

**MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED 60 KLPD MOLASSES-BASED DISTILLERY PLANT AT VILLAGE TONDAR, TQ. UDGIR, DIST: LATUR PROPOSED BY M/S. VILAS SAHAKARI SAKHAR KARKHANA LIMITED UNIT-II, AT VILLAGE TONDAR, TQ. UDGIR, DIST: LATUR, MAHARASHTRA CONDUCTED ON 23/12/2021 AT 11.00 A.M. AT M/S. VILAS SAHAKARI SAKHAR KARKHANA LIMITED UNIT-II, VILLAGE TONDAR, TQ. UDGIR, DIST: LATUR (PROJECT SITE), MAHARASHTRA.**

An environmental public hearing in respect of Proposed 60 KLPD Molasses-Based Distillery Plant at Village Tondar, Tq. Udgir, Dist. Latur proposed by M/s. Vilas Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited Unit-II, At Tondar, Tq. Udgir, Dist. Latur, Maharashtra was conducted on 23/12/2021 at 11.00 a.m. at M/s. Vilas Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited Unit-II, Tondar, Tq. Udgir, Dist: Latur (Project Site) Maharashtra.

Following Panel members were present during the public hearing:

1. **Shri Vijay Kumar Dhage,**  
Additional District Magistrate Latur,  
Dist: Latur. Chairman.
2. **Dr. P.M. Joshi,**  
Regional Officer,  
MPCB, Aurangabad.  
(Present online) Member.
3. **Shri R.U. Patil,**  
Sub-Regional Officer,  
MPCB, Latur. Convener.

A list of members and public participants present for Public Hearing is annexed herewith. All those present were given welcome by **Shri R.U. Patil**, Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Latur & Convener of Environmental Public Hearing Panel and with the permission of the Additional District Magistrate, Latur & Chairman of Environmental Public Hearing Panel, he started the proceedings of Environmental Public Hearing to be conducted today on 23/12/2021 regarding proposed 60 KLPD Molasses Based Distillery Plant of M/s. Vilas Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited Unit-II, Village Tondar, Tq. Udgir in Latur district. The nature and purpose of said Environmental Public Hearing stated by him are that as per the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi Notification No. S.O. 1533 dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 and amended Notification No. S.O 3067 (E) dated 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2009, it has been made mandatory to obtain Environmental Clearance for certain industries. Accordingly, the Project Proponent, M/s. Vilas Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited Unit-II, Village Tondar, Tq. Udgir, Dist: Latur submitted application to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board on 22/10/2021 for conducting the Environmental Public Hearing for their proposed 60 KLPD

**Molasses Based Distillery Plant.** He stated that as per the said Notification, a public notice regarding the Environmental Public Hearing of said project had been published in the newspapers Daily Sakal (Marathi) and Daily Times of India (English) 30 days before on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2021, in which the people and institutions working regarding environment were requested to record suggestions, thoughts, notes or objections orally or in writing regarding the said project and the copies of Draft Environment Management Plan and Executive Summary in English and Marathi language of the proposed **60 KLPD Molasses Based Distillery Plant** were made available for study at various Government offices like, Collector Office, Latur, District Industries Centre, Latur, Zilla Parishad Office, Latur, Tehsil Office, Udgir, Tq. Udgir, Dist: Latur, Grampanchayat Office, Village Tondar, Tq. Udgir, Dist: Latur, Sub-Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Latur, Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Aurangabad, Joint Director (WPC), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sion, Mumbai, Environment Department, Government of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai and Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Nagpur and according to the said public notice, three suggestions are received through e-mail at Sub-Regional Office, MPCB, Latur till today, Copies of which are enclosed herewith

He further stated that the Hon'ble Member Secretary, M.P.C. Board, Sion, Mumbai has constituted a committee vide Order No. E-120 dated 14/12/2021 and appointed the Hon'ble Additional District Magistrate, Latur as the Chairman, Hon'ble Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Aurangabad as a Member and the Sub-Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Latur as the Convener of said committee. The said committee is only for recording the opinion of people regarding said project and the said committee does not have any authority to take any decision. The minutes of meeting in accordance with the points raised during the public hearing and the answers given by the Project Proponent will be submitted to the State Level Impact Assessment Authority/Committee through Head Quarters, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai, stated by him. He also stated that if anybody would like to give written representation/suggestion/objection regarding the said project, they may ask the questions/suggestions/objections by telling their name and village name after concluding the presentation by the Project Proponent and the proceedings of said questions answers will be recorded as it is and minutes of said public hearing will be submitted to the State Level Impact Assessment Authority/Committee through Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai. He requested the Project Proponent to give the presentation of Environmental Public Hearing for the proposal of Environment Clearance regarding the proposed **60 KLPD Molasses Based Distillery Project.**

