

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING
FOR COMMISSIONING OF PROPOSED PROJECT OF API &
API DERIVATIVES OF CAPACITY 15,600.0 TPA AT SURVEY
NO. 48/1, 48/2, 48/3A, 48/3B, 49/1, 55/1A, VILLAGE – HONAD,
TALUKA – KHALAPUR, DISTRICT – RAIGAD,
MAHARASHTRA BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S RAMA
ENTERPRISES, SURVEY NO. 48/1, 48/2, 48/3A, 48/3B, 49/1,
55/1A, VILLAGE – HONAD, TALUKA – KHALAPUR,
DISTRICT – RAIGAD, MAHARASHTRA MAHARASHTRA**

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of proposed project of API & API Derivatives of capacity 15,600.0 TPA at Survey No. 48/1, 48/2, 48/3A, 48/3B, 49/1, 55/1A, Village-Honad, Taluka – Khalapur, District – Raigad, Maharashtra by Project Proponent M/s Rama Enterprises, Survey No. 48/1, 48/2, 48/3A, 48/3B, 49/1, 55/1A, Village-Honad, Taluka – Khalapur, District – Raigad, Maharashtra was conducted on Friday, the 14th July, 2023 at 01.00 noon at Samuel Hall,, 4th Floor, Old Mumbai Pune Highway (NH-4), Khopoli, District – Raigad (410 203).

Shri Prashant Bhosale, Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-I, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, C.B.D. Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400 614 And Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that it is regretted that due to certain circumstances, Additional District Magistrate Raigad, Alibag could not come on time.

Shri Prashant Bhosale, Sub Regional Officer, Raigad -I, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Sandesh Shirke, Additional District Magistrate, Raigad and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Jaywant Hajare, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Shri Ayub Tamboli, Tahsildar, Khalapur Taluka, District – Raigad and 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, GoI) 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 was in receipt of application from Project Proponent M/s Rama Enterprises to conduct Environment Public Hearing for commissioning of proposed project of API & API Derivatives of capacity 15,600.0 TPA at Survey No. 48/1, 48/2, 48/3A, 48/3B,

49/1, 55/1A, Village-Honad, Taluka – Khalapur, District – Raigad, Maharashtra.

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 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.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application on 29-10-2021 along with pre-feasibility report to the, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi and it has been considered and given online approval on 02-11-2023.

Additional District Magistrate, Raigad, Alibag directed that public hearing can be conducted by maintaining social distance and following the relevant rules, just like before the outbreak of Corona virus. After sanction from District Collector, Raigad, Alibag to conduct the Physical Environment Public Hearing on Friday, the 14th July, 2023 at 01.00 noon, and as per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, Gol), New Delhi and subsequent amendment on 01-12-2019, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has

constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Board's Office Order No. E- 37 of 2023 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 230614- FTS- 0121 dated 14-06-2023 as under:-

- 1) District Magistrate-Raigad, Alibag
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate **Chairman**
- 2) Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -
Regional Officer – Raigad,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Raigad Bhavan, 6th Floor, CBD Belapur,
Navi Mumbai – 400 614 **Member**
- 3) Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-I,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Raigad Bhavan, 6th Floor, CBD Belapur,
Navi Mumbai – 400 614 **Convener**

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Raigad – I, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, 6th Floor, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400 614 in the Local Newspaper in Daily Sakal and Krushival for Marathi and in National Newspaper Indian Express for English on 12th June, 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) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Zonal Office, Western- Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur-440 001;
- 2) District Collector, Raigad, Alibag,
- 3) General Manager, District Industries Center, Raigad Alibag,
- 4) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Raigad, Alibag,
- 5) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office – Khalapur, Taluka-Khalapur, District - Raigad,
- 6) Block Development Officer, Panchayat, Samiti, Taluka – Khalapur, District – Raigad,
- 7) Group Gram Panchayat Office – Honad, Gram Panchayat Office – Adoshi, Atkargaon, Tembewadi, Dheku, Sajgaon, Sarsan, Thanenavhe, District – Raigad,
- 8) Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;
- 9) Joint Director (WPC), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai – 400 022;

