

Minutes of the Environmental Public Hearing in Respect of Proposed Expansion in Existing Project of Integrated Steel Plant from 10.0 MTPA To 15.0 MTPA (Expansion - 5.0 MTPA) At, Dolvi, Taluka-Pen, District-Raigad, Maharashtra State Proposed by Project Proponent M/s JSW Steel Limited -

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of Expansion in existing project of **Integrated Steel Plant from 10.0 MTPA To 15.0 MTPA (Expansion – 5.0 MTPA) At, Dolvi, Taluka-Pen, District-Raigad, Maharashtra State Proposed By Project Proponent M/s JSW Steel Limited** was held on Friday, 22nd August, 2025 at 02.30 noon at JSW Jetty Parking Area, Near Dharamtar Police Check Post, Village-Vave (Vadkhal), Taluka-Pen, District-Raigad (402 107), Maharashtra.

Smt. Rutuja Bhalerao, Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai and Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee on behalf of District Collector Office, Raigad and Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai welcomed Shri Sandesh Shirke, Additional District Magistrate, Raigad 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, Police Administration 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 and subsequent amendments, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification.

The convener informed that the aim of conducting prior public consultation is to make aware the local people regarding the environmental impacts of the proposed project, proposed pollution control systems and Environment Management Plan of the proposed expansion unit.

She informed that Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai was in receipt of application dated 01.07.2025 from **Project Proponent M/s. JSW Steel Limited, At, Dolvi, Taluka-Pen, District-Raigad, Maharashtra State** to

conduct Environment Public Hearing in respect of Expansion in existing project of **Integrated Steel Plant from 10.0 MTPA To 15.0 MTPA (Expansion – 5.0 MTPA) At, Dolvi, Taluka-Pen, District-Raigad, Maharashtra State.**

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” Sr.No.3 (A) – Metallurgical Industries (Ferrous & Non-Ferrous), Sr.No.1 (d) – Thermal Power Project**, which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi, for which prior environmental public consultation is mandatory.

Project Proponent has submitted an online application dated 30.10.2023 to obtain Terms of Reference (ToR) to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi and the ToR is approved on 16.07.2024, wherein it is mentioned to conduct public hearing through the respective State Pollution Control Board.

Meanwhile, Project Proponent has appointed Environmental Consultant M/s Mecon India Ltd. (Initiative by the Government of India), which has obtained NABET approval as per the directives of the Government of India and have carried out the environmental assessment through the environmental consultant. A detailed environmental survey within a 10.0 km radius of the project site was carried out from 1st October 2022 to 31st December 2022 (three months).

A draft of the project site and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report was prepared with study of the potential impact/impacts on the environment due to the establishment of the proposed project. The report is submitted to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board for conducting public hearing.

Joint Director (Water Pollution Control), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide letter dated 07.07.2025 directed Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400 614 to carry the process of conducting environmental public hearing regarding the said project.

Afterwards, Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhaban, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400 614 vide letter dated – 15.07.2025 requested Hon. District Collector, Raigad, Alibag to conduct Environment Public Hearing for the proposed activity.

District Collector, Raigad, Alibag vide letter dated 18.07.2025 directed to conduct Physical Environment Public Hearing on Friday, the 22nd August, 2025 at 02.30 noon at JSW Jetty Parking Area, Near Dharamtar Police Check Post, Village-

Vave (Vadkhal), Taluka-Pen, District-Raigad (402 107), Maharashtra 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- 55 of 2025 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 250728- FTS- 0085, dated 28-07-2025 as under: -

- 1) Hon'ble District Magistrate-Raigad, Alibag **Chairman**
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate
- 2) Representative of Maharashtra **Member**
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -
Regional Officer – Raigad,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Raigad Bhavan, CBD Belapur,
Navi Mumbai – 400 614
- 3) Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-II **Convener**
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Raigad Bhavan, CBD Belapur,
Navi Mumbai – 400 614

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad, Navi Mumbai in the local newspaper in daily Krushival & Raigad Times for Marathi and in national newspaper daily Indian Express for English on 22-07-2025. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed project.

