

Minutes of the Public Hearing

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED REDI IRON ORE MINE, VILLAGE REDI (Including Sakhalbhat, Mhartale and Bombodjichiwadi), TAL. VENGURLA, DIST. SINDHUDRG MINING LEASE AREA 27.452 HECTOR 0.2 MTPA BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S. MINERALS & METALS, MUMBAI.

An Environmental Public Hearing for proposed Redi Iron Ore Mine, Village Redi (Including Sakhalbhat, Mhartale and Bombodjichiwadi) Tal. Vengurla, Dist. Sindhudurg Mining lease area 27.452 Hector 0.2 MTPA by Project Proponent M/s Minerals & Metal Mumbai was conducted on 02 December, 2021 at 11.00 hrs at Mauli Water Supply works, Hudawadi, Redi Village, Taluka Vengurla, District Sindhudurg

Following were the panel members as per Board's Office Order No.E-110 of 2019 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PII/B -211117FTS-0121 dated 17.11.2021 :-

- 1) K. Manjulekshmi, - **Chairman,**
District Magistrate, Sindhudurg,
District - Sindhudurg
- 2) Shri Ravindra Andhale, - **Member**
Regional Officer, MPCB,
Kolhapur
- 3) Shri. Rahul D. Mote - **Convener**
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB,
Ratnagiri

The convener and Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Ratnagiri, have welcomed the Chairman, Member of Public hearing Panel, press reporters and local residents for the public hearing. Convener of the public hearing panel explained the purpose of conducting Environmental Public Hearing. He also explained the necessity to conduct public hearing as per the EIA Notification dated 14th September 2006 and amendment time to time and the procedure followed by the Maharashtra Pollution Control board as per the said notification to conduct Environmental Public Hearing. As per the guidelines, Public Notice was issued on 30/10/2021, in daily News Paper 'Tarun Bharat' in Marathi and 'Indian Express' in English for conducting Public Hearing on 02/12/2021 at 11.00am. The copies of Public Notice enclosed as **Annexure I**. Due to Covid-19, the Public Hearing was also available online for which web link <https://mpcb.webex.com/mpcb/j.php?MTID=ma2e4cbe0ad823de6b073902107f6918b> was given in the said Public Notice. The copies of Executive Summary and Draft EIA-EMP in Marathi and English were made available at District Collector Office, Sindhudurg; CEO, Zilha Parishad, Sindhudurg; General Manager, District Industries, Sindhudurg; Sub Divisional Officer, Sawantwadi; Tahasildar Office, Vengurla; Gram Panchauat Office, Redi Village, and Director, Environment Department and Climate Change, Mumbai, Regional Officer, Kolhapur to appraise the public about the proposed iron ore mine project. As per the public notice published in these newspapers, written objections were called in the office of Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board, at Sub Regional Office, Ratnagiri.

Hon'ble Collector said that everyone is bound to abide by the rules of Covid-19. The public hearing was held in accordance with the rules to be observed for COVID-19. It was further informed that in accordance with the proposal, Hon. District Collector, Sindhudurg agreed to conduct the public hearing for environmental clearance of the project on 2nd December 2021 at Mauli Water Works at Hudawadi, Taluka Vengurla, Dist. Sindhudurg. Accordingly, the public notice was published in a Marathi and English language daily newspapers 'Tarun Bharat' and 'Indian Express' dated 30.10.2021 appealing the public to make suggestions, comments, raise objections either orally or in writing on the environmental aspects of the proposed project.

She further informed that the copies of the Executive Summary and Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report of the proposed 'Redi Iron Ore Mine' Project, in English and Marathi languages were made available at District Collector, Collectorate Office, Sindhudurg; Grampanchayat office Redi; Zilla Parishad office, Sindhudurg; District industries centre, Sindhudurg; Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Mumbai.; Regional office, MPCB, Kolhapur; Sub Regional office, MPCB, Ratnagiri; District Mining Office, Sindhudurg; Sub Divisional Office, Sawantwadi / Tehsildar Office, Vengurla for public scrutiny.

