

Minutes of The Environmental Public Hearing in respect of M/s. Lignopura Agrotech Private Limited, Plot No. E-14, Additional Kadegaon-Shivajinagar M. I. D. C. Taluka-Kadegaon, District-Sangli, Maharashtra - 415304. For estimated production capacity of bioethanol-1.85 cubic meters per day, for setting up of proposed Demo Scale 2G Integrated Bioethanol Project.

The Environmental Public Hearing in respect of M/s. Lignopura Agrotech Private Limited, Plot No. E-14, Additional Kadegaon-Shivajinagar M. I. D. C. Taluka-Kadegaon, District-Sangli, Maharashtra - 415304. Proposed estimated production capacity of bioethanol-1.85 cubic meters per day, for setting up of proposed Demo Scale 2G Integrated Bioethanol Project held on Wednesday, 08th January, 2025 at 12.00 noon at Project Site – M/s. Lignopura Agrotech Private Limited, Plot No. E-14, Additional Kadegaon-Shivajinagar M.I.D.C. Taluka-Kadegaon, District-Sangli. State-Maharashtra.

Shri. Vidyasagar V. Killedar, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sangli, and Convener of Environmental Public Hearing Committee warmly welcomed Shri. Dadasaheb Kamble, I/c. Additional District Magistrate, Sangli Chairman of Environmental Public Hearing Committee, and Shri. Jayavant S. Hajare, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board the Member of Environmental Public Hearing Committee all those present for the public hearing today. He further said that today we are present for the Environmental Public Hearing for the proposed Demo Scale 2G Integrated Bioethanol Project of M/s. Lignopura Agrotech Private Limited, Plot No. E - 14, Additional Kadegaon Shivajinagar M.I.D.C. Taluka- Kadegaon, Dist. Sangli Maharashtra with an estimated production capacity of Bioethanol - 1.85 cubic meters per day.

Convener of Environmental Public Hearing Committee informed that, Today's public hearing is being conducted in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006 and its amended notifications issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India, New Delhi.

Convener of Environmental Public Hearing Committee informed that, Project Proponent had submitted a proposal to the

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Mumbai on 24.10.2024 to conduct the Public Hearing. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has been granted ToR dated 06/08/2024 with Terms and conditions for preparation Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report of the proposed project. Accordingly, the Project Proponent has prepared a report and submitted.

Thereafter, Hon'ble District Magistrate, Sangli has accorded approval to carry out a public hearing on 08.01.2025 at 12.00 noon. Accordingly, a notice of public hearing was published in the Marathi newspaper "Dainik Sakal" and English newspaper "Times of India" dated 08.12.2024 respectively through the Sub-Regional Office of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sangli.

Thereafter, the Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Mumbai, vide Office Order No. E-2/2024, Letter No. 241226- FTS 0042, dated 26.12.2024, constituted a committee for the said public hearing. Accordingly the present committee is as follows.

- 1) Shri. Dadasaheb Kamble, Chairman
In-charge Additional District Magistrate Sangli,
Representative District Magistrate, Sangli
- 2) Shri. Jayavant S. Hajare, Member
Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur
- 3) Shri. Vidyasagar V. Killedar, Convener
Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sangli.

Copies of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report of the proposed project prepared by the Technical Consultant of the said project were made available in the notified offices as follows:

- 1) District Collector office, Sangli.
- 2) District Industries Centre, Sangli.
- 3) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Sangli.
- 4) Regional Officer, Regional Office, M.P.C. Board, Kolhapur.
- 5) Zonal Office, West Central Zone, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Lines, Nagpur- 440001.

- 6) Hon'ble Deputy Secretary, Environment Department, New Administration Building, 15th Floor, Madama Cama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai-32.
- 7) Hon'ble Member Secretary, M.P.C. Board, Kalpataru Point, 3rd Floor, Opposite Cine planet, Sion Circle, Sion East, Mumbai.
- 8) Chief Officer, Kadegaon Nagar Panchayat, Kadegaon,
- 9) Tehsildar, Tehsil Office, Kadegaon.
- 10) Gram Panchayat Office: - Surli, Tal. Karad, Dist. Satara, Shivajinagar, Khambale Aundh, Renushewadi, Nerli, Vihapur, Nimsod, Tal. Kadegaon, Dist. Sangli. Etc. were kept for public study.
- 11) Web site of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

Convener informed that, till date, no suggestion/objection or complaint has been received by the Sub-Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sangli regarding the above project from the above departments or directly at the office.

Convener of Environmental Public Hearing Committee informed that, if there are any suggestions, objections or comments from the public, they can be given in writing or orally during the public hearing and it will be recorded in the minutes.