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) Hon. District Collector, Collector Office, Raigad, Alibag
- 3) General Manager, District Industries Centre, Raigad, Alibag;
- 4) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Raigad, Alibag
- 5) Sub Divisional Officer, Pen, Taluka-Pen, District-Raigad
- 6) Sub Divisional Officer, Alibag, Taluka-Alibag, District-Raigad
- 7) Hon. Police Superintendent, Taluka-Alibag, District-Raigad;
- 8) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office-Pen, Taluka-Pen, District-Raigad;
- 9) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office-Alibag, Taluka-Alibag, District-Raigad;
- 10) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti Office, Pen, Taluka-Pen, District-Raigad;
- 11) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti Office, Alibag, Taluka-Alibag, District-Raigad;
- 12) **Taluka-Pen – Gramsevak/ Gram Vikas Adhikari, Grampanchayat Offices –** Dolvi, Karav, Vadkhal, Bori, Kharpale, Kasu, Nigde, Amtem, Koleti, Kasu, Shirki, Masad, Kandle, Umbade, Kotroli, Maleghar, Vashi, Vadhav, Kaleshri, Borje, Kane, Rode, Patnevar, Tarankhop, Div, Taluka-Pen, District-Raigad
- 13) **Taluka-Alibag - Gramsevak/ Gram Vikas Adhikari, Grampanchayat Offices –** Shahabaj, Poynad, Aambepur, Pozari, Shahapur, Shrigaon, Kusumle, Kurdus, Taluka-Alibag, District-Raigad;
- 14) Hon. Secretary, Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;
- 15) Member Secretary, 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;
- 16) Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, 6th Floor, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614;
- 17) Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-II Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, 6th Floor, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614;
- 18) Website, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board –

Executive Summary of the Proposed Project is made available in Marathi and English;

Convener informed that till date, 8121 suggestions / objections have been received from various notified offices/by hand/by post/ by email and through District Collector Office, Raigad by Sub Regional Office, Raigad-II, MPCB, Navi Mumbai 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.

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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 hearing. Similarly, the revised Environmental Impact Assessment Report of the Project Proponent, written suggestions/objections and minutes of the hearing 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 hearing, suggestions and objections recorded in the hearing. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding the same. She requested Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

With the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman, the Project Environmental Consultant made a presentation about the project and the project's Environmental Management Plan.

Environmental Consultant of the project said that under the National Steel Policy, the Ministry of Steel has stated that there is a need for 300 million tons of steel products by 2030. Accordingly, JSW Steel Limited has planned to expand production capacity at its operational project in Dolvi.

The total water requirement for this expansion project will be 1,64,059.0 kiloliters per day. For this, 1,26,249.0 kiloliters per day will be lifted from the Amba River and 37,810.0 kiloliters of water from the project will be recycled and reused.

Project requires about 268 permanent and 6,000 contractual workers during the construction phase and 678 permanent and 2,344 contractual workers after the project is completed. For this, priority will be given to locals.

The cost of the expansion project is estimated at Rs 23,688.0 crore and the annual CSR budget is Rs 23.73 crore in FY 2026. The cost of environmental management is estimated at Rs 832.92 crore.

CRZ demarcation for the project has been done by the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) in Chennai.

In the last fifteen years, about Rs. 27688 lakh has been spent on various social activities in various villages in the project area.

Environmental Consultant gave detailed information about the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) of the proposed project. He said that the said project is in the interest of the local area, the state of Maharashtra and the country.

After the presentation, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, appealed all participants to raise their suggestions, criticisms, and objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. While raising suggestions/objections, they should first state their name and village name.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed all participants that a video recording of the issues raised would be made, and a record of the public hearing would be prepared in Marathi and English.

