

MAHARASHTRA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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"Your Service is our Duty"

No./MPCB/JD(WPC)/ENV/PH/B- 251031-FIS-0024

Date: 31/10/2025

To,
The Principal Secretary,
Environment & Climate Change Department.
Government of Maharashtra,
Room No. 217 (Annex) New Administration Building,
Mantralaya, Mumbai-400032.

Sub: Proceeding of Environmental Public Hearing in respect of the **Proposed Expansion** of existing Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility (CBMWTF). The proposed expansion is proposed at existing Plot No. 30, BIDCO Industrial Estate, Chintupada, Palghar. It is proposed to establish additional facility (a) 1 nos. x 200 kg/hr Incineration Facility, in compliance with standards mentioned in Schedule II of Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016 and CPCB guidelines, (b) Autoclave – 1 nos. x 200 Ltrs/Batch and (c) Shredder – 1 no. x 200 Kg/Hr. Additional 360 sq. m. area will be required for the proposed expansion project. The total area after expansion will be 4,301 sq. m, **Proposed by** M/s.Touch n Glow, Palghar.

Ref: Sub-Regional Tarapur-II vide letter dtd-17.10.2025, Received on 27.10.2025

Madam,

The Public Hearing for **Proposed Expansion** of existing Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility (CBMWTF). The proposed expansion is proposed at existing Plot No. 30, BIDCO Industrial Estate, Chintupada, Palghar. It is proposed to establish additional facility (a) 1 nos. x 200 kg/hr Incineration Facility, in compliance with standards mentioned in Schedule II of Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016 and CPCB guidelines, (b) Autoclave – 1 nos. x 200 Ltrs/Batch and (c) Shredder – 1 no. x 200 Kg/Hr. Additional 360 sq. m. area will be required for the proposed expansion project. The total area after expansion will be 4,301 sq. m, **Proposed by** M/s.Touch n Glow, Palghar.

Environmental public hearing Conducted on dtd-18.09.2025, Time-11.00. A.M., at Shikshak Patpedhi Bhavan, Valan Naka, Kelwe Mahim Road, Palghar (W), Tal. Dist. Palghar 401404. The minutes of the public hearing approved and duly signed by the Public hearing panel along with the proceedings are enclosed.

- Minutes of public hearing duly signed by the Chairman of public hearing panel in (English & Marathi)
- Copy of Office Order
- Video DVD and Photograph of Public Hearing.
- List of participants.
- Newspaper Notices for Environmental Public Hearing in English & Marathi.

This is submitted for further necessary action please.

Yours Sincerely,

(M. Devender Singh, IAS),
Member Secretary

Encl: As above

Copy for information & necessary action to:

- 1) The Regional Officer, MPCB, Thane.
- 2) The Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Thane -II
- 3) EIC, M.P. C. Board, Mumbai - For information & display of Minutes on website.

Copy to the applicant of the project:

M/s.Touch n Glow, Palghar.

Minutes of the Environmental Public Hearing For Proposed Expansion in Existing Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBMWTF) From 3.15 MTPD To 13.95 MTPD (Expansion by 10.80 MTPD) At Plot No.31, Bidco Industrial Estate, Chintupada, Palghar, Taluka,District-Palghar, Maharashtra By Project Proponent M/s Touch n Glow, Palghar,Taluka,District-Palghar, Maharashtra

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of Proposed Expansion In Existing Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBMWTF) From 3.15 MTPD To 13.95 MTPD (Expansion by 10.80 MTPD) At Plot No.31, Bidco Industrial Estate, Chintupada, Palghar, Taluka,District-Palghar, Maharashtra By Project Proponent M/s Touch n Glow, Palghar,Taluka,District-Palghar, Maharashtra was held on Thursday, the 18th September, 2025 at Shikshak Patpedhi Bhavan, Valan Naka, Kelwe Mahim Road, Palghar (West), Taluka,District-Palghar (401 404), Maharashtra.

Shri Virendra Singh, Sub Regional Officer, Tarapur-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Tarapur, Taluka,District-Palghar -401 504 and Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee on behalf of District Collector Office, Palghar and Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Palghar welcomed Shri Subhash Bhagade, Additional District Magistrate, Palghar and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Kiran Hasabnis, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Thane 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, Gol) dated 14th September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009 & 17th April, 2015, 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 Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of application dated 15.07.2025 from **Project Proponent M/s Touch N Glow, Palghar, Taluka & District Palghar, Maharashtra** to conduct Environment Public Hearing in respect of their Proposed Expansion In Existing Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBMWTF) From 3.15 MTPD To 13.95 MTPD (Expansion by 10.80 MTPD) At Plot No.31, Bidco Industrial Estate, Chintupada, Palghar, Taluka & District Palghar, Maharashtra.

Convener further informed that as per EIA Notification No.1533 (E), Dated 14.09.2006 as amended Notification dtd. 17.04.2015, the proposed activities fall under **Category "B" Schedule 7 (D)(A)**, which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Ministry of Environment & Climate Change, Maharashtra Government, Mumbai for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

Accordingly, Project Proponents submitted the proposal along with the Pre-Feasibility Report along with the prescribed application to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai

on 14.09.2024 and TOR has been approved by Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Maharashtra Government, Mumbai on 01.10.2024.

