

Minutes Of Environmental Public Hearing for proposed Gondkhari Underground Coal Mine (Kamptee Coalfield) of M/s. Adani Power Maharashtra Limited (APML) for their proposed production capacity of 2.0 MTPA (Rated Capacity) 3.0 MTPA (Peak Capacity) in the Mine lease area of 862 Ha. At Village-Gondkhari, Tahsil-Kalmeshwar, Dist-Nagpur.

The Environmental Public Hearing for proposed project of M/s. Adani Power Maharashtra Limited (APML) for their proposed Gondkhari Underground Coal Mine (Kamptee Coalfield) production capacity of 2.0 MTPA (Rated Capacity) 3.0 MTPA (Peak Capacity) in the Mine lease area of 862 Ha. At Village-Gondkhari, Tahsil-Kalmeshwar, Dist-Nagpur was conducted on 13 July, 2023 at 11.00 AM at the Kh. NO. 9/5, Near Karli Lake, Vill-Karli, Tal-Kalmeshwar, Dist-Nagpur, Maharashtra.

The Notice regarding the Environmental Public Hearing was published in Local Marathi News Paper in Lokmat & in English National Newspaper Times of India on dated 10/06/2023 are hereby attached as **Annexure – I**.

A panel has been constituted by the Hon'ble Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide Office Order No. BO/JD(WPC)/PH/B-230614-FTS-0145 dated 14/06/2023 for conducting Environmental Public Hearing On 13 July 2023 at 11:00 am Kh. No. 9/5, Beside Karli Lake, Village-Karli, Tal. Kalmeshwar, Dist. Nagpur. In which Hon'ble Collector or his representative Additional, District Collector, Nagpur & Chairman, Regional Officer, M. P. C. Board, Nagpur, Member and Sub-Regional Officer, M. P. C. Board, Nagpur-I, as convener of the panel. (**Annexure-II**)

Hon'ble Subhash Chaudhary, Additional, District Magistrate, Nagpur, Chairman of environmental public hearing panel, Mrs. Hema Deshpande, Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Nagpur was member of public hearing panel and Shri. Rajendra U. Patil, Sub Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Nagpur-I was convener environmental public hearing panel. Attendance sheets of villagers, sarpanch, environmentalists, NGOs, journalists, representative of media channels, local people/ participants who were present at public hearing are attached as **Annexure-III**.

• **Purpose & Procedure:-**

With permission of Hon'ble Chairman Environmental Public Hearing panel has initiated the public hearing procedure. Shri. R. U. Patil, Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Nagpur-I & Convener of Environmental Public Hearing panel welcomed Shri. Subhash Chaudhary, Additional, District Magistrate, Nagpur, Chairman of environmental public hearing panel, Mrs. Hema Deshpande, Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Nagpur & villagers, sarpanch, environmentalists, NGOs, journalists, representative of media channels, local people/ participants present. Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Panel informed that as per the

Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification of Ministry of Environment & climate change Government of India i. e (MoEF & CC, Gol) dated 14th September 2006 as amended on 1st December 2009 Accordingly, the said notification the notice of the said public hearing was published in the two local widely circulated daily news paper i.e. in Marathi, Dainik Lokmat & National English News Paper i.e. The Times of India on dated 10 June 2023.

The copies of draft Environment Impact Assessment & Environmental Management Plan, (EIA & EMP), Executive summary containing silent features of the proposed project of M/s. Adani Power Maharashtra Limited (APML) Gondkhari Underground Coal Mine (Kamptee Coalfield) of proposed production capacity of 2.0 MTPA (Rated Capacity) 3.0 MTPA (Peak Capacity) in the Mine lease area of 862 Ha. At Village-Gondkhari, Tahsil-Kalmeshwar, Dist-Nagpur in Marathi & English languages were made available in various Government Offices as well as Grampanchayats offices as per the notification, of Ministry of Environment & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi 14th September 2006 i. e (MoEF & CC, Gol) dated as amended on 1st December 2009. Notified local offices & Grampanchayat as under :-

