

## **MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING**

### **MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED PANE OPEN LOOP PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT PROPOSED BY M/S JSW ENERGY PSP SEVEN LIMITED LOCATED AT VILLAGES PANE AND VAGHERI, TALUKA MAHAD, DISTRICT RAIGAD AND VILLAGE KHANU, TALUKA VELHE, DISTRICT PUNE**

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The public hearing of M/S JSW Energy PSP Seven Limited Located at Villages Pane and Vagheri, Taluka Mahad, District Raigad and Village Khanu, Taluka Velhe, District Pune for proposed Pane Open Loop Pumped Storage Project will be held on Friday, 18/10/2023 at 12.00 noon at Mauje Digevasti, Group Gram Panchayat Khanu, Velhe Taluka, District Pune.

Shri. Jayant Doke, Field Officer Deputy Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune1, welcomed Hon. Jyoti Kadam, Additional District Magistrate, Pune and Chairperson, Public Hearing Committee and other members. He also welcomed project promoters, journalists, working in the field of environment M.P. of the organization and the local people present. Welcomed by the Board and Collector's Office, Pune. With the permission of the chairperson of the committee, He briefed the project procedure and purposed of public hearing on environment.

The organizers briefed the project details and stated that the Terms of Reference (TOR) was approved by the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra on 30/01/2024 for the said project. Accordingly, the project promoters have prepared a draft environmental impact assessment report as per the notification dated 14th September, 2006 of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Resources, Government of India, New Delhi to the project promoter's M/s JSW Energy PSP Seven Limited for conducting public hearing on environment of Pane Open Loop Pumped Storage Project located in Villages Pane and Vagheri, Taluka Mahad, District Raigad and Village Khanu, Taluka Velhe, District Pune. MP No. Board received.

As per the letter dated 10/09/2024 from the Collector, Pune, date 18/10/2024 was fixed for public hearing. Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide Office Order No. E- 165/2024 vide Letter No.BO/JD(WPC)/PH/B-241010-FTS-0081, dated 10/10/2024 constituted a Public Hearing Committee on Environment as follows:-

**Hon. Jyoti Kadam**  
Resident Deputy Collector /  
Additional District Magistrate, Pune

- Chairman

**Shri. Jagannath Salunkhe**  
Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune

- Member

**Shri. Kartikeya Langote**  
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune

- Convener

30 days prior to the public hearing as per Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, public hearing of the said project will be held at the project site on Friday 18/10/2024 at 12.00 noon by publishing in local Marathi newspaper Loksatta and English national newspaper Indian Express dated 14/09/2024. had come In it, environmental suggestions, criticisms, objections about the proposed project were made to the public, organizations working in the field of environment.

Also the documents of this project i.e. English and Marathi copies of Environmental Impact Assessment and Executive Summary Report for public information and perusal at the notified offices of the Government i.e. Collector Office, Pune., District Industries Centre, Pune., District Parishad Office, Pune., Regional Office and Sub Regional Office. Pune-1, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Jog Centre, 2nd & 3rd Floor, Wakdewadi, Pune-Mumbai Road, Pune- 411003., Hon. MEMBER SECRETARY, MPRANI MANDAL (HEADQUARTERS), KALPATRU POINT, 3RD FLOOR, SION-MATUNGA SCHEME ROAD NO. 7, Opposite Cineplanet, Near Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai-22, Zonal Office, West Central Zone, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur-440 001. , Department of Environment, New Administration Building, 15th Floor, Madam Cama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai- 32. Sub-Divisional Officer, Sub-Divisional Office, Bhore, Ta. Bhore, Dist. Pune, Tehsildar, Tehsil Office – Velhe, Ta. Velhe, Dist. Pune, Gram Panchayat Office, Teklpole, Mangaon, Harpud, Gondekhal, Ghol,Mohari, Ghisar, Koshimghar, Shirkoli, Bhordi, Nivi, Jadhavwadi, Kolambi, Kanand, Kekand, Gevhande, Ta. Velhe, Dist. Pune, Gram Panchayat Office, Tav, Ta. Mulshi, Dist. Pune. It was informed that Pollution Control Board's website is available here.