Then, **Dr. Amol Deshmane**, the Project Consultant from M/s. Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Pune started the power point presentation of proposed project which includes the details of project, environmental pollution, plans, devices, control measures to be taken thereof and stated that the main purpose of the public hearing is to aware to the people regarding environmental issues by giving the information of proposed project, to clear issues/questions, doubts, if any and in this way, the said public hearing is being conducted. He stated that it is known to all of us that presently, the Central Government is encouraging for Ethanol production through various mediums like sugar factory, distillery by introducing various schemes and the present proposal of M/s. Vilas Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited is a part of such encouraging schemes and in accordance with such schemes, the said factory has prepared a proposal and he briefed the complete environmental information of said project through presentation as follows :

It is known to all of us that the said factory is located at village Tondar and earlier it was in the name of M/s. Priyadarshini Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, but due to some reasons, it is not operated further, then the present management has taken over the said factory for operation in the year 2014-15 and since then, it is being operated successfully. The important object of said project is of Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD), the effluent to be generated from distillery is an important and sensitive part from the environmental point of view and for the treatment of said effluent, they have decided the object of Zero Liquid Discharge in the said project and the details of available technology will be briefed in further slides, however, the brief information of the same is Multi-Effect Evaporator (MEE) system will be provided due to which the effluent to be generated can be concentrate, volume can be reduced and further the concentrate spent wash will be burnt by using incineration technology.

He stated that the factory has reserved total 33,735 Sq.M. of land for the said project, out of which 33%, i.e. about 11,200 Sq.M. of land will be used for Green Belt Development. The main production to be manufactured will be Ethanol – 60 KLPD, the said project will be operated throughout the year, but the figures shown are taking into consideration the operation of the project for 330 days, the total proposed investment of the project is Rs. 92.35 Cr., from which about Rs. 43.00 Cr., i.e. about 46% of the total project cost will be spent towards Environment Management, means, the environmental awareness of the factory underlines from this. He further stated that the factory site is located at village Tondar at a distance of 7.0 km. from Udgir, the nearest Airport is Nanded (which is called as Active Runway), no any Sanctuary or National Park is located within the radius of 10 km. of the project Site. He showed the lay-out of distillery where the proposed Distillery Project will be established.

As reported earlier, he stated that it is a molasses-based factory for which the required C type or B type of molasses will be available with own factory to the tune of about 70% and remaining molasses will be taken from nearby unit or from market. Total water requirement for the said project will be of 554 CMD, the said water requirement is reduced on a large scale by reusing. The required water will be taken from Devarjan Dam. The factory itself will manufacture steam through boiler and from steam, they will generate electricity and the said electricity will be used in the proposed distillery project, means, the said unit will be self-sufficient in respect of electricity. He briefed about the manufacturing process of distillery and stated that said process is operated in two stages, i.e. fermentation process involves in first stage and second stage is of distillation in which the alcohol generated from fermentation process is sent for distillation and with the help of distillation process, it is separated as finished product. As reported earlier, he stated that they will reuse about 67% of water in the said project due to which there will be saving of fresh water on a large scale and due to this saving of water, they will be successful in reducing the water requirement upto 554 CMD and the factory has thought completely for recycling of water and different types of systems will be provided for the same for which provision has been made in Environment Management Plan, there is one Condensate Polishing Unit (CPU) which will help in making available the water on a large scale by treating the water again. The steam to be generated will be given first to generator and the exhaust steam from boiler which will have low pressure will be used in Distillery Project due to which two objectives will be achieved, i.e. electricity will be generated and the distillery product, i.e.

Ethanol will also be manufactured and due to which it will also be helpful in saving the fuel on a large scale.