With the permission of the Chairman, Convenor requested project proponent to give PowerPoint presentation, annexed as **Annexure II**, in Marathi about the Salient features of the project. Accordingly, the Project Proponent commenced representation of salient features such as area of mining, location, method of mining, type of pollution created, its control measures, EMP, CSR activities etc.

About 295 no of people attended the public hearing in person and 52 no of people joined the public hearing online.

After the presentation, Convenor of Public Hearing Panel invited questions, views/ suggestions from the participants that are summarised below:-

1. **Mrs. Sayali Santosh Pokharankar, existing Gram Panchayat member and ex-vice-sarpanch, Redi village, Redi, Bomdojichiwadi.**

Asked the name of the representative on behalf of M/s Minerals and Metals and requested to produce the authorisation.

Project Representative, Shri. Gajanan Karkare stated that he is the authorised representative of M/s Minerals and Metals and an Authorisation is already submitted to the concerned Authorities.

2. **Ramsingh Gopal Rane, Sarpanch, Redi Village:-** Supported the proposed Mining Project of M/s Minerals and Metals. He said that Mining is the only major source of employment in Redi Village. He suggested that the Minerals and Metals should conduct the safe mining operations without any damage to the nearby houses. He requested the company to take measures for ground water augmentation to mitigate any impacts on surrounding water sources. He also requested District Collector to utilise the available funds from the DMF (District Mineral Fund) for the benefits of the Redi village.

3. **Ramesh Sagun Rane, Redi Village** :- said that Mining Companies in Redi Village acquire the lands at a low cost long ago. He also mentioned that the Mining Companies has not backfilled the worked out mine pits and used for water reservoir. He said he is following it up with neighbouring mining company, however, till date he has not received any proper response.
4. **Gopal Pandurang Raul, Redi Village** :- said that the mining industry has always helped for the development of Socio-economic environment of the Redi village. He further said that during 1990s when the mining operations were stopped, there was major unemployment in the Village. However, on resumption of mining activities in the village, villagers got opportunities in mining and allied activities. M/s Gogte Minerals has set up water treatment plant, for which water is sourced from the old Mine pit and the drinking water is provided to the Redi Village. The crores of rupees are being spent to operate the said plant by M/s Gogte Minerals. Free Medical facilities are being provided to the villagers. While mentioning that mining is must for the Redi Village, he appealed the people not to oppose the proposed new project for the sake of oppose but to support the new company for the benefits of village.
5. **Michael lobo, Redi village** :- said that the entire Redi village support the new mining project of M/s Minerals and Metals and existing mining in the Redi village. However, he expressed that Company should work keeping safety of the dwellings, temples, water bodies and cemeteries in the village. He requested to ensure the sufficient supply of water to coconut trees, as there is an incident of drying of coconuts due to non-supply of water in the past.
6. **Dattatraya Kamat, Mhartale** :- said that the EIA report mentions about the Mining Lease is spread over three different villages Mhartalewadi, Bombdojichiwadi and Sukalbhatwadi. However, the Lease deed was granted only for survey nos. from 8 to 232 of the Redi village which do not exist now. He suggested for correction in the survey plan. He further stated that quality of drinking water being supplied by the neighbouring Mining Company from its Drinking Water Treatment Plant to be improved. He states that the EIA report needs corrections in terms of flora fauna and site features.
7. **Pramod Raul, Redi** :- said that the Raul family has a private well which is located at a distance of about 200 to 250 meters from the proposed mining project and requested its protection. He suggested that company should create more employment by installing the steel plant. He said that they support the Mining provided that the mining operations are carried out in accordance with the statute.
8. **Prathamesh Kamat, Redi Village**:- said that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the villagers faced many problems. Therefore, he requested for start up the hospital and new ambulance shall be provided.
9. **Dayanand Sahadev Krishnaji, Redi Village**:- requested for the employment opportunities to locals.
10. **Rajendra Kambli, Bomdojichiwadi**:- supported the project and mentioned that mining operations are going on for the last 5 decades in the village abiding all rules and regulations.

He suggested opening of pig iron plant in the village which will generate major employment in the village as well as in the District.