- 1) Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, New Administrative Building, 15 Floor, Madam Kama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai -32.
- 2) Joint Director (Water Pollution Control), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 2nd and 4th Floor, Opp. Cine Planet, Near Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai-400022.
- 3) Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate change Office, Civil Lines, Nagpur.
- 4) District Collector Office, Civil Lines, Nagpur, Dist-Nagpur.
- 5) Regional Office, M.P.C.Board, 5th Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur.
- 6) Sub-Regional Office-I, M. P. C. Board, 5th Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur.
- 7) Zilla Parishad Office, Civil Lines, Nagpur.
- 8) District Industries Center, Udyog Bhavan Civil lines Nagpur.
- 9) Sub Divisional Office, Kalmeshwar, Tal - Kalmeshwar, Dist - Nagpur.
- 10) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office, Kalmeshwar, Tal - Kalmeshwar, Dist - Nagpur.
- 11) Gram Panchayat Peth Kaldongri, Nagpur, Dist - Nagpur
- 12) Gram Panchayat Wyahad, Panchayat Samiti, Nagpur, Dist - Nagpur.
- 13) Gram Panchayat Surabardi, Panchayat Samiti, Nagpur, Dist - Nagpur.
- 14) Gram Panchayat Dhamna Linga, Panchayat Samiti, Nagpur, Dist - Nagpur.
- 15) Gram Panchayat Dawlameti, Panchayat Samiti, Nagpur, Dist - Nagpur
- 16) Gram Panchayat Dugdhamna, Panchayat Samiti, Nagpur, Dist - Nagpur
- 17) Gram Panchayat Sonegaon Nipani, Panchayat Samiti, Nagpur, Dist - Nagpur
- 18) Gram Panchayat Gondkhairi, Kalmeshwar, Dist - Nagpur.

- 19) Gram Panchayat Nimji, Kalmeshwar, Dist – Nagpur.
- 20) Gram Panchayat Lonara, Kalmeshwar, Dist – Nagpur.
- 21) Gram Panchayat Aashtikala, Kalmeshwar, Dist – Nagpur.
- 22) Gram Panchayat Selu, Kalmeshwar, Dist – Nagpur.
- 23) Gram Panchayat Uparwahi, Kalmeshwar, Dist – Nagpur.
- 24) Gram Panchayat Kalambi, Kalmeshwar, Dist – Nagpur.
- 25) Gram Panchayat Sawangi, Kalmeshwar, Dist – Nagpur.
- 26) Gram Panchayat Dahegaon, Kalmeshwar, Dist – Nagpur.
- 27) Gram Panchayat Sahuli, Kalmeshwar, Dist – Nagpur.
- 28) Gram Panchayat Linga, Kalmeshwar, Dist – Nagpur.
- 29) Gram Panchayat Raipur, Hingna, Dist – Nagpur.
- 30) Gram Panchayat Digdoh (Devi.), Hingna, Dist – Nagpur.
- 31) Gram Panchayat Nigdoh, Hingna, Dist – Nagpur.
- 32) Gram Panchayat Nagalwadi, Hingna, Dist – Nagpur.
- 33) Gram Panchayat Khairi Pannase, Hingna, Dist – Nagpur.
- 34) Gram Panchayat Waddhamna, Hingna, Dist – Nagpur.

In which about said proposed project were challenged to give the suggestion, views, comments, & objections in orally /writing as well as through email 30 days before from the of public & organisation working on environmental issue. In accordance with said public notice the total 44 suggestion have been received in written form. (**Annexure-IV is attached herewith**)

The suggestion or objection raised in the said public hearing & subsequently the reply given by the project proponent will be included in the minutes of meeting & will be submitted to State level or Central Impact Assessment Authority/Committee through Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Head Quarters, Mumbai. The said committee is only for recording the opinion of the people about the said proposed project & has no authority to take any decision.

Regarding said project whom so ever to submit written statement, suggestion, objection, can be asked after the presentation of project proponent by stating his /her name, village name. The reporting of question - answer will be taken as it is in the minutes of meeting & will be submitted to State level or Central Impact Assessment Authority/Committee through Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Head Quarters, Mumbai.

