

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT IN RESPECT OF ESTABLISHMENT OF NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION PIPELINE NETWORK IN PALGHAR DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA STATE TO BE COMMISSIONED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S GUJARAT GAS LIMITED, AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT STATE, THE NETWORK IS –**

**1) Virar Spur Pipeline Network**

- 58.345 k.m. and 6"/8"/12" Diameter
- (Ambadi Naka, Taluka – Bhiwandi, Dist. -Thane to Virar village, Taluka-Vasai, Dist. – Palghar, Maharashtra State)

**2) Dahanu Taluka Pipeline Network**

- Steel Pipeline Network:45.77 k.m. Diameter 8"/12"
- Polythelene (PE) Pipeline Network: 14.23 k.m. and Diameter 125 m.m., 90 m.m., 63 m.m. (Zai village, Umbargaon Road, Dahanu Taluka to Kolavali village, Dahanu Taluka)

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The Environment Public Hearing for the proposed project of establishment of Natural Gas Distribution Pipeline Network in Palghar District, Maharashtra State to be commissioned by Project Proponent M/s Gujarat Gas Limited, Ahmedabad, Gujarat State. The network is Virar Spur Pipeline Network - 58.345 k.m. and 6"/8"/12" Diameter - (Ambadi Naka, Taluka – Bhiwandi, Dist. -Thane to Virar village, Taluka-Vasai, Dist. – Palghar, Maharashtra State) and Dahanu Taluka Pipeline Network - Steel Pipeline Network:45.77 k.m. Diameter 8"/12" - Polythelene (PE) Pipeline Network:14.23 k.m. and Diameter 125 m.m., 90 m.m., 63 m.m.(Zai village, Umbargaon Road, Dahanu Taluka to Kolavali village, Dahanu Taluka) was conducted on Thursday, the 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 at 11.30 a.m. at Aangan Marriage Hall, Satpadi Road, Tembade, Palghar (West), Dist – Palghar – 401 405, Maharashtra.

After getting approval from District Collector-Palghar for conducting the Environment Public Hearing on Thursday , the 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 at 11.30 a.m. and 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 Office Order No.E-04 of 2022, under letter no.BO/JD/WPC/PH/B-220121-FTS-0190, dated 21-01-2022 as under :-

- 1) District Magistrate, Palghar  
or his representative not below  
the rank of an Additional  
District Magistrate **-Chairman**
- 2) Representative of Maharashtra  
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -  
Regional Officer,  
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,  
Thane, **-Member**
- 3) Sub Regional Officer, Thane-2.  
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,  
Thane **-Convener**
- 4) Sub Regional Officer, Tarapur-2.  
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,  
Tarapur **-Convener**

Shri Prashant Gaikwad, Sub Regional Officer, Tarapur-2, MPCB and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Dilip Gutte, Additional District Magistrate, Palghar and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Dr. Rajendra Rajput, I/c Regional Officer, MPCB, Thane and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Satish Padwal, Sub Regional Officer, Thane-2, MPCB, Thane; Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists and Project 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, GoI) dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 as amended on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 welcomed all and informed that the meeting is called in the prevailing situation of Covid-19 and Omicron pandemic. Hence, it is requested all the participants to follow strict guidelines as issued by Govt. of India and Govt. of Maharashtra from time to time. As per the guidelines, only 100 persons/participants 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 pandal and now it is compulsory to wear a mask and follow the social distancing amongst the persons in the meeting hall.

He informed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of application from Project Proponent M/s Gujarat Gas Limited, Ahmedabad for their proposed project of establishment of Natural Gas Distribution Pipeline Network in Palghar District, Maharashtra State to be commissioned by Project Proponent M/s Gujarat Gas Limited, Ahmedabad, Gujarat State.

- 1) Virar Spur Pipeline Network - 58.345 k.m. and 6"/8"/12" Diameter - (Ambadi Naka, Taluka – Bhiwandi, Dist. -Thane to Virar village, Taluka-Vasai, Dist. – Palghar, Maharashtra State) and
- 2) Dahanu Taluka Pipeline Network - Steel Pipeline Network:45.77 k.m. Diameter 8"/12" - Polythelene (PE) Pipeline Network:14.23 k.m. and Diameter 125 m.m., 90 m.m., 63 m.m.(Zai village, Umbargaon Road, Dahanu Taluka to Kolavali village, Dahanu Taluka).

