

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION IN EXISTING UNIT OF SUGAR CAPACITY FROM 4,500.0 TCD TO 7,500.0 TCD, CO-GEN POWER FROM 14.85 MW TO 30.0 MW AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW MOLASSES/CANE SUGAR BASED DISTILLERY- 110.0 KLPD AT POST- TADWAL, TAL – AKKALKOT, DIST – SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S GOKUL MAULI SUGAR LIMITED


The Public Hearing for proposed expansion in existing unit of Sugar Capacity from 4,500.0 TCD to 7,500.0 TCD; Co-Gen Power from 14.85 MW to 30.0 MW and establishment of New Molasses / Cane Juice Based Distillery Plant – 110 KLPD At Post – TADWAL, Tal - Akkalkot, Dist – Solapur, Maharashtra by Project Proponent M/s Gokul Mauli Sugar Limited was conducted on Thursday, the 21st October, 2021 at the site of the said industry at 12.30 a.m.

District Collector, Solapur approved the date of public hearing on Thursday, the 21st October, October, 2021 and 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 Board's Office Order No. E- 89 of 2021 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B-211013-FTS-0057 dated 13-10-2021:-

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

Shri Ajit Vasantrao Patil, Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Solapur and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Smt. Shama Pawar, Additional District Magistrate, Solapur and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Nitin Shinde, I/c Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists and Company Officials and local people/participants who were present and informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF & CC, Gol) 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.

Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee 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. As per the guidelines, only 100 persons are allowed in a session. If the participants are more, then remaining will be allowed in next session. The sessions will continue till all the participants are given opportunity to attend the meeting. The thermal checking and use of sanitizer is kept at the entrance of the pandol and now it is compulsory to wear a mask and follow the social distancing amongst the persons in the meeting hall. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of application from Project Proponent M/s Gokul Mauli Sugar Limited, At Post – Tadwal, Tal - Akkalkot, Dist – Solapur, Maharashtra for their proposed expansion in existing unit of Sugar Capacity from 4,500.0 TCD to 7,500.0 TCD; Co-Gen Power from 14.85 MW to 30.0 MW and establishment of new Molasses / Cane Juice Based Distillery Plant – 110 KLPD.

The Convener further informed that this existing project is established outside the Industrial Zone and as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of project falls under Category A 1 (d), 5 (j) and 5 (g), which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department, Govt of India, New Delhi (MoEF & CC, Gol), for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory. 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 developmental activities and Environment Management Plan  of the unit.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application alongwith pre-feasibility report to the MoEF & CC, GoI, New Delhi for Terms of Reference (ToR) for conduct of EIA studies on 05-06-2021 and MoEF & CC, GoI, New Delhi has considered the project and given online approval on 10-08-2021. As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Office, MPCB Solapur in the Local Newspaper in Daily Sanchar for Marathi and in National Newspaper daily Indian Express for English on 18-09-2021. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed unit.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summery were made available at various notified offices of Government i.e. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Zonal Office, West Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur-440 001; District Magistrate Office, Solapur; Additional District Magistrate Office, Solapur; Zilla Parishad Office, Solapur; District Industries Centre Office, Solapur; Tahsildar, Tahsil Office- Akkalkot, District – Solapur; Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Akkalkort, Tal – Akkalkot, Dist – Solapur; Gram Sevak/Sarpanch, Grampanchayat office at Mouje – Kegaon (Kh), Mundhewadi, Mhaisalge, Devikavathe, Karjagi, Mangrul, Tadwal, Tal – Akkalkot, District – 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, New Administrative Building, Mantralaya, Mumbai and on the website of MPCB. The public in general were appealed to send any suggestion or objection regarding the proposed new distillery project.

Convener informed that suggestions from 2 persons with support to the project by email are received by Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur. Convener informed that participants can raise their views, suggestions/objections for the proposed expansion of the project in environmental angle only orally as well as in writing also. On behalf of Chairperson, Convener of the meeting asked Project Consultant to give the presentation

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

Environment Consultant informed that Project Proponent has reserved capital investment fund of Rupees 1,945/- Lakh for various Environment Protection System and for their annual maintenance, 290.0 lakhs are reserved. It is informed by the Environment Consultant that not a drop of treated effluent will be generated outside the factory and this project is Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD). Due to this expansion of the project, local people will get job opportunities and there will be tremendous increase in the local business. Environment Consultant informed that as the expansion will be carried in the existing project site only, there is no requirement of extra land. The 75% water is in sugarcane crop, which will be removed in the process and it will be treated and reused in the manufacturing process.

After presentations, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed the participants to raise their views, suggestions or objections regarding propose plant in environmental angle only.

Following persons have taken part in the discussions and the answers given by Project Environment Consultant/Project Proponent/ Environment Public Hearing Committee:-

1) Shri Saifan Patel, Khanapur, Tal – Akkalkot, Dist – Solapur

How will the local farmers benefit from this expansion project? Also, after the completion of the expansion, will the price of sugarcane given to us farmers increase? What will be the consequences if the distillation project stops production for some reason?

Reply Given - On behalf of the project promoters, the environmental consultant replied that the project would directly and indirectly benefit the farmers. The spray dryer powder from the spray drying of spent wash generating from distillation plant contains elements like nitrogen, phosphate, potash which are useful for agricultural land. In short, that powder contains NPK. Agriculture will benefit from the inclusion of components.

If 150 to 200 kg per acre of powder of spent wash is used, the yield of agricultural crops increases.

