

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING
IN RESPECT OF COMMISSIONING OF PROPOSED PANE
OPEN LOOP PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT OF
CAPACITY 1,500.0 MW AT VILLAGES – PANE AND
VAGHERI, TALUKA-MAHAD, DISTRICT-RAIGAD,
MAHARASHTRA BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S JSW
ENERGY PSP SEVEN LIMITED, JSW CENTER, BANDRA-
KURLA COMPLEX, BANDRA (EAST), MUMBAI – 400 051,
MAHARASHTRA**

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of commissioning of Proposed Pane Open Loop Pumped Storage Project of Capacity 1,500.0 MW at Villages – Pane and Vagheri, Taluka – Mahad, District – Raigad, Maharashtra by Project Proponent M/s JSW ENERGY PSP SEVEN LIMITED, JSW CENTER, BANDRA-KURLA COMPLEX, BANDRA (EAST), MUMBAI – 400 051, MAHARASHTRA was held on Tuesday, the 05th November, 2024 at 03.00 noon at Hotel Fountain Inn. (Lawn), At Post – Nadgaon Tarfe Birwadi, Near Savitri Bridge, Mumbi-Goa Highway, Taluka- Mahad - 402 309, District – Raigad.

Shri Ishwar Thakare, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mahad and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Sandesh Shirke, Additional District Magistrate, Raigad, Alibag and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Sanjay

Bhosale, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board- Raigad and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representatives of media channels and Company 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.

Convener informed that the aim of conducting prior public consultation is to make aware, local people who can be participant in the hearing and they should know the developmental activities and Environment Management Plan of the unit.

He informed that Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai was in receipt of application dated

29-07-2024 and at Regional Office, Raigad, MPCB, Raigad Bhavan, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai on 31-07-2024 from Project Proponent M/s JSW Energy PSP Seven Limited, JSW Centre, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051, Maharashtra in respect of commissioning of Proposed Pane Open Loop Pumped Storage Project of Capacity 1,500.0 MW at Villages – Pane and Vagheri, Taluka – Mahad, District – Raigad, Maharashtra.

Convener further informed that as per EIA Notification No.1533 (E), Dated 14-09-2006 and Amended Notification, the proposed activities fall under Category A, Schedule 1 (c) – River Valley/Irrigation Projects, which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from Ministry Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application on 27-11-2023 alongwith pre-feasibility report to obtain ToR (Terms of Reference) to Ministry Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi. Technical Presentation was made before 41st Environment Appraisal Committee (EAC) and it has been considered by Government of India and granted online approval on 30-01-2024.

Accordingly, Project Proponent has appointed NABET approved Environment Consultant and through their Environment Consultant had carried detailed Environmental Survey in the radius of 10.0 k.m. of the project site to study the proposed impact on environment due to the commissioning of this project and prepared a draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and submitted it.

But Project Proponent has applied for Amendment in issued ToR on 28-09-2024 and meeting of the EAC will be held on 05-11-2024.

Joint Director (Water Pollution Control), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide letter dated 31-07-2024 directed Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mahad to carry the process of conducting environmental public hearing regarding the said project.

Afterwards, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mahad vide letter dated 10-09-2024 requested Hon. District Collector, Raigad, Alibag to conduct Environment Public Hearing for the proposed activity.

District Collector, Raigad, Alibag vide letter dated 27-09-2024 directed to conduct Physical Environment Public Hearing on Tuesday, the 05th November, 2024 at 03.00 noon, and after getting sanction from District Collector, Raigad,

Alibag, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai as per the Notification No. S.O. 1533 dated 14-09-2006 and as per Amended Notification S.O. 3067 (E) Dated 01-12-2009 as issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, GoI), New Delhi has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Board's Office Order No. E- 164 of 2024 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 241010- FTS- 0080 dated 10-10-2024 as under: -

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1) District Magistrate-Raigad, Alibag
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate | Chairman |
| 2) Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -
Regional Officer – Raigad,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Raigad Bhavan, 6 th Floor,
Sector-11, CBD Belapur,
Navi Mumbai – 400 614 | Member |
| 3) Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Mahad | Convener |

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mahad in the local newspaper in

Dainik Sagar for Marathi on 02-10-2024 and in national newspaper Indian Express for English on 04-10-2024. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed unit.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summary were made available in Marathi and in English at various notified Government offices as under:-