The Convener further informed that as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of project falls under Category A and 6 (a) activity which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department, Govt of India, New Delhi for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

Further he informed that the proposed Virar Pipeline Network passes through Tungareashwar Wildlife Sanctuary (TWS) and its Eco-Sensitive Zone and Dahanu Taluka Pipeline Network passes through Dahanu Ecologically Fragile Area.

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 proposed project. The suggestions, objections raised during the meeting can be considered while preparing Final EIA report.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application along with pre-feasibility report to the Environment Appraisal Committee (EAC), MoEF & CC, GoI for Terms of Reference (ToR) for conduct of EIA studies on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2019 for Virar Pipeline Network & on 22 July 2020 for Dahanu Taluka pipeline network and EAC,

MoEF & CC considered both pipeline and given online approval for ToR on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2019 & 24 July 2020 respectively. As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Regional Office, MPCB, Thane in the Local

Newspaper in Daily "Sakal" for Marathi and in National Newspaper daily "The Indian Express" for English on 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2021. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed project.

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 Collector Office, Palghar; Additional District Collector Office, Palghar; Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad Office, Palghar; General Manager, District Industries Centre Office, Palghar; Tahsildar, Tahsil Office – Vasai and Dahanu, Dist - Palghar;

**Gram Panchayat Offices (Vasai Taluka) -**

Koproli, Vadavali, Tukripada, Balipada, Ghateghar, Shribali, Parol, Shivansabalpada, Usgaon, Shovansai, Chandip, Bhoypada, Umarpada, Bhatpada, Baralpada, Gaspada,

Chakreshwar, Gas, Achole, Walib, Kharpada, Brudar Pada, Sativali and Ambadi Naka for Bhivanidi Taluka

**Gram Panchayat Offices (Dahanu Taluka) -**

Bordi, Gholwad, Rampur, Kainad, Jarali, Kasara, Nanadre, Junnarpada, Raipada, Dahanu, Saravali, Savata, Motarpada, Pale, Dehane, Kapshi, Khambhale, Wangaon, Kolavali

Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, Mantralaya, Mumbai; Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board; Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Thane; Sub Regional Office, Thane-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Thane; Sub Regional Office, Tarapur-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Tarapur and on the website of MPCB. The public in general were appealed to send any suggestion or objection regarding the proposed project.

Convener of the meeting further informed that in the background of Corana, this public hearing is also arranged by V.C. (Video Conferencing) and public by their mobile and computer join the meeting. The Meeting I.D. and Password were made available in the public notice of the public hearing.

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. It will be noted in the minutes of the meeting. Also the video recording of this meeting will be forwarded as it is to Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department, Govt. of India.

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

He further informed that due to this project, there will be transportation of Piped Natural Gas, due to which there will be less vehicles on the road, due to which there will be less traffic. All the safety measures will be adopted. There will not be any ill-effects of the project.

Project Proponent informed that there will be Special Leakage Survey in every three months.

After presentations, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed the participants to raise their views, suggestions or objections regarding propose project in environmental angle only. It is informed to participants that while raising suggestion or objection, state full name and name of the village.

**FOLLOWING PARTICIPANTS HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE DISCUSSIONS AND ANSWERS GIVEN TO THEM BY PROJECT CONSULTANT / PROJECT PROPONENT / ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE:-**

- 1) **Shri Vijay Gharat, Editor-Janatecha Wali, Residence – Nanivari, Tal & Dist – Palghar:-**

... that the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has published a public notice for this Environmental Public Hearing meeting in the daily Sakal for Marathi and in the daily Indian Express for English on 24<sup>th</sup> December, 20021. But if the public notice would have published in local newspapers, local magazines, the local people, the project affected families would have known about the meeting. Or if the press conference would have been held at Palghar, then the local people would have known about the public hearing of the proposed project and would

have been present in large numbers. Today, the local journalists do not know that there is environmental public hearing. Hence, the attendance of local people is low.

He further objected that in the presentation, it is informed that after laying the pipes, the pipeline is covered with soil and water is sprayed on it. But they do not do like that. Cattle have died after falling into a gas pipe pits in Boisar. He further said that the different presentation is shown to the government officials, and different to public. There are many such projects which are imposed on our heads e.g. Tarapur Atomic Center, Vadodara Express Way, Bullet Train. These are living examples. Attendance at this meeting is low, so on behalf of the people, I openly demand that all the local people should be informed in advance and the public hearing should be again conducted again for the people of the district to be present.

