

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED PROJECT FOR MANUFACTURING OF SINGLE SUPER PHOSPHATE -(SSP)-600.0 MT/DAY & GRANULATED SINGLE SUPER PHOSPHATE (GSSP)-400.0 MT/DAY FERTILIZER AT GAT NO.499, BIRANWADI, TALUKA-TASGAON, DISTRICT – SANGLI, MAHARASHTRA PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S NIRMITI ASMITA AGRO PRIVATE LIMITED, GAT NO.499, BIRANWADI, TALUKA-TASGAON, DISTRICT-SANGLI.

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of Proposed project for manufacturing of Single Super Phosphate (SSP)-(600.0 MT/Day) & Granulated Single Super Phosphate (GSSP) -(400.0 MT/Day) Fertilizer at Gat No.499, Biranwadi, Taluka-Tasgaon, District – Sangli, Maharashtra proposed by Project Proponent M/s Nirmiti Asmita Agro Private Limited, Gat No. 499, Biranwadi, Taluka – Tasgaon, District – Sangli, Maharashtra was conducted on Friday, the 12th May, 2023 at the site of the said industry at 11.30 am.

Shri. Navnath S. Awatade, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sangli, Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri. Vijaysinh Patil, Additional District Magistrate, Sangli and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri. Jagannath Salunkhe, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur, Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representative of media channels 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, Gol) dated 14th September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009, it is

mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification.

He informed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai was in receipt of application from Project Proponent M/s. Nirmiti Asmita Agro Private Limited, Gat No. 499, Biranwadi, Taluka – Tasgaon, District – Sangli, Maharashtra, dated 06-03-2023 to conduct Environment Public Hearing for their Proposed project for manufacturing of Single Super Phosphate (SSP) (600.0 MT/Day) & Granulated Single Super Phosphate GSSP (400.0 MT/Day) Fertilizer at Gat No.499, Biranwadi, Taluka-Tasgaon, District – Sangli, Maharashtra.

Convener further informed as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of project falls under Category B schedule 5 (a) – Chemical Fertilizers which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the State Environment, Appraisal Committee, Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, Mumbai for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

Convener informed that the aim of conducting prior public consultation is to make aware, local people who can be participant in the hearing and they should know the developmental activities and Environment Management Plan of the unit.

The project promoters submitted an online application dated 07-12-2022 to the State Environmental Assessment Committee, Department of Environment, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai for grant of preliminary approval (ToR) and preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment Report to the said project and the said application approved by online on dated 08 December, 2022.

After approval of Hon'ble Collector, Sangli to take environment public hearing on Friday, May 12, 2023 at 11.30 am, the Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai as per Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Notification 2006 and Revised

Notification 2009, Government of India Office Order No. E-30/2023, vide letter no. According to BO/JD/WPC/PH/B-230426-FTS 025, dated 26-04-2023, Environment Public Hearing Committee was constituted and accordingly following were present.

- 1) Shri. Vijaysinh Patil, - **Chairman**
Additional District Magistrate
Sangli. (Representative of Hon'ble District
Collector Sangli.)
- 1) Shri. Jagannath S. Salunkhe, - **Member**
Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Kolhapur,
- 2) Shri. Navnath S. Awatade, - **Convener**
Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sangli

As per the said notification, 30 days advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sangli in the Local Newspaper in Daily Sakal for Marathi language and in National Newspaper Times of India for English language on 11th April, 2023. 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 in Marathi and in English at various notified Government offices as under: -

1. Collector's Office, Sangli.
2. District Industry Centre, Udyog Bhavan, Sangli.
3. Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Sangli.
4. Regional Directorate (Pune) Central Pollution Control Board,
(Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India), Survey no. 110, Dhankude Multipurpose Hall, Baner Road, Pune.

5. Deputy Secretary, Environment Department, New Administration Building, 15th Floor, Madam Cama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai.
6. Member Secretary, M. P. C. Board, Kalpataru Point, 3rd Floor, Opposite Cineplanet, Sion Circle, Sion East, Mumbai.
7. Regional Office, M. P. C. Board, Udyog Bhawan, Kolhapur.
8. Tahasildar Tasgaon, Tal. Tasgaon, District Sangli.
9. Gram Sevak, Gram Panchayat Biranwadi, Gaurgaon, Sriramnagar, Shindewadi, Balagwade, Tasgaon, Dist. sangli

Convener informed that till the date of today's public hearing there is no any suggestions/objections have been received by Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Sangli regarding the proposed project.

Convener informed that an opportunity is given to all participants to raise any doubts, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle, which can be submitted by orally or in writing also.