- 1) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Zonal Office, Western- Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur-440 001,
- 2) District Collector, Collector Office, Raigad, Alibag
- 3) General Manager, District Industries Center, Raigad, Alibag,
- 4) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Raigad, Alibag,
- 5) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office, Mahad, District-Raigad,
- 6) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Taluka-Mahad, District – Raigad;
- 7) Chief Officer, Municipal Council, Mahad, Taluka-Mahad, District-Raigad;
- 8) **Grampanchayat Offices:-**
Group Grampanchayat-Pane; Grampanchayat-Varangi; Grampanchayat-Dapoli; Group Grampanchayat-Nizampur-Vagheri-Raigadwadi-Chhatri Nizampur, Grampanchayat-Bavale, Grampanchayat-Sandoshi; Grampanchayat-Pachad, Grampanchayat-Walsure; Grampanchayat-Konzar; Grampanchayat-Wagholi; Group Grampanchayat-Panderi-Panderi-Mangharun-Devghar,

Grampanchayat-Savrat; Grampanchayat-Garajewadi;
 Group Grampanchayat-Vaki BK; Shevte;
 Grampanchayat -Pangari, Grampanchayat-Varandoli; Group Grampanchayat-Mandale-Parwadi, Grampanchayat—Taloshi;
 Grampanchayat-Chapgaon; Grampanchayat—Punade; Grampanchayat—Khardi;
 Grampanchayat—Kothurde; Grampanchayat—Nerav; Grampanchayat—Karmar; Group Grampanchayat-Valan Khurd- Aadrai;
 Grampanchayat-Dabhekar Kond; Grampanchayat-Kumbhe Mach; Grampanchayat-Kavale;
 Group Grampanchayat-Valap-Budruk; Zolicha Kod; Ketkicha Kond; Grampanchayat-Dhamane;

9) Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;

10) Head Office, 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;

11) Regional Officer - Raigad, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, 6th Floor, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400 614;

12) Joint Director, Directorate of Industrial Safety & Health, 6th Floor Konkan Bhavan, Annex, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai;

13) Joint Chief Controller of Explosives, A-1 & A-2 Wing, 5th Floor, Konkan Bhavan Annexe, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai;

14) Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, C.F.C. Building, M.I.D.C. Area, Taluka - Mahad, District – Raigad -402 309;

- 15) Website, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board – Executive Summary of the Proposed Project is made available in Marathi and English;

Convener informed that 4/2 suggestions / objections have been received by Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Mahad regarding the proposed project

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

Convener asserted that this Committee is only for recording public opinion, views, suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only and the Committee has no right to approve, reject or recommend the project. 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. Similarly, the revised Environmental Assessment Report of the Project Proponent, written suggestions/objections and minutes of the meeting in Marathi and English after approval of Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi after taking note of the video recording of the said

meeting, suggestions and objections recorded in the meeting. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding the same. He requested Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

Project Proponent welcomed all the participants and with the permission of Hon'ble Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee made a presentation about the project and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) of the project.

Project Officer informed that Project Proponent M/s JSW Energy PSP Seven Limited, JSW Center, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051 planned to commission Proposed Pane Open Loop Pumped Storage Project of 1500 MW capacity to provide pollution free electricity to meet public demand at Project Villages:- Pane and Wagheri, Taluka-Mahad, District-Raigad, Maharashtra.

For this project, Lower Storage will be developed at Pane Village, Taluka-Mahad, District-Raigad. Its maximum height is 72.0 meters (from deepest bed level). And the width of the upper part of the dam is 436.92 meters. Higher Storage/Reservoir is at Khanu village, District – Pune.

The total cost of the said project is Rs 7,419.60 crore and the capital cost for the Environmental Management Plan in the project will be Rs 67.75 crore and the recurring cost will be Rs 1.73 crore/year.

During the construction phase of the project, 125 permanent employees and 2,100 contractual employees will be required. 100 permanent employees and 70 contractual employees will be required after project implementation. The required manpower will be taken from the local area itself.

Project Proponent while informing about the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) said that a portable STP of 35.0 KLD capacity will be installed for the labour colony for the construction phase. Also, to keep noise under control in the project, an acoustic enclosure will be installed in the D.G. set.

The muck generated in the project - 50% will be recycled, while the remaining 50% will be disposed off at the dumping site. While developing the green belt in the project, the planting density will be maintained at 1,000 trees per hectare while indigenous species will be planted as per the guidelines of the Forest Department.

