathak, Residence – Mire, Tal – Malshiras, Dist – Solapur:-

Previously, the local farmers were provided compost for their agriculture use. Now Potash will be produced through spent wash dryer. Whether it will be made available to farmers?

Project Proponent answered that due to commissioning of new technology, the produced Potash will have more fertility. With the help of Drying System, we will produce spent wash in powder form and mixing of our bio-fertilizer in it, we can give good standardized fertilisers to farmers as we used to give them.

2) Shri Milind Madhukar Kulkarni, Senior Citizen, Residence – Mahalung-Shreepur, Tal – Malshiras, Dist-Solapur:-

The project is going to be expanded. Due to expansion of the project, there will be use of huge quantity of water. How the used water i.e. effluent will be disposed of. It is requested to give explanation.

Project Proponent informed that as shown in the presentation, we have planned to increase the sugar crushing capacity. The 70% of water will be recycled in the project. It will be used in the distillery unit.

We have planned to implement 'Air Cooled Condenser Technology,' in our project which will be used first time in co-operative sugar factories in the State of Maharashtra. We will be pioneer sugar factory to adopt the same, which is used in old distillery unit and we will use in new distillery unit also. Due to which, nearly 5-6 lakh litres of water will be saved. The clean water will get after treatment in CPU (Condensate Polishing Unit). It will be used for producing sugarcane crops at the land of Agriculture Corporation of Maharashtra, which we have taken on lease from them.

Thus, we will not require any additional water. Moreover, we are going to save the water. We will not lift any new/additional water.

3) Shri Prataprao Patil, Residence – Borgaon, Tal-Malshiras, Dist – Solapur:-

Due to commissioning of this project, our region has started to flourish. We have also co-operated the sugar factory management from time to time. But the ash which is produced presently in project activities and the ash which will be produced after adopting new modern technology, what will be the change in the quantity? Whether it will be minimised?

Project Proponent remarked that this a very good question. We have planned to implement Dryer System Technology. In this technology, the generated flue gas quantity through boiler stack will be 4,90,000 M3. All the total flue gas will be used in Dryer for producing Dry Powder. The produced ash will also be used in it. The ash and lime will be mixed. Hence, the ash from the boiler and flue gas will be minimised. The ill-effects of spreading of ash in the area will be finished.

4) Shri Madan Patil, Residence – Borgaon, Tal-Malshiras, Dist – Solapur:-

We, the residents of Borgaon are raising our views, suggestions through Gram Panchayat only. Hence, the old technology and quantity of ash and adoption of new modern technology and minimising the quantity of ash, the detailed information be made available.

He further said that I am dedicated farmer and I got the prize from the State Government. Here we have banana, pomegranates and grapes cultivated fields. If we think a distance of two kilometre, the Boregaon village is there. The farmers who have less water availability, have cultivated fruits in their fields

than sugarcane crop. Every farmer makes his plan accordingly. The information brochure please be made available.

Project Proponent informed that it will be made available.

**5) Shri Ashok Maruti Jadhav, Residence – Mahalung,
Tal – Malshiras, Dist – Solapur :-**

I have registered my complaints against this project last year. I have suffered a lot due to spreading of ash on my agriculture fields from your factory stack. Sub Regional Officer of MPCB Solapur have collected the samples at night. I have registered my complaint to MPCB and also to concerned factory. Nothing is done till to date.

Today, this public hearing is arranged, but no prior information is given to the villagers. I have got very vague news regarding the meeting, and I came here. Due to expansion, the local people can get the job opportunities and I support the same. But what is plan to control the ash?

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that your complaint is received by Sub

Regional Office, Solapur. Sub Regional Officer, Solapur have inspected the site and send report to Regional Office, Pune. The factory has submitted satisfactory reply.

Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that he personally will take further cognizance of the complaint and further action will be initiated.

Here, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that the aim of the public hearing is raising views, opinions only and for this only public hearing is conducted. If anybody desire to raise any views, suggestions or objections regarding the project's new system, it can be raised in writing or by email also. It will be noted and will be sent alongwith minutes of the public hearing meeting to Government. Member further informed that due to expansion, the study of proposed impact on environment and steps to minimise the same is aim of this public hearing. As per the Notification of EIA, all the relevant documents have been made available to the affected Gram Panchayat Offices. Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur has receipt of the same. If anybody has to give suggestion, objection, it can be given now also.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee further informed that suggestions, objections can be raised during the public hearing meeting. This Committee does not take any decision. All the suggestions, objections have to be submitted to Government alongwith minutes of the meeting. The Expert Committee takes further decision accordingly.

Here, Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee said that information is sought whatever new change in production activities and in pollution control system. It should be made available.