**2) Shri Arun Damodar Patil, Residence – Vasai, Tal – Vasai, Dist – Palghar:-**

He informed that he came from Vasai and his Grampanchayat is Shivansai. The first thing we need to know is the survey numbers from where the pipeline you are going to lay. Shri Arun Patil further asked if some houses are going to affect or private land is going to affect due to this project, then whether you are giving compensation? What will be the direction of laying the gas pipeline? This means that if this pipeline is going to cross the road, then we should get the survey number on Vasai taluka immediately.

Here, Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee and Sub Regional Officer, Tarapur-2, MPCB, Tarapur, Dist – Palghar directed Project Proponent to make available the survey number of Vasai Taluka. The representative of the Project Proponent informed that as shown in the Presentation, gas pipeline is not at all going through private land. Gas pipeline will go parallel through the ROU of the existing roads. Hence, the question of survey numbers does not arise.

Here, Shri Arun Damodar Patil, Residence – Vasai objected that the gas pipeline which will go parallel with roads of Public Works Department, but PWD has not handed over the land area. Due to which, there will be opposition and we will be fight against the project.

**3) Shri Nikhil Mistry, Residence – Palghar, Dist – Palghar:-**

(EIA) report which you have given states that Boisar to Dahanu 8.528 km long pipeline out of total 36 k.m. passes through CRZ-1, CRZ-3, CRZ-4.

Also, 6.22 k.m. long pipeline at Umbargaon to Gholvad Pipeline Section in Maharashtra passes through CRZ-1, CRZ-3, CRZ-4.

However, it is not stated how many gas distribution lines will pass through the CRZ area. There is also no mention of how much mangroves area will be affected by your gas distribution line.

The report does not inform how much mangroves area would be affected if the pipeline passes through the mangroves forest as per the High Court decision.

Shri Nikhil Mistry further objected that the gas pipeline goes mentioning some villages in Vasai Taluka and Dahanu Taluka. All these villages are under PESA i.e. - Panchayat [ Extension of the Scheduled Areas] Act. 1996.

The roads in the village of PESA are owned by the respective Grampanchayat only. Hence, the participants should be informed about the number of Gram Panchayats for whom prior permission, have been taken.

Project Proponent informed that the gas distribution pipeline will pass parallel to the Public Works Department (PWD) road. Crossings etc. are very unlikely to occur.

Similarly, mangroves are nowhere parallel to the Public Works Department (PWD) road. Therefore, there is no possibility of mangroves which will be affected.

At that time, Shri Mistry said that in the report, it is mentioned that the Boisar to Dahanu gas distribution pipeline of 8.528 km long, out of total length of 36 k.m. passes through CRZ. Similarly, the report states that Gholwad of Ubergaon 6.22 km gas distribution pipeline passes through CRZ.

Here, the Project Proponent replied that the gas pipeline would go parallel to the existing road in the CRZ. There is no mangroves.

At this point, Shri Mistry suggested to show the map and remarked that if there is a CRZ, then why any explanation is not given in EIA report?

Project Proponent answered that the gas distribution pipeline will pass parallel with the road through the CRZ. The pipeline we are going to lay is going to be laid with HDD technology. Therefore, mangroves will not be affected at all. The excavation will be not be carried in the CRZ area.

Here, Shri Nikhil Mistry informed Environment Public Hearing Committee to take note of answers given by the project officials regarding mangroves and CRZ area. Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee here informed that video recording is in process. Also, the answers will be included in the minutes of the meeting. It will be submitted to Government by both channels.

At that time, the representatives of the Project Proponent said that Gujarat Gas Limited has already obtained CRZ recommendations from Maharashtra Coastal Zone

Gholwad pipeline because of some of the road parallel pipeline section passes through CRZ area.

Now we expect the final Combined Permission i.e. Environmental Clearance (EC) and CRZ approval from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India.

This means that we have already received permission from the CRZ authority of Govt. of Maharashtra for CRZ, through which the pipeline passes. There is no mangroves forest. At crossing of Major water bodies and Mangroves area, Gujarat Gas limited pipeline will be installed by the HDD (Horizontal Direction Drilling Method) without disturbing surface water body and surface mangroves.

We do not need permission from any other government department for this. The recommendation of the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority is sufficient. He said that the application for CRZ approval will be submitted along with the minutes of the meeting and Final EIA report. Afterwards only we will get Environmental Clearance (EC) and NOC for CRZ. The utmost care will be taken while laying the pipeline in sensitive zone.