Project will definitely increase the economic and social development of the locals in the area.

After completion of the Presentation, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise their views, suggestions or objections in respect of the proposed project in environmental angle only. While asking questions, please inform your name and residential address.

Views, questions, suggestions/objections raised during the Environment Public Hearing and the answers/promises given by the Project Proponent/Environment Consultant/Environment Public Hearing Committee :-

1) Shri Ganesh Shridhar More, Residence – Wagheri, Taluka-Mahad, District – Raigad :-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Proponent / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	My well is on the lower side where the said project is going to be established. The proposed project is coming into our well water. We are not opposing the proposed project. But during the construction of the project, what measures	Project Proponent replied that the project construction will not cause any water pollution. Care shall be taken to prevent water pollution during the construction phase of the project and during the operations of the project. Also, water quality and purity will be maintained as per Environmental Standards.

	will be taken to ensure that our well water does not get spoiled/polluted?	
2)	Blasting for the project has to be done during the construction phase of the project. Will it affect the ground water source in Wagheri village, whether change of the flow of ground water or whether our ground water supply will close? This is to submit that we have only one well and we have no other alternative water supply system.	Project Proponent replied that the project does not involve extensive blasting. Also, the pattern of blasting is designed. It contains delay detonators during blasting. Therefore, groundwater source flows will not be disturbed/altered.
3)	Whether an assurance can be given by the company that the water source of Wagheri village would not be affected?	Project Proponent agreed to give it.
4)	If so, then we are welcoming this project on behalf of Wagheri village.	Project Proponent thanked for it.

2) Shri Dattaram Kondiba Dhere, Residence -Warangi Village, Taluka – Mahad, District – Raigad :-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Proponent
---------	------------------------------------	---

		/ Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	<p>The said project is at the lap of the ghat of Warangi village. All the dust and dirt that will be generated during the construction phase of the project will come to Warangi village, because Warangi village is on the ghat. Also, since the said project is going to be commissioned on the Ghat itself, since Shiviji maharaj days till now, Shiv devotees are using the same road to go to Raigad. Due to this project, the road of Shiv Bhakta there is going to be closed. Is there an alternative plan for that? Due to the said project, the water at the lowerside village will be shut off. Hedmachiwadi village is downside of the hill. Due to this project, their water supply will be closed. So, is there any plan to provide water supply to the village? What is the plan to settle the people there?</p>	<p>Project Proponent replied that the project construction will be started once the proposed project receives Environment Clearance (EC). At that time all the directives and standards (norms) of the Environmental Clearance will be followed Project Proponent will take full care to ensure that the people residing adjoining the project area is not suffered by dust and garbage in the area. While approving the design of the project, Government gives consent after checking all these aspects. All directives as issued by the Government will be strictly followed.</p>

	<p>Also, the project is in the lap of ghat. Warangi village is situated on a ghat. If there is any accident, all the water will come to Warangi village and all the lower villages will be destroyed/carried away by water. Is there any Action Plan ready for that? All information about this should be made available.</p>	
2)	<p>If there is any loss to the village from this project, it should be informed</p>	<p>Project Proponent informed that the village where the project is going to be established and operational will not cause any loss due to the project.</p> <p>At that time, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed the meeting about a Upper Reservoir on the mountain and a Lower Reservoir and power generation in the proposed project.</p>
3)	<p>There are some houses, they are in our Gram Panchayat and Panegaon is neighbour to us. If the project is completed, how electricity, water supply to those villages will be provided? An explanation should be given as to</p>	<p>Project Proponent explained that we will use only village water and the electricity generated will be given to the Government. Also, we are going to get the water required for the construction of the project from the government itself.</p>

	whether it will be given free of cost forever?	
4)	What percentage of water will be released for agriculture? This information should be given in written form. Pune-Raigad Shivpremi Road – Connection should be made	At that time, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested to understand the design of the proposed project. In the proposed project, there will be one reservoir on the hill (Upper Reservoir) and one below (Lower Reservoir) and the rest of the project will be underground. So, the road will not be closed. Also, the water supply to the village will not be disturbed due to the project

3) Shri Bhagwant Dagadu Jadhav, Dy. Sarpanch, Pane Grampanchayat. Taluka – Mahad, District – Raigad

:-

This planned project will be commissioned in our Pane village. It has not seen the inclusion of Wagheri village anywhere so far. In our view, Wagheri village has no relation in this project. However, Pane-Wagheri is shown in the presentation. It should be explained first.