Convener asserted that this Committee is only for recording public opinion, views, suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. The suggestions/objections raised by the participants in the public hearing will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Similarly, the revised Environmental Assessment Report of the Project Proponent and minutes of the meeting after approval of Chairman will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Department of Environment & Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai after taking note of the video recording of the said meeting, suggestions and objections recorded in the meeting. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding the same. He requested Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

With the permission of the Chairperson, the Environmental Consultant of the project made a presentation on the entire Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed project. He gave information about the geographical location of the proposed project, potential impact on the environment due to the proposed project, Environmental Management

Plan (EMP) prepared for it, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund and Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) Fund.

Environment Consultant informed that the total cost of the project is Rupees 35.0 Crores. Project management has ear-marked capital cost Rupees 190.00 Lakh for Environment Management Plan and Recurring Expenses will be Rupees 40.0 Lakh. This project is ZLD i.e. Zero Liquid Discharge.

After the Presentation, Member, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise their suggestions, objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. While asking questions, full name and residential address should be informed.

The following is the information regarding the questions, suggestions and objections asked by the present citizens and the answers given to them by the Project Promoter / Project Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee:

1) **Shri. Haribhau Khabale, At Post-Bastawade, Taluka –Tasgaon, District –Sangli.**

Q. What processes and measures will be taken on waste water generated in the project?

Ans. As mentioned in the Presentation, the water will not require for the production process in the project. But as Sulfuric Acid is used in this industry, 171.0 M³/day (1 lakh 71 thousand liters per day) of fresh water will be required for its dilution. This water is needed to absorb the gases produced. It is called as a Scrubber.

Water is required for scrubbing the hydro-chloric acid gas that is generated from the five stage scrubbers. It is reused. That means it is unlikely to mix with water or land. This project is a Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) project. Not a single drop of treated wastewater will be generated outside the project.

However, due to the workers working in the project, toilet water, canteen in the project, around 9.0 kiloliters per day i.e. 9,000.0

liters per day domestic sewage will be generated. It will be processed and reused for green belt development in the project.

Shri. Haribhau Khabale, At Post – Bastawade remarked that this is very happy moment. Bastawade is our village in the area. The proposed project requires 250 workers/employees. It is requested that priority should be given to local people.

Environmental Consultant said that in the working project here, 2-3 persons of engineer cadre come from Tasgaon, rest all the workers and employees are local only. More than 90% locals have been given job opportunities in the project and will continue to be given in future projects.

2) Sou. Ujawalla Vijay Bhosale, Residence – Biranwadi, Taluka – Tasgaon, District – Sangli.

Q. We live next door to the project. Which fuel will be used for the production process in the project and what measures will be taken to control the resulting pollution?

Ans. Environmental consultant opined that this is a very pertinent question to be asked. Being a woman, you have an idea of what fuel can cause. It is true that the fuel volume and capacity are not high here. In the project, Agriculture Waste is called Bio-Waste, which means the unusable material which has to be disposed of in the field, will be used as briquettes (technical term) fuel. They will be used in a furnace to make single super phosphate into granulated single super phosphate. A device called a dust collector will be installed to filter the smoke. So the smoke coming out will come out clean (Clean Air).

Since its volume is also very low, it will emit smoke that is often invisible.

3) Shri Indrajit Patil, Residence – Bastawade, Taluka – Tasgaon, District – Sangli.

Q. How rainwater harvesting is planned?

Ans. Environmental Consultant informed that rain falls here on certain days/period. Slopes in Gat Numbers throughout the roject site is studied to prevent run-off of rain water. Accordingly, rain water harvesting pits will be made by making the entire drainage pattern. It will definitely help in increasing the groundwater level rather than reducing it. The proposed expenditure provision and design have been planned.

4) Shri. Shubham Patil, Residence – Biranwadi, Taluka – Tasgaon, District – Sangli :-

Q. The presentation shown is nice. We have land here next to us. So, which trees will be planted in the area for green belt development, so that it will help in the conservation of the environment here?

Ans. Environment Advisor replied that a very good question has been asked. Since your land is adjacent, it is only fair to be curious about what trees you can plant. So, the trees which can take root and grow here will be planted. In this matter, a list of trees to be planted has been prepared and submitted to the Government by experts in green belt development in our organization.

Similarly, under the guidance of the local Forest Department, such trees will be planted which provide shade and flowers for twelve months. These trees will be planted in the project area itself. It is mandatory to develop 33% green belt.

Shri Shubham Patil suggested to inform name of the trees in the meeting. The environmental consultant said that the names of the said trees will not be understood by the locals as they are scientific. The list of the said trees has been informed to the forest department and the government and if there are any suggestions from the locals, the names of those trees will be included in the list. The list includes trees like Wad, Pimpal, Neem, Gulmohor.