Accordingly, Project Proponent has appointed an Environmental Consultant who 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 from 1st January, 2025 to 31st March, 2025 (three months).

A draft of the project site and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report was prepared and submitted to study the potential impact/impacts on the environment due to the establishment of the proposed project.

Afterwards, Sub Regional Officer, Tarapur-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, MIDC Residential Colony Compound, Post-TAPP, Boisar (West), Taluka & District-Palghar – 401 504 vide letter dated 21.07.2025 requested Hon. District Collector, Palghar to conduct Environment Public Hearing for the proposed activity.

Additional District Magistrate, Palghar vide letter dated 12.08.2025 directed to conduct Physical Environment Public Hearing on Thursday, the 18th September, 2025 at 11.00 a.m. at Shikshak Patpedhi Bhavan, Valan Naka, Kelwe Mahim Road, Palghar (West), Taluka & District Palghar (401 404), Maharashtra.

Then 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- 64 of 2025 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 250821- FTS- 0212, dated 21-08-2025 as under: -

1) District Magistrate-Palghar
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate

Chairman

2) Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -
Regional Officer – Thane,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Thane

Member

3) Sub Regional Officer, Tarapur-II
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Boisar (West),
Taluka, District-Palghar

Convener

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Tarapur-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, MIDC Residential Colony Compound, Post-TAPP, Boisar (West), Taluka & District-Palghar – 401 504

in a local newspaper in daily Lokmat for Marathi and in a national newspaper daily Free Press Journal for English on 18-08-2025. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed project.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summery 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, Palghar;
3)	General Manager, District Industries Centre, Palghar;
4)	Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Palghar;
5)	Sub Divisional Officer, Palghar, District-Palghar;
6)	Tahsildar, Taluka-Tahsildar, District-Palghar;
7)	Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti Office, Palghar, District-Palghar;

8)	Sarpanch/ Gramsevak, Grampanchayat-Mahim, Taluka, District-Palghar;
9)	Director, Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15 th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;
10)	Joint Director (JPC), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai – 400 022;
11)	Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Thane;
12)	Sub Regional Officer, Tarapur-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, MIDC Residential Colony Compound, Post-TAPP, Boisar (West), Taluka & District-Palghar – 401 504, Maharashtra
12)	Website, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board – Executive Summary of the Proposed Project is made available in Marathi and English;

Convener informed that no suggestions / objections have been received from various notified offices/by hand/by post upto dtd.17.09.2025 by Sub Regional Office, Tarapur-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Tarapur 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 & Climate Change, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai 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.

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

Environmental Consultant of the project said that Project Proponent M/s Touch n Glow, Palghar, Taluka, District-Palghar, Maharashtra has planned Proposed Expansion In Existing Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBMWTF) From 3.15 MTPD To 13.95 MTPD (Expansion by 10.80 MTPD) At Plot No.31, Bidco Industrial Estate, Chintupada, Palghar, Taluka, District-Palghar, Maharashtra.

Proposed project will cost Rs. 1.70 crore, while the expansion will provide employment to an additional 20 people.

The project will develop a green belt as per the government guidelines. The environmental consultant analyzed all the technical aspects through a presentation.

After the Presentation, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise suggestions or objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. While raising suggestions/objections, first tell name and name of the village.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed participants that a video recording would be made, and minutes of meeting of the environment 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) Preeti Arun Patil, Sarpanch, Grampanchayat Mahim, Taluka, District-Palghar:-

An Environmental Public Hearing has been organized regarding the expansion of the Touch N Glow project, which is operating here. A presentation regarding this has been shown in this meeting. A copy of the report on the proposed expansion of was made available to us. After studying it, we have drawn out 23 (twenty-three) points.

However, after public notice of organization of this Environment Public Hearing on environmental issues, we, Mahim Gram Panchayat Sarpanch, all office bearers, and villagers have visited and inspected the project of M/s Touch N Glow Project.

I would like to comment on what I saw during our visit.

When we visited the project site, we noticed that the project was in the "Red Zone" area. However, there was no name board with the company's name near the project and at the project gate.

Also, there was no information written about the project activities. The pH meter installed inside the project was not in working stage. They said that ETP was functioning in the project. However, there was no indication that the ETP was functioning properly.

When they were asked how much water they needed per day for the project's processes and how much water they were allowed to extract ground water per day, a discrepancy was found.

Also, although Project Proponent informed us that the wastewater generated in the project is processed and reused for the green belt in the project, no green belt/garden was seen in the project.

Only 10-12 small saplings were seen planted. No garden/green belt was seen anywhere in the project.

Project disposes of medical waste, but it has been found that the directives prescribed are not being followed seriously at the project site. This is the conclusion of the above inspection.

Therefore, the work style of the operating project should be improved first. This would be more appropriate.

When Project Proponents were asked for any written information/issues in their office, it was found that the information was not available in the project office. They were unable to submit the information which was required.

The important part of all this is that this Environment Public Hearing has been organized today, but it has not been found that any inspection has been conducted by an officer of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board in the last two years.