Project Proponent again informed that Gujarat Gas Ltd., has fixed certain safety standards and procedures. Conducting Awareness training programme for gas pipeline for affected villages time to time.

Shri Nikhil Mistry here suggested giving information about PESA in the meeting.

Project Proponent informed that PESA Road is connected to PWD roads. Our pipeline is parallel to PWD roads. There will be crossings on the roads within the limits of the Gram Panchayat. The gas pipeline will be erected taking care that no damage will be done.

Shri Mistry against asked the question that whether prior permission of the PESA Grampanchayat is obtained? He informed that in Dahanu Taluka, there are 22 PESA villages. But in the EIA report of the project, there is no mention of PESA villages.

How many PESA villages have granted PWD permission, Administration or Project Proponent -Gujarat Gas?

**Shri Mistry objected that as per** Fundamental Right, the list of all villages under the heading of "PESA Village" should have been given in the EIA report. It is not given. It should be noted in the minutes of meeting.

He said that the Environmental Impact Assessment report which have been made available to the notified government offices and gram panchayats, actually the villages are under PESA. Hence, whether Project Proponent has obtained prior permission from PESA village of Vasai and Dahanu Taluka.

Here, the Project representative replied that as permission is not required for this project, the permission is not obtained under PESA. At that time, Shri Nikhil Mistry demanded that such a Government Resolution be made available in the meeting.

Shri Mistry regarding mangroves, CRZ and PESA are noted and it will be included in the minutes of meeting. The minutes of the meeting will be submitted to Govt. of India.

Shri Mistry here remarked that even though it is noted, it should be informed whether permission under PESA is obtained? If it is affirmative, then say Yes with document proof. If it is negative, then say No. And it should be noted in the minutes of the meeting.

**At this moment, Shri Dhanaji Toraskar, Sub Divisional Officer-Palghar informed** Project Proponent that PESA – i.e. Panchayat (Extension of the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 is an Act and if Project Proponent has obtained information regarding it, then inform the details or after obtaining the information, further action should be initiated. As per PESA Act, 1996, if the population of any village crosses certain limits, the Collector of the District can declare it under PESA. It is observed that Project Proponent has not obtained permission under PESA. It is noted and will be included in the minutes of the meeting. But Project Proponent is hereby directed that the PESA should be studied first and further action should be initiated.

**Shri Nikhil Mistry further asked** that the Gujarat Gas Pipeline will pass parallel to PWD. Explain who is responsible if any catastrophic situation arises due to road widening for future needs. And do you have any plans to lay a gas pipeline considering future needs and road widening? Who is responsible for future losses? He further said that local people has very bad experience of this Project Proponent Gujarat Gas Company.

While laying the pipeline in Palghar Municipal Council, Gujarat Gas Company broke the public development works and laid the pipeline. The photos were shown by Shri Mistry.

The Project Proponent said that the Public Works Department (i.e.PWD) has given permission to lay the pipeline at a distance of a few meters from the road as per the provision keeping in view the future requirements. The terms and conditions are binding. Shri Mistry here asked Project Proponent to make the terms and conditions available to the public in the meeting.

Here, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the permission letter attached to EIA report may be shown.

The Project Proponent made the letter of permission available on the screen. At the time, Shri Mistry and others objected that the Project Proponent had written how many pipelines would be laid. But how much meters and how much long pipelines should be laid is not approved. This should be noted in the minutes of the meeting.

If something happens in the future, Will the Project Proponent compensate for the loss of public property? The Project Proponent do pay the loss in advance.



had already paid the money. Today, citizens have no place to walk. Shri Mistry showed the condition of the paver block at Palghar through a photo.

At the time, the Project Proponent said that the Public Works Department had given permission to lay the pipelines a few meters away from the road.

At that time, the participants suggested to tell the exact permission. At this time, Project Proponent said that each permission is separate as per the different space/land. The permission also states that if the pipeline has to be moved in future due to road widening, it should be moved.

Here Shri Mistry asked why the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department did not come. The participants asked why the representatives of Public Works Department, Zilla Parishad and Forest Department did not come. The participants suggested that this be noted.

Shri Mistry again asked the Project Proponent if the Project Proponent would take any responsibility if damage occur due to this in future. He further said that Project Proponent did not mention the Public Works Department in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. He asked how much space / area will go along the road.

