

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION IN EXISTING UNIT OF GRAIN BASED DISTILLERY UNIT FROM 30.0 KLPD TO 58.0 KLPD CAPACITY AT GAT NO. 511, POST – KAPARI, TAL -SHIRALA, DIST – SANGLI, MAHARASHTRA BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S VIRAJ ALCOHOLS & ALLIED INDUSTRIES LTD.,

The Public Hearing for proposed expansion in existing unit of Grain Based Distillery Unit from 30.0 KLPD to 58.0 KLPD Capacity at Gat No.511, Post - Kapari, Tal – Shirala, Dist – Sangli, Maharashtra by Project Proponent M/s Viraj Alcohols & Allied Industries Ltd., was conducted on Thursday, the 30th September, 2021 at the site of the said industry at 11.30 a.m.

As per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, 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- 80 of 2021 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 210914-FTS-0102, , dated 14th September, 2021.

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| 1) Dr. Abhijeet Chaudhari, (IAS)
Collector & District Magistrate - Sangli, | - | Chairman |
| 2) Shri. Ravindra Anadhale,
Regional Officer, MPCB - Kolhapur | - | Member |
| 3) Shri. Navanath S. Awatade,
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Sangli | - | Convener |

Shri. Navnath S. Awatade, Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Sangli and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Dr. Abhijit Chaudhary, District Magistrate, Sangli and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Ravindra Anadhale, Regional Officer, MPCB, Kolhapur 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, 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 Public Hearing Committee welcomed all and informed that the meeting is called in the background of Covid-19. And as per the guidelines and directivities issued by The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi. Vide their office memorandum dtd. 14-09-2020 it is requested to all participants to follow strict the said guidelines. The thermal checking and use of sanitizer is kept at the entrance of the Panadol and now it is compulsory to wear a mask and follow the social distancing amongst the persons.

He informed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of application from Project Proponent M/s. Viraj Alcohols & Allied Industries Ltd., Gat No.511, Post - Kapari, Tal – Shirala, Dist – Sangli, Maharashtra for their proposed expansion in existing unit of Grain Based Distillery Unit from 30.0 KLPD to 58.0 KLPD Capacity.

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 along with pre-feasibility report to the State Environment Impact Assessment Committee, Environment & Climate Change Department, New Administrative Building, Mantralaya, Mumbai for Terms of Reference (ToR) for conduct of EIA studies on 28-03-2018 and it has been considered and given online approval on 05-10-2018.

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Office, MPCB Sangli in the Local Newspaper in Daily Sakal for Marathi and in National Newspaper daily The Times of India for English on 29th August, 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, Nagpur-440 001; District Magistrate Office, Sangli, The Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad Office, Sangli; General Manager, District Industries Centre Office, Sangli; The Chief Officer, Shirala Municipal Council, Shirala, Tal-Shirala, Dist – Sangli; Tahasildar, Tahsildar Office-Shirala, Tal-Shirala, District – Sangli; The Gram Sevak, Grampanchayat office, Kapari, Jabhalewadi, Ingrul, Khed, Biur, Bhatshirgaon, Tal – Shirala, Dist – Sangli; Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Sangli; Regional Office, MPCB, Kolhapur and at Head Office of MPCB at Mumbai, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, New Administrative Building, 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 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.

Convener requested Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee to start the proceedings.

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 Rupees 43.99 Crores have invested till now for this project and Rupees 12.06 Crores will be invested for the expansion of the project. This project ZLD i.e. Zero Liquid Discharge and Project Proponent has ear-marked capital cost of Rupees 560 lakh and for maintenance of pollution control devices Rupees 92 lakhs.

After presentations, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed the participants to raise their views, suggestions or objections regarding propose plant in environmental angle only and requested to mention their name and residential village before raising their objections/questions.

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

- 1) **Shri. Swapnil Uttam Patil, Residence-At Post-Biur, Tal – Shirala, Dist – Sangli.**

How much fresh water will require for the expanded project?

Ans. The Environment Consultant answered that the project requires 960.0 Kilo liter Per Day of water out of which 26% of water will be recycled and reused as informed in the Presentation. Hence, only 553.0 Kilo liter Per Day fresh water will be required for the project.

- 2) **Shri Sanjayrao Jagannath Desai, Residence – Bhatshirgaon, Tal – Shirala, Dist – Sangli.**

After expansion of the project, how many days the project will be in operation in a year?

Ans. The Environment Consultant answered that this is Grained Based Distillery and the project is ZLD i.e. Zero Liquid Discharge. Not a drop of treated effluent will be discharged outside the factory. If the distillery is molasses based having composting facility, then it is allowed to operate only for 270 days in a year. Our distillery will be operated for 330 days in a year.

- 3) **Shri Shashikant Rangrao Patil, Residence – Khed, Tal – Shirala, Dist – Sangli.**

Whether there will increase in noise pollution due to expansion of the project?

Ans. The Environment Consultant informed that there is no activity which produces heavy noise in the project. Also, there will not be any use of machinery which produces heavy noise just as JCB machines in the mining activities. While using pumps for Distillation, the noise levels will be in the prescribed limits i.e., 75 dB (A). Hence, there will not any harm due to noise.

- 4) **Shri Rajendra Dagadu Kadam, Residence – Shirala, Tal – Shirala, Dist – Sangli.**

Whether new boiler will be installed in the project?

