

## **MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED "BHAVALI PUMP STORAGE PROJECT" OF M/S. J.S.W. ENERGY PSP TWO, KALBHONDE VILLAGE, TEHSIL SHAHAPUR, DISTRICT THANE.**

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As per the provisions of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, dated 14/09/2006 an application of M/s. J.S.W. Energy P.S.P. Two Limited, Kalbhonde Village, Thesil Shahapur, District Thane to organize the public hearing on proposed "BHAVALI PUMP STORAGE PROJECT" has been received to Sub Regional Office, M.P.C.B. Kalyan-III on 20.11.2023. Accordingly Sub-Regional Office, Kalyan-III has submitted proposal to JD (WPC) Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Sion, Mumbai for the conduction of public hearing. As per the vide Office Order E-111 of 2024, letter No. BO/JD(WPC)/PH/B-240119-FTS-0170, dated 19.01.2024 Joint Director(W.P.C.) M.P.C.Board has been directed to Sub Regional Officer, M.P.C.B. Kalyan-III to conduct environmental public hearing and following officials were appointed as the panel members.

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| 1) <b>District Magistrate, Thane Distict</b><br>Or his representative not below the rank of<br>an <b>Additional District Magistrate</b> | <b>Chairman</b> |
| 2) <b>Representative of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board</b><br><b>Regional Officer, M.P.C.B.Kalyan</b>                              | <b>Member</b>   |
| 3) <b>Sub Regional Officer, M.P.C.B. Kalyan-III</b>   | <b>Convenor</b> |

As per the EIA Notification, one month advance public notice has been published in the local newspaper on 12.01.2024 in Marathi newspaper 'Sakai' and in English newspaper 'The Free Press Journal'. Copies of EIA report and Executive Summary in English and Marathi were made available at offices of :

1. Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, New Administration Building, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Madam Kama Road, Mantralaya, Mumbai.
2. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Sion (East), Mumbai.
3. Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (WCZ), Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur.
4. District Collector Office, Thane District
5. Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Thane District
6. Sub Divisional Officer, Shahapur, District Palghar
7. Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalyan
8. Tahsildar, Shahapur Tashil Office, Tashil Shahapur, District Thane
9. Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Shahapur, Tal. Shahapur, Dist.Thane
10. General Manager, District Industry Center, Uddyog Bhavan, Thane, District Thane
11. Grampanchayat Offices- Kalbhonde, Kothale, Jambhulwadi, Chonde Kh., Chilhar, Ranvihir, Talwada, Sakadbhav, Veluk, Kasara Kh.,Pugale, Vashala BK, Dhakane, Mokhavade Tal. Shahapur, District Thane.

Through the public notice, the basic purpose of environmental hearing is to give information to public in the project area about the said project, to know impacts of the project and opinions of general public, to inform the general public about the pollution control systems required for the project, considering the suggestions given by them and the public in general were appealed by notice to submit their suggestions/objections regarding the above project in oral/writing or by E-mail. Accordingly 2 notices regarding the said project have been received via E-mail at the Sub Regional Office, M.P.C.B. Kalyan-III.

P.T.O.

In this regard as per the prior permission of Hon'ble Chairman and Additional Collector, Thane District, public hearing was organized on 13.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. at Village Kalbhonde, Tehsil Shahapur, District Thane. The said public hearing started on 13.02.2024 at 11.24 A.M. Total 245 representatives including public representatives, industry representative, representative of local bodies, environmental experts, representatives of social organizations, newspaper and news channel representatives and general citizens were present for the said public hearing, list of the same is enclosed herewith. The following officers were also present in the public hearing.