At that time, the Project Proponent showed a copy of the agreement with the Public Works Department on the screen. While reading the English contract, Shri Mistry said that these are all technical games. Local people should be told in Marathi or Hindi.

The Project Proponent said that in some exceptional cases, the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Thane may allow the laying of the pipeline at a distance of 20 meters from the center of the road.

Similarly, the licensee has to sought permission from the Chief Engineer's Office to make an alternative arrangement.

At that time, Mr. Sanjay Singh, one of the participants, questioned if permission was granted to lay the pipeline at a distance of 20 meters from the center of the road, whether Public Works Department has that much space.

Shri Mistry said that the word is mention that Chief Engineer – “he can”. But in the Environmental Impact Assessment report, it is mentioned that permission is given. These are both contradictory statements.

At that time, the Project Promoter replied that the temporary permission is always given to install the pipeline. The permission is for pipeline installation only. Since the pipeline is parallel to the road and there is no private land requirement. If there are any trees along the way, we will try to save them. Therefore, permission is only temporary, there is no storage terminal in this project. Our project is natural gas.

The Project Proponent said that this project is to supply gas to the city. Our project is the “Green Gas Project.” The land that is taken for the installation of gas pipes is restored and we return it to the original owner.

Shri Mistry opined that it would have been better if such language had been included in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report. Shri Mistry informed Environment Public Hearing Committee that the actual permission information stated in

meeting are contradictory.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report should be prepared as per permission granted, afterwards permission should be granted.

**4) Shri Sanjay Singh, Residence-Palghar, Dist-Palghar:-**

Shri Sanjay Singh while objecting said that the local people have come less for the public hearing. What is the reason for that?

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee clarified that as per Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi's Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 as amended in 2009, it is mandatory to publish notice of Environmental Public Hearing in a local newspaper for local language (here in Marathi) and in a national newspaper for English before 30 days in advance of the date of public hearing.

Accordingly, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Thane has published a public notice of Environmental Public Hearing on "Dated 24-12-2021" in daily "Sakal" for Marathi and in "Indian Express" in English.

All the Project Affected Persons (PAPs), local people, Environmental Groups, residents residing nearby the project were appealed to send their views, suggestions or objections in environmental angle of the proposed project in writing in person or by email. Also, the copies of Executive Summary of the project in English and Marathi and Environmental Impact Assessment Report were made available to the notified government offices and affected gram panchayat offices for information and study to public.

Convener of the meeting informed that in the background of Corona epidemic, this public hearing is also arranged virtually for public to join the meeting via their mobile phones or computers using the meeting ID and password through the link.

Thus, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has fully complied the procedures as laid down under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 as amended in 2009.

Convener of the meeting while answering the objection regarding low presence of the local people said that part of the area through which the pipeline passes, falls in the sensitive zone. The pipeline laying area is also limited. The affected families are also limited. Hence, the presence of local people may be low.

Shri Sanjay Singh objected that the gas pipe leak could hurt many other people. Similarly, digging of roadside land for pipes will cause environmental damage. Convener of the meeting remarked that an accident is an accident. Project Proponent has provided detailed information on safety plans and measures. Similarly, pipe gas is no longer new to all of us. In Mumbai, Thane, there are many residential and commercial colonies, where Piped Natural Gas (PNG) system is in operation. PNG is

minimised the use of the petrol, diesel.

- 5) **Shri Nikhil Mistry here objected that** Although Gujarat Gas is working in the national interest, the quality of their work is very poor. Mr. Nikhil Mistry showed the photos of the work done by Gujarat Gas in Palghar to all in the meeting.

Shri Mistry told the Convener that although he talked about the safety of Gujarat Gas, he showed photos of the safety of the project at Palghar.

Convener of the meeting appealed all the participants to raise their suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project.

**At this moment, Shri Nikhil Mistry opined that** the questions for the proposed project on environmental angle only are raised by the participants.

He suggested that a copy should be made available to the local people after taking note of the comments, thoughts, suggestions and objections raised during the meeting. Environmental clearance should be granted to the Project Proponent only after a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report is made available to the local people after considering the suggestions and objections.

Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee informed in the meeting that this Environment Public Hearing Committee is constituted to take note of the opinions, views, suggestions or objections of the people for the proposed project and to submit to Government. This Committee does not take

any decision does not approve the project or does not recommend the project. The suggestions, objections, views expressed by the people will be included in the minutes of the meeting and it will be submitted alongwith Final EIA report, writing objections to MoEF & CC, Govt. of India, New Delhi. An Expert Committee at MoEF & CC take further decision.