As far as Air Environment is concerned, Dr. Deshmane stated that for the control of Particulate Matters to be emitted from boiler, the Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP), which is understood as a good technology, will be installed and the smoke will be dispersed into the atmosphere through stack of 55 mtr. height, Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System will be provided as per the guidelines of Pollution Control Board, the Green Belt of about 11,200 Sq.M. will be developed, closed fermenter will be used, Carbon Di-Oxide will be used by treating it by providing a unit on BOOT basis, coal and bagasse handling will be carried out mechanically due to which ash and dust will not fly, the system like water sprinkling will be used so as not to fly the dust, internal roads are of concrete due to which dust will not fly and the factory will provide a complete system so as to reduce air pollution, proper care will be taken so as not to cause air pollution due to vehicle movement, Green Belt will be developed at both the sides of roads and as the factory is self-sufficient in respect of electricity, the D.G. Set will be as a standby arrangement.

He stated that study is conducted on the basis of a computerized system regarding how many increase can be there in the concentration of Particulate Matter and Sulphur Di-Oxide in the air when boiler will be used actually after establishment of factory and the said system predicts whether concentration of Particulate Matter and Sulphur Di-Oxide can increase or how many increase can be there in future and as per the said prediction, there is possibility of nominal increase in the concentration of Particulate Matter as  $0.85 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and Sulphur Di-Oxide about  $2.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and there will be no major increase in air pollution or no any danger is observed as per the said computerized study. He showed the results of computerized study, wind direction, etc. and stated that there is possibility of nominal increase within the area of 1 km. at the locations shown as orange coloured dots regarding Particulate Matter and Sulphur Di-Oxide and there is no any human habitation within the surrounding area of 1.5 to 2.0 km., which is one good thing.

He briefed about the details of waste water treatment and how to achieve the objective of Zero Liquid Discharge and stated that the effluent generation from the distillery is namely spent wash from which danger of pollution is slightly more, and therefore the volume of said spent wash will be reduced by using Multi-Effect Evaporator (MEE) due to which the concentrate spent wash will be burnt into the incineration boiler for which coal and bagasse will be used as a fuel and by using both the fuel together, steam and electricity will be generated and in this way, the spent wash will be disposed off completely and safely, the ash to be generated will be given to the brick kilns. Another wastewater is spent lees, which will be treated completely by using two stage biological treatment due to which after treatment, water will be made available on a large scale for reuse and due to which fresh water will be saved. As shown in the earlier slide, he stated that they will be successful in saving about 65% of fresh water and for that they will provide C.P.U. Unit. He stated that the spent wash storage lagoons will be provided as per the CREP and Central Pollution Control Board guidelines, Multi-Effect Evaporator (MEE) is for the disposal of spent wash, condensate to be generated will be treated in Condensate Polishing Unit, concentrated spent wash will be burnt into the incineration boiler for which coal will be used as a fuel. He showed the figure of spent wash storage lagoon and stated that HDPE paper will be used for said lagoons so as not to percolate the stored spent wash into land and proper care will

be taken for the same. He further stated that in the Condensate Polishing Unit two stage biological treatment will be given, he showed the details of secondary treatment in which anaerobic treatment and aerobic treatment will be given to the water and the said treated water will be useful for reuse in the Distillery Division and due to which fresh water will be saved on a large scale.

He further stated that the solid waste to be generated, i.e. ash will be given to the brick manufacturers and the other decomposable solid waste will be disposed by mixing it into the land due to which there is no possibility of pollution. He stated that proper care will be taken for Noise Management, as the Generator will be in closed place, no more effect of noise will be there at the outside place, personal protective equipments will be provided to the workers, due to different parking for goods transport, no traffic congestion will be occurred and the noise pollution from such activities will be controlled and proper management will be done, trees will be planted at both the sides of roads which will help in reducing the noise.

While briefing about Ecology and Biodiversity, he stated that about 70 to 75% of land in the area has been covered under agriculture, domestic animals are observed in large quantity in the area, peacock and deer are also observed in some quantity in the area, due to environment management there will be no any effect on the biological factors outside the factory premises and the said project will be helpful for economic development of all.