1. Hon'ble Mrs. Manisha Jaybhaye-Dhule, Chairman and Additional Collector, Thane.
2. Dr. Rajendra A. Rajput, Member and Regional Officer, M.P.C.B. Kalyan
3. Dr. Seema Uday Dalvi, Convenor and Sub Regional Officer, M.P.C.B. Kalyan-III
4. Shri. Jayprakash Bhusara, Field Officer, M.P.C.B., Kalyan-III

The Sub Regional Officer, Kalyan-III as the convenor with permission of Hon'ble Chairman and Additional Collector, Thane District has briefed about the public hearing and requested to project proponent to present environmental technical things of the said proposed project.

As per this, the project proponent has presented the detailed information of proposed project of M/s. J.S.W. Energy P.S.P. Two Limited. After presentation the convenor has requested to all public to raise questions/suggestions/objections etc., As well as requested to submit suggestions if any in writing to the representative of M.P.C. Board.

Subsequently following suggestions/questions/objections have been raised.

- 1) **Mr. Gulab Devram Veer, Sarpanch, Group Gram Panchayat Kothale, Tal. Shahapur, District Thane-** A letter has been given through Group Gram Panchayat Kothale and it is requested to provide the facilities mentioned in the said letter.

The Convenor and Sub Regional Officer, Kalyan-III said that, the said letter has been noted.

- 2) **Mr. Bhalchandra Jayatu Khadke, Police Patil, Kalbhonde Village, Tal. Shahapur, District Thane-** Due to this project, about employment and connecting road from Chindhyachi Wadi to Ladyachiwadi has been made from the annual fund of the year 2020 since the British era. Therefore, the road should not be damaged due to the stress of heavy vehicles on the road. At the same time, when the company starts work, due to the arrival of heavy vehicles, especially since there are people's houses along the road, care should be taken to ensure that the dust does not adversely affect humans, animals, cows and goats. Also, due to the blasting shock waves during the company's tunnel work, there is a possibility of unintentional cracking of people's houses during the day and night, and due to the fact that the mountainous area is rectangular, due to stormy winds, the houses should not be cracked. Also, 81 percent of the land of Kalbhonde Gram Panchayat and Kalbhonde forest area goes to the lower reservoir and as there will be large-scale felling of trees, at least 50 thousand trees should be planted and maintained by the company along the road, on the hills and on the forest department site.

The project proponent said that these suggestions will be considered. Also, the widening of the road will be done, a road will be constructed from outside of Kothale village, since the blasting capacity of the project is much less than the prescribed limit, no villager's house will be cracked and if there will be any damage, the company will carry out survey immediately and try to compensate for the damage.

- 3) **Mr. Janardhan S. Veer, Member, Gram Panchayat Kothale, Taluka Shahapur, District, Thane-** As Mr. Khadke, Police Patil raised the issue, the road from Chindhyachi wadi to Ladyachi wadi should be planned. Kothala, Kalbhonde are tribal villages and since the means of livelihood of the people of these two villages is based on the forest, the villagers should be provided with an employment through the planting of trees that will give more income to the villagers than the felling of trees by the company. Also, the project should be named as Kothale-Kalbhonde as the private/forest land to be acquired for the company will be 106 hectares in Kothale Gram Panchayat, 82 hectares in Kalbhonde and 62 hectares in Jambhulwadi. Secondly, there is water shortage in both these villages and there are limited water tankers, so the water issue should be resolved through the government. Also, whose lands are going to be used for the project should be given project-affected certificates and their family members should be given permanent jobs on priority. Also, the people in the villages of the area are uneducated and therefore through the company CSR Fund company shall give funds to the local organizations to provide education, primary health care and treatment for major diseases. The works of the local deities' temples of the tribal mandal should also be done. Finally, as the project will cause pollution, it is requested that the mobile team of the hospital should be kept here permanently.

The Convenor and Sub Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Kalyan-III requested everyone to raise only environmental issues, because this is environmental public hearing.

The project proponent said that, there is a feeling of some villagers to do the work of the temple of local deities and clan gods and the proposal in this regard will be submitted to the company management and the work of the temples will also be considered. He has also said that, after getting information about water shortage, a water tank was arranged in Kalbhonde village last year through the company, water pumping system was made available by installing solar.