- 10) Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, 6th Floor, Sector – 11, C.B.D. Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400 614
- 11) Sub Regional Officer, Raigad – 1, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, 6th Floor, Sector – 11, C.B.D. Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400 614;
- 12) Website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board;

Convener informed that not a single suggestion / objection has been received by Sub Regional Office, Raigad-I, MPCB, Navi Mumbai 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 and the Committee has no right to approve, reject or recommend the project. 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, written suggestions/objections and minutes of the meeting after approval of Chairman will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi 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 Chairman, the Environmental Consultant of the project made a presentation on the entire Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed project. He informed that the total cost for the project will be Rupees 50.0 crores and capital cost for Environment Management will be Rupees 700.0 lakh and Recurring cost is 132.0 lakh. He informed that project is ZLD – Zero Liquid Discharge.

After the Presentation, 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.

Views, questions, suggestions/objections raised during the Environmental Public Hearing and the answers/promises given by the Project Proponent/ Project Environment Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee :-

1) Shri Sandip Taturam Patil, Residence – Atkargaon, Taluka – Khalapur, District – Raigad:-

Welcome to Rama Enterprises. Because if the project comes in the village, there will be job opportunities. But in our village, there is different situation. The employment is provided. After six months, the worker is given a break. So, what will be the policy of your company in this regard?

Project Environmental Consultant said that as mentioned in the presentation, the project will require 50 skilled and 50 unskilled people. According to the rules of the Maharashtra government, the hundred skilled and unskilled workers will be appointed who will be local people, stay in the local village. The skilled workers required for the project will also be from local villages. People within the project area will be given job opportunities. However, only the workers who are local will be given job opportunities in the company.

Shri Sandeep Patil objected that if the break is given after six months, the policy of the company should be stated that break will not be given. If the worker makes a mistake and he is given a break or terminated, there will be no interference from our side. However, an answer should be given regarding whether a break will be given after six months?

Project Officer said that the question you have raised is very valid. The break after six months is for indirect workers. In this regard, the decision is taken keeping in mind the physical ability, behavior and efficiency of the worker. We will not do any such injustice.

He further requested Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to take strict measures to prevent pollution from the above project and to ensure that no village in the area is affected by the project.

Shri Sachin Patil welcomed the project. He requested Government to allow the project.

2) Shri Chandrakant Govind Deshmukh, Residence – Adhoshi, Taluka – Khalapur, District – Raigad:-

This Rama project, which is going to be implemented in our area, is welcomed by all Gram Panchayats. It is hoped that the promises made in the presentation will be followed. A lot of money is spent on tree plantation, but after actually visiting the place, it is observed that there is no tree plantation. However, for the sake of everyone's health, all environmental rules should be followed.

He further said that in the presentation, there is mention of the weather. The maximum and minimum temperature of the

area is mentioned. But sometimes, we have too much heat, too much rain, too much cold. Hence, an explanation should be given about how you fix the maximum and minimum temperature. We have no objection to the project and the project should be started as soon as possible.

Environmental Consultant of the project said that the weather forecast is taken from the IMD station, which is a department of the Government of India. So that prediction is not for every day, but for that season or the whole year. So it has to be assumed that some factors can remain maximum and minimum.

3) Shri Sahaji Narhari Aughe, Residence-District-Raigad:-

Annual production is mentioned in Metric Tons. But the percentage of its disposal is not shown anywhere. Similarly, no information is given regarding its disposal. The product that is going to be produced is shown in the presentation, but the quantity of waste is not mentioned anywhere.

Project Officer said that the project is completely environment friendly. The waste water generated in the project will be treated and reused in the project. Not a single drop of treated effluent from the project will be released outside the project.

The question is asked regarding Hazardous Solid Waste. The Hazardous Solid Waste will be handed over to Mumbai Waste Management as per the directives of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board for scientific disposal of Hazardous Solid Waste from the project.

At this time, Shri Aughe objected that no information was given about the quantity of Hazardous Solid Waste that would be generated. The solid waste generated in our project will be continuously recycled. The hazardous solid waste which cannot be reused will be handed over to Mumbai Waste Management. Project Officer said that in 5-6 months it will be only 5-6% at most.