He stated that all the rules of Industrial Safety will be followed, at present also, the factory is adopting the Insurance Protection, Health Check-up for the workers and complete care will be taken in the Distillery Project also, proper system will be installed for fire fighting in the Distillery Project. PESO guidelines and VSI Standards will be followed completely, due to which they will be successful in doing the risk and disaster management properly. He stated that blasting or such activities are not there in the said project, hence there will be no any effect on the underground, there is the possibility of nominal increase of about 4 to 5 tanker/d (vehicles) in the distillery. The Green Belt will be developed on about 11,200 Sq.M. of area and for which local trees will be cultivated. He showed the photographs of existing Green Belt and stated that such type of Green Belt will be developed in the Distillery Project. As reported in the starting slide, he stated that the factory has reserved about Rs. 43.00 Cr. for Environment Management, factory will spend about more than 40% amount towards systems to be provided for Environment Management from which the environmental awareness of the factory and fervency about people and local environment is seen, the recurring expenditure will be about Rs. 2.00 Cr. towards operation and maintenance of the same. The factory has made a provision of about Rs. 93.00 Lakh under Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) and the said amount will be spent towards providing things regarding cleanliness in local school, health check up of local citizens, etc.

He briefed about the local environment and stated that all of us live on deccan plateau, the annual average rainfall observe in the area is about 800 mm, climate is hot and dry, agriculture land is about 73% and scrub land is about 22 - 23%, no any Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve or National Park observe within the area of 10 km. radius. He showed the diagram of windrows showing the wind speed and wind direction. He also showed the details of different 13 - 14 locations in the project area where they have collected samples of air, water, soil for



testing, which are like Project Site, Tondar, Hangarga Devarjan Dam, Kallur, Pimpri, etc. He stated that they have analyzed the said air, water, soil samples and briefed the details of analysis results. The pH of soil observes alkaline in nature, The concentration of Nitrogen and Phosphorus observe somewhat less, but the Potash is of good quality. The said results are of the samples collected from 8 various locations. He showed the analysis results of air quality monitoring carried out at various 8 locations for PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO and observed that the air quality at all the locations is within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The Noise Level Monitoring is carried out at various 8 locations during daytime and night time and observed that the recordings of noise level are within the National Quality Level at all the locations. The Surface Water Samples collected at 6 various locations and the analysis results for the parameters Calcium, Magnesium, etc. are compared with the IS 10500:2012. He showed the analysis results of Groundwater which includes various parameters like pH, Electrical Conductivity, Hardness, Calcium, Magnesium and stated that study was conducted for various parameters.

During the course of public hearing, Dr. P.M. Joshi, Regional Officer, MPCB, Aurangabad & Member of Public Hearing Panel (present online) asked whether the dam near the factory contains water for all the 12 months, upon which Dr. Deshmane, the Project Consultant replied as "No" and stated that the said dam contains water for a period of one or two months during the monsoon and later on it dries, upon which Dr. Joshi asked when the samples are taken, upon which Dr. Deshmane reported that the samples were taken during the period from January to March, 2021.

Thereafter, Dr. Amol Deshmane briefed about the conclusion of EIA report which had made available earlier and stated that total information about the project through slides till now, possibility of type of pollution to be caused and systems to be installed for control of the same has been given. The said project is of Ethanol, which is being encouraged by the Central Government due to which it will help to reduce the import of crude oil and other benefits of it are also there, response is being given by the factory properly to such encouraging scheme of Central Government due to said project, the sugar factory has vertical integration due to which it will benefit to the farmers, sugarcane producing farmers and all the people in the surrounding area, opportunity of direct and indirect employment will be available, factory has made the provision of proper amount for installation of system with available latest technology for the control of probable pollution, sugar factory is having skilled manpower and the skilled manpower will be used for the distillery also, factory is aware of the Environment Management and Environment Management will be done in the Distillery Project also. He stated that considering all these things, the said Distillery Project will be beneficial prolonged for factory, farmers, sugarcane producing farmers of factory and local citizens, which is the conclusion of said study presented by him and then he concluded the Power Point Presentation of proposed project and requested the public participant that if anybody is having any question, same may be asked.