- 4) **Mr. Karam Sudhir Dhasade, Member, Gram Panchayat Dhakne, Tehsil Shahapur-** As this big project is located higher level in the mountain area the high intensity blasts may harm the people living in the lower areas. Also, even though the forest land belongs to the government, compensation should be given to the clans which have tribal names as clans. Also, this is a rural area and it is requested that, the local unemployed should be given employment and schools, colleges, clinics should be made available to the villagers through the company.

The project proponent said that the company has received a list of people whose lands are under forest rights from the District Collector office and requested those who have forest right documents to submit to the company, so that the list from the District Collector office and people's documents can be checked easily. He also said that, a committee has been appointed at the taluka, sub-division and district level regarding forest rights land and the said committee has the authority to take decisions. The company will accept the decision of the committee.

- 5) **Mr. Jeebha Nama Veer, At Kothale, Shahapur, Dist. Thane-** Under CSR, there was some internal training, but if our 12th pass students had been given training before this, they would have got employment. Also, since most of the women in the village are illiterate, they cannot get employment in the company, such women should be considered. It is also requested that toys and clothes should be distributed to children in three years.

The project proponent said that, the courses of the industrial training center for education will be given to the children of the village through the company.

- 6) **Shri. Rupesh J. Khadke, Deputy Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat, Kalbhonde, Tal. Shahapur, District, Thane-** It is requested that the trees that will be planted through the project should be planted in such a way that the villagers will get income from the said trees. Also basic facilities like health, water, education should be provided to the villagers.

The project proponent said that, even in the places where there is no project, trees have been planted through the company. Also under the guidance of the forest officials and with the cooperation of the villagers, tree plantation will be done by the company.

- 7) **Shri. Dau Veer, Member, Kothala Gram Panchayat, Tal. Shahapur, District Thane-** At present I am working in three Kalbhondi Kothala area and the company should give priority employment to tribal villagers here and then other people should be considered for employment, also workers should not be brought from Mumbai, Delhi.

The project proponent said that, if people from outside are brought in for employment, considering the problem of their accommodation, it is possible to think of providing employment to the local people. At the beginning of the project, semi-skilled workers are needed and for that, local people will be employed.

- 8) **Mr. Kesram Heema Veer, Police Patil, Kothala, Tal. Shahapur, District Thane-** This meeting has been organized by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, the maximum land to be acquired for this project belongs to the forest patta holders and it is not mentioned here. It is a request to get information that a meeting will be held later or that the subject will be taken up in this meeting.

Convener and Sub Regional Officer, M.P.C Board, Kalyan-III once again requested everyone to raise mainly environmental issues as this is environmental public hearing.

- 9) **Mrs. Rina Jairam Khadke, Gram Panchayat Member, Kalbhonde, Tal. Shahapur, District Thane-** If chemicals are going to be used in this project, whether these chemicals will be disposed through the river or use another option. Also, it is requested that, if the road from Chidhyachi Wadi to Kalbhonde will damage the road shall be repaired by the company immediately. The medical facilities should be provided to the local villagers should be provided.

The project proponent said that chemicals will not be used in this project.

- 10) **Shri. Machindra Hari Veer, Former Deputy Sarpanch, Kothala Gram Panchayat, Tal. Shahapur, District, Thane-** The information about the main road of the project should be given and free electricity supply should be provided to both the villages when the project starts.

The Convenor and Sub Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Kalyan-III requested everyone to raise only environmental issues, because this is environmental public hearing.

- 11) **Mr. Bhalchandra Jayatu Khadke, Police Patil, Kalbhonde Village, Tal. Shahapur, District Thane-** The company has informed that the tunnel will be round shaped and chemicals will be used to avoid the leakages. The lower reservoir is within a walking distance and people do seasonal farming along the river, which is dependant on rainwater. Therefore, the chemicals used for the tunnel will flow alongwith the river water during the monsoon, which will affect the production of fish (the main source of food for the tribal people). Also, this project will be done in 278 hectares of land and information should be given as to how company will dispose the plastic waste generated by 3000 workers coming to this area.

