

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED PROJECT OF DEOLGAON IRON ORE MINE, AT DEULGAON, TAL. ARMORI, DIST. GADCHIROLI IN MINE LEASE AREA OF 1.62 HECTARE FOR PROPOSED PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF IRON ORE-3174 TON/ANNUM, MAHARASHTRA PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S. MODERN MINERAL INDUSTRY, BEHIND MILAN HALL, HABIB NAGAR, TEKA NAKA, NAGPUR-440017, MAHARASHTRA.

Date : 20/08/2024
Time : 11:00 A.M.
Place : At Project Site, Vill. Deulgaon, Tal. Armori, Dist. Gadchiroli.

Preamble:-

Project Proponent M/s. Modern Mineral Industry, Behind Milan Hall, Habib Nagar, Tekka Naka, Nagpur-440017, Maharashtra has applied to Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department (MOEF&CC) Govt. of India, (GOI), New Delhi for permission of carrying out the study in the radius of 10 k.m. of project and preparation of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for obtaining Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Project of Deolgaon Iron Ore Mine, At Deulgaon, Tal. Armori, Dist. Gadchiroli In Mine Lease Area Of 1.62 Hectare for Proposed Production Capacity of Iron Ore-3174 Ton/Annum Located At Deulgaon, Tal. Armori, Dist. Gadchiroli, Maharashtra.

The MOEF&CC, GOI, New Delhi approved Terms of Reference (TOR) was sanctioned on 24/11/2023. As per Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, the environment study should be carried in the radius of 10 km from the project site before environmental public hearing and to include in the final environmental impact assessment report. As the proposed project falls under Category B-1, it is mandatory to the Project Proponent to obtain prior Environment Clearance (EC) from SEIAA/SEAC, MOE&CC, Maharashtra.

Project Proponent M/s. Modern Mineral Industry, Behind Milan Hall, Habib Nagar, Tekka Naka, Nagpur-440017, Maharashtra has applied to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board on 21/02/2024 for conducting Environmental Public Hearing. District Collector, Chandrapur, Maharashtra State, in co-ordination with MPCB Chandrapur Office, approved to hold a public hearing on 20/08/2024. In this connection, MPC Board decided to hold public hearing in respect of the said project on 20/08/2024 in consultation with District Collector, Chandrapur. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has published public notices in Marathi newspaper namely "Lokmat" & and English newspaper "The Times of India" on dated 19/07/2024. The appeal was made to the concerned to submit objections, suggestions, complaints, comments, if any, in respect of the said project to concerned regulatory authorities. It is directed to conduct the online public hearing. The meeting number and password was made available.

Copy of draft E.I.A. report along with executive summary in respect of the said project were made available in English/ Marathi in the following offices to apprise the public.

- (1) Environment Department, 15th Floor, New Administrative Building, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400032.
- (2) Joint Director (WPC), M.P.C. Board, Kalptaru Point, 3rd Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opp. Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai-22.
- (3) Regional Office, New Secretariat Building, Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change. Opposite VCA Stadium, Civil Lines Nagpur-1.
- (4) Regional Office & Sub-Regional Office, M.P.C. Board, 1st Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Near Bus Stand, Railway Station Road, Chandrapur.
- (5) District Collector Office, Chandrapur.
- (6) Zilla Parishad, Gadchiroli.
- (7) District Industries Centre, Gadchiroli
- (8) Sub-Divisional Office, Armori, Tal. Armori, Dist. Gadchiroli.
- (9) Tahsil Office, Armori, Tal. Armori, Dist. Gadchiroli.
- (10) Nagar Panchayat Armori, Tal. Armori, Dist. Gadchiroli.
- (11) Gat-Grampanchayat Injewari (Peth), Tal. Armori, Dist. Gadchiroli
- (12) Gat-Grampanchayat Kitadi (Akapur), Tal. Armori, Dist. Gadchiroli
- (13) Gram Panchayat Deulgaon, Tal. Armori, Dist. Gadchiroli
- (14) Gram Panchayat Dongarsawangi, Tal. Armori, Dist. Gadchiroli
- (15) Gram Panchayat Thanegaon, Tal. Armori, Dist. Gadchiroli
- (16) Gram Panchayat Dongargaon, Tal. Armori, Dist. Gadchiroli
- (17) Gram Panchayat Churmura, Tal. Armori, Dist. Gadchiroli
- (18) Gram Panchayat Wasala, Tal. Armori, Dist. Gadchiroli
- (19) Website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board: www.mpcb.gov.in

It is also informed to the notified government departments (Sr. No. 05 to 19 as above) about giving wide publicity at their level regarding Environmental Public Hearing.

