

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING IN RESPECT OF M/S. GRAND WESTERN DISTILLERY PRIVATE LIMITED, LOCATED AT GAT NO. E-12/1, M.I.D.C. SHIRALA, TAL: SHIRALA, DIST. SANGLI, (MAHARASHATRA STATE) FOR THEIR PROPOSED PROJECTS OF 80 KLPD GRAIN BASED DISTILLERY, 10 KLPD MALT SPIRIT DISTILLERY, PRODUCTION OF INDIAN MADE FOREIGN LIQUOUR AND COUNTRY LIQUOR.

An environmental public hearing in respect of M/s. Grand Western Distillery Private Limited, located at Gat No. E-12/1, MIDC Shirala, Tal: Shirala, Dist: Sangli was held for proposed 80 KLPD Grain Based Distillery, 10 KLPD Malt Spirit Distillery, Production of Indian Made Foreign Liquor and Country Liquor project on Wednesday 09-10-2024 at 12.00 noon at the factory site at Gat No. E-12/1, M.I.D.C. Shirala, Tal-Shirala, Dist-Sangli.

Following panel members were present for the environmental public hearing.

1. Hon. Dr. Raja Dayanidhi - Chairman,
District Collector, Sangli.
2. Shri. J. S. Hajare, - Member
Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Kolhapur
3. Shri. Vidyasagar V. Killedar, - Convener.
Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sangli.

The proceedings of the hearing are as follows:-

In the beginning Shri Vidyasagar V. Killedar, Sub Regional Officer, MPC Board, Sangli cum Convener of the



environmental public hearing welcomed to all the participants and with the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman started the public hearing. He stated that the public hearing is being conducted in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006 and as amended by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India. The project proponent has filed a proposal with the MoEF & CC for the proposed project on 19 August 2024. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change approved TOR to the project proponent to carry out Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed project. Accordingly, the project proponent has prepared a draft environmental impact assessment report and submitted it to the government. After that Hon. District Collector, Sangli approved date for the public hearing and accordingly, on 09 September 2024 a notice regarding the public hearing was published in local newspapers like daily Sakal in Marathi and The Times of India in English, 30 days prior to the public hearing. The copies of draft environmental impact assessment report was made available for study of the public with the Collector Office, Sangli; District Industries Center Sangli; Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad Sangli; Regional Office Maharashtra Pollution Control Board-Kolhapur; Zonal Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Nagpur; Department of Environment, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai; the Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Headquarter, Mumbai; Chief Officer, Shirala Nagar Panchayat; Tehsil Office Shirala; Gram Panchayat Offices – Aundhi, Bhatwadi, Beldarwadi, Khed, Nigadi, Kapari, Kadamwadi, Karmale, Red, Bhatshirgaon, Tadwale, Padali, Upwale, Biur, Padaliwadi, Tal: Shirala, Dist: Sangli and any queries, objections, suggestions of the public were invited. He also appealed to the public that they raise their queries and objections etc. during the public hearing and can also submit written representation to the Committee during the public hearing. He

further said that the purpose of this public hearing is to inform the public about the proposed project, to give information about its impact on the environment and measures that will be taken by the project proponent to control the pollution as well as to record the suggestions, objections etc. of the public which will be recorded in the Minutes of the public hearing. The minutes of the public hearing will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. The Public Hearing Committee will only record the suggestions, objections, opinion of the public and will not take any decision regarding grant of permission to the proposed project.

Thereafter, Shri. Vidhayasagar V. Killedar, Convener requested the environmental consultant of the proposed project to present the presentation regarding the project. He also requested the public to and listen the presentation carefully and raise your questions, objections, and suggestions after the presentation is over by mentioning your name and place of residence and the environmental consultant will clarify the same.

Thereafter, the environmental consultant of the proposed project presented information about the proposed project through a slide show. These include geographical location of the proposed project, salient features, air monitoring report, air sample inspection and its results noise monitoring report, surface water sampling station inspection and its results, soil inspection locations and its results, social survey and its results, environmental management plan, air pollution management plan, noise pollution management plan, tree plantation, Water Pollution Control, Hazard and Disaster Management, Solid Waste Management, Waste Water Treatment, Expenditure under Environmental Management Plan, Capital Investment, Emergency Taskforce, funds available under CER/CSR, benefits of the proposed project etc. information was given.