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

1) Mrs. Shivani Vishwas Mhatre, Sarpanch, Group Grampanchayat, Vadkhal, Taluka-Pen, District-Raigad:-

JSW project is a lifeline for our area. Today, as the Sarpanch, Vadkhal Grampanchayat, I am openly supporting the expansion of the JSW Steel Project as well as the expansion of the JSW Jetty (Phase-3). This project will provide a large number of new job opportunities to local youth. Local businesses and industries will get a boost. Many opportunities of social and educational development will be opened through the project. Also, Skill school, alongwith the nursing college and engineering college, will provide employment opportunities to the local youth in large numbers.

Therefore, we, all the villagers and Members of all the Gram Panchayats, are wholeheartedly welcoming this project. JSW Group has not only built industries but also undertaken many public service projects while maintaining social responsibility. Through CSR funds, significant work has been done in education, health, sports, and water supply, improving the quality of life of the local people.

I, Sarpanch, Group Gram Panchayat Vadkhal, wholeheartedly support the project expansion. I am submitting a written statement also.

2) Shri Anil Parshuram Patil, Residene-Pezari, Post-Poinad, Taluka-Alibag, District – Raigad :-

I am District Secretary of the Shetkari Kamgar Party (Peasants' & Workers' Party). Today, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has organized an Environmental Public Hearing.

If this Environment Public Hearing is conducted as per the guidelines of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, then I have no objection to it. I am not against development. I am not against the project either. But it is important to maintain the environmental balance here. We live here. Whatever difficulties we face in order to survive, it is necessary to eliminate them. I have registered my objection through email and have submitted the objection in person.

Project Proponent has planned an expansion of Phase-

III, which is welcome. However, some of the environmental problems that arose during and after the development of Phase-I and Phase-II have not been resolved yet.

We are still suffering from the various pollution caused by Phase-I and Phase-II. So, I request you not undertake Phase-III Expansion until those pollution problems are resolved first.

Second Objection - Our Dharamtar Creek has been affected by the JSW project and after the expansion, it will only get worse. Till now, 09 (nine) barges are used to come. After the expansion, 15 (fifteen) barges will arrive. The waves generated by the 15 (fifteen) barges will break our bunding. Our village gets flooded during High Tide Level (HTL). Our Shahapur village is below the High Tide Level (HTL). Maharashtra Pollution Control Board needs to pay attention to this.

Third Objection is that this expansion will increase air pollution. As a citizen, I have every right to know what the air quality is, where I live. Still, Project Proponent has not yet installed an Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Display Board, and Maharashtra

Pollution Control Board has not initiated any further action in this regard. Air quality here needs to be assessed.

Fourth objection – Is there any scientific assessment/information regarding the slag generated after processing steel in the project, what kind of pollutants it contains, its chemical impact/reaction on the land, and the scientific disposal of the sludge/slag? It has not been provided. However, relevant information should be made available.

Fifth objection - I have No Objection to this Public Hearing on environmental issues. However, as per Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, it is mandatory to provide the full draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Draft EIA report) to the local, project-affected Gram Panchayat offices, whereas a brief report – Executive Summary Report has been made available.

Therefore, local people have not been able to conduct a detailed study of it. A detailed study needs to be conducted by the local people.

In this regard, as per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, if the concerned Appellate Authority objects to this, Project Proponent will have to conduct an Environmental Public Hearing again if this hearing is found to be illegal.

Hence, my objections regarding the summary environmental impact assessment report should be answered.

I have submitted a written request to get a copy of the minutes of this hearing.

3) **Nanda Mhatre, Environmentalist, Social Activist,**

Ex. Sarpanch, Kadegaon, Taluka--, District-Raigad:-

I and all the villagers here believe that this public hearing was organized after cross-verifying the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report submitted by the company.

This public hearing is being held to expand the capacity of the integrated Steel Plant of JSW Project from 10.0 Million Tonnes per annum to 15.0 Million Tonnes per annum. My written submission is submitted along with evidence.

As per my information, while granting permission to the project for 10.0 Million Tonnes Per Annum, conditions to comply with the Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) was prescribed. However, five minutes before the public hearing began, an inspection was conducted at Kasumata Temple, which is just five minutes away from the project site, and it was observed that the highly polluted liquid from the project was being discharged into Dharamtar Creek.