If there is an environment public hearing for the project expansion today, then it is expected from Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to inform local people about the present status of the working project. It is not done.

When we asked Project Proponent for the visitors' register and inspection report during our project visit, they were unable to provide it.

After our inspection, the villagers realized that the report prepared by the company for the expansion is just a paper document. However, the reality is very different.

However, Project management should improve its working culture by following all statutory directives first. The discrepancies in the project should be corrected. For this, we have prepared some additional points along with the 23 points.

We are submitting those points to Hon. Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Palghar.

However, my suggestion is that discrepancies in the ongoing project should be rectified first, a report should be submitted by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, and then only an Environment Public Hearing for the project expansion be held.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed Preeti Arun Patil, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat, Mahim to submit 23 points which they have prepared in writing. Written submissions will be acknowledged and will be submitted alongwith minutes of the meeting to Government.

2) Shri Sujay More, Residnece-Mahim Village, Taluka, District- Palghar:-

I am Convener of the National Alliance of People's Movement, Konkan Division.

I have only one question to ask, whether those who prepared an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report of the proposed project are present here? Will they answer the questions raised or will they just take notes?

Here, Environment Consultant introduced himself.

**3) Shri Milind Mhatre, Mahim Villagers, Taluka, District-
Palghar, Residing at Pali Pada:-**

When Sarpanch Madam visited this project, we villagers were with her. There is a significant discrepancy between what is shown in the presentation and what we observed on project location. In fact, I am of the opinion that Project Environmental Consultant has never visited the project site itself. Because what is shown in the presentation does not exist at the project site.

Shri Milind Mhatre said that during the inspection with the Sarpanch Madam, it was observed that the statutory pollution control devices were not functioning in the operational project. Also compliance directives outside the project were not posted at the front side.

When we went to visit the project, we checked the visitor's book and found that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board officials had not visited the project for the past two years. This is a five-fold expansion of the existing project, which means that it was appropriate for the officials of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to visit and inspect the facilities at the project site. As a villager, this is my demand.

Also, the inlet pH of the ETP installed in the project is 3.0. Also, the outlet pH is 3.0. It means ETP is not working. The water/effluent there was completely black. There is a huge level of unsanitary conditions at the project site. We have not seen any workers using hand gloves there. There is nothing.

There is incinerator. So, the smoke that was supposed to go up the 30-meter chimney into the atmosphere was coming out from below, it means that incinerator was completely leaking.

We were forbidden from taking photos, if we had taken photos, they would have been made available now.

Shri Milind Mhatre said that there is no plot/space for a garden in the project.

The garden plot which is shown by Project Proponent is filled with garbage and it is on the other side of the road. It is garden plot which is of 150.0 square meters. It is definitely not that much.

Preparations for this Environment Public Hearing is going on for the past month.

During the period, officials of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board were expected to conduct an inspection and submit an inspection report. It has not been done.

The operational project has a capacity of 3.15 MT per day. After expansion, the project's capacity will be 13.95 MT per day.

The plot area of the project is currently 3,941 square meters. An additional plot of 360.0 square meters will be acquired. After that, the total area will be 4,301.0 square meters. It is not proportional anywhere. If we look at it proportionally, we think it will take up a lot of space. There is no green belt and no demarcation has been made for it.

It is informed that solid waste goes to the Taloja landfill. But they cannot show anywhere that it goes. There is no record anywhere that solid waste is generated in any department and it is sent to the landfill at Taloja.

There is no record anywhere that this much ash is produced every month and that this much ash is sent to Taloja. Because there is no laboratory anywhere in this working project. Therefore, no separation is done there.

Project Proponents say that the present project uses 5.0 KLD of water. After expansion, the total water requirement will be 15.0 KLD.

But our survey did not show where the water is being used, and Project Proponents have not been able to provide satisfactory answers as to how much water is used daily. Medical waste is incinerated in the project, which will produce hazardous gases like SO₂, CO₂, Carbon monoxide, and ammonia. This information is in the EIA report itself.

All these harmful gases spread through chimneys in Mahim area. We are experiencing it at night. We, local people are affected by various smells (smell nuisance) at night. After using water for various facilities in the project, the treated wastewater will be discharged into the garden. Our Paneri river is located 100.0 meters away from there.

There, sewage percolates and mixes with the Paneri River. However, the project report mentions that there is no water source nearby anywhere. Bio-Medical Waste comes here from Bhayander, Mira Road, Vasai. Our demand is that the Bio-Medical Waste from there should be scientifically processed in that area only, i.e. Bhayander, Mira Road, Vasai

What is the need to bring bio-medical waste in such a long way here and increase pollution here?

Also, during the project inspection, it was found that no Personal Protection Equipments (PPEs) were provided to the workers. The risk to them should be considered.

On page 96 of the project, information is given about the disadvantages of incinerators. It contains Particulate Matter. It is emitted in large quantities. Not all of it is incinerated. HCl means Hydro-chloric acid, SO₂, CO, ToC, Hg, Hydrogen fluoride, Nitrogen Oxide, it only increases pollution. It comes in Mahim itself. Because the wind blows

from east to west. This has adverse effects here. This is written in the report of Environmental Consultant.