After the above presentation, the convener of the Public Hearing on Environment requested to present public to raise any questions, suggestion, objections or doubts regarding the proposed project. After that, questions, objections and doubts were received from the public as follows.

1. **Shri. Vijay Mali, Ex-Sarpanch, Bhatwadi, Tal-Shirala, Dist. Sangli.**

There was no employment opportunity for the people in this rural area but after establishment of MIDC and industries here, people got employment. There are some industries located in MIDC, 20 per cent of them are operating and 80 per cent are completely shut down. Secondly, in these industries, workers from other states are working, the opportunity of employment to the local people is not given. I have come to know that till now industries in this area have not spent a single rupee either for the development of villages or for this area, all the industries have been set up without public hearing, without taking the villagers into confidence. I thank you for giving us an opportunity to present our concerns today. We are not opposing the proposed project but should get all the benefits whatever due for us.

2. **Mr. Vikram Gajanan Patil, Resident of Khed, Dist. Sangli.**

I have served Para Military Force for 17 years and now voluntarily retired. The environmental consultant has not taken us in confidence while conducting Environment Impact Assessment. They have not studied distance of villages from the project, impact on animals and birds, impact on human life. Village Dharanegaon is located at about 500 mtrs from the proposed project. My village Khed is located at about

one km from here. The Sarpanch and the Gramsevak of our village have not informed the people about this project, we came to know about the public hearing today only. The ill effects of the proposed project should be considered. Pros and cons of the proposed project should also be thoroughly considered.

Q. 3. Shri. Sunil Raghunath Patil, Resident of Khed, Dist. Sangli.

Today's generation is well educated and supports industrialization. 70 to 80 people from my village are present here, but they don't know what is SO₂, the project technical consultant has not informed that its harmful to the human being. During presentation, it was informed that it will be under control but it is not mentioned whether they will provide 100 % pollution control equipment. Villages Khed and Bhatwadi are located near the proposed project. This project will have impact on agriculture and human life. Hence, it should be discussed thoroughly. The Gram Panchayat should call a Gram Sabha in which the public should be properly informed. I sincerely request to postpone the public hearing. Company representatives should be present when Gram Sabha will be scheduled and should clear doubts of villagers. It is true that the employment opportunity is not given to local people. We have Wakurde Budruk Suvarna Yojana through which we get water for agriculture. I have left my job and have returned to my village for farming. Now, there is so much development as water has been made available. Such projects will destroy our lands. This public hearing is not for beneficiary to the public interest, hence, it should be postponed.



Shri. Vidyasagar V. Killedar, Convener stated that the environmental public hearing committee does not take any decisions about the project.

The Hon'ble Chairman of the environmental public hearing committee informed that conducting a public hearing for the proposed project is a part of the procedure, committee members do not take the decision whether to approve the project or not. Secondly, as per procedure, one month prior notice is published in local newspaper mentioning that there will be environmental public hearing. However, whatever doubt you have, the environmental consultant will clarify, even after that, if you have doubts and if you want more information, you can call the representative of the industry to Grampanchayat and he will give you whatever information you want. The decision regarding the project is not made during the hearing. This committee will communicate whatever doubt, opinion you have to the government.

On this Shri. Sunil Patil said that all people has not come for the public hearing. On this Hon. Chairman said that a notice regarding public hearing was published one month prior to the hearing, however, you can raise your questions and can also submit your representations. Then, he instructed the environmental consultant to give information about how they are going to take care of the environment and public health. The Hon. Chairman further stated that we will take note of your views in the minutes of the public hearing.

Shri. Sharad Shete, Project Technical Director, said that all information regarding the proposed project have been submitted to the concerned gram panchayats. Even though, call us whenever there is Gram Sabha and will give you the information.



4. **Mrs. Vanita Maruti Satpute, Sarpanch, Khedgaon, Dist. Sangli.**

There will be water pollution as well as pollution from ash from the proposed project industry shall take care that our village Khed does not affect from pollution and there will not be any hazard to people, then we have no objection to the project. We have got letter regarding the proposed project, we will call gram sabha in which will take consideration of the people and will inform you accordingly.