The Convenor of the Public Hearing Panel was requested to the project proponent to give their presentation of said public hearing about the proposed project related to the Environmental Clearances of said public hearing related with it. Accordingly, with permission of the Hon'ble chairman the project consultant gave the presentation about the project & environmental management plan.

The Project Environmental Consultant gave presentation of project about expansion & Environment Management Plan in Marathi language. In presentation mainly the following points were explained :-

Detailed Information of the Project -

- Project Area, Latitude-Longitude, Map, Submerged Area, Beneficiary Area, Forest Area, Project; Features, Project Significance, Consequences, Land Use, Earthquake Stability;
- Project objectives, social status, employment opportunities, development of farmers due to the project;
- Project analysis, summary, findings;
- Analysis of social and economic status
- Information about air, water, land, sound, project affected areas etc.
- Impact and management of air, water, displacement, biodiversity due to planned project
- Information on environmental management to be carried out after project implementation, other environment Management information.
- Land use pattern for green belt and other activities in the mine, mining type is underground and life of the mine is 30 years.
- Projected capital expenditure and recurring expenditure for environmental management plan.

While informing about direct and indirect manpower requirement Shri. Sunil Kedar, MLA Saoner arrived. He suggested to stop the presentation & asked to explain the procedure of public hearing.

Accordingly Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Panel suggested that the presentation be stopped temporarily.

As per request the convenor explain the procedure & asked project proponent to restart presentation of proposed project.

Mr. Paliwal, resident-Nagpur object that the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not in Marathi. He said that the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report was not made available to the general public in Marathi. As per EIA notification executive summary EIA /EMP reports in vernacular language & English language. Further Shri. Sunil Kedar, MLA warned that, Marathi is official language in Maharashtra. He further told that the country is a democratic. Common people in rural areas do not understand English. The information has not reached up to them. If you have Marathi EIA copy show it. The EIA report should be made available to the general public in Marathi language, We are not against the project. The nation needs coal.

The Chairman informed that the said objection has been recorded and it will be included in the minutes. At that time Shri. Sunil Kedar MLA objected that the first EIA report should be made available in Marathi. The chairman opined that since the presentation is in Marathi people can understand it.

The participants objected that MPCB had sent the English copies to the village gram panchayat offices. However, the public hearing process cannot be continued unless we get the Marathi EIA copy.

Mr. Korde, Nagpur said that this report is bogus. Because the study, survey done for this is wrong. Baseline, hydrogeology survey not conducted. When there are two big lakes, if the water goes down in the underground mine, the lake water will depleting, The water level in the wells here is 500 feet deep.

A local person objected that are all documents in English & Environmental Public Hearing Panel constituted by Government agency seems favouring project proponent instead of common people.

Shri. Sunil Kedar, MLA Mr. told the Chairman that they would not allowed to continue public hearing unless EIA report is given in Marathi, which is official language of our State. Many times, Collector of various districts have suspended the environment public hearing.

Hon'ble Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Panel told the audience that the said Environment Impact Assessment Report (EIA) is a draft report. The objection raised by you will be considered and finalized.

One of the attendees asked the Environmental Public Hearing Panel whether the said EIA has been made available to the affected Gram Panchayats. As Marathi EIA report is not available which is completely against the law. Hence public hearing process cannot continue here.

A farmer, stated here that the notice of this public hearing was published in one local newspaper in Marathi and one in English newspaper national level. But not publish the notice of public hearing in Sandhya daily news paper. As far as I know all information is available in Gram Panchayat office in English only. Similarly, our ancestral land will be taken at very meagre amount. The environment here is going to deteriorate. The Chairman, Public Hearing Panel said that the suggestion noted.

At that time Hon'ble Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Panel said that as per the instructions in the notification, the summary must be made available in the official language of that state (here in Marathi) and accordingly the Executive Summary Report has been made available in English and Marathi.

The attendees demanded that not only the executive summary report but also the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report should be made available in Marathi first, and then a public hearing should be held.