Therefore, with all these issues, it is important to run the existing project efficiently first, rather than tripling or quintupling the capacity of the existing project. This will drastically reduce the pollution in Mahim village. Later, they should expand the project.

Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee instructed Project Consultant to clarify the doubts and objections raised by Shri Milind Mhatre.

Environmental Consultant said that the ash is sent to the notified Common Hazardous Waste Treatment Storage & Disposal Facility of Taloja, which is the project of Mumbai Waste Management, Taloja, Navi Mumbai.

The agreement and all documentation regarding it will be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Environmental Consultant said that Project Proponent has Online manifests.

4) Shri Arun Patil, Ex. Sarpanch, Grampanchayat Mahim, Taluka, District-Palghar:-

When Hon. Sarpanch and villagers visited the project site, Project Proponent was present there. They could not provide any of the documents we asked for. If the relevant documents had been made available before today's public hearing, we could have studied them. If Project promoters are making those documents available in public hearing today, we do not get time to study them. These things should be noted.

5) At that time, Shri Milind Mhatre remarked that Project Environmental Consultant is appointed for the expansion of the project.

6) Here, Shri Arun Patil, former Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Mahim, Taluka, District-Palghar said that I am asking a sub-question to the question asked by Milind Mhatre and Hon. Sarpanch Madam. Has the relevant officials from local Maharashtra Pollution Control Board office visited and inspected the said project in the last two years?

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that due to lack of manpower, the visit to the relevant project was delayed.

7) Shri Milind Mhatre objected again that Project Proponent has not even fulfilled the statutory requirements. First is that the name of the project and information about the facilities are not displayed on the facade and near the company. So, can we get an answer as to why they have not put up a name plate? If no one is going to go there, who will go and inspect it?

8) **Shri Arun Patil, former Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Mahim, Taluka, District-Palghar** asked the question that if the company has not installed the project name board for the last fifteen years, even though it is mandatory to do so, then the company has no right to expand the project. Hence, this Environment Public Hearing should be stopped immediately.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that it is mandatory for every company to put up a name board. The objections raised by you have been noted and will be included in the minutes of the meeting and submitted to the government.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that today or tomorrow local Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Tarapur Field Officer will visit and inspect the project site and will verify the compliance of the suggestions, objections raised during the meeting.

9) Shri Milind Mhatre again raised objection that just in the meeting, it is informed to Project Proponent to comply the suggestions and objections.

So, when we visited the project, it was 3.0 P.H., after we were taken aside, we looked again and found that it was 10.50 P.H.

If they keep it properly now, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should make a surprise visit and inspect it.

10) Shri Arun Patil, Ex. Sarpanch, Grampanchayat Mahim, Taluka, District-Palghar further informed that a month ago, instead of Zero Liquid Discharge, a company was discharging full wastewater outside the project. Samples have been taken and sent to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board for analysis.

Here, Environmental Public Hearing Committee informed the participants to submit suggestions, thoughts, criticisms, and objections regarding the proposed project, as this environmental public hearing was about the proposed project.

11) Shri Vikas More, Ex-Sarpanch, Mahim, Taluka, District-Palghar:-

Here, Sarpanch Madam, Grampanchayat Members and Shri Milind Mhatre have visited and inspected M/s Touch N Glow Project. They have informed all observations made in the meeting. While starting the meeting, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all to raise their suggestions/objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. It will be noted and will be included in the minutes of the meeting and will be submitted to Government for further action. 23 points prepared by Sarpanch Madam will be also be submitted. We are not at all expert in the field of environment. We understood that the bio-medical waste collected at Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation,

Mira-Bhayandar Corporation will be brought in our Mahim village for scientific treatment and disposal. We all demand that the Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facility which is commissioned should be made efficient to operate as per the directives. I myself have visited the Facility 2-3 times. The workers are from our Adivasis localities (Pada). But no basic sanitary facilities have been provided to them. Project Proponent have not arranged medical camps for all villagers. If any mishap happens, who will be responsible? Whatever explanations you have promised, whether any further action will be initiated?

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee here clarified that the minutes of the meeting will be prepared in Marathi and in English. Suggestions, Objections received during the meeting and received after the public notice by hand delivery/email/post and revised EIA report also the answer of the Project Proponents for 23 points as submitted – all documents will be submitted after approval of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai to Environment & Climate Change Ministry, Maharashtra Government, Mumbai. An Expert Committee will take further decision.

Here, Shri Vikas More demanded that 23 points as submitted by Hon. Sarpanch Madam should be clarified in detail.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee clarified that whatever points submitted in the meeting have been noted. Also video recording is also going on.

Minutes of the meeting are submitted after approval of the Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee through Head Office, MPCB to Environment & Climate Change Ministry, Maharashtra Government Mumbai. An Expert Committee take cognizance of the suggestions/objections received and take further decision. Hence, it is

requested not to raise same objections. You can raise technical issues. It will be noted.

Another Point here is raised why medical waste which is collected from Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation; Mira-Bhayander Municipal Corporation and bringing it by transportation here in our Mahim village for scientific disposal? It should be treated there only. And here first the Facility should be made efficient.