Shri. Sharad Shete, Project Technical Director, said that the entire project is zero liquid discharge, not even a drop of water will discharge outside the factory premises, and we are going to spend Rs.2.00 crores for provision of Boiler APCs and CPU. We have also made provision of CSR fund under which about 2.5 to 3.0 crores of rupees will be spend for development of nearby villages.

Shri. Sharad Shete, Technical Director of the project stated that solid waste is beneficial to the factory. We will provide C.P.U. to process the waste water. I admit that the spent wash is highly polluted but will be processed. As far as air pollution is concerned, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon dioxide will be controlled through electrostatic precipitator for which the factory will spend Rs 53.59 crores. Also, green belt will be developed on 33 percent of the land. About 8 to 8.5 thousand trees will be planted to prevent air and noise pollution. We assure that the factory will be run in a good manner as we are going to invest crores of rupees. So, everything will be fine and all the conditions of the Consent and Environmental Clearance will be complied.



5. **Shri. Mahesh Patil, Resident of Aundhi, Dist. Sangli.**

We are not against the proposed project, we are supporting as it will provide job opportunity to the local people. But what action are you going to take on those plants against which we have been making complaints to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. We are not against the project but the local people should get employment opportunity in it, and it should not cause harm to public health. The project should be free from pollution.

6. **Shri. Swapnil Nikam, Yuva Sena District Deputy Chief, Shirala, Dist. Sangli.**

Just now, Shri Mahesh Patil raised query about rest of the industries. We are continuously making written complaints against M/s. Clarus Bio Energy Pvt. Ltd. from last two years by providing proof regarding their pollution caused by way of letting the waste water outside the factory premises. But no action has been taken against the industry. The industry does not comply with conditions of the Consent issued by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. It is a good thing that project is coming here, but let us know in which category the proposed project falls.

Shri. Sharad Shete, the Project Technical Director, told that not a single liter of effluent will be discharged from the proposed project as an online monitoring system will be installed. The pollution status will be continuously visible on the digital board and anyone can see it from the main gate. We are going to install ESP & C.P.U. After that, there will be no problem in operating the plant. The project is zero discharge. We will shut down the project if you find that the waste water is let out the factory premises. We will take all

the measures as per the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board.

Shri. Sunil Raghunath Patil asked how you are going to manage pollution of SO₂, as you told you are going to plant 7000 to 8000 trees, how you are going to control carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide. But here is our ancestral agricultural land on which our livelihood depends, and asked to raise hands to public who are agreed and disagree for said project.

Shri. J. S. Hajare, Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, said that we have taken note of your doubts. Minutes of the hearing will be submitted MoEF & CC, Government of India. The MoEF & CC will take the decision whether permission to the project should be granted or not. You can also submit your representation.

7. Shri. Akshay Patil, Shirala, Dist. Sangli.

While giving presentation, you have mentioned that the nearest village is Bhatwadi. In fact, the nearest village is Khed. You have not mention of Khed village in the list of the villages that have been shown under air and water survey slide. First of all the nearest village which is located at 500 meters should have been shown. You have deliberately excluded mentioning of the village which is facing problems due to pollution.

The environmental consultant replied that we have taken this windrows in 2024 accordingly we have got the TOR. As per the TOR granted to us, we have carried out survey of villages located within the radius of 10 Kms. The



reports of all the locations are the average reports of almost all of them. Survey is conducted as per guidelines of MoEF & CC.

Shri. J. S. Hajare, Member, instructed the environmental consultant to carry out the survey as demanded by the villager and include the findings in EIA report. He also told that video recording will also be sent to MoEF & CC where all aspects are discussed thoroughly.

8. **Shri. Pradeep Panditrao Patil, resident of Shirala, Dist. Sangli.**

I am a farmer having agricultural land at Gat No. 196/1 where the project is located in Gat No.196. You have mentioned that you are going to use 5 lac litres of water for the proposed plant and there will be no discharge of waste water, how is it possible, can you give assurance about it? In future, if waste water come out of the factory premises, who is going to take action on the project authority? For that whom shall I meet?

Shri. J. S. Hajare, Committee Member, stated that while starting any industry, Consent letter from Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has granted to project with subject to certain terms and conditions. While giving consent to the proposed project, the consent is granted with condition of zero liquid discharge. If they will discharge effluent outside, you can submit your complaint at the office of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board at Sangli.