I have shot a video of it. I want to tell everyone the truth. I request Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to please check the video. There are about six drains. Effluent is being discharged just 50 meters from Dharamtar Creek. But how did Maharashtra Pollution Control Board give permission for ZLD (Zero Liquid Discharge)? This is my first objection. Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) process is not even shown in the Environmental Assessment Report. I request Maharashtra Pollution Control Board that it would have been better if EIA report would have been checked before this public hearing which is submitted by Project Consultant.

Because the report was prepared by a Consultant which is appointed by the company only. The report in English is 3,500 pages long.

We don't know the prescribed standards of water, air, and soil. I only got twelve pages of the EIA report in Marathi. Despite ZLD standards, the company's effluent is discharged into the Dharamtar creek.

So, what will happen to our water sources here after the expansion? I have brought effluent in bottles myself. It should be analyzed. Various types of chemicals will be found in it.

One point the company has made in the EIA report is that Amba River tributary - Creek flows through the project site. Creek was there from the beginning; the project was established later.

I have submitted my objection as per each para. However, only after cross-checking this EIA, call this public hearing again.

Also, whether this Environmental Public Hearing just to support the project or is it to discuss the draft Environmental Impact Assessment report? Because this hearing is a source of confusion.

Because we, the local people, expect to have project's Environmental Assessment Report verified by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board before this hearing.

This Environmental Public Hearing should be considered official only if the company's environmental assessment report is verified by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. Otherwise, I am of the opinion that this public hearing is illegal.

4) Shri Yogesh Kashinath Patil, Member, Grampanchayat Vadkhal, Taluka-Pen, District – Raigad:-

Today is a historic day in our Vadkhal area. We all support this project expansion. Due to the project expansion, new job opportunities will be available in the project.

This will boost development here. Therefore, we are supporting the project expansion.

Vadkhal Gram Panchayat has expressed support for the project expansion, the reason being that this project was established in 1993.

The commercialization that took place at the Vadkhal border crossing stop (Naka) at that time and the increased population, trade, and industry in Vadkhal now in 2025 are due to the JSW project only.

We live near the creek only. And even today, a large quantity of fish is being obtained from the creek itself. Company Administration has planned this project expansion considering the fishermen population of this Dharamat creek.

I would like to state in this Environment Public Hearing that JSW project has already constructed a separate market for the fishermen here.

At this time, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee directed participant to raise his points. Company will present the company's points. Chairman of the Committee appealed all to raise suggestions or objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only.

Shri Yogesh Patil suggested that –

- a) Local young boys and girls should be given priority while extending job opportunities in expanded project;
- b) Skilled and Unskilled contract workers working in the project should be guaranteed safety and welfare schemes;
- c) Regarding Environmental Protection, it is said that more tree plantation/green belt should be developed than the way Project Proponents have planted trees in Suryawadi and Maldung;
- d) Through Rural Educational Development, the students in this area are ITI/Diploma holders. So my request is that there should be a medical college and a nursing college here;
- e) The game of this land is Kabaddi. So there should be an academy for the Kabaddi game here.
- f) Project is being expanded. At the same time, the needs of the local people should be fulfilled. Farmers should get a fair price for their land,

- g) Landowners whose lands is acquired for leasehold should be paid a fair price;
- h) A Study Center for local youth to appear Central Government and State Government competitive examinations should be established immediately through JSW Foundation. Thus, the youth here will get guidance for preparation of UPSC and MPSC Exam.
- i) Further guidance camps should be organized from time to time for ITI, 10th and 12th standard students.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all to follow time constraints and give others the opportunity to speak. Your written statement has been received

5) Shri Jeevan Patil, Residence-Kusumbale Village, Taluka-Alibag, District-Raigad:-

Today, we thank JSW company. Because what would have happened, if the JSW project had not been there? The unemployment in this area would have increased dramatically.