Organizers said that if any written instructions are to be given about the proposed project, they should be given to the representative of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. They may be submitted to the Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee. Those who wish to ask oral questions should state their name and village clearly after the presentation.

The Project Promoter/Environmental Consultant will answer those questions. Minutes of the said meeting will be prepared and submitted to the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai by the headquarters of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. This committee is only to record people's opinions, suggestions, objections and this committee has no right to make any decision or recommendation. The said suggestions/objections will be recorded in the minutes. Similarly, the project promoter has to submit a revised environmental assessment report to the environment department, taking note of the video recording of the said meeting, suggestions and objections present in the meeting. The expert committee there takes further decision regarding it. He requested the President to order the project promoters to start the presentation.

The Chairman, Public Hearing Committee on Environment welcomed all the attendees and instructed the Project Officers and their technical advisors to inform about the environmental remedial plans in the government and local language Marathi and appealed to all the people to fearlessly register their objections, objections and suggestions.

The technical advisors appointed by the project presented the project on environment. In this presentation, information about the project, as well as the activities to be done by the project and its results, were given to the audience through a presentation.

After the presentation, Environment Public Hearing Coordinator, Mr. Kartikeya Langote requested the public to raise questions, objections and suggestions.

JSW Energy PSP Seven Ltd. welcomes all the present people in the Pane Open Loop Pumped Storage Project, 1500 Megawatt. This Project is proposed for the two Districts, i.e., Villages Pane and Vagheri, Ta. Mahad, Dist. Raigad and Village Khanu, Ta. Velhe, Dist. Pune, in Maharashtra. The said Project is being introduced to you in short as under-

JSW Energy PSP Seven Ltd. is a special purpose vehicle (SPV) under JSW Neo Energy Ltd. This company is a successful 100% subsidiary company of JSW Energy Ltd. The time schedule of this Project was submitted on the portal of the environment on 27/11/2023 along with application. Thereafter, TOR was issued on 30/01/2024 by MoEF&CC, New Delhi. Baseline monitoring and data collection was carried out in two phases. Firstly, Post monsoon season- October 2022 to December 2022 and pre monsoon season for March 2023 to May 2023. An application for amendment in TOR was made on 27/09/2024. The advertisement of Public Hearing was given in two newspapers, Loksatta (Marathi) and Indian Express (English) on 14/09/2024.

The general process of the pump storage project is such that the lower reservoir will be filled only once. 14.184 MCM water is required to fill the deficient amount of water from Kal River. Thereafter, during day time, pumping arrangement will be made for the carrying the stored water to the Upper Reservoir using Solar Energy Pumps. The electricity would be generated at night in the peak hour by releasing the Water from Upper Reservoir to the Lower Reservoir through turbines, thus generating electricity

