

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING OF PROJECT PROPONENT M/S WITMANS INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED, GAT NO.20/2, BILOSHI, TALUKA-WADA, DISTRICT - PALGHAR (421 312), MAHARASHTRA FOR COMMISSIONING OF PROJECT FOR PRODUCTION OF SYNTHETIC ESTER, GENERAL PLASTICIZERS, FIRE RETARDANT PLASTICIZERS AND SPECIALITY PLASTICIZERS.**

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The Environmental Public Hearing for commissioning of project for production of Synthetic Ester, General Plasticizers, Fire Retardant Plasticizers and Speciality Plasticizers of M/s Witmans Industries Private Limited, Gat No. 20/2, Biloshi, Taluka - Wada, District - Palghar (421 312), Maharashtra was conducted on Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 at 03.00 noon at project site.

Shri Kishor Kerlikar, Sub Regional Officer, Kalyan-3, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalyan and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Govind Bodke, District Magistrate, Palghar and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Babasaheb Kukade, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,

Kalyan and Member, of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Dr. Bhawanji Aage Patil, Sub Divisional Magistrate Wada, Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists and Company Officials and local people/participants who were present and with permission of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee started the proceedings.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) 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.

He informed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of application from Project Proponent M/s Witmans Industries Private Limited for conducting Environmental Public Hearing for their proposed commissioning of project for production of Synthetic Ester, General Plasticizers, Fire Retardant Plasticizers and Speciality Plasticizers at Gat No. 20/2, Biloshi, Taluka - Wada, District - Palghar (421 312), Maharashtra State.

Convener further informed as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of project falls under Category A Schedule 5 (f) which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi for which prior Environmental Public Hearing is mandatory.

Convener informed that the aim of conducting prior public hearing is to make aware, local people who can be participate 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, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 and it has been considered and given online approval on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.

After sanction from District Collector, Palghar to conduct the Physical Environment Public Hearing on Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 at 03.00 noon, 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 Board's Office Order No. E- 73 of

2022 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B-220921FTS0164  
dated 21.09.2022:-

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

As per said Notification, 30 days' in advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Kalyan-3, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalyan in the Local Marathi Newspaper in Daily Sakal and in National English Newspaper daily Free Press Journal on 09<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed unit.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summary were made available in Marathi and in English at various notified Government offices –

- 1) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Zonal Office, West Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur-440 001;
- 2) District Collector, Palghar;
- 3) General Manager, District Industries Centre Office, Palghar;
- 4) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad Office, Palghar;
- 5) Joint Director (WPC), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Mumbai;
- 6) Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, Mantralaya, Mumbai;
- 7) Sub Divisional Officer-Wada, Tal – Wada, Dist – Palghar;
- 8) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office - Wada, Dist – Palghar;
- 9) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Wada, Tal-Wada, District – Palghar;
- 10) Sarpanch, Group Gram Panchayat, Biloshi, Tal – Wada, Dist – Palghar;
- 11) Regional Officer, Regional Office-Kalyan, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Shree Siddhi Vinayak Sankul, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Near Oak Baug, Station Road, Kalyan (West) – 421 301, Dist – Thane;

12) Sub Regional Officer, Kalyan-3, Sub Regional Office- Kalyan, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Shree Siddhi Vinayak Sankul, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Near Oak Baug, Station Road, Kalyan (West) – 421 301, Dist – Thane;

13) Website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board;

The public in general were appealed to send any suggestions or objections regarding proposed the project.

Convener informed that, not a single objection received at MPCB office regarding the proposed project.

Convener informed that, participants can raise their views, suggestions / objections for the proposed project in environmental angle only orally as well as in writing also.

Convener informed that, this Committee is constituted to know the views, opinions, suggestions or objections of the local people and it does not take any decision of sanction, recommendation or rejection of the project. The suggestions/objections raised during the meeting will be included in the minutes of the meeting. The video shooting of the meeting as it is along with minutes of the meeting and Final EIA report will be submitted with the approval of Chairman of the Committee through Head Office MPCB to Ministry of

Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi for further decision. An Expert Committee at Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi will take further decision.

Member, Convener requested Chairman to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

With the permission of the Chairman, the Environment Consultant of the Project Proponent made a presentation on the entire Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed project. He informed about the geographical location of the proposed project, possible impact on the environment due to the proposed project, and the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) prepared for it, details regarding Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund and Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) Fund. It is informed that this project has an investment of Rs. 48.0 Crores and there will requirement of direct man power of 100 personnel's. There will be huge increase in the indirect business of the area.

After the Presentation, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed the participants, to raise their views, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed plant in environmental angle only. While raising the suggestions or

objections, full name and name of the village should be informed.

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

**1) Shri Mahesh Eknath Gharat, Residence - Biloshi, Tal - Wada, Dist - Palghar :-**

The Sewage Management Plan shown in the presentation should be implemented in practice. It should not be just on paper. Because the surrounding agriculture should not be damaged. In many cases, it is observed that the sewage treatment system is not functional, the sewage flows outside the plant into the neighboring fields and causes considerable damage to the crops.