Convener of Environmental Public Hearing Committee asserted that, the purpose of this public hearing is to inform the public about the proposed project, the impact the project will have on the environment and the remedial measures to be taken, and to record the public's "comments, complaints, suggestions" regarding the project. Also, the comments, suggestions received will be recorded and submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change along with the minutes for information and further action. Also, the Hon'ble Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee should give orders to the project proponent to provide clarification regarding the comments, suggestions received and make them available for the information of the general public.

The Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee also informed that this public hearing committee will only take note of the public's Environmental complaints and suggestions



and will not take any decisions regarding the approval of the proposed project.

The Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee request the Hon'ble Chairman of today's public hearing committee, Shri. Dadasaheb Kamble, in-charge Additional District Magistrate, Sangli, to allow today's public hearing to begin. He also informed that the project environmental consultant of this project should do the presentation about the project and then the public present should mention their full name, residential village name and raise their comments and suggestions only on environmental issues regarding the project. All comments and suggestions will be documented, and the minutes will be compiled and submitted to the government.

The convener instructed the project's environmental technical consultant to do the submit presentation about the proposed project.

With the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee, the Environmental Consultant of the project made a presentation about the project and the Environmental Management Plan of the project through a slide show. This included the need for the project and its justification, a map showing the project site, a satellite photograph of the project, a photograph of the project, a project plan, a classification of the project area, a brief summary of the project, production process, detailed information about the product, a water requirement estimate, a project site selection quality table, details of the local environment and information about the area, a 10 kms. radius study area, basic environmental information around it, environmental information around the project, baseline environment, classification of land in the study area, 10 kms. from the project site. The information regarding the locations of the tests within the radius, air environment, air quality of the study area, groundwater quality of the study area, surface water quality of the study area, soil quality of the study area, noise intensity of the study area, bio-environment of the study area, social and economic environment of the study area, summary of the environmental impact and mitigation measures, hazardous solid waste management, non-hazardous solid waste management, development of green belts/tree plantation, details of

the professional monitoring program, cost provision on the environmental management plan (construction phase), cost provision on the environmental management plan (operation phase), details of the professional environmental responsibility, environmental management plan, positive impact of the proposed project, etc. was presented through slides.

After that, the convener appealed to the present citizens to register their suggestions, objections and asked those to first state their name and the name of the village. The technical advisor of the project will try to give a suitable answer to this. In addition, he requested that any written representations regarding the project should also be submit here at this time.

The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that we should only raise questions related to the environment. Also, once the specific question is asked then same shall not be repeated.

The information regarding the questions, suggestions, objections raised by the present citizens and the responses given to the project promoter/project consultant/environmental public hearing committee is as follows:

1. Mr. Tanaji Shamrao Shinde, Resident-Kadegaon, Tal-Kadegaon, District-Sangli.

Que. The project information has been explained very well, my question is, what will be the benefit of this project to the farmers, it would be better if this project is explained in detail.

Ans. The project environmental consultant replied that this project is based on bagasse produced from sugarcane and instead of the current bagasse being used for burning in boilers, if ethanol is produced from it, the farmer's sugarcane will definitely get an improved price than the current situation.

2. Mr. Sambhaji Popat Yadav, former Sarpach, Kotwade. Tal-Kadegaon, Dis-Sangli.

Que. Will there be any pollution from this project?

Ans. The project environmental consultant replied that to avoid air and water pollution, state-of-the-art Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) and CNG gas will be used in the boiler, the project owner has made a provision of Rs. 3 crore 95 lakh for environmental protection. Due to which there will be no air and water pollution.

3. Mr. Pramod Mandve, Resident-Shivajinagar, Tal-Kadegaon, District- Sangli.

Que. First, he congratulated the project and mentioned that he had a couple of suggestions. He said that among the jobs that will be created in the project, first priority should be given to the project-affected people, then to the locals and then to the other people, the second thing is whether you are going to use bagasse as raw material, whether you are going to bring it directly from the factory or you are going to manufacture it here from sugarcane.

Ans. The project environmental consultant replied that the locals will be given first priority in the employment that will be created in the project. The bagasse required for the project will be brought from the factory, because we will not install the large machinery required to produce bagasse from sugarcane in our project. Also, the project requires only 5 tons of bagasse per day, and it will be taken from the factory. At present, the project is being set up on an experimental basis, in the future, if the project is set up on a large scale, the bagasse will be processed. The project owner has realized that many projects are closed in Kadegaon MIDC and care will be taken to ensure that the locals benefit the most from the employment generated by this project.