The participants further objected that if the English document was made available in a notified government office, it is believed that this report is given in English because the local people will not understand it. Chairman has full authority to adjourn this public hearing. However, we will not allow this public hearing. The first EIA report should be made available to the affected villages in Marathi language and taking note of this, All the present villagers were announcing that the chairman should suspend this public hearing.

Mr. Korde, Resident Nagpur objected that the presentation is also completely wrong. Also those who are sitting here do not know English. Similarly, many English words are used in this presentation. Air, Water, Soils, Hydro Geology is far beyond the understanding of the common man. Kindly make the presentation in Marathi, else change the Environmental Advisor. We don't want this black listed consultant.

Local women present in the meeting objected that Environmental Impact Assessment documents were not available to some Gram Panchayats. Local farmers here cannot understand English. It is necessary to make the Marathi EIA report available before conducting this public hearing. However, all the women present here wish that this public hearing process should not be continued.

Group of women demanded that Gram Panchayat Members, Sarpanch are present. They should know what is written in the report. What are contents in the English report should be in Marathi, so that we people can understand it. The women in groups started shouting the slogans of Stop the Meeting.

Coordinator, Environmental Public Hearing Panel informed & humbly request to all participants that if the EIA report is not made available in Marathi in this regards it is noticed that, The public hearing notice was published in Marathi and English daily newspapers 30 days prior in daily News Paper Marathi Dainik Lokmat & Daily English News Paper The Times of India in which the objections/suggestions/opinion/comments were called regarding the said proposed project in written/orally/through e-mail. However, no objection has been received in this regard in our office.

Local farmers, Dahegaon Gram Panchayat, Taluka-Kalameshwar, District-Nagpur and Director, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Kalameswar, District-Nagpur said that they have signed attendance sheet Under Protest. The Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board & Member, Environmental Public Hearing Panel, said that this public hearing is for the public.

The women group collectively demanded that the EIA should be made available in Marathi, some period/time should be given to people for study and then this public hearing should be held. All present asked to stop the public hearing.

Zilla Parishad Member expressed that everyone including me in the village is of the opinion that this project should not be executed under any circumstances.

The woman present objected that the quality of life of the people will be affected by the mining. The mine will increase the frequency of earthquakes here and may damage agriculture and water. Vena Dam is near the project site. All attendees started opposing the proposed project.

Panel Chairman, instructed gathering not to speak repeatedly by some people and give opportunity to others.

Some women asked that underground coal mining will take place in 2100 acres which included Amravati Highway, Ordnance Factory, water ponds, sanctuaries. But false information is give in the report. In the report, only two lakh population is stated, which is totally wrong.

All men and women repeatedly demanded to announce the cancellation of public hearings. They demanded that Chairman, Environment Public Hearing announce the cancellation of the public hearing.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Panel said that no decision can be taken regarding the meeting as long as the participants desires to speak. Participants told that they will not go until the hearing is cancelled.

Chairman opined that as long as the people present here are expressing their views and opinions, the proceedings of the public hearing cannot be stopped.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Panel said that a collective demand announcement of shutdown is being made. But later there will be objections that people are not allowed to speak.

Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Panel asked the gathering if anyone wanted to speak. There was huge shout "NO" from the people.

Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Panel asked whether attendees want to hear the company's say. All unanimously refused.

Shri Sunil Kedar, MLA remarked that first make available the EIA report Marathi, then only proceed for public hearing.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing announced that the environmental public hearing is held up due to public sentiment.

After discontinuation of the meeting, Shri Anil Deshmukh, MLA and former minister came on stage and submitted his memorandum in writing to Environment Public Hearing Panel.


MLA Shri Anil Deshmukh stated that I informed the Authorities that there are Marathi speaking people in all areas. However, all information about the project should be made available in Marathi only. I have objections regarding the said project and read out memorandum submitted to the Panel.



(Subhash Choudhri)
Chairperson,
Environment Public
Hearing Committee
Additional District
Magistrate, Nagpur



(Hema Deshpande)
Member,
Environment Public
Hearing Committee
Regional Officer, MPCB,
Nagpur



(R. U. Patil)
Convener,
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Hearing Committee &
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