On this, Mr. Pradeep Patil said that so far we have visited Sangli office so many times regarding the pollution, but no one has taken action on our complaints.



On this, Shri J. S. Hajare replied that just now Hon. District Collector has instructed Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Sangli to investigate complaints. You may meet the Sub Regional Officer and give him the list of locations where you want to carry out the inspection. He will carry out visits and we will take legal actions on the industries which are defaulter.

Mr. J. S. Hajare, member said that now as per the Hon'ble Collector instructed, we should prepare a list regarding the complaint accordingly visited the site and appropriate legal action will be taken on the basis of noncompliances observed during inspection.

9. **Shri. Khabale Sir, Shirala, Dist. Sangli.**

The suggestions we make go on record and we all know what happens next.

10. **Mr.Nilesh Dilip Chavan, resident of Bhatwadi, Dist.Sangli.**

So far we have made complaints. What action has been taken?

Shri. J. S. Hajare, Member informed that previous officer has been transferred and now new officer has joined. Now they will take action as per the instructions given by Hon'ble District Collector.

Shri. Brahmadev Patil further asked who will take action on those who have not paid salaries of workers, we have made complaints about this but on the contrary police cases have been filed against us. When we go there, they lodge complaints of ransom against us. Even after working for

more than eight months, the company does not pay salaries of the workers, then why do you allow to start the companies here.

Hon'ble Chairman requested to discuss about the proposed project for which the public hearing is being held. He instructed the Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Sangli to accept the complaints in writing from the villagers after the completion of the public hearing and carry out investigation of complaints regarding Air and Water pollution. And after verification take action on defaulting units as per Environmental Laws.

Shri. Sharad Shete, Technical Director of the proposed project said that all posts in the factory will be filled from within the local people. As a Technical work, computer operators, workers will be recruited from the local area, their salary will be paid on time to time which will be not less than the minimum wages as per the rules of the government.

The Hon'ble Chairman of the public hearing committee asked that if there is another industry in this area which is using the technology that you are going to adopt in the proposed project, name it so that the villagers will visit that company. On this, Shri. Sharad Shete said that there is such type of project in Baramati. At this, Hon. Chairman instructed to show such type of industry to four to five Sarpanchs of the grampanchayats located surrounding the proposed project.

11. Shri. Digvijay Khabale-Patil, resident of village Khed, Tal: Shirala, Dist. Sangli.

The water of our village is polluted due to the water pollution caused from industries located in this M.I.D.C. here,



we have frequently made complaints to stop the pollution, we received chemical mixed water to our village for drinking purpose, it should be stopped. I request to inspect the chemical mixed lake after the public hearing, weir located is not mentioned here in the presentation.

At this, Hon. Chairman asked to check whether the weir belongs the irrigation department or not.

12. Shri. Swapnil Nikam, Yuva Sena District Deputy Chief, Shirala, Dist. Sangli.

What type of fuel will be used for the boiler and how much afforestation are you going to do. So far, not a single company who has obtained Consent from Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has carried out 33% tree plantation. These industries are harmful to all.

Shri. Sharad Shete, Technical Director replied that 100% bagasse or cashew nut shell cake will be used as fuel for boiler and ESP will be provided as an Air Pollution Control systems to control air pollution as well as green belt will be developed on 33% land. After we get Environment Clearance, the first thing we are going to do is to plant trees. So, at the commissioning stage, you will see that proper green belt has been developed.

13. Shri. Vijay Mali, Ex Sarpanch, Bhatwadi, Dist. Sangli.

The people who are living in the surrounding area of the proposed project will get employment. What will be the benefits of the proposed project to other villages?

Shri. Sharad Shete, Technical Director replied that we are going to spend funds under CSR. Concerned villages should decide about how to utilize the funds and communicate to us. We will take it to the District Collector for his approval and after it is duly approved by the District Collector, Sangli allocation of funds will be done. The proposed project will start in the year 2025, and CSR fund will be spent in the year 2027. This is our commitment, and compulsory too.