One Member of the family of the original Land Owners have been given job opportunity in the company who have given their land for this project. We express our gratitude to the owners of this company for providing employment contract to the local people.

I support this project's expansion. When he asked the participants if they supported it, a majority of hands were raised.

At this time, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee appealed to the participants that what is done by the company is mentioned in the report. The time limit should be followed. Similarly, environmental suggestions and objections regarding the proposed project should be recorded. There should be no speeches. Also, those who wish to submit written submissions should submit them, and acknowledgement will be given.

Shri Jeevan Patil suggested that the company has carried bunding. However, I have a demand on behalf of Kusumbale and Shrigaon villages of Alibaug taluka that the company should carry the bunding of our barren land in the villages of Gawlikota, Medhekarkhadi etc.

I demand that the company should pay attention to eliminating unemployment, extend employment opportunities to the local people, and reduce pollution by planting trees in the area. Just as Company transformed every village in Pen taluka, the same should be done in the villages of Alibaug taluka. Development works should be done in Alibaug taluka as carried in Pen taluka.

Just as the ITI and skill development project is being implemented in Pen taluka, it should be implemented in Alibaug taluka also. The unskilled workers should be given skill development training and made skilled.

My Alibaug Taluka Shiv Sena Farmers' Association expressed support for this proposed expansion project.

6) Shri Chaitanya Usha Laxman Patil, Residence – Patani Village, Post – Kasu, Taluka-Pen, District – Raigad:-

Raigad district, which is famous as the "Rice Granary", how much slag is generated due to company's production? If a large amount of slag is dumped on fertile fields during the production of 10.0 million tons per year, then how much more slag will be dumped on fields in our area, at 15.0 million tons per year?

What will farmers eat? Will they eat steel? However, one good work has been done by the company, i.e. laying of pipeline work. The pipeline work has been done from Patan to Dolvi, up to Vadkhal.

Company promised that it would provide free drinking water supply through pipeline with centralized filtration. Even today, the people of our Kasu village are deprived of potable filtered water. Many people are suffering from waterborne diseases, like jaundice. If such a big company did not install drinking water pipeline.

Here, Sub Divisional Officer also gave Order to provide free Potable Filtered Water to villages. As per Census of 2000, there was population of 36,000 souls and now it is 50,000 souls, who have to drink impure water. If the company does such a big job, why hasn't it provided clean water here?

Now the slag generated in the project is dumped in the fields, rendering agriculture infertile. During the monsoon, the slag water flows to other fields, causing all the neighboring fields to become infertile, according to the report of the Agriculture officials.

Taluka Agriculture Officer has personally inspected and given this report. All the rice seedlings have burned here. A lot of correspondence has been done with the government along with this report.

The expansion project is said to provide employment opportunities to 3,000 people. But how many local people have been permanently employed so far? It should be answered.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed in the hearing to raise environmental suggestions, objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only

7) Shri Parshuram Mhatre, Sarpanch, Dolvi Grampanchayat, Taluka-Pen, District-Raigad:

Today's public hearing on environmental issues is for the expansion project of JSW. We were misled that the Coke oven project is coming here, that the capacity of the Coke oven project is increasing. However, the company clarified that the capacity of the Coke oven project will not be increased. The presentation indicated that the expansion project will provide employment opportunities to 3,000 people.

So, the definition of local people we have here should be changed. Priority should be given to the villagers of the 4-5 villages affected by the project while providing employment opportunities.

I support the proposed expansion. Also, free treatment should be provided at the project's Sanjeevani Hospital.

At this time, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee again appealed to the participants to register only suggestions and objections related to the environment. He advised them not to speak in support.

8) Shri Sadanand Thakur, Khardhombi Village, Taluka--, District-Raigad, former Soldier, Two Times Winner of Special Medal, Medical & Intelligence Agency-

There was a refinery before JSW. This is my eighth public hearing since the Power Project.

My first objection is that as per the EIA report submitted by the Project Proponent, there is a mountain to the east of JSW project.

