

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING DTD. 20/05/2026 OF THE PROPOSED TWO DOLOMITE MINES BY M/S. SHAKUNTALA MINERALS PRIVATE LIMITED, KARWAHI, TAL.RAMTEK, DIST-NAGPUR HAVING PRODUCTION QUANTITY OF 2,86,875 TPA AND 2,78,903 TPA RESPECTIVELY

M/s. Shakuntala Minerals Private Limited, Karwahi, Tal.Ramtek, Dist-Nagpur had requested to conduct Environmental Public Hearing in respect of proposed two dolomite mines having Lease Area-11.79 Ha. and 12.28 Ha. at Vill. Karwahi, Tal.Ramtek, Dist-Nagpur having proposed production quantity of 2,86,875 TPA and 2,78,903 TPA respectively as per Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India Notification dated 14.09.2006 and amended notification dated 1.12.2009. The Public Hearing was held at Proposed Project Site of M/s. Shakuntala Minerals Private Limited under the Chairmanship of Shri. Amol Kumbhar, In-charge Additional District Magistrate, Nagpur. Smt. Hema Deshpande, Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Nagpur attended the hearing as a member of the public hearing panel and Smt. Dhanashree Patil, Sub-Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Nagpur-I as a Member Convener. The Public Hearing commenced at 11.30 am with the permission of the Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel. Attendance of the citizens present during the public hearing is attached as (Annexure-I)

BACKGROUND:

M/s. Shakuntala Minerals Private Limited submitted a request to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (HQ), Mumbai to conduct Environmental Public Hearing for proposed two dolomite mines at Kh.No. 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622 (Lease Area-11.79 Ha.) and at Kh.No. 625, 626, 627, 628, 629 (Lease Area – 12.28 Ha.) on 16/02/2026. In view of this request MPCB (HQ) directed to initiate the process for public hearing vide letters No. MPCB/JD)WPC)/ENV-PH/B-260304-FTS-0299 & MPCB/JD)WPC)/ENV-PH/B-260304-FTS-0300 dtd. 04/03/2026 (Annexure-II)

PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE:

Public Hearing procedure was initiated with the permission of Chairman of Public Hearing panel. The Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Nagpur-I welcomed the Chairman and Member of the public hearing panel, local citizens and others.

The Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Nagpur-I informed that, the Public Hearing is conducted for recording the views/objections/suggestions of the participants regarding the project, and the same will be communicated as it is to the Ministry. She also clarified that this panel is not here to take decision regarding accordance of approval to the project and appealed the participants to express their views and suggestions orally or in writing.

Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Nagpur-I explained the purpose of conducting this public hearing and informed that as per MoEF&CC, GOI Notification SO 60(E) of 27th January, 1994 amended on 14th September 2006 notices for the public hearing were published in local widely circulated Newspapers i.e. the 'Hitavada' (English) and 'Navrashtra' (Marathi) on 17/04/2026. Copies of the same are enclosed as (Annexure-III)

Copies of the draft EIA & executive summary containing salient features of the project in English & Marathi and other information/documents were made available to the public before 30 days in various Govt. offices as well as local Gram Panchayats as per MoEF&CC, GOI Notification. Suggestions, comments and objections of the public were called in writing during the notice period of the publication of the notice. The public hearing panel was constituted vide MPC Board Office Order dtd. 08/05/2026. Copy of the same is enclosed as **(Annexure-IV)**. One representation was received to MPCB till the date of public hearing. Copy enclosed as **(Annexure-V)**

Thereafter, Sub-Regional Officer, Nagpur-I and Convener requested the project proponent to give the detailed presentation about the project. Accordingly, representative of the project proponent gave detailed power point presentation of the project in Marathi language. Project proponent explained regarding project location, benefits of proposed project, proposed facilities, fire-fighting facilities, description of environment and identification of anticipated impact, Land environment, climate and meteorology, Air Environment, existing water quality, water consumption, biological environment, socio-economic environment, impact on local infrastructure, environment management plan, air emission, preventive maintenance / inspection etc.

After the presentation Sub-Regional Officer & Convener Smt. Dhanashree Patil requested the citizens to express their views, comments, concern & suggestions after mentioning their name & name of the village.

FOLLOWING MEMBERS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN PUBLIC HEARING AND RAISED QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS. THE DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1) Shri. Ranjeet Kukde, Sarpanch, G.P. Karwahi, Tal-Ramtek, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1.	Karwahi is the last village of Maharashtra. Since this village is predominantly inhabited by tribal communities, there are very limited employment opportunities available here. The women of this village travel to Ramtek or Parseoni for daily wage labor work. If this project is approved, it will create employment opportunities for the local people and provide support to the farmers. They requested that the necessary action be taken to grant approval to the project at the earliest, in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations.	Point noted.