Project Proponent further said that you have taken objection that only old technology is used in the project. The new boiler will be installed in this project. It will have ESP (Electro Static Precipirator), the most advanced technology will be installed to boiler, due to which there will not be any air pollution. Also, the existing boiler which have wet scrubber and ESP will be maintained properly. We are replacing the old by new technology. Now in the new distillery project, we are adopting Air Cooled Condenser Technology. We are going to spend Rupees Five Crores for it. Now

spent wash dry technology is most proven technology.

The spent wash is burnt in incineration boiler. But here spent wash is made as solids. Hence, there is no pollution and this project is Zero Liquid Project.

Here Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the complaint raised by the concerned person is noted. The detailed study will be carried by the MPCB and further action will be initiated. If the factory founds guilty, the stringent action will be taken against the factory as per the provisions in the Environment Laws. It is further directed to the Project Proponent to take note of the complaints and initiate further pollution control steps.

6) Shri Sunanda Reddy, Environmentalist, President, DharitriParyavaranParirakshana Sanstha, Dist 0 Nalgonda, Telangana State:-

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

He congratulated Project Proponent for planning to expand the 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.

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 in the project. Rain Water Harvesting should be implemented. 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. He suggested that Drip Irrigation Scheme be implemented.

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 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.

7) Shri H. Madhu Babu, President Rural Environment Education & Health Awareness Society, Mushirabad, Hyderabad:-

He said that I have given my suggestions in writing. I support the project. Here Environment Public Hearing Committee asked him to submit the writing suggestions.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all to ask any questions, give suggestions or objections regarding the proposed expansion of the project. He further said that if anybody desires to give writing suggestion or objection, it can be submitted to Convener of the meeting. It will be submitted to Government for consideration.

8) Shri Prakash Bhalchandra Kesarkar, Local Resident, Mahalug-Shreepur, Tal-Malshiras, Dist-Solapur:-

He congratulated management of the Project as due to factory, the region is developing. But whether Government will be benefitted due to this project?

Project Proponent remarked that very good question is asked. This scheme is sponsored by Govt. of India only. The Ethanol Blending Project is declared by the Central Government. Our sugar factories are producing more quantity of sugar than our requirements. Hence, the sugar factories are in economic loss. Hence, Central Government has declared Ethanol Blending Project, under which 20% of sugarcane juice should be used for producing Alcohol upto 2025. Govt. of India has to import Ethanol. Due to Ethanol blending, our spending on petrol and diesel can be minimised. Our country should become self-reliant in the Ethanol. Hence, total 20% has to be used for Alcohol. The factory will get profit and due to which local farmers can be given additional rate for their sugarcane crop.

Chairman and Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all to give their suggestions or objections. Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that he desires to give few suggestions: -

a) The Environment Impact Report is submitted. It was planned to use Evaporation, afterwards bio-composting. Now the proposal is changed. Now spent wash will be made in powder form.

Here Environment Consultant informed that composting activities will be continued. Afterwards it will be dried.

b) The system of Dryer should be known to all. At this moment, Project Proponent informed that in EIA, old system is inserted. Afterwards, new technology came and hence in the project, new technology will be adopted.

c) New technology should be mentioned in the presentation as well as in EIA study.

d) The farmers have strongly raised the concerns for ash nuisance from the project. Hence, all the points should study and while submitting Government, it should be marked.

e) It is observed that noise levels are exceeding in the plant at Compressor, Turbine, Warehouse etc. Steps should be taken to control the noise pollution and care should be taken;

Member appealed all to raise their views, suggestions or objections. There was no response. Hence, he requested Chairman of the Committee to say few words.

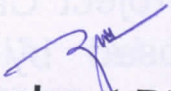
Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee while concluding the meeting said that we have today gathered for public hearing for proposed expansion in the existing unit of Sugar Factory (From 6,000.0 TCD to 10,000.0 TCD), Distillery (from 45.0 KLPD to 90.0 KLPD) (RS/ENA/ETHANOL) & Co-Gen Project Capacity - 22.0 MW To 34.0 MW proposed by Project Proponent M/s Shri Pandurang Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited, Shreepur, Tal-Malshiras, Dist-Solapur, Maharashtra

Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that participants have raised very good points. Also, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee have informed Environment Consultant few suggestions, which should be incorporated in the Final EIA while submitting to SEIAA, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai. In the meeting, few suggestions, objections have been received. It should also be

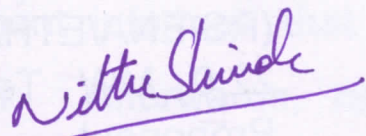
submitted to Government alongwith minutes of the meeting.

Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing thanked all and declared that the meeting is concluded.

The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair. 02 objection letters and 05 suggestions in support letters as received are enclosed herewith.


(Prashant Bhosale),

Convener,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Incharge Sub Regional
Officer,
MPCB, Solapur,


(Nitin Shinde),

Member,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Incharge Regional Officer,
MPCB, Pune,


(Bharat Waghmare),
Chairman

Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Solapur
Dist – Solapur