12) Shri Sujay More, Residence-Mahim Village, Taluka, District-Palghar:-

The Terms of Reference (ToR) received by the project promoters mentions environmentally sensitive areas. In this section, we have written about the Dut River, Devkubh Dam, Kelva Dam and the Arabian Sea. Is there anything left in this?

At this time, Environmental Consultant replied that the issue we raised was about ecological bio-diversity, while the water samples were taken from surface water. Surface water samples are taken differently.

Shri Sujay More objected that while you have to tell us where the water bodies are, the Paneri River is just 5-10 meters away from your project. However, the name of the Paneri River is not in the report. What is the reason for this, is this information insufficient?

The enthusiasm of the locals should be taken into account.

The report states that -

Area already subjected to pollution or environmental damage those who are existing legal environmental standards are exceeded this is a question.

So we have written that –

There is no area already subjected to pollution or environment will damage within 15 k.m. radius.

Is this your answer correct?

Environmental Consultant said that the notification that has been passed in this regard, 5.0 km. Information is to be given, not 15.0 km.

Shri Sujay More objected that it is mentioned in our ToR itself. Also, all these minutes will go to the EAC and if it is proven that false information has been given, you will have to prepare the EIA report again.

This is information in EIA issue no. 8 sub-issue 7. – Rejection of ToR. We have given in the TOR that there is nothing within 15.0 km. radius, and the aerial distance of MIDC is 13 km.

On this occasion Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee stated that the said Environmental Impact Assessment Report is a draft.

Suggestions and objections from the meeting are recorded and only then is the final Environmental Impact Assessment report prepared.

Page No. 52 - Air Ambient Quality Results

PM 10 and PM 2.5

Suggestions and objections from the meeting are recorded and only then is the final Environmental Impact Assessment report prepared.

Whose advice did you take while deciding the eight locations where you collected samples, and was there a representative of the local government present with you at that time? Who collected those samples?

Here, Environment Consultant informed that all the samples have been collected by NABL approved laboratory.

Shri Sujay More asked that while carrying survey, whether there was participation of local people. Because, survey is also part of public consultation.

Here, Chairman, Public Consultation Committee on Environment, expressed the view that there are differences of opinion in public consultations, so there is rarely consensus. Public Consultation is what Public Hearing is all about. It is open to everyone, to office bearers, to ordinary citizens.

Shri Sujay More expressed the opinion that the pollution was found in the air pollution survey we conducted

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that it has been taken note of. This is a draft EIA, which is submitted to the government after finalization and is also available on the website.

13) Shri Arun Patil, Ex Sarpanch, Grampanchayat

Mahim, Taluka, District-Palghar informed that -

We had visited this company eight days ago. At that time, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Member, Mr. Milind Mhatre and I Arun Patil were present. We asked simple questions, there was no technical issue in it.

It is observed that Project Proponent has not fulfilled simple steps. This point should be noted.

Total area is 360.0 sq. meter. It means total project area is 4,301.0 sq. meter. Is it right or wrong?

Environment Consultant informed that area of project which is operation is 3,941.0 sq. meter. Proposed area is 360.0 sq. meter. It means total project area is 4,301.0 sq. meter.

Shri Arun Patil objected that if anybody goes in the factory, there is not a single inch space is available open. If Project Proponent has planned to acquire additional space of 360.0 sq. meter. This point should be noted.

Page No. 4 – Point No.5 - Creation of Solid Waste & its Disposal –

Domestic waste will be collected and after segregation it

It will be handed to Corporation.

– Above points should be clarified.

Here Shri Arun Patil said that if Environment Consultant cannot clarify the points, then I am giving explanation – In the working project, the application is not received from the company through which waste is disposed of?

Point No.2

No endangered and endemic species were found in the study area during the ecological study.

Environmental Consultant said that no Schedule 1 species were found.

Environmental Consultant stated that Schedule 1, which has been passed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi,

Environmental Consultant said that the critically endangered species listed in Schedule 1 are not here. There is a very long list of them. Shri Arun Patil demanded that a detailed report be submitted in this regard. The list of many species in this area should be made known to us by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

Point No.3 -

The village had drinking water, sanitation, health, infrastructure facilities -

Environmental Consultant said that the facilities were found. Shri Arun Patil asked what their connection was with your project.

Environment Consultant clarified that as per EIA Notification, 2006, according to some guidelines, the social and economic conditions of the villages within a 10 km radius have to be mentioned in the report. What was observed has been mentioned.

Company should submit a report on the measures it has taken within the Gram Panchayat limits.

Page No.7 -

Air quality monitoring and sampling will be conducted every month by the HLE department for air pollutants in the area. Sampling locations will be determined.

When visited the company, Management expressed its inability to provide inspection records for the existing project. It was stated that such records were not available.

Environmental Consultant replied that project has a Continuous Monitoring System, one of its connections is at the headquarters, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

Shri Arun Patil asked whether these records should be available in the company or not?

Environmental Consultant said that they are immediately uploaded on the portal of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

Shri Arun Patil expressed his opinion here that the report did not provide any information about the ongoing project. It was expected to have it.