Project proponent said that no chemicals will be used in this project. Also, 3000 thousand workers will not come in the project area at a time but they will come in phasewise manner as and when needed. However, appropriate action will be taken by the company to dispose the plastic waste generated by the workers.

**12)Shri. Kashinath Soma Veer, Kothale, Tal. Shahapur, District Thane-** Our parents are uneducated and before the revenue department acquires the land, the heirs should be registered through the project on the 7/12 passage in Kothale, Kalbhonde village.

The Convener and Sub Regional Officer, M.P.C Board, Kalyan-III once again requested to raise mainly environmental issues as this is environmental public hearing.

**13)Shri. Krishna Songal, resident of Dhaswadi, Tal. Shahapur, District,Thane-** It is a request that, the workers here should get an emolument as per the project of Samruddhi Highway.

The Convener and Sub Regional Officer, M.P.C Board, Kalyan-III once again requested to raise mainly environmental issues as this is environmental public hearing.

**14)Mr. Shivram Budha Veer, Kothale, Tal. Shahapur, District Thane-** The land where the tunnel of the project takes place is being used by my last three generations, but I have no evidence as the village was burnt twice, I request that some action should be taken regarding this.

Hon. Chairman and Additional Collector, Thane said that, an inquiry will be done through the Tehsildar.

The Convenor and Sub Regional Officer, M.P.C.B. Kalyan-III said that, they have taken note of the questions asked by the villagers.

The project proponent said that, even though this project is being done by M/s.J.S.W.Energy PSP Two Ltd., with the co-operation of the government, we will succeed only with the co-operation of all the villagers and there will be good development in this area too. Also the questions/suggestions raised by the villagers are good questions/suggestions. Around 7 crores of funds from the company under CSR will be spent and especially the catchment area will be developed. Also provision has already been made for medical camp.

**15)Mr. Bhalchandra Jayatu Khadke, Police Patil, Kalbhonde Village, Tal. Shahapur, District Thane-** A total of 3000 workers have been appointed for this project and since Kalbhonde Gram Panchayat is not financially capable of providing basic facilities to so many workers, how sanitation and sewage system will be arranged for these workers?

The project proponent said that, 3000 thousand workers will not come in the project area at a time but they will come in phasewise manner as and when needed.

The Convenor and Sub Regional Officer clarified that, Mr. Khadake's question is about how arrangements will be made for domestic waste water generated during the project by the company?

The project proponent said that a sewage treatment plant will be installed in the labor camp by the company. Also Mr. Lahu Jadhav, official of the company said that, the said company is a reputed company and will maintain environmental standards and requested that no one should worry about environmental conservation.

**16)Mr. Shivaji Veer, Member, Gram Panchayat Kalbhonde, Tal. Shahapur, District Thane-** There is a school at about 13 km in this area therefore requested to start school from 1<sup>st</sup> standard to 10<sup>th</sup> standard in the village by the company. It is also requested that skilled and unskilled workers get an employment.

The project proponent said that, the company will definitely consider the matter.

**17)Mrs. Jaya Somnath Vagh, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Kalbhonde, Tal. Shahapur, Dist. Thane-** For the employment priority should be given to local women, company shall also identify problems to be faced by local women. Also alternative lands should be made available to the people whose lands will be lost, permanent employment should be given to the family members of the project affected people.

The project proponent said that, many good schemes have been planned by the company for the women in all the affected villages and requested all the women to kindly participate in the said schemes.

**18)Mr. Ashok Inank, Shahapur, District Thane-** Earlier, M/s. Afcon Company had been given in written that, the road will be repaired but after the completion of the company's work it was not possible to walk on the road where the company's work had been done. Considering this whatever matter is going to be discussed here should be recorded in written with the local Gram Panchayat.