Regarding the increased rate of sugarcane, the project promoter, i.e. the chairman of the factory, replied that after the commissioning of the project, sugarcane can get an increased rate, as the project will produce a lucrative component like ethanol with higher demand and higher market price. So that it indirectly benefits the farmers

The question by Shri Saifan Patel was - what would be the consequences if the distillery project stopped production for some reason. To the reply of this question, Project Consultant said that since the project is a distillery, even if the sugarcane season is over, it can be run for 330 days in a year. So production will not stop. The project consultant further said that the project has state-of-the-art technology to produce ethanol directly from sugarcane juice produced from sugar mills during the five months from November to March.

Ethanol can also be produced by storing molasses produced during the distillery crushing season from April to October. The respective Distillery can be run 330 days a year.

2) Shri Samir Sheikh, Karle-Karjal, Taluka-Akkalkot, District-Solapur: -

What are the measures taken to control the pollution caused by this project?

Reply Given –

Water Pollution Control - On behalf of the project promoters, the Environmental Consultant replied that all these matters were mentioned during the presentation. The

project is Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD). Since the existing industrial wastewater treatment plant (ETP) will be used for the effluent generated from the expanded sugar factory.

Also, the problem of water pollution will be solved after the construction of a 982 cubic meter per day condensate polishing unit (C.P.U.) for the new distillation project. Also the Daik Axis Johkasou Japanese technology package STP is also proposed to be erected.

Air Pollution Control - At present a boiler with a capacity of 100 tons per hour is operational. After the expansion, a new boiler with a capacity of 100 tons per hour will be erected and a new electrostatic precipitator (ESP) based on the latest technology will be erected and an existing 85 meter height chimney will be used for the old and new boilers.

Solid waste, hazardous solid waste, noise pollution control-

After the expansion, the ETP will be 24 MT per month. Sludge will be used as fertilizer, ETP of 24 MT per month. Sludge will be used as fertilizer, 1260 MT per month ash (bagasse) will be used as brick making / fertilizer, 600 MT per month Yeast sludge will be used as fertilizer, 60 MT per month CPU Sludge will be used as fertilizer.

Also, 1.0 MT per year of waste oil classified as hazardous waste, 0.5 MT per year of hazardous contaminated cotton waste and 45 numbers per year of contaminated empty containers will be disposed of to the authorized reseller. Also for noise pollution control isolation, separation, insulation, PPEs and for D.G. Set Canopy and silencer will be used.

3) **Shri Mahadev Chipkale, Kegaon, Taluka- Akkalkot, District- Solapur: -**

I support this project.

4) **Shri Jagannath Gaiwad, Mundewadi, Taluka- Akkalkot, District- Solapur: -**

I support this project.

5) **Shri Umashankar Mangrule, Tadwal, Taluka- Akkalkot, District- Solapur: -**

I support this project.

6) **Mr. Madhubabu, NGO, Hyderabad:**

I have sent my letter of support to M.P.C.B. Solapur office by email. This expansion project is needed by the locals and I support this project. However, I have 3 suggestions as mentioned below -

A) Farmers and other villagers in the area should be given priority for job / employment in the project,

B) Green belt (maximum tree plantation) should be developed as much as possible,

C) The fund should spend 2% of the profits on the development of the villages / farmers / locals in the area as per the Corporate Social Responsibility Fund (CSR) rules. Also, the Corporate Environmental Responsibility Fund (CER) should be used for environmental protection.

7) **Shri Mahantej Desai, Kegaon, Taluka- Akkalkot, District- Solapur: -**

I support this project. Sugarcane crushing capacity from 4,500 to 7,500 MT per day will done and due to this the sugarcane of the locals will be crushed quickly and the sugarcane of the farmers will not be damaged. Also, since the factory will pay one time FRP, the farmers will not be suffered economically. On the other hand, I support this project as it will benefit the farmers by getting all the money at once and will also increase employment in the area.

8) **Shri Chaudappa Mashale, Hingalgi, Taluka-South Solapur, District-Solapur:**

I support this project as it will benefit the farmers in the area and increase the employment in the area.

9) Shri Sivananda Teli, Ingalki, Karnataka State : -

Today I have come to this factory with my sugarcane trolley for crushing of my sugarcane. I participated in this program and I support this project. (Mr. Shivanand Teli made his statement in Kannada, then a neighbor person translated it into Marathi).

10) Shri Bhimashankar Desai, Mhaisalgi, Taluka- Akkalkot, District- Solapur: -

I support this project.

Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all the participants to raise their doubts, suggestions or objections regarding the above project in environmental angle only. There was response. Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur was in receipt of two suggestions. It will be submitted alongwith minutes of the meeting, Final EIA report to Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that public notice was published 30 days in advance in the local and national newspaper. Also, the executive summary was also made available to the notified Government offices in English and in Marathi. The suggestions/objections raised during the meeting are noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. The minutes alongwith videography, suggestions received by email will be submitted to MoEF & CC, Govt. of India, New Delhi. An Expert Committee will take further decision accordingly. The minutes of the meeting will be available on website of MPCB. He requested Chairperson to conclude the meeting.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all the participants who attended this public hearing. She remarked that Environment Consultant has given satisfactory answers to the suggestions, objections raised by the participants. The meeting conducted in a very playful manner. The suggestions, objections raised are noted and it will be included in the minutes of meeting. She declared that the meeting is concluded.

Shri

The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

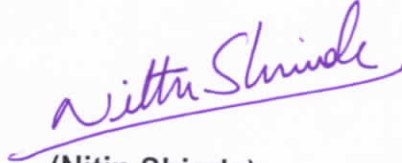
Two suggestions/objections received by email are enclosed herewith as annexure. Attendance sheet is enclosed as annexure.



(Ajit Patil)

Convener,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And

Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB,
Solapur



(Nitin Shinde)

Member,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And

I/c Regional Officer
MPCB,
Pune



(Shama Pawar)

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