Environmental Consultant of the Project requested that if there are no suggestions, objections from the locals please take further action.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, appealed to the participants to raise any suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project. There was no response from the participants.

Convener of the meeting requested Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee to express any suggestions to the Environmental Public Hearing Committee.

Shri Jagannath Salunkhe, The Hon'ble Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee :-

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that this question is asked for the local people to the Project Proponent that from where the raw material H_2SO_4 is going to be brought for the production? How much it will be brought?

Project Environmental Consultant said that two types of raw materials are required for production. Rock phosphate is required, it is imported. Sulfuric acid is produced everywhere from Rajasthan, Gujarat to Maharashtra. It is produced from sulfur as a raw material. So, it will be brought to the project through road transport only.

Member asked about dilution if 98% has to be used. Environmental Consultant said that it will be diluted up to 70%.

Member asked whether the tankers bringing sulfuric acid would have GPS system and whether there would be tankers of local people?

Environmental Consultant answered that the tankers of the local people would be used definitely if they are well equipped and obtained permission from the Competent-Authority.

Member, remarked that those local people who have obtained a permit for handling and transport of Hazardous Chemicals should be given an opportunity while hiring the tankers. For this, Project Administration has to create awareness among the local people. Because this business opportunity must get to local people. For that, they have to give information about hazardous chemical handling and transportation permission.

Environmental Consultant opined that this would benefit both the factory and the local people.

Likewise, it is chemical. If the local people are not aware of the handling and storage of hazardous chemicals, the Project Administration will have to take special care.

Member, asked whether you are going to generate waste from this, Hydro-Chloro Sulfuric Acid. The information should be given about how it will be disposed of.

Project Environmental Consultant informed that the project generates waste - hydro-chloro sulfuric acid, in the form of scrubber waste. After a certain time, the scrubber cannot recycle the waste water, at which point it has to be drained. It can be drained and used in two ways. One is doing value addition and the other is SSP form. He will spray it to cool it down.

Member said that some of the women present said that they live near the project. It means that along with the workers, it is necessary to take care of the people living in the neighborhood. Because the hydro-chloro is acidic. It is dangerous. You are going to spray it in open space. It needs to be fully taken care of by the Project Administration.

Environmental Consultant promised to take care. He said that the spray is semi-automatic, running on batteries in case of power failure. Member said that local people should not suffer.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that you are going to take 200 workers in the project, they should be local, besides they should be given training, awareness and care in handling, storage, use, disposal of Hazardous Chemicals. Similarly, if an accident occurs, it is important to make aware the workers and employees regarding the next steps. For this, it is requested that the company administration should conduct training, mock drill from time to time.

Environmental Consultant said that Special Training Cell will be created in the project for handling, storage, use, disposal of hazardous chemicals.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked if they are going to give job opportunities to 200 people in the proposed project, how the local people will be benefitted from this project? Also, an explanation should be given as to whether the product and by-product (Product & Bye-Product) will benefit the local people?

Environmental Consultant explained that the direct benefit is that job opportunities will be given to local people. Similarly, as suggested by Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee in the meeting that if the local tankers are well equipped and obtained approval from the Competent-Authority, they will be given contracts. Similarly, this project will increase the local business tremendously, which will also benefit the local people.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the benefits of the project must go to the locals. Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee will give suggestions in this regard. Similarly, you are going to sell the products and by-products produced in the project in our State and in other States. So, it is necessary that local people should get the benefit. Because this project will be in operation with the co-operation of local people. Providing fertilizer to the local farmers at a low price is a matter of Project Administration, but it would be appropriate to take care of the interest of the local people.

Environmental Consultant said that the fertilizer requirement of local farmers will be fulfilled first. And assured to follow the important suggestions made by the Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that important suggestions made by Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee should be included in the planning of the project. And requested Hon'ble Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee to express their concerns and suggestions, if any.

Shri Vijaysinh Patil, The Hon'ble Chairman of Environment Public Hearing Committee:-

The Hon'ble Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee welcomed everyone and recorded suggestions and objections in the meeting, while local women and college going youth also raised questions and suggestions, from which their feelings about the proposed project were known. Chairman said that 35 crores will be invested in the said project. Many times, investment is high, but employment is low. An investment of one crore is expected for the employment of one person.

This project will provide direct employment to 250 people and indirect growth in local business which means 500 families will get benefit.

Hon'ble Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that according to the suggestions made by the Member in the meeting, it is necessary for the project administration to be vigilant that 90% employment contract should be given to the locals in the project. Hon'ble Chairman opined that the said project should not be reserved/kept for unskilled cadres only, but wherever skilled cadres are needed in the project, preference should be given to local people.