Hon'ble Chairman and Additional Collector, Thane said that, you can present your point but as this is a public hearing on environment, mainly environmental issues should be presented.

The project proponent respectfully said that the project will stay here and will not go anywhere after completion. He also said that the road damage due to heavy vehicles of the company will be repaired immediately through the public works department.

**19)Mr. Hima Chandra Khadke, At Kalbhonde, Tal. Shahapur, District Thane-** It is requested that, some decision should be taken regarding the filling of forest land between Kothale and Kalbhonde in Shahapur. Also, through him Mr. Khadke Police Patil said that till 2004, there were land charges for forest land from Kalbhonde to Patol. After the year 2004, the said land was transferred under the Government of Maharashtra Act by Mr. Abdul Sattar and the villagers did not get any clarity about it. Also, when the streams were closed, when the village was surveyed and inquired with Talathi Saja, it was understood that, there was an order not to accept any further changes in the Kalbhonde area and requested that it be considered if this place is going to be land acquisition. Also, during the time of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj some lands in Patol and Kalbhonde were given as a reward in the name of a Muslim person, after that the said name was reduced and on 7/12 it became Maharashtra Government. The said land has been named as other rights as a clan. It is requested to name concerned relatives as class-1 heirs on 7/12 instead of clan.

Hon'ble Chairman and Additional Collector, Thane said that, an inquiry will be conducted through Tahsildar in this regard.

Hon'ble Chairman and Additional Collector, Thane welcomed all the officers, office bearers, representatives and general public present in this public hearing and expressed the following instructions/suggestions.

1. Today's hearing and presentation has been done in a very technical language and since we as an administrative officer are not aware of the said technical matters, it would have been better if the presentation could have been given in a language that the general public could understand mainly about what is going to happen and what facilities will be provided to them by the project owners.
2. The people of the company have narrated with local people and obtained their co-operation, but it is observed that the representatives of the company have met to the extent of village sarpanch, members, police patil, but there is a need to explain about the project to the last person of the affected villages.
3. Appreciating that common working people also came and expressed their opinion, the company should take necessary action to give minimum environmental impact. Secondly, the tunnel of this project is especially underground, blasting and further processing will cause geological effects in the area, like disturbance to flora and fauna, co-relation with the livelihood/income of the people here. Taking into consideration that, the employment/livelihood of the people also needs to be considered by the project owners.
4. Project owners should take the initiative to provide employment, health, education and basic facilities to the local people without fear of taking away their employment opportunities after coming up with any project. Also, while planting trees, plantation of trees should be done so as to help increase the income of the locals as suggested by the locals and other small things should also be considered by the project holders.
5. Proposal should be submitted transparently while submitting to the Central Department of Forests, Environment and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi.

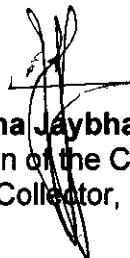
**Conclusion:** People representatives, local body officials, villagers, businessmen, Environmental experts have been participated in the Public Hearing and they expressed their suggestions/objections regarding the project. Also the Chairman and members of the Public Hearing Committee and the Project Proponent have taken note of the suggestions/objections of the peoples/ villagers regarding the environmental issues. The Convenor of Public Hearing Committee given vote of thanks to all those present in the public hearing and announced with the prior permission of Hon'ble Chairman and Additional Collector, District-Thane that, the process is completed of public hearing has been completed.



( Dr. Seema Uday Dalavi )  
Convenor of the Committee &  
Sub Regional Officer, M.P.C..Board, Kalyan-III



( Dr. Rajendra A. Rajput )  
Member of the Committee &  
Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Kalyan



( Manisha Jaybhaye-Dhule )  
Chairman of the Committee &  
Additional Collector, Thane District