Page No.7-

Periodic feedback from local doctors on any potential indicators of adverse impacts of environmental causes in the surrounding community and especially in areas upwind of the project site.

Health camps will be organized regularly.

Environmental Consultant said that they are proposed.

Shri Arun Patil said that under the present project, the said company has not organized any camp on relevant issues in the Mahim Gram Panchayat area till today.

Environmental Consultant stated that this public hearing has been organized as per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006.

Prior to that, the said project was not under purview of the EIA, 2006 notification. This project was established in the year 2004.

Project Environmental Consultant said that the classification of the said project in the EIA Notification, 2006 was done in 2015. Prior to this, such projects did not require obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC), only permission from the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was required.

Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, informed that the EIA Notification of 2006 came into effect in 2015 for projects in the above category.

Here, Shri Arun Patil asked that this project was established in 2004. If this project was incorporated in 2015, then it is 2025, were all the terms and conditions not applicable to them at that time? What has the company done for all these years?

At that time, the Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, said that there is a gap in communication here. This project was started in 2004. Earlier, no Environmental Clearance (EC) was required.

This project has been included as per the Notification passed in 2015.

Now Project Proponents have proposed an expansion, the provisions of the EIA and public environmental hearing have been implemented for it.

Now that the project promoters have proposed an expansion, the provisions of the EIA and public environmental hearing have been implemented for it.

Page No.7 – Table No.2.0 – CER Budget-

Whether this point is applicable?

Environmental Consultant said that CER will now be applicable.

Shri Patil asked if this issue applies to the operational project?

Environmental Consultant answered NO.

Page No.8 -

Such a project will definitely improve the living standards of the local people. The implementation of this project will definitely improve the physical and social infrastructure in the surrounding area.

Environmental Consultant said that we are proposing infrastructure facilities in the CER initiative. This will benefit the locals.

Shri Arun Patil asked about the benefits –

Environmental Consultant said that there are solar energy, computer development centers, green belt which is in the municipal area, provision of drinking water in schools, etc.

CER budget is shown, according to which that amount will be spent on that activity.

Shri Patil asked the question that this company has been established since 2004. Has it spent a single rupee for Mahim village? This shows the social commitment of the project promoters.

Page No.28 – Point No.15 -

Green belt area – Present – 150 sq. meter

Proposed Area – 1500 sq. meter

Shri Arun Patil asked Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to express opinion on the existing plantation area.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, said that field officer will be sent to the project site tomorrow to inspect the present situation.

Page No.28 – Requirement of manpower:-

Present – 40

When we visited the project, 40 workers were not found there. When we asked for the attendance sheet of the workers, it was not provided. There is no visitor's logbook.

Also, no information has been provided about whether the provident fund of 40 manpower is being paid as per the rules.

Page No.29 – Point No.23 -

Number of beds available –

Present - 11,000

Proposed - 20,000

Environment Consultant said that this report has been prepared by the EIA Co-Ordinator. Environmental Consultant said that there is information about how many beds will be covered. No beds will be taken

here. This information is given for the capacity of the project and the quantity of waste that will be generated.

Page No.32 – Manpower for the project -

It does not contain information about the educational qualifications required for the project, Skills Required, the Special Degree/Diploma/Laboratory Technician required.

Environmental Consultant said that the post/designation has been given.

Shri Arun Patil said that it is important to write the educational qualification here. Environmental Consultant assured to record it in the final report.

Page No. 32 -

Areas exposed to excessive pollution or environmental damage, environmentally sensitive areas, wildlife habitats zone not fall here. This means that you are saying that there is no wildlife around.

Environmental Consultant said that in this issue, answers are expected to be given regarding national parks and reserved forests. Here, there are none within a radius of 10 km.

Shri Patil informed that the part of Tamare and Vaksai is within a radius of 10 km and Project Proponents were required to obtain "No Objection Certificate" from the Forest Department.

Page no.36 – Point NO. – 2/2 -

Following facilities are available-

Administration Building; Employees' Rest Room; Vehicle Parking Area; Waste Storage Cell; Waste Water Treatment Plant; Laboratory;

Shri Arun Patil raised objection that Administration building is unauthorized. There is no permission from the Gram Panchayat.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee requested everyone to raise only environmental issues here.

Shri Arun Patil informed that here there is no Rest Room for the employees.

Environmental Consultant said that restroom and washroom facilities have been provided in the project.

Vehicle Washing Machine -

Shri Arun Patil said that it is not observed there.

Security Room:-

Shri Patil informed that there is no facility to register visitors in the project.

Parking Lot & Parking Area -

Shri Arun Patil said that it is not observed.

Rainwater harvesting:-

Environmental Consultant said that there is no rainwater harvesting system.

Page No. 42 – Point No. 18

Accounts Audit -

Shri Arun Patil informed that when documents were requested for the existing project, it is informed that they were not available.

Environmental Consultant said that an audit is proposed.

Page No. 64 -

Observations were conducted at eight locations from 1st, January 2025 to 31st March, 2025 to assess environmental quality.