- 11. Chitra Kanyalakar, Kanyal :-** supported the mining in Redi village as companies has played a major role in socio economic development of village. When mining was stopped for almost 12 years in the past, the village has witnessed the economic crisis. She also recalled that about 70 to 80 percent of the local population is directly and indirectly dependent on mining. If mining in the Redi Village stops, there is no other option of livelihood. Agriculture practices do not exist anymore. Therefore, she requested all the villagers to support the proposed project and mining activities. At the same time she also requested the mining companies to carry mining activities abiding all the rules and regulations and without disturbing the houses, temples and crematorium.
- 12. Pritesh Raul, Zilla Parishad Member:-** supported the proposed mining project as mining companies has always helped in the development of Redi village providing facilities in terms of Health, Medical and Education besides employment opportunities for locals. He suggested the mining company should operate abiding all rules and regulation and without disturbing the dwellings, temples and water resources.
- 13. Parag Shirodkar, Redi :-** supported the proposed mining project. He said that the Redi village and the mining are both related to each other. If the mining is stopped, the entire village will suffer and this is known to each villager of the Redi village. The mining company has always supported the socio economic development of Redi village besides opening the employment opportunities to the villagers. He suggested that mining company should work for the benefits of Redi village abiding the statute.
- 14. Ulhas Sitaram Rane, Secretary of Redi Vikas Mandal, Mumbai and resident of Gavtale village:-** requested to backfill the mined out areas on exhaustion of mineral and requested MPCB officials to monitor the same.
- 15. Gunaji Manjarekar, Secretary of Shri Devi Mauli truck chalak malak sangathna., Redi :-** supported the project in the Redi Village. He stated that mining is the backbone of the Redi village and has always supported the development of Redi village. When Mining was started in the Redi village, initially, there were only 60 to 70 trucks and now it is increased to 300 to 400. He said the mining companies should give good rates and good business to the truck owners. At the end, he said mining should be carried out taking care of all rules and regulations and for the benefits of the Redi village.
- 16. Sayali Santosh Pokharankar, Panch member, Redi Grampanchayat Bombdojichiwadi :-** requested that mining shall not damage any dwellings, temples within the lease.
- 17. Nilesh Redkar, Truck owner, Redi Village :-** said that mining operations are carried out in Redi village for the last many years. He said that there is no option other than mining in terms of employment for Redi village. Industries like Tata Metalics has shut down its operations leaving thousands of peoples unemployed and Redi port give majority of employment to the

outsiders, in such situation mining is the only and only source of livelihood for the Redi Villagers.

- 18. Namdev Rane, Dy. Sarpanch , Redi Gram panchayat :-** suggested to ensure the safe mining operations. He supported the proposed project and mentioned that there is no other option than Mining for the employment in the Redi village. He further suggested the setting up of pig iron plant in the village, will generate revenue for the government and more employment for the villagers.
- 19. Santosh Venkatesh Naik, Redi village :-** supported the proposed mining project as there is no other option than mining for livelihood in the Redi village. He further suggested the Project proponent should utilize CSR funds for the needy and poor people who somehow manage to live on Govt. schemes.
- 20. Ashok Pandurang Manjrekar, Redi villager:-** requested for the regular water supply to coconut trees and fair compensation shall be given for the loss of orchards if any.
- 21. Manohar Bujji, Redi Village:-** requested for the fair compensation for his land from the neighbouring mining company.
- 22. Sandeep bujji, Marathwadi :-** requested for the fair compensation for his land from the neighbouring mining company.
- 23. Ramsingh Raue, Redi Village :- Sarpanch:** Panchayat is always ready to mediate between Mining Company and locals in order to find the amicable solutions if any issues arises in future.
- 24. Dattaguru Bhagat, Kanyal Redi :-** brought to notice that Bujji brothers, both have enjoyed benefits from mining companies and industries like Tata Metallics. Some people harassing the mining companies for their undue personal benefits. He further said that the present hearing is for proposed mining project of M/s Minerals and Metals and the Bujji's land doesn't not fall under this proposed project. Mining is essential for the villagers and company should take care of environment and see that there is no damage to houses, dwelling and temples while carrying mining operations.
- 25. Bhushan Manjrekar, Mhartale :-** stated that he has submitted his written submissions and said he does not support the proposed project.
- 26. Mahesh Naik, Bomdojichiwadi:-** requested to show the Mining lease area of the proposed project on the screen in order to help public to understand the location of the mining lease better.
- 27. Prof. Shridhar Pednekar, Research Scholar, Mumbai :-** opined that the impact of any project activity on environment may go beyond the 10 km radius area. The proper management plan should be implemented to reduce these impacts.