Project Proponent explained that even though a small part of the project falls within Wagheri village area, it is still called Pane-Wagheri.

Shri Jadhav demanded to show the part/area of Wagneri village in the map.

4) Shri Prakash Sitaram Shedge, Residence – Pane Village, Taluka -Mahad, District – Raigad :-

Before the public hearing meeting, two meetings have been held with the concerned project officers for discussions. At that time, while giving information about the project alongwith the complete map, it is informed by the project officials that the proposed project is planned within Pane village limits only. It was asserted that the second village was not included in it. But now the name of Wagheri village has been added to Pane village in the presentation. Hence, the project area of Wagheri village should be explained.

If only one road of Wagheri village is coming, then the road is passing through many villages. However, Project Officers should explained in detail.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee directed Project Proponent to provide complete information about the Gat Numbers of Pane village and Gat Numbers of Wagheri Village, where proposed project is going to be commissined.

Project Proponent answered that requisite information on all the issues raised will be made available to the concerned person.

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee asked Project Proponent that if the concerned person was informed about the project along with the map earlier, has the map of the proposed project been changed now?

Project Proponent said that the map has not been changed.

Chairman of the Committee directed Project Proponent to provide a copy of Gat Numbers which are going to be affected, Gat Numbers of Pane village and the Gat Numbers of Wagheri village and the map today after this meeting only. Concerned person will wait after the meeting to get the requisite information.

The map of the proposed project is Public Document; hence all documents should be made available to the concerned Person, will wait after the meeting.

At that time Shri Bhagwant Dagdu Jadhav, Deputy Sarpanch asked:-

How far is Wagheri village is from proposed project location? Pane village area is definitely going in the project. Pane village boundary is known to Project Proponent. But now we are hearing the name of the Wagheri village. So, we suggest that the information about how much area of Wagheri village is involved in the project should be told here in the meeting.

Project Proponent replied that a small portion of the project was in Wagheri village. It had Project Facility Area. All other information will be provided.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked whether Project Facility Area means Labour Colony

Project Proponent replied that there was a garage, a place to store equipments. He said the project area is 187.0 hectares in Pane village, 75.0 hectares in Khanu village and 31.0 hectares in Wagheri village.

Here again Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested to inform respective Gat Numbers. At

that time, Project Proponent promised to make the information available to the concerned person.

Here **Shri Prakash Sitaram Shedge, Residence-Pane Village, Taluka-Mahad, District-Raigad** objected that the plan and map are 2-3 years old. If such plans and drawings keep changing, then which plan should public accept? Pane village has a total area of 3,000.0 square meters. So, it is possible to acquire an additional area of 31.0 hectares in Pane village itself. So why was it necessary to take the plot of Wagheri village for it?

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee here asked Project Proponent that Shri Shedge, who was present, says that when there is so much area available in Pane village, what was the need to go to Wagheri village area?

Here, Project Proponent explained that as per the design of the project, part of the project was classified at Wagheri area as there was more forest area.

At this time, **Dy. Sarpanch, Pane Gram Panchayat, Shri Bhagwant Dagadu Jadhav** informed that Forest Department land is far away from this project. There is no need to go to the forest area, our Pane village area is so big. So far the name of the Wagheri village was never mentioned.

Today in Environment Public Hearing, if the name of Wagheri village is informed, why was it not told at that time, when our meetings were held so many times. All the lands for the project is going to be acquired of our Pane villagers. So Wagheri village is not related. However, Gat Numbers of Wagheri village should be mentioned which will be acquired for the project.

At that time, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked Shri Jadhav whether he thinks that 31.0 hectares of land in Pane village should have been acquired. Shri Jadhav opined that despite the availability of land in Pane village, the need to go to Wagheri village should be ascertained.

Shri Prakash Sitaram Shedge, Residence-Pane Village, Taluka-Mahad, District-Raigad opined that the reasons given by Project Proponent are not convincing. This is causing confusion among the public. Forest area is going under water, it is accepted. But in Pane village, the lands are proprietary and there is no forest area. Only 31.0 hectares was in question. For the last two years, our negotiations, discussions are going on. If such a shift continues, the question arises as how much faith can be kept on Project Proponent.