Shri. J. S. Hajare, Member informed that CSR is compulsory for such type of projects, according to which one and a half percent amount of the total investment is required to be spent for certain specified reasons. CSR funds will be spent after getting due permission from Hon'ble District Collector. CSR are compulsory for large industries which require public hearing.

Hon'ble Chairman stated that it is not compulsory for each and every industry to make provision of CSR. There are limits on it, large projects which required public hearings has to make provision of CSR. After commencement of production, CSR amount will be spent in the year 2027 after taking you all in confidence.

14. Shri Akshay Satish Patil, Resident of Village Khed, Tal: Shirala, Dist. Sangli.

What is the water sources for daily use of five lakh liters for the proposed project? Who is going to supply that much amount of water? If you use five lakh liters of water per day, what should the farmers do?



Shri. Sharad Shete, Technical Director said that the water required for the proposed project will be provided by MIDC. As per my information, water will be lifted from river Morna and will not lift from lake.

15. Shri. Pradip Panditrao Patil, Shirala, Dist. Sangli.

We are six agricultural land owners in Gat No. 196/2 and we have no road to approach our agricultural land. Please solve this problem.

Hon'ble Chairman enquired whether the proposed project comes in the way of the agricultural land and whether there is any other road. He stated that there must be a road for agricultural land, and instructed that Tahsildar, Shirala should visit the site and see whether there is road or not. He said that there is a policy that there should be one road for agriculture, if already there is a road, no alternative road can be provided, but if there is no road for agriculture farm anywhere, we will take action to provide a road. Shri Shete, technical director said that we will provide financial assistance for new road, if it is decided to be constructed.

16. Shri. Mahesh Patil, Resident of village Aundhi, Tal: Shirala, Dist. Sangli.

The well belong to M/s. Venkateswara Company is situated near drinking water source of village Aavati, waste water of the company mixed in to drinking water source. In past also we have made complaints about this. Water is lifted to the down side because there is more use of water in M.I.D.C. Water is lifted by acquiring lands from the villagers. Whether you are going to take any action in this respect, I will give you the information about who is lifting the water from



drinking water source for industrial purpose and remove the pipe lines.

Hon'ble Chairman requested to submit a representation/written complaints regarding above the same.

17. Mr. Vijay Mali, Ex Sarpanch, Bhatwadi, Tal; Shirala, Dist. Sangli.

As per culture, every year, we have the fair in Bhatwadi and Khed villages. As a tradition, we, including children and elders go for fare to village Khed from village Bhatwadi since past several years along with carrying palanquins. If the proposed project is set up there will be no road for us, hence, we request the project proponent to construct an alternative road as every year 500 to 700 people carrying palanquins visit these places. If we will not have a way, the tradition which is going on for four to five generations will be hindered, so proper action should be taken now.

Shri. Sharad Shete, Technical Director said that while plotting and as per the lay out, MIDC has provided road from one end to the other. I will get that road properly constructed with the help of government. I will give my contribution.

After above discussion, Shri. Vidyasagar V. Killedar, Convener stated that we have recorded the presentation and the questions raised by the public vehemently during the public hearing. He assured that as per the instructions of Hon. Chairman-cum-District Collector, we will carry out inspection in front of you within two to three days as per the complaints made by you and certainly action will be taken on those industries which are causing pollution. The information regarding action taken will be given to Hon. District Collector as well as the complainant, please give me a

copy of your complaints. He thanked all the attendees. He thanked Hon. Chairman for personally attending the hearing to solve questions raised by public. He also thanked Regional Officer, MPCB, Kolhapur; Tahsildar Shirala; representatives of project proponent, news reporters, NGOs and Police for attending the public hearing. He assured that the proposed project will not be allowed to start unless the new terms and conditions laid down by the State government and Central Government are complied with.

Lastly, he concluded the environmental public hearing after vote of thanks to the chair.

No any written representations/complaints/objections received during the public hearing regarding the said proposed project.

The process of the environmental public hearing started at 12.00 noon and ended at 2.00 pm.

(Vidyasagar V. Killedar)
Convener
And Sub Regional Officer,
M. P. C. Board, Sangli

(Jaywant S. Hajare)
Member
And Regional Officer,
M. P. C. Board, Kolhapur

(Dr. Raja Dayanidhi, IAS),
Chairman
And District Magistrate, Sangli.