

Minutes of Environmental Public Hearing of M/s Moil Limited, Pathari sand mine, Vill. Pathari, Tq. Tumsar, Dist. Bhandara, lease area 40.41 hectare expansion for sand (bajri) mining from 50,000 cumt/Year to 1,00,000 cumt/Year, conducted on 06/02/2024.TIME 01.00 P.M., At Grampanchayat Office, Pathari, Tq. Tumsar,Dist. Bhandara.

As per Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India Notification dated 14.09.2006 amended notification dated 1.12.2009, Environmental public hearing was conducted for M/s Moil Limited, for their proposed expansion of sand mining at Pathari sand mine Vill. Pathari, Tq. Tumsar, Dist. Bhandara, lease area 40.41 hectare from 50,000 cumt/Year to 1,00,000 cumt/Year under the Chairman of Shri. Darshan Nikalje, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Tumsar & Chairperson of the Public Hearing Panel. Shri. Manoj Watane, Field Officer, representative of the Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Nagpur was the member of the public hearing panel, and Shri. Kishor Pusadkar, Sub-Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Bhandara act as a convener. Public Hearing conducted on 06/02/2024, at 01.00 p.m at Grampanchayat Office, Pathari, Tq. Tumsar,Dist. Bhandara. Shri. Anay Navandar (IAS), Sub-Divisional Officer, Mohadi also attended said public hearing. Attendance of the People present during Public Hearing is attached as **(Annexure-I.)**

BACKGROUND :

Proposed expansion in sand mining project attracts provisions of EIA Notification, 2006. M/s MOIL Ltd has requested Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to conduct a public hearing required for Environmental Clearance for their proposed expansion of sand mining in Pathari sand mine Vill. Pathari, tq. Tumsar, Dist. Bhandara, lease area 40.41 hectare from 50,000 cumt/Year to 1,00,000 cumt/Year vide letter dated 16.09.2023. Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai Vide letter no. MPCB/JD.(WPC)/ENV-PH/B-231120-FTS-0248 dated 20/11/2023 directed to initiate public hearing process.

PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE:

With permission of Chairman of Public Hearing, Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Bhandara & Convenor has started Public Hearing procedure by welcoming Chairman, Member of the public hearing panel, officers & public present during hearing.

Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Bhandara, informed that Public Hearing is conducted under provisions of the EIA Notification 2006 and amended thereof for recording views/objections/suggestions of participants regarding proposed project, and same will be communicated to the Competent Committee. It was also clarified that this panel has not right to take any decision for accordance of any kind of approval to the project and appealed participants to express their views and suggestion orally or in writing.

Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Bhandara further said that notices for public hearing were published in two local widely circulated Newspapers i.e. the 'The Hitavada' (English) and 'Lokmat' (Marathi) on 04.01.2024 for thirty days period. Copies of the same are enclosed as **(Annexure-II.)**

Copies of Executive summary both in English and Marathi, with Environment Management Plan and other information/documents submitted by Project proponent were made available to the public by making these documents available in various Govt. offices as well as local Gram Panchayat as per MoEF GOI Notification. Suggestions, comments, and objections of the public were called in writing during the notice period of the publication of notice. The public hearing panel was constituted vide MPC Board Office Order No. E-102/2024 vide letter No. BO/JD/(WPC)/PH/B-240112-FTS-0037 dtd.12/01/2024. Copy enclosed as **(Annexure-III)**. Hon. Collector, Bhandara vide order no. 70/2024, dt. 05/02/2024 Authorized Sub Divisional Magistrate, Tumsar as Chairman of the said Committee. **(Annexure-IV)**.

Executive summary in English and Marathi with soft copy along with other documents were kept in the following offices for information and study of concerns and asked to give extensive publicity.