After completion of the questions/Views/ suggestions from the public physically present for public hearing, an opportunity was given to those who were available online.

28. Siddhesh Kerkar, Redi Village (Online) :- supported the proposed mining project in Redi.

Due to heavy rainfall during public hearing it was difficult to here online questions/Views/ suggestions hence peoples present online through webex link are requested to submit their Complaint/views/suggestion on email sroratnagiri@mpcb.gov.in of Sub Regional Office, Ratnagiri.

The villagers who had brought written statements during the public hearing accepted by M.P.C.Board Representative.

Thereafter, convenor requested the Company's representative to respond to the various concerns and questions raised by the participants.

The Company Representative, Shri. Gajanan Karkare clarified the doubts of the participates as follows:-


1. M/s Minerals and Metals is not yet started any operations in Redi Village. The purpose of the present public hearing is to start the proposed project of M/s Minerals and Metals in Redi Village. However, many of the questions raised by the participants are related to other neighbouring mining operations.
2. **Employment opportunities:-** preference will be given to the Redi Villagers for employment depending on the requirements and skills. This project will provide 60 direct and 300 indirect employment opportunities.
3. **Ambulance:** He assured that a new ambulance will be provided for the benefit of the villagers.
4. **Health Centre:-** He stated that the hospital, which was made available earlier by the neighbouring mining company, is discontinued because the facility was underutilized. However, he assured that the project proponent would review the requirement of Health Centre.
5. **Afforestation:-** Company has committed for an extensive afforestation program by planting 18000 no of trees as against 800 no of trees which will be disturbed during the life of the mine. As part of the well-designed afforestation program, the company has already initiated the plantation of more than 1000 saplings during the present year.
6. **Closure of Mining Pits: -** The proposed project is virgin Mine. The pits created during mining operations will be reclaimed as per the Mine Closure Plan approved by Indian Bureau of Mines.
7. **Water supply: -** He said water supply is being done to the village by the neighbouring Mining Company. He ensured that the Project Proponent will support


- the Water Supply Scheme in coordination with the neighbouring Mining Company, farmers and local authority.
8. **Mine workings:** - He assured that there will not be any damage to the houses or temples. Mining will be carried out as per the Mining Plan approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines.
 9. **Land rates and compensation:-** He said that land rates and compensation will be decided based on the discussion with related parties and in accordance with the laws in force.
 10. On request of Mahesh Naik, the Company representative showed the Mining Lease boundary and the area of proposed Mining activity on the screen.
 11. Further, Mr. Mahesh Naik sought the clarification on the survey nos. falling within the said Mining Lease. The Project Proponent clarified about the survey nos. and showed the location of the survey nos. on the screen. Further, the Project Proponent stated that all these details are available in EIA-EMP report that is available to the Public for more than 30 days period.

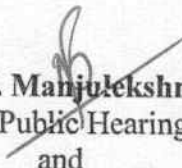
Hon'ble District Collector requested that the participants that if anybody has individual doubts or questions regarding his/her respective lands, he/she can approach the Project Proponent for clarification on the same day at the same venue. Hon'ble District Collector also suggested the Participants to submit their written submissions to MPCB officer present at the venue. The Technical Team of the Project Proponent and MPCB officers were present, however no body approached to seek any clarification.

Total 16 Nos. of Complaint/views/suggestion are received through email from online attendees. Other then this 66 Nos. of Complaint/views/suggestion are submitted by in different offices people in writing before & during public hearing

Hon'ble District Collector at 2.30pm declared the closure of the public hearing in conclusion.


(Rahul Mote)
Convenor of the Public
Hearing Committee and
Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB, Ratnagiri


(Ravindra Andhale)
Member of the Public
Hearing Committee and
Regional Officer,
MPCB, Kolhapur


(K. Manjulekshmi)
Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee
and
District Magistrate, Sindhudurg,
District - Sindhudurg