Shri Aughe suggested to mention it in the report.

4) Shri Nitin Dattatraya Dhavale, Residence – Atkargaon, Taluka -Khalapur, District – Raigad:-

This public hearing is organized by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, I have two questions for the Environmental Consultant. How did they carried the survey of water pollution? Also how did they carried the survey of air pollution?

This factory is coming on the left side of our road. The ground water is completely contaminated by the former company. But you have given all the good reports/observations in the EIA. So, according to me this report of water pollution is completely wrong. You have not properly carried the survey.

Talking about air pollution, there is a lot of air pollution here. What will be the treatment of the fumes generated from the boiler in the production process in the company? Guidance should be given in this regard.

Project Environmental Consultant replied that the first question was about water pollution. He replied that our organization is a QCI Nabet Accredited environmental consultancy. Likewise, our laboratory is an accredited institution of Environment Department, Government of India and NABL. During the survey, underground and surface water samples were taken.

He said that Water samples are scientifically collected. Similarly, the analysis of the water sample has also been done scientifically. The level of pollution found here is as per the standards passed by the Central Pollution Control Board. It is mentioned in the report.

Now about air pollution. The level of air pollution is also within the prescribed standards. The sample testing machines are ISO approved. The environmental consultant urged that you can see the results can verify.

Shri Nitin Dhavale has suggested to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board that they should conduct an inspection there. Here we have Percolation/Pazar Lake at Mandad

Atkargaon beside Adoshi village. 7-8 villages are dependent on this lake. Ground water is not potable. There is a high incidence of diseases like urinary stones. So, we can give some assurance that the underground water in the area will not be damaged due to this company in the future.

Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee informed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has imposed a condition of ZLD - Zero Liquid Discharge to this project. However, companies will execute ETP, Reverse Osmosis (RO), Multi Effective Evaporator (MEE). Industrial waste water from the project will be treated and reused in the project. Member said that the sewage capacity is also low 14.16 CMD. So, it can be processed only in the company area.

Shri Dhavale objected that we cannot take underground water for bathing. Hence, we have brought water from one and a half km distance. If this water is also going to be bad, from where should we get the water?

Here, **Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee** said that the complaint about the contamination of underground water should be made in written form to MPCB. MPCB will initiate further action on it.

Shri Dhavale objected that if the water gets contaminated in future, who will take responsibility for it?

Here, **Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee** said that this is why now due to the new policy, not a single drop of waste water can be released outside the project. The quantity of water that is pumped for production will also be reduced. For that, ZLD has been made mandatory.

Shri Dhavale while objecting said that we welcome this company. However, as we are suffering due to certain things, MPCB and Government should take further action accordingly.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all the participants to submit writing suggestions or objections. There was no further response.

Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that at the beginning of the meeting, Convener has already informed that the said public hearing is held to know the views, suggestions and objections of the local people in environmental angle about the proposed project and to submit it to the Government.

At the beginning of the meeting, Convener asserted that this Committee is only to record opinions, suggestions, objections of the public and the Committee has no right to approve, reject or recommend the project. The

suggestions/objections raised by you in the meeting will be recorded in the minutes. Accordingly, suggestions and objections raised in the meeting have been recorded and will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Similarly, the revised Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report of the Project Proponent taking note of the video recording of the said meeting as well as the suggestions and objections raised in the meeting along with minutes of the meeting will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi with the approval of the Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding it.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee again appealed all the participants to raise any suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. There was no response from the participants.

Member Environmental Public Hearing Committee thanked all the participants for attending the meeting and on behalf of the Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee declared that the meeting is concluded.

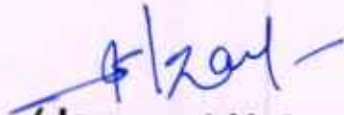
Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Written suggestion / objection are not received before public hearing and during public hearing.



(Prashant Bhosale)

Convener,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer, Raigad
- I,
Maharashtra Pollution Control
Board,
Navi Mumbai



(Jaywant Hajare)

Member,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Regional Officer, Raigad
Maharashtra Pollution Control
Board,
Navi Mumbai



(Sandesh Shirke)

Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Raigad, Alibag
District - Raigad, Alibag