So why isn't the height of the mountain mentioned in the report? The metallic dust and carbon emitted from the company falls on our homes in the villages.

Our gardens have been destroyed. All our mango orchards have been destroyed. We condemn you for the deception that has been made to us till date.

It has been objected in the hearing that though Zero Liquid Discharge is prescribed, the wastewater from Phase-1 and Phase-2 is being discharged into the Amba River. Here, Project Proponent or their representatives should state the timeline of when the treated effluent will be discharged and when it will be discharged.

Here again Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise environmental issues in respect of proposed project. It is noted and will be included in the minutes of the hearing which will be submitted to Government.

Shri Sadanand Thakur objected that Project Proponents have destroyed the entire Amba river under the name of ZLD. This Amba River is the Ganga of our Alibaug and Pen people. For the past hundreds of years, fishermen and fish sellers have been making a living on the Amba River for generations.

Project Proponent wants to expand the project by destroying the Amba river. I have an objection here. Until the situation improves, no permission should be given to the Project Proponent.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to participants to think about time limit and urged participants only to raise specific suggestions and objections.

He further blamed that people are suffering due to the unauthorized filling of slag by the Project Proponent. And Hon'ble District Collector, Raigad has issued Orders on 24-09-2018 that even if the farmers ask for filling, company should not fill it. So how does this unauthorized filling is carried? Company should answer this, otherwise, they should not be given any kind of permission.

**9) Shri Vijay Changdev Patil, Residence-Gadab, Kharchirbi Gaon, Taluka--,
District-Raigad:-**

I am a farmer. My farm was barren for 8-9 years. The farm was destroyed by sea water. No representative came to me for ten years when the farm was in bad shape.

With the approval of the District Collector and the approval of the Project Proponent, work worth of Rs 5-7 lakhs was done on the farm embankment from the CSR fund, so my farm was saved. Not just my farm, but all the supplies of seeds and fertilizers to all the farmers have been made through the company's CSR fund. Farmers are guided on how to get the best crop. I support this project.

10) Shri Dilip Madhukar Mhatre, Residence-Kaleshri, Taluka-Pen, District-Raigad -

JSW factory is creating employment in our village. The workers appointed in the project do hire houses in our villages providing a source of income for local homeowners.

11) Shri Maruti Mhatre, Residence-Vadkhal Village, Taluka-Pen, District – Raigad, Tanta Muki President:-

This company was established in 1990. Many unemployed people here got jobs. Business grew. We agree with the company's expansion proposal.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise any suggestions, objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed all participants that you can submit written suggestions and objections to the District Collector's Office during office hours for two more working days, i.e. from August 25 to August 26, 2025.

12) Shri Sanjay Janardhan Jambhale, Residence—Dolvi Village, Taluka-Pen, District-Raigad:-

When the public hearing was held in 2014, I fell for the lure of this company, and we sincerely supported it at that time. Later we realized that all the contractors are here only.

In 2014, I said that this project needs to come here. At that time, they put some conditions on us, the same conditions have been put on us now.

Project is causing pollution. The balance of water, air and soil is disturbed. I go to my village Dolvi. Because of the project, there is so much smell in Dolvi village, due to which the ratio of diseases like asthma and cancer has increased.

If we look at the death rate of 2024, four people die every month in each village. Today, in Dolvi village, almost 25 people died in three months. The rate of cancer has increased in the village. There are people suffering from cancer in our village.

If the people of Kolve village here go to Sanjeevani Hospital for dialysis, hospital officials tell them to go to Alibag. However, their officer had written that dialysis should be done in Sanjeevani. Why are local patients given trouble for money?

Here we only want to talk about pollution. There is no opposition to the expansion of project, but the local people, local contractors of this company are suffering a lot due to the pollution and the company.

Pollution has increased here. The quantity of uric acid has increased here. As far as the pollution that is being caused due to Phase-2 is concerned, first stop it, only then this project should be considered after organizing a public hearing.