Ans. The Environment Consultant answered that as informed in the presentation, one boiler of 20 TPH capacity is in operation. At present, it is being used only for 50% capacity.

Hence, after expansion, the installed boiler will be used for full capacity, so the question of burning extra fuel does not arise. There is no need of new boiler.

5) **Shri Sandip Jagannath Salvi, Residence-Battis Shirala, Tal – Shirala, Dist – Sangli.**

How will the production capacity of the various products will increase after the project expansion?

Ans. The Environment Consultant informed that this project is Grain Based Distillery. Hence, first Rectified Spirit will be produced, then Ethanol and then E.N.A. The project will also produce CO₂ as a by-product. It will be bottled and made available for soft drink projects. The CO₂ will not be released in the atmosphere. The D.D.G.S. and D.W.G.S. products will be used as cattle feed.

6) **Shri Shahaji Mahadev Devkad, Residence – Jambhalewadi, Tal – Shirala, Dist – Sangli.**

What measures will be taken for green belt development?

Ans. The Environment Consultant answered that as per the directives of Central Pollution Control Board, the 33% green belt development of total plot is developed by the Project Proponent. The prescribed limit is 2,500 trees per hectare. The Project Proponent has planted 3,000 trees. The green belt will be developed in future also. Additional 3,000 trees will be planted to minimise the sparse/airy of trees and to increase the density of trees/green belt.

7) **Shri Mahesh Fattesingh Mali, Residence – Khed, Tal – Shirala, Dist – Sangli.**

How will the project expansion benefit the surrounding villages?

Ans. The Environmental Consultant replied that the aim of the Project Proponent is to give benefits to the local people and our country due to this expansion. The local people and our country will be benefitted due to expansion of this project. The local farmers will get D.B.G.S. as cattle feed. It will help to increase the milk production and job opportunities.

Now the national level benefit is the use of Ethanol. Alcohol has an Important place in the economic development of the country as it is made From ethanol. The Central Government has announced a policy to use Alcohol for petrol blending. This will result in huge savings in foreign Exchange.

8) **Shri Ramchandra Hindurao Gaikwad, Residence – Biur Village, Tal – Shirala, Dist – Sangli.**

How much cost will be incurred for the expansion of the project?

Ans. The Environment Consultant answered that until now Rupees 43.99 Crores have been spent for the installed project and Rupees 12.06 Crores will be spent for the expansion of the project.

9) **Shri Arjun Ramchandra Patil, Residence – Kapari Village, Tal – Shirala, Dist – Sangli.**

How the solid waste will be treated and disposed of due to expansion of the project?

Ans. The Environment Consultant informed that boiler ash will be made available to the local farmers as manure. It will be also given to local brick manufacturers for bricks production.

After treatment of industrial effluent, the ETP sludge will be produced. It will also be given to local farmers as manure.

10) **Shri Sahadev Namdeo Patil, Bhatshirgaon, Tal – Shirala, Dist – Sangli.**

How much sewage will be produced due to expansion of the project?

Ans. The Environment Consultant informed that there are other various components in the sewage. There is not only just sewage from the process, there is water from the boiler and cooling system also. At present, 24.0 M³/day sewage is produced by cooling system and boiler. The water from the Condensate is fully recycled and reused without any treatment. After expansion, total 47.0 M³/day industrial effluent will be produced which will be treated and treatment and it will be recycled and reused in the process.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed participants to raise their views, suggestions or objections regarding the

proposed project in environmental angle. If anybody desires to submit written views, suggestions or objections, it can be submitted.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee further informed that until today, not a single objection is received by this office regarding the proposed project. The documents of public hearing were available at the notified government offices. There are no objection is received by the concerned offices. As there was no response, Convener of the meeting appealed Chairman and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to give suggestion if any.

11) Shri Ravindra Andhale, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee :-

Whether VOC Monitoring is carried?

Ans. The Environment Consultant informed that VoC Monitoring is carried, but the levels were observed BDL (Below Detectable Limits). VoC monitoring of CO₂ is also carried. It is also observed BDL (Below Detectable Limits).

Conveyer has requested Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to conclude the meeting. While concluding the meeting, Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that Environment Consultant has given the presentation in very simple and plain language and she elaborated on the various aspects required for expansion, such as the raw material required for production, its processing and the various measures proposed to control potential pollution. Similarly, Environment Consultant properly addressed the questions and objections raised by the participants regarding the expansion of the project. Chairman of the Meeting has congratulated her.

Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee expressed the opinion that for the economic progress, such projects are essential. He said that the objections, suggestions received during the meeting are noted and the minutes will be prepared and it will be submitted to Government for necessary action. Chairman of the Committee declared that Public Hearing Meeting is concluded.

Finally Mr.Navanath S. Awatade, Sub Regional Officer, and Convener of Public Hearing thanked the audience and Hon'ble Chairman and member of committee, technical consultant and office bearers of the factory for extending their full co-operation for compilation of the today's public hearing and with the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman the said public hearing was declared over.

The procedure of public hearing has started at 11.30 am. And ended to 01.15 pm.

(Navanath S. Awatade)
Convener
And Sub Regional Officer,
MPC Board, Sangli

(Ravindra Andhale)
Member
And Regional Officer, MPC Board,
Kolhapur

(Dr. Abhijeet Chaudhari, IAS),
Chairman
And Collector & District Magistrate,
Sangli.