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said in the meeting that the public hearing has been organized on the plan of the proposed project approved by the Government.

5) Shri Kashiram Gauri Kadu, Residence-Kadsari Lingana, Taluka – Mahad, District – Raigad :-

Project work is going on in our Pane village for the last one year. Our ancestral lands are in Kadsari Lingana village. We are Scheduled Caste/ Tribe people. However, we have not been given any information about this proposed project. Where the project is going to commission, we have lands. If 187 hectare area of Pane village is going under the project, no information has been given about how much area of Kadsari Lingana village will be affected by the project.

Our area falls under Group Gram Panchayat. Hence, it was necessary to call us for discussions, it is not foreseen. However, Project Officials should provide complete information about the project along with Gat Number of Kadsari Lingana village.

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee asked Project Proponent whether there were discussions and negotiation with the concerned person and also with other people of Kadsari Lingana village? Shri. Kashiram Kadu has objected here that the villagers of Kadsari Lingana have not been informed.

Project Proponent replied that the project is in the initial stage. All further transactions will be done with the consent of all the stakeholders while acquiring the land.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined that the process of land acquisition cannot be completed without the prior permission of the respective land owners, families. No transaction takes place in the government without the permission of the concerned land owner.

6) Shri Vijay Pandurang Kadu, Pane Kadsari Lingana Police Patil:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Proponent / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The proposed project which is going to be commissioned in the jurisdiction of Gram	Project Proponent answered that the families whose land may have to be acquired for the project have been

Panchayat is a Group Gram Panchayat. And Kadsari Lingana is a different revenue village. If 187 families of Pane village are shown to be affected, whether some families of Kadsari Lingana are affected or not? Whether Kadsari Lingana is included in the project or not? According to the suggestions/objections raised by the local people in the meeting, the company has started work without prior permission, but Project Management has not contacted the land owners of our Kadsari Lingana village, provided any information about the project or made any proposal to the local people regarding land compensation.

2) It is objected that the land holding farmers of Kadsari Lingana village will be affected where the project is to be set up.

calculated in the affected category. However, if any more information is required in this regard, it will be made available.

Project Proponent replied that you and everyone else will be informed about the project, the affected people in advance. Now the company is only in Geo-Technical Investigation phase. After its completion, all those whose

	land will be affected by the project will be informed.
--	--

7) Here, Shri Prakash Sitaram Shedge, Residence – Pane Village, Taluka – Mahad, District – Raigad asked that -

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Proponent / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Project Environmental Impact Assessment Report outlines the potential environmental damage may cause by the proposed project and mitigation measures. But after the start of actual work, many small and big contractors will be on the project site. They don't necessarily follow the rules. So we ask about the role and precautions would be taken by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and how we local people should take precautions.	Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee explained that Project Proponent has appointed Government of India NABET approved Environmental Consultant as per EIA Notification, 2006 and their Environmental Consultant has carried Environmental Survey within 10 k.m. radius of the project site as per directives. A draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been prepared and submitted. Also, as shown in the presentation, Project Proponent has prepared an Environment Management Plan (EMP – Environment Management Plan) for which

an amount of Rupees 67.0 Crore has been ear-marked. This Environment Public Hearing is conducted to make aware the local public about the proposed project, the pollution control system which will be mandatory for them. The suggestions and objections raised by you are recorded and will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Minutes will prepared in Marathi and English and after approval of Hon'ble Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee, it will be submitted through Headquarters, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi. An Expert Committee there takes the further decision in this regard. After obtaining the Environment Clearance, its copy is available on the website. You can take it. Accordingly, if any errors are found here, it can be reported to the local MPCB office, further action will be initiated. Besides this, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board

		officials do visit the project site from time to time for inspection and takes further action under Environment Laws, if any discrepancies are observed.
2)	Kal kumbhe is a big project of the Government at Warangi in the northern part of Raigad fort. But before it takes place, it should be disclosed whether public hearing was held or not and what is the reason for holding public hearing of this project.	Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee explained that as per Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 as issued by Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi, it is mandatory to certain projects to obtain prior Environment Clearance from Govt. of India or from respective State Government, prior to commissioning of the project. for which prior environmental consultation is essential. JSW company falls in that category.
3)	In our Region, Administrators have been appointed for all Gram Panchayats. How long they will stay is undecided. However, can the Gram Sevaks, Administrators mutually give the No Objection Certificate to the Project Promoter?	Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee directed to submit written letter. It will be submitted by his office to Chief Officer.