- 6) **Shri Jagdish Dhodi, Residence – Boisar, Tal & Dist Palghar-**

He raised the objection that this meeting is conducted to know the views, opinions of the local people. The public hearing is for the public. But the seats in the meeting are empty. Local people are present in small numbers of the affected areas. This means that you are hiding these things from people.

Did you inform the people of the Gram Panchayat who will be affected due to passing of proposed gas pipeline? He said that publishing a public notice in paper does not mean that your duty is over. Today's public hearing does not have to be this way, because the presence of local people seems low.

Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the reason for the decrease in the number of local people has already been explained. At this moment, Shri Jagdish Dhodi remarked that this public hearing should be cancelled, and it should be again conducted.

views expressed by Shri. Dhodi are noted and it will be conveyed to the Government.

Here, Shri Dhodi again raised the objection that after informing the people about the project, they should agree. It requires the presence of a majority of people. He also asked them if there were any people in the villages through which the pipeline would pass.

He again demanded that the public hearing be canceled and reconvened. Some participants demanded that local people should know there is a public hearing. However, this meeting should be canceled and again convened.

Some local people demanded that a public notice be issued in the local newspaper of the village. He demanded cancellation of this meeting and calling of meeting again.

Shri Jagdish Jodi requested the Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee that the public notice of the public hearing, which was published in the paper did not reach the people. So, the attendance is low, hence, my request and urge is to cancel this public hearing.

He said that the gas pipeline which will pass through the boundaries, settlements, pada/small basti of the Gram Panchayat, hence the people residing there should be informed. The Gram Panchayat offices also be informed. This district is under PESA. The Gram Panchayats are PESA. Without taking into confidence the gram panchayat offices, conducting public hearing is not at all as per Law.

The good and bad results of this public hearing will be visible to all. However, the public hearing should be canceled. The next decision should be taken after the Gram Panchayat of PESA has approved their resolution in the Gram Panchayat.

At this time, the participants demanded that the hearing of Vasai Taluka should be held in Vasai and the hearing of Palghar should be held in Palghar. Because people from Vasai have a long way to go to Palghar. However, the public hearing in Vasai should be held in Vasai and the public hearing in Palghar should be held in Palghar itself.

**7) Shri Narendra Patil, Reporter, Maharashtra Times, Palghar:-**

Shri Narendra Patil first asked under whose Chairmanship the public hearing meeting is going on, his name and position should be mentioned. He opined that the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was aware that a public hearing had been held in connection with the Jindal port at Tarapur. At that time, information about public

thousand people attended. Here the local people do not know that there is a public hearing. When I found out, I posted on our press group.

So, it is wrong to hold public hearing in such a manner. It is important to note the suggestions and objections of the various sections of society who will be affected by this project.

Also, it is important to inform the people residing under PESA Grampanchayat. It is their Right. Hence, this public hearing should be postponed and people should be attended differently.

**8) Shri Sandeep Jadhav, Reporter, Prahar newspaper, Residence-Boisar, Dist – Palghar.**

Shri Sandeep Jadhav informed that during the meeting, one of the issues was discussed that a gas pipeline would be laid at a distance of 20 meters from the center of the road. A gas line passes through the Boisar-Chillar route. Many of the roads that have gone for development, but farmers are not given compensation till to-date. Therefore, the question of widening of road is still stuck today. Now if we talk about the distance of 20 meters, there are gutters of 3-4 meters in the rest of the area. Reliance's pipelines are passing through the rest of the space. Some water schemes have been implemented there also. So how will this gas line go, will it go through the farmer's garden? So let everyone know that there is a gas line running near my house. This gas pipeline is being taken as per the notification of 2017.

How many roads were widened from 2017 to 2022? How many lines have gone? However, we request on behalf of the journalists' brother to the Administration to cancel this public hearing.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed the participants to raise any question. The questions will be noted, he said. Chairman of the meeting further informed that online arrangement is also made

to attend this meeting. We thought that the meeting will be attended by large number of local people, hence the sitting arrangement is made accordingly. We feel that due to Covid and Omicron, the local people have not attended the meeting.

Chairman of the meeting while answering the issue of not giving enough publicity of this public hearing said that all the Gram Panchayats through which the pipeline passes have been informed and the acknowledgment receipts issued by the Gram Panchayat Offices is with MPCB office.