The public hearing was thus widely publicized following the due procedure as per the Notification, so that it would be convenient for the project affected or concerned persons to register their views, comments, suggestions or objections with the concerned department. As per the directives, the public consultation is arranged on the project site.

As per the EIA Notification as issued by the MoEF & CC, GoI, New Delhi dated 14th September, 2006, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide no. E-147/2024 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC) PH/B-240814-FTS-0212, dated 14/08/2024 as under:-

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| 1) District Magistrate-Gadchiroli
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate | - | Chairman |
| 2) Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai | - | Member |

Regional Officer – Chandrapur,
MPCB, Udyog Bhavan, Chandrapur

- 3) Sub Regional Officer-Chandrapur
MPCB, Udyog Bhavan, Chandrapur

Convener

This office is in receipt 06 notices, complaints, statements, objections regarding the above project and the persons / concerned institutions have been informed to attend the public hearing and submit their views, opinion, suggestions or objections if any complaints, statements, objections.

The attendance sheets of the participants during the public hearing as well as the Order of the Environment Public Hearing Committee constituted by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board are attached herewith as **Annexure-I & II.**

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING :-

At the beginning of the meeting, Shri Umashankar Bhadule, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur and Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Sanjay Pawar, Additional District Magistrate, Gadchiroli and Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Tanaji Yadav, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur and Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee, Project officials, Journalists, NGOs working in the field of environment and local people who were present in large number and informed all the procedure of the public hearing. He appealed all the participants to raise views, doubts, ideas, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. He said that the public hearing is organized for the local people and project affected persons, so that the environmental issues and doubts would be resolved.

Convener of the meeting further informed that this meeting is arranged to know the feelings, suggestions or objections of the local people for the proposed project in environmental angle only and this Committee has no right to sanction, reject or recommend the proposed project. The suggestions or objections received during the meeting will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting in Marathi and in English and it will be submitted alongwith Final EIA report, the written suggestions/objections with the approval of Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee through MPCB Head Office to Environment, Forest & Climate Change Ministry, Govt. of India, New Delhi. An Expert Committee will take further decision accordingly.

Convener of the meeting further informed that as per the provisions of the Notification, the meeting is being photographed and video is being shot and after the presentation, the participants can raise their questions, suggestions, thoughts and objections. The Project Environmental Consultant or Project Proponent will answer the same. While asking questions, first inform your full name and residence village.

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With the permission of Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Convener asked Environment Consultant to give presentation of Environment Management Plan of the proposed project.

- Project Area, Latitude-Longitude, Map, Submerged Area, Beneficiary Area, Forest Area, Project; Features, Project Significance, Consequences, Land Use, Earthquake Stability;
- Project objectives, social status, employment opportunities, development of farmers due to the project;
- Project analysis, summary, findings;
- Analysis of social and economic status
- Information about air, water, land, sound, project affected areas etc.
- Impact and management of air, water, displacement, biodiversity due to planned project
- Information on environmental management after project implementation
- Information on other environmental management

Thereafter, convener of Public Hearing announced that the forum is open for question answer. The summary of issues raised and reply submitted by project proponent is as below.

FOLLOWING HAVE PARTICIPATED DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS / MADE BY PROJECT PROPONENT/ MPCB GIVEN BY PROJECT PROPONENT/PROJECT CONSULTANT/PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE

1) Shri. Dadaji Bankar, Deulgaon, Tal. Armori, Dist. Gadchiroli:-

Sr. No.	Objection/Suggestion/ Question	Comments / made by Project Proponent/ MPCB
1	There is an old pit from last 10 years. But the Project Proponent has not provided fencing to it. I have attached the photographs as evidence. Employment opportunities to the unemployed persons is our main issue. Project Proponent shall take utmost care that the adjacent farms & nearby residents should not get affected due to the said mining activities.	Project Proponent informed that, we will provide fencing around the mine pit within 3 months. We will provided employment opportunities to the local people according to their educational qualifications. We will provide compensation as per Govt. Rules.