Observations conducted at eight locations – Patilwadi, Dungipada, Dhondalpada, Makunsar, Mangelwada, Vadrai & Satpati –

- Shri Arun Patil objected that Water, air, and land have been assessed here. So, someone from the village should show that he has seen them there. We demand that Local Administration should know what kind of survey and testing is being done.

Environment Consultant informed that team of NABL approved laboratory came and they analysed. Photos have been shown in the Presentation.

Page No. 88 –

The tribal community in Palghar has valuable traditional knowledge about local flora and fauna, which will be useful for conservation and sustainable management of the institution.

Environmental Consultant said that this area is based on the census information. This has been stated here on its basis.

Here Mr. Arun Patil asked what would be useful for management here?

Environmental Consultant said that the use of local plants from the local forest here.

Shri Arun Patil objected that the presentation stated that there were no forests, but the forests here are protected under the Forest Conservation Act.

Page No. 92 -

The project site is higher than the surrounding agricultural land, which will help in the drainage of rainwater.

Environmental Consultant said that there will be no discharge from the project site. This means that the project site is above ground. Since the project is a ZLD, the treated wastewater from the project will not be discharged.

At that time, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, expressed the opinion that the answer should be given in simple terms that there is space on the slope. Therefore, water will not accumulate.

Shri Arun Patil opined that the pollution control system is not operational in the project. The project is located on a high ground. Therefore, the untreated sewage from the project will flow into the surrounding fields below.

Therefore, the adjacent farmland will also be polluted. Therefore, the project should have rainwater drainage like rainwater harvesting. There is no such system there.

Page No. 97 –

Particulate matter will increase the amount of PM 2.5 and PM-10 in the atmosphere. Therefore, the level of pollution due to particulate matter will increase. _Continuously breathing this polluted air, they are likely to develop lung diseases. This should be clarified.

Environmental Consultant said that the proposed expansion has been written. It includes provision for provision of scrubbers as a mitigation measure and its approval has been received in the budget.

Impact on water quality -Results of preventive measures-

The project in question in the existing project is a Zero Liquid Discharge project.

This site has good roads.

Earlier there was an approach road, but when I went to the project yesterday, the road was not good. It is also the responsibility of the Project Management to improve the road there.

Shri Arun Patil objected that the roads in the area where this project is located are very bad. Therefore, this project can be dangerous in an emergency situation. However, this project should not be approved without the construction of roads there.

Shri Arun Patil said that there is no flooring or paving anywhere in the project. However, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should inspect the company.

Many of our workers work there. If there is a problem of pollution, Local Administration should take appropriate action. He asked Environmental Consultant to show on the screen how should be company's board.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that they have pasted Board on the facade.

Shri Arun Patil demanded that information be provided about what type of board should be used and its size.

Shri Arun Patil objected that the report of the companies against which the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board took action has not been made available.

I request on behalf of Mahim Gram Panchayat and villagers that considering the relevant matters, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has not paid any visit to the company for the last two years.

The measures required in the proposed project do not exist in the existing project. However, the existing project needs to be improved on priority.

Considering the pollution of water, air and land, it would not be appropriate to approve the proposed project. However, Mahim and all the villagers are completely opposing the expansion of this project in this public hearing on environmental issues.

14) **Shri Vikas More, Ex Sarpanch, Mahim, Taluka,**

District-Palghar:-

Table was shown in the presentation. So, what is the capacity of the incinerator?

Environmental Consultant said that the capacity is 75.0 kg per hour.

Shri Vikas More asked what is done with the pulp that is produced during the production process?

Environment Consultant answered that the ash which is produced in the process is sent to CHWTSDf, Taloja.

Shri Vikas More asked the question that only our local workers are used to extract the pulp. Also, what is done with the glass?

Environmental Consultant answered that the glass is cleaned in an autoclave and then sent for recycling. Glass does not go to the incinerator.

15) **Shri Rajaram Dattatraya Salaskar, Residence-Vevur,**

Near Palghar East, Palghar:-

Till now, I have read and thought a lot about the Pollution Control Board and environmental protection. After listening today's hearing, I would first like to congratulate the Mahim Gram Panchayat. But whatever

points have been raised so far are about the working project. The word "expansion" is used. The working project will not spread here.

So whatever part of the combustion is, since there is a lot of waste, only a large capacity incinerator needs to be installed for combustion. Your suggestions and doubts are correct.

Participants asked environmental questions at the public hearing on the environment, which is also correct. But Environmental Impact Assessment report that has been prepared, many of the issues in it are related to the proposed part.

Suggestions you have made are acceptable. I never thought that Mahim Gram Panchayat would be so aware about every industry. Many of my friends are in Mahim.

So, all I can say is that the Pollution Control Board keeps examining the technical aspects. Now what this company has proposed is that the incinerator should be installed with a larger capacity.

In this, additional water requirement/increase has been considered as possible/expected. If there is any need to improve it, the Gram Panchayat can do it anytime. I will also come, I am interested in this.

I am not a member of the company. My son, who is in the company, is an adult. I never pay attention to his business. Today I am 86 years old. So I do not look.

