

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED PROJECT OF LATE BALASAHEB THAKARE LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEME, SANGOLA TALUKA SANGOLA, DISTRICT SOLAPUR MAHARASHTRA PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, UJJANI CANAL DIVISION NO 9 MANGALWEDHA SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA.

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of Proposed project of Late Balasaheb Thakare lift irrigation scheme, Sangola taluka Sangola, district Solapur, Maharashtra proposed by Project Proponent The Executive Engineer, Ujjani Canal Division No 9 Mangalwedha Solapur Maharashtra was conducted on Wednesday, 04th September, 2024 at Bachat Bhavan Auditorium, Panchayat Samiti, Sangola, Taluka Sangola, District – Solapur, Maharashtra at 12.00 PM.

Shri. Nikhil More, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur, Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Hon. Manisha Kumbhar, Additional District Magistrate, Solapur & Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri. J. S. Salunkhe, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune & also Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, and Irrigation Department 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, Mumbai was in receipt of application from Project Proponent Executive Engineer, Ujjani Canal Division No 9 Mangalwedha Solapur Maharashtra. Convener further informed as per EIA Notification,

2006 the category of project falls under Category 1(c) which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance for which prior environmental public hearing is mandatory.

Convener informed that the aim of conducting prior public consultation is to raise awareness about the project, the developmental activities planned, and the Environment Management Plan amongst local people who can participate in the hearing and raise their concerns.

The Project Proponent submitted the online application in the prescribed format on 01st August 2023 along with the pre-feasibility report to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi. It was considered and approved online on 02nd August 2023.

After sanction from Hon'ble District Collector, Solapur to conduct the Physical Environment Public Hearing on 4th September 2024 at 12 PM, and as per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, GoI), 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- 149 of 2024 under letter no. BO/JD(WPC)/PH/B-240826-FTS-0349, dated 26/08/2024 comprising of following members:-

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| 1) District Magistrate-Solapur
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate | Chairman |
| 2) Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -
Regional Officer – Pune,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Pune | Member |
| 3) Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Solapur | Convener |

As per the said notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur in the Local Newspaper in Daily Sanchar for Marathi language and in daily Newspaper Divya Marathi for English language on 3rd August 2024. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed project. Also copy of EIA report and executive summary were made available in Marathi and English language at various notified Government offices as under: -

- 1) District Collector, Solapur;
- 2) General Manager, District Industries Center, Solapur;
- 3) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Solapur;
- 4) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office -Sangola, Taluka – Sangola, District – Solapur;
- 5) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti - Sangola, District – Solapur;
- 6) Grampanchayat offices related to –Laxminagar, Achakdani, Bagalwadi, Sonalwadi, Ajnale, Mangewadi, Bandgarwadi, Chikmahud, Katphal, Khawaspur, Lotewadi (new & old) and Itaki villages, Tal- Sangola, Dist – Solapur.;
- 7) Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;
- 8) 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;
- 9) Regional Officer, Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, 3rd Floor, Jog Centre, Old Mumbai Pune Road, Wakadewadi, Pune 400 003
- 10) Sub Regional Officer, Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, B/4, Bali Building, Civil Lines, Opp. Government Milk Diary, Sat Rasta, Solapur – 413 003;

Convener informed that, an opportunity is given to all participants to raise any doubts, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project pertaining to the environmental, which can be submitted orally or in writing.

Convener asserted that, this Committee is only for recording public opinion, views, suggestions, and objections regarding the proposed project in environmental point of view. 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. Accordingly, minutes of the meeting after approval of Chairman will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to Government or further actions. He requested Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

With the permission of the Chairman, Environment Consultant gave presentation regarding project and Environment Management Plan (EMP). He informed that Sangola taluka of Solapur District remain drought prone area. The availability of water falls significantly short of meeting the agricultural demands, adversely impacting crop yields and exacerbating the socio-economic impact of local farmers, the villages considered in proposal remain untouched by existing irrigation schemes. The proposed LIS scheme is planned to meet the irrigation requirements of 12 villages of Sangola talukas of Solapur districts extended to 20000 Ha area.

After the Presentation, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise their suggestions, objections in respect of proposed project pertaining to environmental aspect 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:

Sr. No	Name and Village	Opinion Presented
1	Shri. Shyamrav Shinde , village Ligadewadi Tal- Sangola, Dist-Solapur Retired Principal of ZP School	As per my knowledge, the said irrigation project (government) includes 14 villages in Sangola taluka. I am a qualified retired principal and a farmer having 100 acres agricultural land in Lingdevadi Village.