in this process. The Electricity Generation will be transmitted using transmission power Grid by Double Circuit. The Map of the plan is as displayed in the PPT. The environmental setting of the said Project is as mentioned. There are no National Parks, Wildlife Reserve, Biosphere Reserve, any other existing projects, Wildlife corridor, Reserved/ Protected Forest, etc. in 10 km radius of the project. There are 9 Reserved Forests within 10 km radius of the project. Project area lies in the Zone IV of the Map of India as per IS 1893-2002- Part 1, i.e, High Damage Risk Zone. The Environmental proponents are shown as per map displayed in the ppt. Therefore, the fundamentals of the project are such that whole Project is on 293.50 Hectares, out of which, Private land is 217.85 Hectares, Forest land is 66.91 Hectares and Government land of 8.74 hectares. The Increase in Project Area was revaluated by the Company. The Requirement of water for one time Filling of the reservoir is 14.184 MCM. Thereafter, 1.01 MCM will be required for compensating the Evaporation losses every year. 125 Permanent Workers and 2100 Contract workers will be required for the project during construction phase. 100 permanent workers and 70 contract workers will be required during operational phase of the project. The Total Cost of the Project is INR 7419.60 crores. The Company has kept a reserved fund of INR 67.75 cr on Environment Protection and Growth and recurring expenses will be INR 1.73 cr per year. The microclimate of project site is observed in the five seasons that we see, hence the care has been take in both post and pre monsoon seasons. Measurement of Air Quality, Noise Decibel levels, Water samples and soil samples were carried out at dedicated centres. Environmental baseline monitoring and data collection was carried out during the post monsoon period of October 2022 to December 2022 and pre monsoon period of March 2023 to May 2023. Air Quality Index was recorded at 8 locations of the area. The observation at both the indices were collected at 8 locations, so was the Water samples taken at 8 locations. 10 samples of groundwater and 10 samples of soil were collected. All these samples are within limits of the Environment Ministry. For environmental management, blasting will be done in a controlled manner. The green belt would be demarcated on the border for Air Pollution Control. Tree plantation would be done. Adequate care will be taken to avoid noise pollution. Acoustic enclosures will be fitted in Diesel Generators to reduce noise pollution, in accordance with CPCB guidelines. The Noise levels would be monitored frequently and tests will be carried out for the same. In order to manage the quality of water during construction phase, 35 KLD portable STP will be fitted in labour camp. The water will be recycled and reused in the same setup. Various plans would be executed for Waste management. 2 waste convertors of 500 kg each will be fitted to manage waste generated and the same will be recycled and reused. Useful materials will be used out of the waste management plan. Waste management and Waste Disposal techniques will be used to recycle Muck generated at site itself. 50% waste will be processed at site and remaining waste will be disposed effectively. Green Belt would be developed in 7.19 hectares out of 293.50 hectares' project area. INR 1000 per hectare will be the capacity for development of Green Belt. The management of Green Belt would be as under-

1. The Company has reserved budget of INR 3 Cr are expected for Watershed Area Development under Environment Management Plan. INR 35 cr for rehabilitation and resettlement. INR 0.25 cr for muck disposal plan. Rs. 3 cr Compensatory Afforestation Plan and INR 3 cr for various other schemes and INR 5 cr for Watershed development plan. The total expenditure will be INR 67.75 cr and INR 1.73 cr expenditure is expected yearly which has been explained briefly as above. Due to this project, 283 project in 3 villages are expected to be affected and whatever private land is purchased, adequate compensation shall be provided. Rehabilitation and Resettlement will be provided to project affected people in whichever way possible. The advantages of the project include Employment opportunities, Development of Socio-economic background, Green belt development. Natural resources will be used at minimum. Rain water Harvesting, Refilling of water catchment area and company is committed to renewable energy/.
2. The company would strive for women empowerment and to raise the standard of living, cultural programs, skill development, health, education aspects. The company would strive for social and economic growth. The health and security in respect of this Project would be taken care of. The security management will be taken care of. The primary checkup of the health of each labor would be done and the health checkup of all the subsequent labors would be carried out. The lungs infection would be taken care of. The company had carried out various social and economic works such as distribution of stationery, tracksuit, sport shoes etc. to the students at Digevasti and Tekpole. Similarly, distribution of stationary materials was carried out for the aanganwadi and primary students at Kadsari Lingana and Pane. The company works even before the start of the project regarding these social works. The villagers of Kadsari Lingana were provided with mats and raincoats. The cycles were distributed to the secondary students of Pane and Digevasti. Ceiling fans were distributed to Pane, Tekpole, and Kadsari Lingana. The water tanks were distributed to Tekpole, Digevasti and Khanu. RO filters with water coolers were given to Tekpole, Kadsari Lingana and Pane schools. The company supports these villages socially and economically.