2) Shri. Rajesh Gowardhan, Police Patil, Karwahi, Tal-Ramtek, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1.	If the project is commenced, it will provide employment opportunities to youth like us. At present, many young people from the village travel 50 to 100 kilometers to work in industrial areas or migrate to other states in search of employment. If this project creates job opportunities closer to the village, it will help improve their family life and overall standard of living. Currently, the unemployment rate is increasing. Therefore, if this project is implemented at the earliest, it will be highly beneficial for the people of our area.	Point noted.

3) Shri. Ravindra Kumbhre, Karwahi, Tal-Ramtek, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	We have no objection to the proposed project, as it will create employment opportunities for the local people.	Point noted.

4) Shri. Jairam Swapre, Karwahi, Tal-Ramtek, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	Agriculture is the primary occupation in Karwahi; however, farmers do not obtain significant yields from their agricultural activities. Many educated people in the area are unemployed, which has led to financial difficulties for them and their families. Therefore, the mining project should be started at the earliest so that unemployed educated youth from the surrounding villages of Chhavari, Dulara, Manegaon, Bandra, Lodha, Sitapar, Pindkepar, Garra, and Savara can obtain employment opportunities.	Point noted.

5) Shri. Ashwin Bisle, Karwahi, Tal-Ramtek, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	What measures have been planned regarding responsibility and compensation in the event that blasting activities in the proposed mine cause any adverse impacts or damage to farmers' crops? Who will be held accountable for such losses?	In response, the project proponent stated that to ensure blasting activities do not adversely affect agriculture, modern blasting technology will be used and blasting will be strictly controlled as per regulations. Necessary precautions will be taken to ensure that there is no impact on crops. A 7.5-meter-high safety barrier zone will be developed along with plantation around the project area. In addition to this, if any damage occurs to agricultural crops, compensation will be provided for the losses.

6) Shri. Sunanda Reddy, Environmentalist.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	I would like to congratulate the management for selecting a suitable location for the mining project in this area. I also congratulate the consultant for preparing the detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for this project. However, I would like to present some suggestions to maintain a balance between environmental protection and economic development. After completion of mining activities in this area, the site should be converted into a water conservation project or the mined-out area should be reclaimed and used for plantation. In addition, priority should be given to planting fruit-bearing trees and plants with medicinal value in the proposed afforestation program. Furthermore, skill development training programs should be implemented for local youth and unemployed young people with the support of the government. This will provide skilled manpower to the industry and also create future employment opportunities for these youths in other places. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds should be utilized for need-based development works in consultation with local people. This will significantly contribute to the overall development of the region.	Point noted.

Smt. Hema Deshpande, Member and Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Nagpur raised the following issues:

It was not mentioned during the presentation by the project proponent and technical consultant whether there is any distance between the two mining leases or whether they are separate entities. It is also unclear whether both mining leases form a combined cluster or are independent of each other.

Since the project is located along a road, transportation will take place. In this regard, will an alternative route be provided for vehicle movement? How many vehicles will be transported daily from the mine, and has it been ensured that the road is strong enough to handle this traffic? This should be properly verified so that local people do not face any inconvenience due to transportation activities.

The Project Proponent/Technical Consultant clarified that both mining leases are separate and there is a distance of 300 to 400 meters between them. The mining plans and government approvals for both leases are also separate. It was further explained that environmental clearances for both leases will be obtained independently.

However, since both mining leases fall under a cluster and their combined area exceeds 25 hectares, conducting a public hearing for environmental clearance is mandatory for these projects.

Shri Amol Kumbhar, Chairman and In-charge Additional District Magistrate, Nagpur, reviewed the issues raised by the participants and addressed the gathering by stating that if there are any remaining doubts or concerns regarding the project, they should be raised so that the project proponent can clarify them. He further stated that the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report and other related documents regarding the project had been made available in various government offices. This public hearing has been organized to understand the objections and issues of the public related to environmental matters. Among the issues raised, the primary concern was employment. It was also assured that for any recurring issues such as crop damage, the project proponent would remain in regular contact with the local people. It was stated that the issues raised by the citizens and the responses given by the project proponent would be recorded and forwarded to the government for further action.

Smt. Dhanashree Patil, Convener and Sub-Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Nagpur-1, with the permission of the Hon'ble Chairperson, declared that the public hearing on environmental matters had concluded.



(Hema Deshpande)
Member of the Public Hearing Panel
and
Regional Officer, MPC Board, Nagpur



(Dhanashree Patil)
Convener of the Public Hearing Panel
and
Sub-Regional Officer, MPC Board, Nagpur-I.



(Amol Kumbhar)
Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel
and
In charge, Additional District Magistrate, Nagpur