- 1) Collector Office, Bhandara.
- 2) Zilla Parishad Office, Bhandara.
- 3) District Industries Centre, Bhandara.
- 4) Sub-Divisional Officer, Tumsar, Dist. Bhandara.
- 5) Tehsil Office Tumsar, Dist. Bhandara.
- 6) Regional Office, M.P.C.Board, 5th Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur.
- 7) Department of Environment and Climate Change, 15th Floor, New Administrative Building, Madam Kama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai-32.
- 8) Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Headquarters, Kalpataru Point, 3rd Mala, Sion Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opposite Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai-400022.
- 9) Regional Office (West Central Region), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ground Floor, East Block, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.
- 10) Gram Panchayat Office, Pathari, Tq. Tumsar, Dist. Bhandara.

Documents were also hosted on the Board's website www.mpcb.gov.in.

Thereafter, Sub-Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Bhandara and convenor of public hearing requested project proponent i.e M/s. Moil Ltd. to give detailed technical presentation on their proposed project.

Technical Consultant for M/s Moil Limited has given technical presentation for their proposed expansion of sand mining from 50,000 cubic meters/year to 1,00,000 cubic meters/year over 40.41 Hectare mining lease area w.r.t environmental aspects of proposed sand mining, mining practices, environmental management plan, occupational health and safety management, green belt development plan, made a presentation on project benefits, environmental management plan-costs, etc.

After presentation, Sub-Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Bhandara appealed people present during hearing to raise any questions, suggestions, comments, objections regarding the said project by stating their name and village or can submit in writing as well.

During public hearing, a written statement was submitted by Sarpanch, Pathri as well as on 6/2/2024, the objection of Prakriti Foundation, Chandrapur was received through email and are enclosed herewith. (Annexure-V).

Questions, criticisms, comments, objections, suggestions and answers/assurances given by the project holder during the public hearing are as follows:

Sr. No.	Name	Objections/Suggestions/Questions	Responses/Feedbacks given by project holders following discussion
1.	Smt. Vidya Kohare, Sarpanch, Grampanchayat Pathari, Tq. Tumsar, Dist. Bhandara.	<p>Submitted a written request stating the following demands:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Excavation of sand shall be as per permitted quantity by government as there is scarcity of water in village. 2) Construction of wells/pump houses/intake wells at river, surface water pipelines, and solar plants. 3) Establishment of water purification plant. 4) Expansion of Pathari village by 5 basti and causing inconvenience of drinking water, hence need for water tank for Hanuman Nagar/Ram Nagar/Bawanthadi. 5) 15 % royalty on sand excavation for economic year. 6) Deposition industrial tax for sand dumping site. 7) Initiating development of open gym/sports ground, exercise and yoga on the entire plot no. 523. 8) compound wall for weekly market facility in plot no. 239. 9) Arranging water tankers. 10) Installation of floor tiles in school ground. 11) Erecting a tin shed on the veranda for students' meals during the rainy season. 12) Construction of toilets and 	

		<p>urinals for students.</p> <p>13) Providing 40 lezims for the school and Whiteboard for the classroom.</p> <p>14) 40 desks and benches for class 1 and 2, coloring of classrooms from class 1 to 7.</p> <p>15) Providing 5 computers and 1 printer for the school. High mast light in the village.</p> <p>16) Health facilities related to ambulance vehicles and health.</p> <p>17) Home industry training for women's savings groups.</p>	
2.	Shri. Dyaneshwar Shivane, Pathari.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demanded training to educated diploma engineers and I.T.I youth. - Demonstrated support in the project. 	
3.	Shri. Ratiram Khune, Ex. Sarpanch, Grampanchayat Pathari.	<p>1) Except monsoon in other seasons Bavanthadi river flows through under water current. Excess sand mining will result into lowering of water table in the vicinity and there will be a major problem for irrigation for farmers here.</p> <p>2) Illegal sand mining is taking place from the adjacent Madhya Pradesh region, to which the government is not paying attention. A large amount of sand has been dumped in Pathari village, causing exhaustion among the villagers, agitation, but nothing has been accomplished. According to the government's sand mining policy, sand is not available for mining, but all the stolen sand is available, no one pays attention to this. We are in favour to MOIL but, It is requested that illegal sand mining and dumping should be seen.</p> <p>3) Sand mafia is excavating three to four meters deep sand pits in the river basin, causing a decrease in the water source.</p>	