	<p>Otherwise, they should not take mutual decisions without prior approval Gram Sabha.</p>	
<p>4)</p>	<p>Pane villagers are welcoming the project. However, Project Proponent should take care not to harm the environment under any circumstances Also, Project Proponent should implement Skill Development Training scheme for the local people and provide them job opportunities in the project.</p>	<p>Project Proponent replied that the proposed project would not cause any environmental degradation. Also, local people will be given priority in job opportunities. If local young boys and girls require sponsorship for ITI course, sponsorship will be extended to them.</p> <p>Here, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee directed Project Proponent to answer the question accordingly. Chairman of the Committee remarked that local young boys and girls do not need sponsorship. Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that Project Proponent has enough time to start commissioning of the project. Hence, Skill Development Training schemes should be implemented in your own way to make the local young</p>

		<p>boys and girls of the surrounding villages to make employable in the project.</p> <p>After extending Skill Development Training to the boys and girls of the local villages, they should be given an job opportunity on the skilled position in the project after giving an examination on the skilled positions available in the company establishment. Instead of bringing in people from other State, give job opportunities to the local young boys and girls in skilled positions. It is necessary to implement this scheme, as the project is located in a remote area, where there are few employment opportunities.</p>
5)	<p>If the project implements Apprenticeship scheme for local 10th, 12th pass boys and girls, they will get education and stipend - source of income also. Then local people will welcome the project and company will get available trained local persons.</p>	<p>Project Proponent welcomed the suggestion.</p>
6)	<p>After the project is fully operational, how long will its turbines last after power</p>	<p>Project Proponent said that all the components of our project, pressure shaft,</p>

	generation starts? Is temperature going to have any effect on the biodiversity in the project? Please explain in detail.	power house, transferable cable etc., will be underground. However, all these elements will not have any effect on the environment.
7)	Raigad fort – Kalkumbhe large project is under commissioning stage in north – Adani project is under commissioning stage in Warangi Village– JSW project in Pane village – Lingana fort in east – if that area is to be declared as Tourist Places, then how to try?	Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee replied that Code of Conduct is declared by Election Commission of India for Maharashtra Assembly Elections, 2024. After lifting Code of Conduct, you can come District Collector's office for guidance.
8)	When the construction of project will start and in how many years it will be fully operational? Also, how many years' time Government has given to acquire the land.	Project Proponent replied that it would take one-and-a-half years to get all the permissions, Environmental Clearance (EC) from the government. Once the project reaches construction stage, we will complete it in 42 (forty two) months. Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the project is expected to be constructed in five years as per the government's directives. So here you have to get all the government

		permissions to buy the land. It will take five years.
9)	My question is different. After getting the permissions, the project authority will purchase the land. So, in how many years land is allowed to be acquired. That means if they do not purchase the land within specified period, the project will be cancelled and seven-twelve (authority of land) of the purchased land will become null and void.	Project Proponent said that Geo-Technical Investigation is in progress. Once it is completed, the DPR of the proposed project will be prepared. Company will immediately initiate further process. Before it, we need No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Forest Department. After it, land purchase will be started approximately in February-March, 2025.

8) Shri Nilesh Parshuram Jagtap, At Post – Walankond, Taluka – Mahad, District – Raigad :-

He read out his suggestions/objections. The said project is going to commission in our Taluka. This project will provide job opportunities to local people. But we feel that the government is ignoring the potential side effects of the proposed project. In addition to the side effects mentioned in the environmental report, the possible side effects at the local level, i.e. damage to the environment, sand dredging from the Kal river, and possible water shortages which may occur to the local people, have not been mentioned.

The problems arising during the project construction phase and after the commencement of the project should be

discussed with the local citizens, environmental experts, and then only further decisions should be taken.

We are not against development, but in the name of development, we have been suffering the plight of Mahad MIDC. The local population is suffering more and more.

We hereby inform you that you should disclose the general public, the possible side effects and the measures planned by the Government of Maharashtra.

Now in our all Gram Panchayats, Administrators have been nominated. Many Gram Panchayats are not even aware of this project due to the appointment of Administrators. This suggestion is provisional in nature. However, it is a humble request to give us time to study the project report and give suggestions/objections.