		<p>This irrigation scheme will benefit 14 villages, and it is important to confirm by Government whether Ligadevadi is included in this scheme. Ligadevadi is located near Ajanale village.</p> <p>Further the closed pipeline coming to this area will pass through my farm, which has a stream running through it. Excess water could potentially cause damage to my land. I own 100 acres of land in this area, and even if a trench is made, there is a risk of water overflow.</p> <p>I request the government to inform us about the measures that will be taken to address any potential damage to my agricultural land.</p> <p>I am grateful to the government for their efforts and look forward to their response.</p> <p>Reply: Shri Narayan Joshi, Executive Engineer, Ujjani Canal Division No 9, Mangalweda said that currently, Ligadewadi is not included in the list of beneficiary villages under the Late Balasaheb Thakare Lift Irrigation Scheme, Sangola; however, if there is additional water allocated from the source, we will definitely consider Ligadewadi for inclusion in irrigation schemes.</p>
2.	Shri. Dada Saheb Loke Sangola .	All the officers present for the public hearing of Ujani Canal Division 9 Late Balasaheb Thackeray Lift Irrigation Scheme Sangola, RDC mam, SRO Solapur, and the RO, MPCB as well as all

		<p>the farmers present from these 13-14 villages, we heard about the environmental impact caused by proposed scheme and mitigation measures there in.</p> <p>The state government and chief minister sir, taluka MLA sir brought the scheme with a lot of effort. This scheme is a beneficial for our 13-14 villages, and it is going to improve the people's standard of living, and agriculture livestock. We extend our gratitude to the state government and fully support the project.</p>
3.	Shri. Manik Sadashiv Bhosale (Retired IPS) Tal-Sangola, Dist-Solapur	<p>I got to know that, Shivane and Waki villages are included in this scheme. It would be greatly appreciated if Baldevadi and Dhayti could also be included, as their inclusion would contribute significantly to their development through access to water.</p> <p>Additionally, when planting trees as part of the scheme, please consider selecting indigenous species or consult with the forest department to choose local species that are well-suited to the area.</p>
4.	Sanjay Shinde Sonalwadi	<p>I want pdf of survey done in our village</p> <p>Reply: Shri Narayan Joshi, Executive Engineer, said the PDF of the survey map would be shared with him.</p>

After that Mr. Nikhil More, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur once again appealed to the farmers to express their opinions, if any. Then he requested Regional officer -MPCB Pune office to express his opinion

Mr. Salunke Saheb, Regional Officer, Pune expressed his views as follows.

First, it is crucial to explore how to achieve maximum production with minimal water use. We need to assess the current situation in the existing villages, including the types of crops being grown and the results of water and soil testing. Based on soil test results, we should evaluate whether we can grow different crops than previously recommended.

From the government's perspective, it is essential to approach this issue with scholarly research and practical solutions. We believe that raising awareness at the village level is necessary to address these concerns effectively.

As farmers, the concerns would be whether all plots in the existing villages will receive water ? will there be any water logging and water logged area can be rehabilitated?

We will compile your views and opinion and submit LIS proposals to the government on behalf of the Hon'ble Chairman. The government will make a suitable decision once the proposals have been submitted.

Chairman Manisha Kumbhar, Resident District Collector, Solapur and Upper District Magistrate expressed her opinion as follows,

During this environmental public hearing of Late Balasaheb Thackeray Lift Irrigation Scheme, Regional Officer Pune - Salunke Saheb, Sub-Regional Officer -More Saheb, and all officers from the Ujjani Canal Division No 9, Mangalweda, Solapur as well as the villagers from the affected areas, presented their suggestions, doubts and opinion .

Based on the presentations, if there are any doubts or suggestions, please raise them now. The purpose of this public hearing is to incorporate any suggestions and address any objections. We will compile a consolidated report, which will be submitted to the Government through the Environment Department. If there are no further objections or suggestions, I will declare the public hearing concluded.

Convenor has mentioned that, all views expressed by the participants will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. These minutes, along with any responses, will be submitted to the Government for further action, as stated by the Hon'ble Chairman.

Once again extend thanks to everyone involved. With the permission of the Honourable Chairman, Convener declared today's public hearing is concluded.

(Nikhil Jalindar More)
Convener,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra
Pollution
Control Board,
Solapur

(Jagannath S. Salunkhe)
Member,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution
Control Board,
Pune

(Manisha Kumbhar),
Chairperson
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Solapur
District - Solapur