But I have read a lot about pollution control and environmental protection. So, no one should say that I speak for the company.

Member of Mahim Gram Panchayat should not think that I am standing to advocate for the company because I have been living in this area for the last 70 years.

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board is a government office dealing with technical matters. I would like to submit that if the technical aspects

are met, then there is no objection to accepting the company's proposal for expansion.

Suggestions raised by Gram Panchayat members are also valid. I request Project Promoter and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to take appropriate action in this regard.

16) **Preeti Arun Patil, Sarpanch, Grampanchayat Mahim, Taluka, District-Palghar:-**

Now the issues raised by Shri Salaskar Saheb. He said that I am not from the company. I say that there are our people in the company. The company is in the boundary limits of Mahim Gram Panchayat. The people working there are also ours.

As I explained at the beginning of the meeting, although many issues were raised, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that the management currently in the project is not as perfect as it could be.

However, if there is a proposal to improve and expand it in the future, it should be considered. It should not be done at the present time.

Because whatever changes are required in the ongoing project, the present condition is not there to make them now. If the project's status is satisfactory in the future, then it should be considered.

I would like to highlight one point that the workers working there are mostly from the Mahim Gram Panchayat area. Their health issues are important to us.

Even though project is operational, a competent health system should be implemented. It is not visible. All workers are our people. It is our duty and the project administration's duty to ensure their good health.

17) **Shri Anant Madhav Janate, Residence-Palghar:-**

When this company started. I was unemployed. The owners of the company gave us employment opportunities and love, due to which we got financial progress. The objections raised by the participants may be right or wrong.

But, the Gram Panchayat should take care of us. Therefore, expansion is necessary. The entire family of the workers in the project depends on this company.

18) Here, Preeti Patil expressed her opinion that even before Shri Janate made the suggestions, I had already said that these are my people.

There is no question of closing down the ongoing project. Discrepancies in the operating project should be rectified and expansion should be considered in future.

Gram Panchayat is with everyone. Health facilities should be provided to the workers in the ongoing project. We will happily attend the next public hearing and support the project expansion.

19) **Shri Sujay More, Residence-Mahim Village,**
Taluka, District-Palghar:-

Page No. 54 of the report, which contains the Ambient Quality Standards, GSR 826 (E), which has prescribed the permissible limits, should be clarified as to what PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, SO₂ are. Are these correct?

Shri Sujay More said that as per GSR guidelines, two permissible limits of 100 and 60 have been prescribed. Only 100 is written in the report.

Environmental Consultant said that it is given for 24-hour.

While raising objections, Shri Sujay More said that as per the standards of the Environment Department of the Government of India, it

is 100 for eight hours. It is 60 annually. Shri More raised objections that the eight hours were not monitored, but only an average was taken.

Shri Sujay More objected that the report contained misleading information.

Shri More further objected that the permission for groundwater extraction for the project is only 9.0 KLD. So, you are going to use 15.0 KLD of water. So how are you going to fill the gap?

Environmental Consultant said that all prior government permissions will be obtained in this regard.

Environmental Consultant said that water requirement will be met through tankers and water recycling.

Shri Sujay More expressed the view that it should be noted that the information given in the report is insufficient and false. Further action should be taken as per EIA Notification, 2006.

Environmental Consultant explained that the fresh water given in the table is 5.5 and 1.5. We will need only 7.0 KLD of water.

Project Environmental Consultant clarified that we will need only 7.0 KLD of water. The rest will be used only as recycled water. Shri Sujay More requested to check the TOR.

Shri Arun Patil asked about the issue raised – **Impact on water quality and mitigation measures:-**

In this project, the source of water during the construction phase will be borewell. No Objection Certificate has already been obtained for the same. Since No Objection Certificate has already been obtained for the original project, no additional No Objection Certificate is required for the expansion project.

There will be no significant impact on the water resources in the area.

Environmental Consultant clarified that permission for 9.0 KLD has been obtained.

Here, Shri Arun Patil requested Environmental Public Hearing Committee to reconsider this report. We also demand that the first errors in the ongoing project be corrected and only then the expansion be allowed.

The address and phone number of the document you are going to submit to the government should be made available after the meeting.

Again Shri Arun Patil requested Environmental Public Hearing Committee to reconsider this report. There are many discrepancies in the report. The errors found in the ongoing project should be corrected and the environmental public hearing should be held again.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee again appealed all participants to submit their suggestions or objections in writing if any regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. It will be acknowledged.

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

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee again appealed all participants to raise apart from the suggestions and objections recorded here, if there are any other suggestions and objections to be recorded, they should be recorded. There was no response from the participants.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all for attending this meeting and raising their suggestions, views or objections and on behalf of Chairman declared that the meeting is concluded.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed herewith 16 Nos. of suggestions/objections as received.



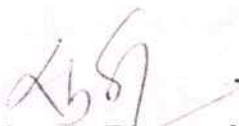
(Virendra Singh)

Convener,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer, Tarapur-II,
Maharashtra Pollution Control
Board, Palghar



(Kiran Hasabnis)

Member,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control
Board,
Thane



(Subhash Bhagade)

Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Palghar
District – Palghar