Project Proponent replied that appropriate suggestions raised would be implemented. Also, the said project is currently in the Geo-Technical Investigation phase. Further design of the project depends on it. After approval of the project, information will be made available to all Gram Panchayats falls under the project area before the construction starts.

9) Shri Ganesh Barge, Residence – Warangi,

Taluka – Mahad, District – Raigad :-

If there is going to be a power project on the upper side, information should be given about the quality of the water that will be released on the lower side.

Project Proponent said there would be no change in water quality. Water will not be polluted. Everyone should be determined about it.

10) Shri Shantaram Kolvaje, Former Police Patil, Pane Village, Taluka – Mahad, District – Raigad :-

Now, suggestions were raised regarding electricity supply and water supply. So, when the company first came up for discussions, at the same time it was disclosed. Project Proponent has admitted that the village will be provided with electricity and water.

Also, Project Proponent has promised to take care of the environment and health. However, if any information is to be given by Project Proponent, it should be given.

Project Proponent said that we are going to arrange solar power. We will also arrange water. If there is any damage to the environment, further environmental schemes will be implemented only by taking the villagers into confidence.

Shri Shantaram Kolvaje further informed that the Khandsa project that is under commissioning stage is not causing any problem to Warangi.

11) Shri Balu Kanoje, Pane Village, Taluka – Mahad, District – Raigad:-

Sarpanch of Pane village present here should think about Pane village and should not express any opinion about neighboring Wagheri village. Also, Adani project is going to commission in Warangi village, the villagers of Warangi village should think about it.

12) Shri Ramdas Chavan, Residence- Pane Village, Taluka – Mahad, District – Raigad :-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Proponent
---------	------------------------------------	---

		<p>/ Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion</p> <p>1) Now is the age of online. Will the proposed project cause noise pollution to the people in the project area?</p> <p>2) Presentation shows that the project will hire contract workers after the project is operational. So why contractual employment to Bhumiputras, why not include them in permanent cadre?</p>
		<p>Project Proponent said that the proposed project is going to be underground. Hence, the proposed project will not cause noise pollution</p> <p>Project Proponent said that while the project is in the construction phase, the workers will remain on contractual basis. After the construction of the project is completed and the project is operational, the concerned workers will be inducted into the permanent cadre</p> <p>Project Officer further informed that the power house is going to have a turbine. There is a valve system. There is repair, maintenance. For it, persons/workers who have specialized knowledge, trained and have experience in the respective work are needed. For this, it is necessary to take the services of workers from a private expert organization. Hence, the contract is mentioned there.</p>

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to the participants to register environmental queries, suggestions/objections regarding the approved project.

13) Shri Vithoba Pawar, Residence At- Pane, Tal-Mahad, Dist-Raigad.

Since we want to talk about the environment, I talk about it. After traffic starts, the road to Pane village is generally unpaved. Due to the traffic, the traffic of heavy vehicles will increase, so there will be a lot of dust and it will cause trouble to the nearby people.

There will be transportation of steel, construction materials in large quantities. But is there a proposal to concretize that road?

As mentioned earlier in the meeting, the related road will be renovated. Villagers of the area will not face any kind of trouble after the traffic of the project starts.

14) Shri Bandu Sitaram Chandvalkar, Ex. Sarpanch, Pane Group Grampanchayat :-

I am a citizen of this village. The intention of the villagers of Gat Gram Panchayat Pane, Kadsari Lingana is that the local youths here should also get job opportunities here. The skilled youths of this Pane village are going to Mumbai, Pune, Gujarat and getting employment

We have no opposition to the project. However, it is a request that the problems of the local people here should be resolved.

Project Proponent replied that the company would try to give priority in job opportunities to local youth. We are starting to organize medical camps in various villages of the project area.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise any suggestions, views/objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. There was no response from the participants.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that suggestions/objections raised by the participants have been answered nicely by the Project Proponent. Public hearing has been held in a playful atmosphere.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all for attending the meeting and on behalf of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee declared that the meeting is concluded.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed herewith 4/2 suggestions/objections as received.


(Ishwar Thakare)
Convener,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer,
Mahad
Maharashtra Pollution
Control Board,
Mahad


(Sanjay Bhosale)
Member,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Regional Officer - Raigad
Maharashtra Pollution
Control Board,
Raigad Bhavan,
Navi Mumbai


(Sandesh Shirke)
Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Raigad, Alibag
District – Raigad, Alibag.