4.	Shri. Navin Gaure, Pathari.	- Demonstrated that the village people are getting employment from MOIL's sand mine so shown the importance of the project.	
5.	Shri. Vijay Neware, Pathari.	- Demonstrated support to project.	
6.	Shri. Ashwin Tularam Gaure, Pathari.	- Demonstrated support to project.	
7.	Shri. Beniram Karkade, Pathari.	- Sand is being transported through road passing from my Field berm. Seven years have passed, compensation has not been done yet. Action should be taken on this.	
8.	Shri. Ekesh Ramji Panjipatre, Pathari.	Supported conditionally and demanded educational and health facilities in Pathari village.	
9.	Shri. Ajay Rajendra Deshmukha, Pathari.	1) 80% of the people engaged in farming. If the water source decreases, it will be difficult for the farmers to do farming. 2) Demanded employment opportunities for the younger generation.	
10.	Smt. Manda Gaure, Grampanchayat Member, Pathari.	What action will be taken on the accident caused by sand transportation?	
11.	Shri. Rahul Raut, Pathari.	No objection for sand mining project, but there is a major problem of water for drinking in the village. Action should be taken on this.	
12.	Shri.Lalkunwar Chandrabhan Dongre, Pathari.	- Demonstrated support to project	
13.	Shri. Shekhar Kotpalliwar, Ex. Z.P. Member.	1. Employment and grants were obtained by three affected farmers from MOIL previously. 2. Sand was being mined near the bridge of Bavanthadi River and the bridge was at risk. It was closed due to my representation. 3. The closed bridge on the Bavanthadi River should be repaired as soon as possible. 4. The bypass rapta bridge on	

		<p>the river is also under maintenance.</p> <p>5. Nearby six villages are supplied with contaminated water.</p> <p>6. The village's demands should be fulfilled under CSR.</p> <p>7. Water should be supplied to Gram Panchayat Pathari through tanker.</p> <p>8. Measures shall be taken to control dust emissions due to sand excavation & transportation.</p>	
14.	Shri. Prashant Karaiya, Executive Director, MOIL.		<p>1. Efforts are being made to fulfill the demands of the Gram Panchayat Pathari through CER/CSR funds. On-spot approval has been given for the demands of the school children.</p> <p>2. Provision has been made in the Apprentice Act and priority will be given to local people and will be implemented from next year.</p> <p>3. Environmental regulations will be followed for sand excavation. Manual sand extraction will be done followed by tractor transportation.</p> <p>4. Direct & Indirect employment opportunities will be increased by expansion of sand project with enhancement in production capacity of Chikla Underground mine, eventually will help in economic development of the village.</p> <p>5. Water sprinkling arrangements will be made for dust control.</p> <p>6. Efforts will be made to dig wells for drinking</p>

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Hon'ble Chairman, Public Hearing Committee :-

A detailed presentation has been made about sand mining. The suggestions and demands of the public were answered by Moil. Sand will be excavated by Moil as per the specified quantity. Moil will be positive about the school's demands. Moil is positive for technical training for village students. The issue of local employment and drinking water has been raised and will be considered by Moil. Moil is requested to take due care of dust control and consider the demands of the village.

public hearing concluded with vote of thanks to the chair.

(Kishor Pusadkar)
Sub-Regional Officer
M.P.C. Board, Bhandara & Convener of
Public Hearing Panel

Regional Officer,
MPC Board, Nagpur & Member of the Public
Hearing Panel

(Shri. Darshan Nikalje,)
Sub Divisional Magistrate, Tumsar &
Chairperson of the Public Hearing Panel.

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