4. Mr. Pramod Mandve, Resident-Shivajinagar, Tal-Kadegaon, District -Sangli.

Que. The CSR activities that are going to be implemented funds should be spent in the surrounding villages like schools, gram panchayats, instead of MIDC, and every place should be recorded as Kadegaon Shivajinagar-MIDC instead of Kadegaon MIDC.

Ans. The project environmental consultant replied that CSR expenditure is made at two percent of the net profit as per the Companies Act, it will be utilised after the project is started. In the current situation, we have planned an expenditure of 53 lakhs for CER, it will be spent from the construction stage before the industry starts and later CSR will be spent only for the surrounding villages. Also we will record the said project as Kadegaon-Shivajinagar MIDC instead of Kadegaon MIDC.

5. Mr. Akkalayyah Doty, President, Pragati Environment Institute, Nalgonda. (Telangana State)

Que. The project was supported and some suggestions were given such as implementing activities for the villagers such as a library, health camp, etc. and a statement was submitted in this regard.

Ans. The above suggestion are noted by the project proponent.

6. Mr. Dhananjay Chandrasen Deshmukh, President, Kadegaon Nagar Panchayat, Kadegaon.

Que. It was suggested that the CSR fund should not be used only for Shivajinagar but should be used for both Shivajinagar and Kadegaon.

Ans. The project environmental consultant replied that the CSR fund will be utilised for the nearby villagers after commissioning of the proposed project. However, the CER will be spent in the village itself from the construction to the launch of the project.

7. Mr. Hemant Hanmantrao Vyas, Resident- Kadegaon, Ta-Kadegaon, District-Sangli.

Que. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Will provide more space for this project.

Ans. On this, Hon'ble Chairman Environmental Public Hearing Committee informed that the issue of space does not come under the jurisdiction of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. If the industry needs new space, they should request to the Regional Office, M.I.D.C. Dept.

- The project environmental consultant replied that the proposed project is currently on a pilot basis and will be implemented within the currently available 8000 sq. meters. If the project is expanded in the future, additional space will be acquired from MIDC, currently this project will not require additional space.
8. Mr. Ashish Ashok Karadkar, Resident-Kadegaon, Ta-Kadegaon, District-Sangli.
- Que. Bagasse and water will be required in this project and what arrangements will be made for the wastewater generated from the project.
- Ans. The project environmental consultant replied that Bagasse will be purchased from nearby Sugar Industries. Also water required for the project will be supplied by MIDC. The project requires a total of 63 cubic meters of water and we will take only 26 cubic meters of water from MIDC. And the remaining water will be processed and purified. This project will implement a modern zero liquid discharge system. Therefore, there will be no water pollution.
9. Mr. Suhas Karadkar, Resident- Kadegaon, Taluka-Kadegaon, District-Sangli.
- Que. Good luck with our project, how many trees will you plant in this project and where?
- Ans. The project environmental consultant replied that in our project, we have reserved 33 percent of the area for tree plantation. In this, we will plant 965 trees, in addition to this, trees will be planted on the roadside, in the village and wherever there is waste land in CER Active.
10. Tanaji Shamrao Shinde, Resident-Kadegaon, Taluka-Kadegaon, District-Sangli.
- Que. Wherever we are going to plant trees, plant local species of trees, e.g., big trees like Vad, Peepal, Audumbara, Limb, which produce maximum oxygen and which are also important in Ayurveda. Do not plant English trees on which even birds does not build nests.

Ans. On this, the project environmental consultant replied that the trees will be planted in the green belt that we are going to create as per the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board, we also have the condition that we should not plant any ornamental trees. In our tree plantation program, we will plant big trees of local species, which will include Vad, Peepal, Mango, and Audumbara, on which even birds can build nests and help in producing maximum oxygen.

11. Sunil Sudhakar Pawar, Resident-Shivajinagar, Taluka-Kadegaon, District-Sangli.

Que. Please provide detailed information about bioethanol.

Ans. The project environmental consultant replied that 2G ethanol means second-generation ethanol. In the present situation, ethanol is made from molasses, but since we are making ethanol from biomass waste, they use 2G ethanol, this ethanol is mixed with petrol, and hence it is called bioethanol.

12. Mr. J. S. Hajare, Member of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee.

Que. What is the conversion cost of making ethanol from molasses and what is the conversion cost of making ethanol from bagasse. Even if you do not tell the cost now, what is the percentage of conversion cost?