Chairman of the meeting said that the Convener has informed all the notified government offices. A public notice has been published in local and national newspapers a month and a half ago. "We expected a thousand and a half people to come, so the police force was called for security," he said. Now that the number of people has come down, it does not seem to be the fault of the concerned department and the Collector Office. However, the opinions

and objections presented in the meeting have been recorded.

All the suggestions and objections raised in the meeting have been recorded. The demand to cancel public hearing and hold it again has also been noted.

The main purpose of the public hearing is to record the suggestions and objections of the local people about the project. He gave his name and identity as I am Dilip Gutte, I am Additional District Magistrate and sit on Jawahar.

He said that the views, opinions, suggestions or objections have been registered as it is and it will be submitted it to the Government. The Government will think accordingly. Previously, we have held a public hearing of Wadhwan port.

The Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the public hearing is conducted as per the government instructions. One of the reasons for the low attendance may be that the pipeline is out of the ground and no one's private space will be affected. However, we will inform the government about the opinions you have presented.

**At this moment, Shri Narendra Patil, Reporter, Maharashtra Times opined that** it was expected that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should have made available the press notes. Chairman of the meeting said here that your opinion is noted here.

**Shri Sandeep Jadhav, Reporter, Prahar informed that our opinion** is not important. But the gas pipe line is passing through the local people, that our opinion is not the gas line which goes underground, under the home, they do not know. The gram panchayat still not informed the t.v. reporters.

At this time, Shri Jagdish Dhodi remarked that on 26<sup>th</sup> January, there were Gram Sabha of all Grampanchayats. In the Gram Sabha agenda, this subject was not included. It means that the project which passes through the area, the respective Gram panchayat did not receive the information. Some Gram Sabha have been concluded. We should wait for few days. Hence, this public hearing should be postponed and after intimation to all people, it should be arranged after few days.

**Shri Nikhil Mistry here remarked that** unlike the people, there is no administrative system available here. While some answers are expected to be given by the concerned administrative department, they are absent here, Here, there is no representative of Zilla Parishad, Forest Department, Mangroves Division, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department is also not present. Also, there are no representatives of the Gram Panchayat. Hence, this public hearing should be cancelled.

**Ms. Swati Santosh Gharat, Gram Sevak, Shivansai Grampanchayat :-**

I have got the letter of public hearing and I have given acknowledgement. The term of our Gram Panchayat Committee has expired. I had raised this issue in the Gram Sabha on 26th January. After reading the letter, it was noticed that no permission was sought from the Gram Panchayat. However, since our Gram Panchayat is a PESA grampanchayat, I think permission is required from us.

side of the road.

**At that time, Shri Nikhil Mistry expressed** his opinion that the Gram Sevaks in the administration had read out the error in the administration before the Chairman. Hence, it is requested to cancel the public hearing.

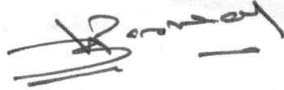
Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that all the suggestions, objections as raised have been noted. He said that I am telling again that this Committee is constituted to hear your suggestions, objections for the proposed project in environmental angle.

All the participants have raised the opinion that it is expected that the resolution of PESA Gram Panchayat should be obtained first. Hence, this will also be informed to Government that before starting the work of the project, it is desired that the resolution from PESA Grampanchayat should be obtained.

Chairman of the meeting further said that participants have raised the opinion that this public hearing is not given enough publicity and there should be different two public hearing meetings for two talukas. This is also noted. Now it seems that there is no different questions of the participants. Hence, I declare that this public hearing is concluded. The participants again asked regarding calling of another public hearing. Here Chairman of the meeting remarked that the opinion raised is noted. This Committee does not have any authority, it is explained.

The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

The suggestions/objections 02 received are enclosed herewith.




**(Satish Padwal)**  
Convener,  
Environmental Public Hearing  
Committee  
And  
Sub Regional Officer,  
Thane – 2,  
MPCB, Thane



**(Prashant Gaikwad)**  
Convener,  
Environmental Public Hearing  
Committee  
And  
Sub Regional Officer,  
Tarapur – 2,



**(Dr. Rajendra Rajput )**  
Member,  
Environmental Public Hearing Committee  
And  
Incharge Regional Officer,  
MPCB  
Thane



**(Dilip Gutte,)**  
Chairman  
Environmental Public Hearing Committee  
And  
Additional District Magistrate, Palghar,  
Dist – Palghar