**Environmental Consultant** informed that the said project is a ZLD (Zero Liquid Discharge) project and not a single drop of treated sewage will go out of the project. The industrial waste water generated in the project will be treated, recycled and reused in the production process. Similarly, domestic waste water will be treated and used in the project itself.

**Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee** said that after sanctioning of the Environmental Clearance (EC) for the said project, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board keep vigil on all the pollution control systems are operations before



granting Consent to Operate (C to O) to the project and only then grants permission to start the project.

**2) Shri Rahul Ravindra Bhoire, Residence -Biloshi, Tal - Wada, Dist - Palghar :-**

How many people can get job opportunities after inception of the proposed project?

Project Proponent answered that about 100 (hundred) people will get job opportunities in the project after the implementation of the said project.

**3) Shri Amol Patole, Residence -Biloshi, Tal-Wada, Dist-Palghar:-**

Will this project cause water pollution? If so, what measures will be adopted?

Environmental Consultant said that the manufacturing process will cause some water pollution. But for it, STP (Sewage Treatment Plant) to treat the domestic sewage and ETP (ETP - Effluent Treatment Plant) to treat industrial sewage will be installed. 100% treated wastewater will be recycled and reused in the production process and not a single drop of water will be discharged outside the project.

**4) Shri Ravindra Ranade, Residence - Biloshi,Tal-Wada, Dist - Palghar:-**

The system which will be installed by the Project Proponent regarding the environment protection is very appropriate. It should be implemented vigorously

**5) Shri Babasaheb Kukade, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee :-**

**Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee** advised Environmental Consultant that there is a large number of steel industries in the area. So, local people know how steel industries are. They should be given information about what plasticizers are and where their applications will be in the simple language, so that they can understand.

Environmental Consultant informed that the original plastic is rigid. A plasticizer does the job of softening it. Uses of plasticizers in plastics materials, rubber soften plastics.

**6) Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee :-**

Will any chemicals be used in the manufacturing process?

Environmental Consultant said that no hazardous chemicals will be used in the project. We will use only normal chemicals which are used by common people.

Apart from that, Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) will be commissioned in the project. The waste water generated in the

project will be treated, recycled and reused in the project itself. So, this project will not cause any water pollution.

**Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee** suggested to inform the name of the chemicals. He further questioned that even if we do not discharge the sewage outside the project, it will mix with the ground and spoil the neighboring agriculture.

At that time, **Project Environmental Consultant** said that we are going to use alcohol and acid mainly in the project as basic chemicals. These fatty acids will be of vegetable in origin. Utmost care will be taken that the said chemical does not mix with the soil. Even if accidentally dropped, it will accumulate in the dyked area below the cement concrete floor in the project. So, there will be no water pollution.

**Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee** further asked that whether it is your own study or case study report that the chemical used will not mix in the soil? **Environmental Consultant** said that we have also studied. Apart from that, these chemicals are water insoluble. They stay on the surface of the water. Then the solid gathered & will be disposed as hazardous solid waste.

**Chairman, Public Hearing Committee on Environment** remarked that solid waste is dumped anywhere. So, it will be more dangerous and harmful.

At that time, the Environmental Consultant replied that there are regulations of the Central and State Governments as well as the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board for hazardous solid waste, according to which the said hazardous solid waste will be sent to Common Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage & Disposal Facility (CHWTSDF), Taloja in a scientific manner.

**Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee** opined that aim of this public hearing is that Project Affected Persons (PAPs) and local people should know the Environment Management Plan (EMP) of the project activities. It should be informed to them in the language they can understand. This public hearing is not for Environment Public Hearing Committee. How much effluent will be produced in your plant? How much treated effluent will recycled and reused in the process? How much hazardous solid waste will be produced and how it will be treated and dispose of ? This information should be informed.

At this time, Environmental Consultant said that Hazardous Solid Waste and Solid Waste will be segregated in the project. This Solid Hazardous Waste is not allowed to be processed in this project or elsewhere.

The said hazardous solid waste will be sent to the Common Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage & Disposal Facility (CHWTSDF) at Taloja in a scientific manner as per the directives of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. There, it is processed, stored and disposed of scientifically. For this, the permission of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board is required.

**Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee** said that in the synopsis you have shown Furnace Oil (FO). We know it is not allowed to use it. However, the report should be amended. Environmental Consultant replied that the report had been revised. We will use LSHS (Low Sulfur Heavy Stock) instead of Furnace Oil (FO).

**7) Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee** said that industrial waste water generation has been shown as 39.0 M<sup>3</sup>/Day and domestic waste water as 13.0 M<sup>3</sup>/Day. Whereas, waste water recycling showed 64.0 M<sup>3</sup>/Day. Also, the percentage is shown as 80%.. He suggested to explain it which is on page no. 15.