Hon'ble Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee advised the local youths present that they need to acquire the skills required in the project. Chairman asked about which trade engineers are needed in the project.

Environmental Consultant said that Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Diploma/Degree Engineers are required during the establishment of the project, then afterwards Chemical, Electrical Diploma/Degree Engineers are required after the project starts. Chairman advised the project promoters to hire local engineers for the future.

Hon'ble Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked that the proposed project requires 181.0 KLPD of water. So, what is the source of water for that?

Hon'ble Chairman, Environmental Consultant replied that the source of water would be groundwater extraction. An application has been made for the permission of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) which is mandatory.

Hon'ble Chairman informed to explain if there is any planning regarding water reuse.

Environmental Consultant said that some of the water in 181.0 KLPD will be recycled. The domestic waste water generated in the project will be recycled. In the process where scrubbers are installed at 5-6 locations, the process loss will be 171.0 KLPD.

Hon'ble Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked that the total area of the project is more than 5 acres. 33% of it would be approximately 7,000.0 square meters. This area has to be reserved for green belt development of the project. As suggested in the meeting, the botanical names of the trees have been given in the report. However, the common Marathi names of those trees, the list of common names in rural areas should be made available to the local people, so that the locals can understand them.

The suggestions and objections made by the local people regarding green belt development should be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. It is a hilly and rocky area and it is desirable to develop two acres of green belt. But it is necessary to do it. Because even though the project is a ZLD project, green belt should be developed to avoid air and noise pollution. Therefore, the first task before establishing the project is to develop the green belt.

Hon'ble Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked about the increase in the built-up area of the building. If growth is to occur, development of green belt should be undertaken before it. Because if the green belt is developed in the month of June, it will benefit.

Hon'ble Chairman remarked that the project has allocated 2.25 Crores for the Environment Management Plan (EMP). It should not be lacking. Additional provision should be made if required.

Hon'ble Chairman said that the report indicated that 70.0 Lakhs had been reserved for the CSR fund. It seems that provision of 25.0 lakhs has been made for solar panels for schools. Then, what is the need for it, because the needs of the common people must be provided. However,

keeping in mind the needs of the people, CSR 70.0 Lakh funds should be spent accordingly and planning of solar panel to schools should be reconsidered.

Environmental Consultant replied that the solar panel was provided as per the demand of the school during the survey and the discussion in the CSC committee.

Hon'ble Chairman said that Rs.25.0 Lakhs have been earmarked for solar panels, Rs.20.0 Lakhs for ambulances, and Rs.25.0 Lakhs for scenic development in nearby areas. Chairman opined that if there are no gardens to be used for recreation, how are you going to spend the money?

Project Environmental Consultant said that further decision will be taken after discussions with the village panchayat here. Chairman opined that the Gram Panchayat wishes the development of the temple only. Environmental consultant said in the radius of 10 Kms. further action can be taken with the help of Gram Panchayat after observing the gardens in the periphery.

Hon'ble Chairman suggested that the CSR funds should be spent only with the participation of the local people. Chairman suggested that the locals should take part in the development works as the locals participated in the meeting, similarly the local youths should acquire the skills required for the project.

Hon'ble Chairman suggested to the Project Administration that the local people, village panchayat offices should be apprised of the expertise required in the project.

Hon'ble Chairman thanked all the participants and appealed to them to raise any environmental suggestions, views, objections regarding the proposed project. It will be explained by the project promoter, environmental consultant.

Hon'ble Convener said that Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee gave important guidance to project promoters on how sustainable and environmentally sustainable industrial development should be, how to consider local issues, and what to do while maintaining social

commitment while developing it. Chairman said that while the project site is surrounded by barren hills, Chairman expressed the expectation that the Project Proponent should develop a green belt with public participation keeping in mind the social commitment.

The work of environmental public hearing is ongoing which is very thorough and detailed. As per the instructions of the Chairman, everyone was given five minutes to give suggestions, objections orally and in writing. There was no response from the participants.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all the participants, project administration, government officials, police administration and on behalf of the Chairman, it was announced that the public hearing meeting is concluded.

Meeting is ended extending thanks to the Chairman.

The hearing proceedings started at 11.30 am and ended at 02.30 pm.

(Navnath S. Awatade)
Convener,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And Sub Regional Officer,
M. P. C. B. Sangli

(Jagannath S. Salunkhe)
Member
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And Regional Officer,
M. P. C. B. Kolhapur.

(Vijaysinh Patil)
Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And Additional District Magistrate, Sangli