2) Prof. Dualat Dhote, Social Worker & Reporter, Dongargaon, Tal. Armori, Dist. Gadchiroli:-

Sr. No.	Objection/Suggestion/ Question	Comments / made by Project Proponent/ MPCB
1	<p>Railway station Wadsa is the nearest railway station to the said project but Railway station Talodhi which is located at 27 kms is shown as the nearest railway station in the EIA report. This is false information. 39 villages have been incorporated in the project as per 2011 census. It will be difficult to carry out study of these villages. Health data has been mentioned as nil but many men & women are affected from various diseases. For e.g. many people of Churmura village are suffering from Filariasis disease. Also the number of diseased people is very large. There is no drainage system in the said iron ore mining project. It will impact the environment on large extent & some nallas are flowing near the project which meets the nearby rivers. This will pollute the rivers & the polluted water will be provided to through taps in nearby villages. The transportation of iron ore will increase the pollution levels & it will adversely affect the health of local people. There is a confluence of 3 rivers near the village. These rivers get flooded in every monsoon & due to mining activity water pollution cannot be avoided which will affect the health of people. Ground water level will be depleted due to mining activity which will affect the nearby farmers. Agricultural fields are located near the project & due to transportation activities dust particles will get deposited on the fields which will affect crop yield. Due to</p>	<p>Environment Consultant informed that, the said mine is located at Gat No. 40 & 40/2. Project Proponent will provide adequate air & water pollution control systems to avoid any kind of pollution. The said iron ore project is small as compared to other mining projects. Due to financial crisis the said project was not in operation since last 10 years. If iron ore deposits are found then the project proponent will go for expansion of the said project. Water is available in huge quantity in the area. Mine water will be collected in the sedimentation tanks & after treatment, the same will be provided to farmers for irrigation purpose. Green belt will be developed through CSR & CER funds. Iron ore fines has high density due to which the iron ore fines are not dispersed in large areas & will not cause pollution in far areas.</p> <p>Convener, Public Hearing Committee informed that, advertisement regarding Public Hearing was published in the Marathi Daily Lokmat & English Daily Times of India 30 days prior to the date of Public Hearing as per EIA</p>

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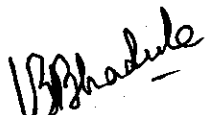
<p>transportation activities dust will get deposited on the fields & this might barren the fields. Villages like Deulgaon, Dongargaon, Dongarsawangi, Injewari, Pethtukum, Kitali, Thanegaon, Churmura & Vasala are going to be affected due to the said iron ore project. Therefore, it is requested to provide employment to a minimum of 25 persons from each village which will help in reducing unemployment in the area. Tree plantation shall be done to avoid pollution. Dust pollution will affect the households of Deulgaon & Dongargaon villages which are located near to the project. Soil erosion will occur due to commissioning of the said project. The forest & mountain area located near the project will get affected due to the said project. Employment opportunities shall be increased in the said project. Skilled employment to local people shall be provided to a greater extent to handle the matters of air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution & noise pollution. Proper compensation shall be provided to the project affected persons which are going to be affected due to the said iron ore project.</p>	<p>Notification, 2006 & 2009 for wide publicity.</p>
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The Chairman of the Public Hearing briefed the people present if there are any other question /issues, the same may be asked. However, nobody came with any question. He announced that copy of the proceedings and CD of the public hearing will be made available in due course of time in MPCB office at Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, First Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Opposite Bus-Stand, Railway Station Road, Chandrapur.

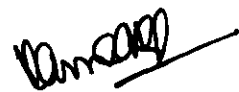
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The Chairman of the Committee while concluding the proceedings, summarized various points raised and declared that public hearing is ended, and concluded the public hearing with vote of thanks.


(Umashankar Bhadule)
Convener of the Public
Hearing Committee and
Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB, Chandrapur


(Tanaji Yadav)
Member of the Public
Hearing Committee and
Regional Officer, MPCB,
Chandrapur


(Dr. Vivek Ghodke)
Chairman of the Public
Hearing Committee &
Additional District
Magistrate, Gadchiroli