The following persons participated in the discussion and the responses given by the environmental consultant and project promoter-

1. **Mr. Dinkar Bamgude, former Sarpanch, Tekpole, Pune**- How will the villagers benefit from the Project here? We have no lights and if the company makes the arrangement for solar panels system, wouldn't it be beneficial? In case of Project, our children should be given work. Our children are unemployed and they are going to the other cities for work. They should be given opportunity right here in the Project?

The project promoter said that they will try their level best for the solar panels system. Company will try to accommodate the concerned and nearby villages for employment.

2. **Mr. Santosh Kokare, former Sarpanch, Tekpole, Pune-** Employment opportunities should be given to the local people. There are no health facilities. It should be provided. The conditions of road should be improved?  
The project promoter said that they will give priority to the local people for employment. They would arrange medical camps for health of the local people.
3. **Mr. Mhalu Kokre, Digevasti, Pune** - There are 4-5 accounts (Land documents) in one-acre land in Digevasti, Chandar and Khanu. The road is passing through that land. There have constructed buildings. The company should pay compensation regarding this. What to do if there is any road in half acre in two acres of land?  
The project promoter said that the decision would be taken after discussion with the concerned land account holder, if required. The company would surely consider for compensation.
4. **Villager, Khanu, Pune** - We have the shrine of the local village goddess there at the site of the Project. Will it be shifted to other place honorably?  
The project promoter said that Temple will be constructed at the location as desired by the villagers.
5. **Mr. Dhiraj Shinde, Khanu-** School of Zilla Parishad should be regularly started and all the children should get regular education. The condition of road is very bad. It becomes difficult to drive. The roads should be made roadworthy?

**Additional District Magistrate, Hon. Jyoti Kadam-** This question is of Zilla Parishad. It should be handed over to BDO. Tehsildar should carry out inspection. What is your fund? How much you would you use per year and what is your budget? Why this question arises, has company not made mention of this in its Project?

To which, project promoter replies that the project is of 67 Cr. And we would use Rs. 1.75 cr. Per year in 64 cr. budget.

**Additional District Magistrate, Hon. Jyoti Kadam-** Under responsibility of CSR? Discuss with the Gram Panchayats which are involved in you and make use of the budget with their consent, so that villagers will be benefited.

To which the project promoter replies that the suggestions will be considered and worked out accordingly.

6. **Convener, Shri. Kartikeya Langote, Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune-** I have one suggestion. As per suggestions of the Chairman, there should not be

duplication and the local administration should be taken into confidence and plans should be sanctioned as per their suggestions.

To which the project promoter replied with acceptance to do as suggested.

7. **Member, Shri. Jagannath Salunkhe, Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune-1-**

There is no reference to the environmental impact at the time of blasting. You have to take care that the fields/agriculture of villagers are not damaged. The local people should be made aware of these processes and educated about this. Under the process of blasting, dusting, there should not adverse Environmental Impact.

Project promoter replies that, we are doing the work as per environmental standards only. The blasting will be controlled during construction. Proper security will be provided to the laborers. Green Belt, tree plantation and sprinkling of water will be done at various places. Forestation will be carried out at labor camps and office. There will be provision for oxygen in the tunnels.

8. **Mr. Shantaram Bhor, Khanu-** The lands of various villagers were taken by cheating in the past. The villagers should be given full information of this project and the company and the government should follow up regarding information and compensation should be given and then further to be considered?

To which the project promoter mentions that the question has been already answered earlier.

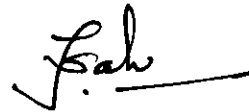
Convener declares that since no more questions are being raised regarding the environmental public hearing, with the permission of the chairman and in her presence, we thank everybody present and the public hearing was declared over.



(Mr. Kartikeya Langote )

Convener

of the Public Hearing Committee and  
Sub Regional Officer, Pune- I, MPCB,  
Pune



(Mr. Jagannath Salunkhe)

Member

of the Public Hearing Committee and  
Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune



(Hon. Jyoti Kadam)

Chairman

Resident Deputy Collector /  
Additional District Magistrate, Pune

