

**Minutes of Environmental Public Hearing in respect of the proposed 2x35 MW
= 70MW coal based Thermal Power Plant and 66000 TPA capacity Rolling Mill
of
M/s. Shree Virangana Steels Ltd., at Mouza- Ukkervahi, Near Vill. Heti,
Tq. Umred, Dist. Nagpur,**

Environmental Public Hearing in respect of the proposed 2x35 MW = 70MW coal based Thermal Power Plant and 66000 TPA capacity Rolling Mill of M/s. Shree Virangana Steels Ltd., at Mouza- Ukkervahi, Near Vill. Heti, Tq. Umred, Dist. Nagpur, was held on 19 November 2010 at 11:30 am at Shree Virangana Steels Ltd., Mouza-Ukkervahi, Tq. Umred, Dist. Nagpur under the Chairmanship of Shri. Sanjay Dhiware, Sub-Divisional Officer / Magistrate (The representative nominated by the District Collector, Nagpur). Shri. A.T. Fulmali, Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Nagpur was the member of the public hearing panel and Shri. N.G.Nihul, Sub-Regional Officer-II, M.P.C. Board, Nagpur act as a convener. The Public Hearing started at 11:45 hrs. with the permission of the Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel.

First of all, the Convener welcomed to all present for the Public Hearing. He told that, the Public Hearing is being conducted as per the provisions of EIA Notification dtd. 14th September 2006 and amended Notification dtd. 1st December 2009 of Ministry of Environment and Forest, New Delhi. He told that the project proponent after receipt of minutes of State Level Expert Appraisal Committee meeting held on 17th April 2010 has submitted their application dtd. 28th July, 2010 which was received on 04th August, 2010 to the Board requesting for conducting the public hearing. There was some discrepancies in the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) report and Executive summary and hence the project proponent has resubmitted the corrected copies of EIA report and executive summary on dated 13/10/2010.

Accordingly, the Board has issued public notice on dtd. 19/10/2010 in Daily Lokmat (Marathi) and Daily Hitwada (English). The date of public hearing was scheduled on 19/11/2010. The copies of draft EIA and Executive Summaries in English and Marathi were placed at the offices of District Collector, Nagpur, District Industries Centre, Nagpur, Zilla Parishad, Nagpur, M.P.C. Board (HQ), Mumbai, Regional Office & Sub-Regional Office-II, M.P.C. Board, Nagpur, Environment Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai, and concerned Gut-Grampanchayat Velsakara. He also told that the information about the project was placed on the Website of the M.P.C.Board. The Member Secretary, M.P.C.Board, Mumbai has also issued the panel order no. E-83 Of 2010, dated 11/11/2010 for the Public Hearing.

Convener of the Public Hearing further informed to the participants that, so far 03 nos. of written representations were received and the copies of the same were made available to the project proponent. He further appealed to the participants that, they can file their written objections/representations during Public Hearing also and they can also raise their objections orally after the power point presentation that will be given by the project proponent. He further clarified to the participants that the Public Hearing panel is not to accord Environmental Clearance to the project, but for recording the objections / suggestions of the participants, which would be video graphed and would be submitted to the Department of Environment, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai for further necessary action.

The convener, with the permission of Chairman, then requested the project proponent to present their power point presentation

In the power point presentation, the representative of the project proponent gave the information about the existing activities of the industry and the proposed 2x35 MW power plant and 66000 MTPA capacity Rolling Mill, which includes the details about the Man power requirement, Source of Coal, its transportation and consumption, Source of water and its consumption, Stack height and its diameter, Base line environmental quality within the impact zone, Environmental Management Plan, Proposed air pollution control system, Proposed water pollution control system employment opportunities. etc. The presentations was over

After the presentation, the Convener of the public hearing appealed to the participants that they can raise their queries & clarification would be given by the project proponent. Hon'ble Chairman also requested the participants to raise their queries/suggestions, which can be taken on record and could be sent to the Department of Environment, GOM for its examination before deciding the Enviromental Clearance. In response, following participants raised the issues.

Smt. Anita Vishnuji Darne, Z.P. Member, Waigoan:-

She alleged that M/s. Shree Virangana Steel plant discharge wastewater from their existing unit into the river on which the water supply of Vill. Udasa and Velsakara are in existence. Similarly, the Smoke from the Chimney of existing Sponge Iron plant of M/s. Shree Virangana Steel plant affect the health of the villagers within 10 kms. area.

Shri. Parimal Vinze, representative of the factory He stated in his reply that the written representation in this behalf is also received and its written reply is also given to Smt. Rane. He further told that they are not carrying out any such activity from which any obnoxious gases are discharged. The industry is operating its pollution control system as per the standards laid down by the Government.

Regarding wastewater he clarified that the wastewater generated from the activity is reused. He further clarified that after establishment of power plant and rolling mill, the wastewater generated will be neutralize and stored in guard pond and the same will be reused for dust suppression.

Hon'ble Chairman pointed out that the participants should raise their queries regarding the proposed project & not about the existing unit as this Public Hearing is for proposed power & rolling mill project.

Mr. Vilas Darne, Waigoan.

He told that industry is discharging its wastewater into the river through nalla due to which the health of villagers may be adversely affected and hence, the industry should take appropriate steps in this behalf.