13) **Shri Sanjay Chavarkar, Residence-Mouje Gadab, Taluka, District-Raigad:-**

The International Court of Justice has ruled that "Clean Air" is a fundamental human right. However, the local people here need clean air. Not only just local people, but the workers working in the company also need clean air. Company's Phase-I and Phase-II have worsened the local air quality. The smell of air that comes from Gadap to Pen is unbearable. It smells like tar and burnt cow dung.

The children and the elderly in the area are suffering from diseases. This means that for the benefit of 20% of the people here, you are attacking 80% of the people with polluted air.

We are not against development. But during development, health problems should not increase; no one should suffer from that development.

I am of the opinion that after considering the issue seriously, the EIA report of the project should be revised again, translated into Marathi, and a public hearing should be held again, and only then should Phase-3 be considered.

14) **Shri Rajesh Bhikaji Mokal, Sarpanch, Vadkhal Gram Panchayat, Taluka-Pen, District-Raigad:-**

Presentation of Phase-III of the project is shown. If Phase-II and Phase-III are allowed as per the 2006 rules, then it is allowed in the rules. Give permission to subject the rules.

While giving permission, the company has some responsibilities which the company should follow. For example- water. So, the company should provide water to our village Vadkhal 24 hours a day. The hospital should be provided with good doctors, and the local people should be provided with free treatment.

Use CSR funds for local social work. We, all the villagers, support the expansion project.

15) **Shri Abhimanyu Yeshwant Mhatre, Residence-Bhal village, Taluka-- ,District-Raigad:-**

I am raising an issue; this issue has been given by the government. It is an issue given by the Executive Engineer, Salt land Survey Department, Pen on 19-06-2023. I have no objection to the progress of the country at all.

However, according to the report of the Salt Land Survey Department, the big barges of the JAKW project come from the Amba river to the Dharamtar jetty. For them, 20-25 feet of river silt has been removed.

The natural rock there is there to sustain the dam, it is a natural rock that has been broken. By increasing the depth by 20-25 feet, our agriculture in Viththalwadi village, Lakole etc. villages have been completely ruined. A fund of almost one hundred crores was received for this salt land.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee again appealed all to raise environmental issues in respect of proposed project. He informed that those who desire to submit written suggestions/objections can submit in two working days i.e. from 25th August to 26th August 2025 in office hours at Collector Office or can submit individually to Additional District Magistrate in person.

Shri Abhimanyu Mhatre objected that our land has become barren due to salt water and nothing grows there. However, these issues should be taken into account.

At that time, one of the participants requested that a cancer patient be allowed to speak. At that time, Chairman personally acknowledged the written statement and asked the concerned person to submit a written statement.

16) **Shri Mangesh Bhagat, Residence-Shahabai, Taluka – Alibag, District-Raigad:-**

He has submitted written suggestions/objections.

17) **Sou. Ashvini Thakur, Residence-Fanas Dongari, Taluka-Pen, District-Raigad: -**

Some people here are raising the issue of pollution from the company. There are so many factories in Mumbai, isn't there pollution there?

18) **Advocate Tanmay Harichandra Patil, Residence-Pen, District – Raigad:-**

Here, Advocate Tanmay Harichandra Patil, resident of Pen, raised an objection, saying that our ancestors' land has been snatched away. Only one man from the family was given a job.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to raise suggestions/objections. But few people were talking on other subject collectively instead of Environment Public Hearing.


While concluding the hearing, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee again appealed all that those who desire to submit written suggestions or objections, they can submit it at District Collector Office, Raigad, Alibag, office of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board from Monday, the 25th August, 2025 to 26th August, 2025. It will be submitted along with minutes of the hearing to Government, He thanked all for attending the public and raising the environmental issues and declared that Environment Public Hearing is concluded.

Hearing ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed herewith letters received regarding support/ suggestions- 12,363 and letters regarding objections- 394. Also, copy of the submission by the project proponent in response to the points raised in the public hearing, is attached with these minutes.



(Rutuja Bhalerao)
Convener,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-2,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Raigad, Raigad Bhavan,
Navi Mumbai



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



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