Member said that 37.0 M<sup>3</sup> will be used for green belt development, then whether you are not recycling the treated effluent?

**Environmental Consultant** informed that the project will generate 39.0 M<sup>3</sup>/day as industrial effluent. It will be processed at the processing center. 2.0 M<sup>3</sup>/day of sludge will be generated and 37.0 M<sup>3</sup>/day of treated water will be generated, which will be reused for green belt development of the project.

**Member** asked about what will be done in MEE.

**Environmental Consultant** further said that the waste water from the process will be treated in MEE (MEE- Multi Effective Evaporator) and ATFD and reused for process and in cooling tower. Member asked whether there is waste water in it. Environmental consultant informed no, we will put it in the process, so the waste water has not been retained.

**8) Shri Mahesh Gharat, Residence-Biloshi, Tal-Wada, Dist - Palghar:-**

In the project, which boiler will be used, whether coal fired boiler, oil fired boiler or briquette fired boiler? And what will be the height of the stack which will be attached to boiler?

**Environmental Consultant** said that LSHS (Low Sulfur Heavy Stock) Boiler will be used in the project.

It is informed that the chimney height is 30 meter for boiler; 30 meter for LSHS furnace; 12 meter for DG set and 12 meter for H<sub>2</sub>S scrubber.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that vague answers should not be given. Specific answers should be given.

**Environmental Consultant** said that the boiler has a capacity of 1.0 TPH. LSHS (Low Sulfur Heavy Stock) will be used in it. Its efficiency is 89% and the height of the chimney will be 30 meters, and the diameter will be kept at 250 mm. It produces pollutants such as SO<sub>2</sub>, NoX and PM, for which the chimney is installed.

Representative, Sub Regional Office - Kalyan, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board appealed to the participant to raise any environmental suggestions, objections, criticisms, if any regarding the proposed project.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee also said that if you have any doubts, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project, they should be raised.

**9) Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee** asked that in the executive summary report last page 3

point - Liquid Effluent - whether it is GPCB or MPCB, what is the answer, is it wrong? This is a typographical error.

Representative, Sub Regional Office-Kalyan, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board again appealed to the participant to raise any environmental suggestions, objections, criticisms, if any regarding the proposed project. There was no response from the participant. He requested Chairman to give further guidance.

**Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee** said that today we have gathered here for Environmental Public Hearing of the proposed project of M/s. Witmans Industries Private Limited, Gut no. 20/2, Village - Biloshi, Taluka-Wada, District-Palghar, Maharashtra. He welcomed Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board-Kalyan and Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee; Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee; officials of Project Promoters, Journalists, Charitable Organizations Working in the field of Environment, Channel Representatives and local people who were present in large numbers and said that before setting up a project, it is mandatory to conduct a public hearing on environmental issues as per the government directives.



He said that this Environmental Public Hearing has been organized to inform the public about where the project is going to start, its production activities, whether there will be any threat to the environment, whether there will be any trouble to the citizens near the project area, and if so, the measures to be taken. Environmental Consultant of the company has surveyed the area, collected various samples and tested them according to various environmental laws and information about the measures to be taken.

**Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee** told to Director Body of the Project on behalf of the District Administration that whatever job opportunities is going to be created in the project, be it in the skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled category, it should be made available to the local people only.

He requested the local people that, the local people go to seek employment. But every project has its own characteristics. Only a person with that skill can do that job. Once that skill is acquired, it is possible to involve the person concerned with project management in the project.

**Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee** requested the Project Administration that even if you are going to implement the Environment

Management Plan (EMP), after the commencement of the project and various works after the installation, the traffic on the local roads will be increase. Traffic is stressed. Hence, the care of the local road should be taken. The CSR fund for the project shall be utilize on this. In the future, maximum civic facilities should be provided to the residents of the area, i.e. education, health facilities should be provided. He declared the public hearing concluded.

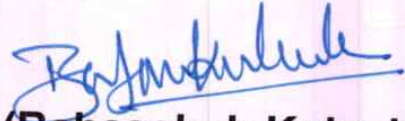
**Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee** appealed all participants to sign the attendance sheet. He said that the views, suggestions or objections raised during the meeting by the participants are noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting and with the approval of the Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee along with final EIA report and written suggestions, objections as received will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi. An Expert Committee will take further decision. Convener on behalf of Chairman declared that the meeting is concluded.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed written suggestions/objections:2 nos. as received.



**(Kishor Kerlikar )**  
Convener,  
Environment Public Hearing  
Committee  
And  
Sub Regional Officer,  
Kalyan – 3,  
Maharashtra Pollution  
Control Board, Kalyan



**(Babasaheb Kukade)**  
Member,  
Environment Public Hearing  
Committee  
And  
Regional Officer,  
Maharashtra Pollution  
Control Board, Kalyan



**(Govind Bodke, IAS )**  
Chairman,  
Environment Public Hearing Committee  
And  
District Magistrate, Palghar,  
District – Palghar