During the course of public hearing, the panel member and public participant raised certain questions, same are answered by the project consultant, which are below:

1. **Shri R.U. Patil**, The Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Latur & Convener of Public Hearing Panel stated that 60 KLPD production will be taken in the said project and asked whether the required molasses is available with own factory or it will be taken from outside also other than the own factory and whether recording in this regard is in the presentation and requested to show the slide in this behalf. **Dr. Deshmane**, the Project Consultant showed the slide regarding the same and stated that it is a planning of factory to use sugar syrup or juice so as to make available more and more molasses in the own factory, like, when the factory will be operated for 150 day, then a route of Juice to Ethanol or Syrup to Ethanol will be used because of this, sugar and B molasses will be manufactured and the B molasses can be used during the off-season due to which the factory can be operated for more and more days and the factory will take the molasses from surrounding area whenever there will be molasses deficit and it will be included in the main report in this regard.
2. **Dr. P. M. Joshi** The Regional Officer, MPCB, Aurangabad & Public hearing panel Member asked about the latitude longitude of the location of said project as previously incidence was happened when the name of factory was M/s. Priyadarshini Sahakar Karkhana and molasses was flowed into the Banshelki Dam through nalla **Dr. Deshmane** showed the Latitude Longitude and location map of said project and stated that the Distillery Project will be established towards South side at the square marked in pink colour in Map. **Dr. Joshi** stated that previously molasses of sugar factory was flowed, but **Dr. Deshmane** reported that no any problem is arise since the present management started the operation of factory, the Management of the factory is completely aware and complete care will be taken so as not to cause such incidence **Dr. Joshi** further stated that no question of emission of Sulphur Di-Oxide arise because the fuel is bagasse and the concentration of Sulphur Di-Oxide is very less and secondly, the bagasse ash is not given to brick kilns and it is given as manure and normally, no ash from sugar factory is given to brick kilns, he suggested to see the Consent conditions. **Dr. Deshmane** reported that ash will not be given to the brick kilns if bagasse is used as a fuel, but when coal and spent was incinerated, the ash will be given to the brick kilns and he said that considering the worst case scenario, the said point is placed. **Shri Patil** suggested to use the coal only when condition is stipulated in the Consent for the same, otherwise not to use and it is agreed by the Project Consultant.

**Shri Patil** also requested the public participants that if anybody would like to ask any question, objection, suggestion regarding said project, same may be asked by telling their own name and village name,

3. **Shri Pandit Vishwanath Dhage**, a resident of village Her, Tq. Udgir, Dist: Latur stated that the farmers will get benefit due to said project, employment opportunity will be available to the youths in the area, hence he congratulates the management.

**Shri Patil** stated that the public hearing is regarding environment, hence he requested the public participants to ask the objections, suggestions, questions regarding environment only. **Dr.**

Joshi also requested that if anybody would like to ask something, same may be asked by telling their own name and village name.

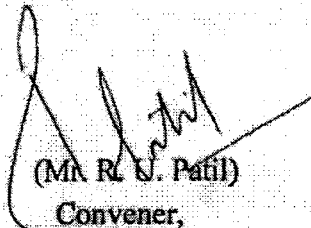
4. **Shri Sandeep Rajendra Patil**, a resident of village Tondar, Tq. Udgir, Dist: Latur stated that the said project of 60 KLPD production is good for farmers, for youths, for increase in rates, for financial progress, for employment opportunity for the unemployed and as far as part of pollution is concerned, the factory is being operated in a very good manner from last five years, i.e. since it is taken over for operation and no any incidence of pollution is happened at the said factory during the period of five years. He stated that he supports the said project and he has given about 560 Ton of sugarcane since the establishment of factory.

Shri Patil asked whether there are some complaint regarding water pollution or any other Pollution or whether anybody is having any objection, etc. regarding the proposed project

The Chairman the public Hearing Panel in his concluding remark assured that all the points raised in the public Hearing will be in corporate in the minutes and clarified that the processing of public Hearing will be submitting ministry of Environment and climate change Govt. of Maharashtra.

The Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all the local people, project officials and environmentalists and declared that the meeting is concluded.

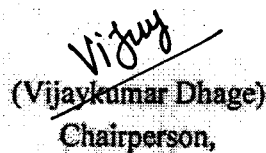
The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

  
(Mr. R. U. Patil)  
Convener,

Environment Public Hearing Committee  
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Latur

  
(Dr. Pravin M. Joshi)  
Member,

Environment Public Hearing Committee  
Regional Officer, MPCB, Aurangabad

  
(Vijaykumar Dhage)  
Chairperson,

Environment Public Hearing Committee  
Additional District Magistrate, Latur