Ans. The project proponent replied that since this project is on an experimental basis, the cost of converting ethanol from bagasse is around Rs 45 to 50 per liter. Later, it will be commercial i.e. more than 100 kiloliters per day, so the operating cost is expected to decrease further due to additional production. The reason for the reduction in the said cost is that the cost of bagasse is currently Rs 3.00 per kg and the cost of molasses is Rs 30.00 to 40.00 per kg, so the cost of bioethanol from molasses is Rs 55 to 60.

- Next, Committee Member Shri. J. S. Hajare asked how you are going to dispose of lignin.

- On this, the project proponent reply that we are not going to dispose of lignin, we are going to sell it in the market as a product. Lignin has many benefits. Lignin is a sticky substance, it is used as a binder chemical in the foundry industry and is also used to make grapheme and carbon fibre. Currently, 800 kg of lignin will be produced from this project per day, which will be used as a phenol replacement in foundry chemicals. The pollution caused by using phenol in the foundry industry will not affect health if lignin is used.
- Next, the Environmental Public Hearing Committee Member, Shri. J. S. Hajare, asked whether the sludge that will be produced from the project can be used as fuel in the boiler instead of bio composting.
- The project proponent said that sludge can be used as fuel, but since that sludge contains 50 to 60 percent water, evaporation costs will increase to dry it. Instead, since the sludge contains bio culture, Yeast, it will be of greater benefit to agriculture as bio compost.
- Further, Committee Member, Shri. J. S. Hajare said that like sugar factories, bagasse is used as fuel in boilers in co-generation plants. Therefore, it is recycled in the factory. Similarly, if the sludge produced from this project is dried and used as fuel, will it be recycled in the project itself?
- On this, the project proponent said that their suggestions will be considered after the project is launched and how to implement them by making a suitable solution plan. The current project is on a pilot basis. Therefore, their suggestions will be considered further.
- On this, Mr. Dhananjay Chandrasen Deshmukh, President, Kadegaon Nagar Panchayat, Kadegaon suggested that instead of using it as fuel, it would be more beneficial for the farmers if it is used for agriculture as bio compost.

13. The Hon'ble Chairman Environmental Public Hering Committee asked that the project will generate 1.37 tonnes of carbon dioxide per day. Please explain to everyone in simple language how it will be used.

Ans. The project proponent replied that the carbon dioxide emitted from the project is a green CO₂ and can be used in soft drinks. The CO₂ generated from the project will not be released directly into the air, it can be processed in a bottling plant and sale in the market. CO₂ is used as a cooling agent.

- After that, the Hon'ble Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee appealed that if the villagers, NGO's, village officials present here have any suggestions, they can present them or submit them in writing.

14. Mr. Suhas Shivaji Chobe. Ra-Kadegaon, Ta-Kadegaon, District-Sangli.

Que. M.I.D.C. came to this place 20 years ago and people gave their land with great enthusiasm but M.I.D.C. didn't developed. The people who gave land live in thatched sheds and those who did not give land live in slab houses. My question is, what pollution will this ethanol project cause and what will be the impact on the nearby areas. And the maximum benefit of this project should be given to the local people whose lands have been taken away.

Ans. On this, the project technical consultant informed that the project will be planned and implemented with appropriate measures to prevent air and water pollution. In order to prevent air pollution, CNG gas, which is called green fuel, will be used as fuel in the project. Also, to prevent water pollution, the concept of zero liquid discharge will be implemented in the project. 3.95 crores, or approximately 4.00 crores, has been provided for environmental conservation in the project, out of which 1.50 crores will be used to install zero liquid discharge systems to prevent water pollution. Also, in the project, local people, namely people from Shivajinagar and Kadegaon, will be given priority in employment according to their educational qualifications, which will include skilled and unskilled workers.

Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub Regional Officer Shri. V. V. Killedar while

concluding the hearing said that the Environmental Public Hearing process of the project of M/s. Lignopura Agrotech Pvt. Ltd has been completed and the suggestions made by the local people are really good suggestions. He suggested that the project proponent should implement the suggestions presented. Also, employment should be given to maximum people, proper precautions should be taken to ensure that no pollution occurs due to the project, necessary mechanisms should be installed in the project to control the proposed air pollution and water pollution. While concluding the meeting, the organizer thanked the Hon'ble Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, Hon'ble Members, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, officials of the project proponent, Government Officials, and Journalists, Charitable organizations working on the Environment, Media representatives and the local people present in large numbers. The organizer also thanked the Revenue Department and Police Administration for helping in the meeting and with the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman of the public hearing committee declared that public hearing is completed.

The process of the environmental public hearing started at 12.00 Noon and ended at 1.40 pm.

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

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

(Dadasaheb Kamble)
Chairman
And I/c. Additional District Magistrate, Sangli.