Shri. Parimal Vinze, representative of the factory he replied that there is no river within 03 kms radius from the factory. The wastewater generated in the factory is reused in the factory itself. The waste water regarding which Mr. Darne is talking is coming from the

nearby hilly area and not from the factory. He further clarified that their existing unit is operating on zero effluent discharge principle as they are reusing the wastewater for dust suppression.

Shri. Pillawar, Deputy Surpanch, Velsakhara

He told that he has proof regarding discharge of wastewater by the factory.

Hon'ble Chairman apprised him that he may submit his objection regarding the same in writing to the concerned authority for verification.

Shri Vinod Randhe, presently residing at Vill. Heti.

He told that he is working in the industry since last 7- 8 years. He told that the factory authority have taken steps to control the air pollution and it is reduced considerably and hence, he supports the up coming project.

Shri Avinash Dhadse, Velsakhara

He told that he is working in the factory since 04 years as a Supervisor. Initially there was air pollution problem due to present unit but now it is reduced considerably. The factory management has taken adequate steps to control the air pollution by providing water spraying arrangement and undertaking tree plantation programme around the factory premises etc.

Hon'ble Chairman cited example of thick tree plantation in CSTPS, Chandrapur and instructed to the factory authority to implement massive tree plantation programme in coordination with the local people.

The representative of the factory welcomed the suggestion/instruction of Hon'ble Chairman and assured to implement the same.

Shri Shankarroa Bankar, Velsakhara

He expressed his views on the work undertaken by the factory management under Corporate Social Responsibility in the village Velsakhara and supported the project.

Shri Vishnu Darane, Ex-Surpanch, Udasa

He told that the industry is discharging their wastewater due to which the water supply of Vill. Udasa, Velsakara and Vaigaon is polluted. He further told that since the beginning of the existing Sponge Iron Plant, the air pollution is being caused and affected the agriculture fields of near by villages. Hence, no clearance be granted to the proposed project.

Shri Moreshwar Rajaramji Gedam, Velsakhara

He told that he has given the written representation to the M.P.C. Board and concerned authorities. He further told that the views expressed by the employees of the

factory supporting the proposed project be not taken into consideration. As the industry has not taken effective steps to control the pollution from their existing unit, the committee should not recommend for Environmental Clearance to the proposed activities.

Hon'ble Chairman told that this committee is here to record the objections/suggestions and views expressed by the participants of the public hearing and not to make any recommendation. The decision in this behalf would be taken by the GOM after the receipt of Minutes of this Public Hearing and recommendations of State Level Appraisal Committee.

Shri Giridhar Devalkar, Shri Buddhadas Patil, Vill. Ukkerwahi

They told that the factory authority has taken effective steps to control the pollution from their existing unit and provided employment to the local people and they support the proposed project.

Factory representative Shri Vinze informed that the issues raised by **Shri Moreshwar Rajaramji Gedam** has already been replied in writing. He further told that the factory authority has provided Electro Static Precipitators and bag filters to control the air pollution in the existing plant.

Convener of the Public Hearing informed to the participants that there was a representation from Gat-Grampanchayat, Velsakhara that the public hearing should be conducted at Velsakhara village. He further clarified that as per the EIA Notification dated 14th Sept. 2006 of MoEF, New Delhi, the venue of the public hearing should be at the site of the proposed project or in the close proximity of the proposed site. Accordingly, the Chairman of the public hearing has proposed the factory site as the venue for the public hearing.

Shri Padmakar Bokar

He stated that the air pollution caused due to existing plant results into deposition of dust on the crops and also affects the animals.

Shri Sanjay Dhole, Member, Grampanchayat, Velsakhara

He told that as the venue of public hearing is not at village Velsakhara, most of the farmers could not participate in the public hearing. Very few farmers could remain present for this public hearing. The supporters of this project are the employees of the factory and he demanded to reschedule the public hearing and it should be conducted at village Velsakhara, if possible.

Hon'ble Chairman clarified that the provision regarding the venue of public hearing has already been explained.

Shri Niranjana Meshram, Vill. Heti

He told that there is no adverse impact on the crops in his field due to activities of the industry.

Shri. Shailesh Jitendra Lokhande, Vill. Velsakhara

He told that the local peoples will get the opportunity of employment because of proposed project and hence he supported the proposed project.

Shri. Ariif Husen, Vill. Heti

He supported the proposed project as the factory management has taken steps to control the pollution of their existing unit.

Shri. Sanjay Meshram, Vill Velsakhara

He complained that his agriculture field is adjacent to the existing plant and it is affected due to air pollution of the industry and hence he opposes the proposed project. He also demanded to arrange the public hearing at vill. Velsakhara.

Shri. Mahendra Lokhande, Shri Umrao Dhonge, Vill. Velsakhara, Shri Raju Shetki, Shri Abhilash Lokhande

They stated that they support the proposed project as there is no adverse impact on the yield of the crops and the proposed project would creat opportunity for employment for the local people.

Shri. Uttam Gharat, Vill. Velsakhara

He demanded that the factory management should provide maximum employment to the local people and should abide with the prescribed norms of controlling pollution. He also informed that the industry has undertaken CSR activities in their village, hence supported the proposed project.

Shri. Jitendra Lokhande, Vill. Velsakhara

He demanded to construct the road from the factory to Vill Velsakhara.

Thereafter there was no further issues/objections /queries by the audience Hon'ble Chairman of the public hearing then briefly summarized the issues raised during public hearing by the participants and the replies given by the representative of the project proponent to all present He further told that the issues raised by the participants are noted and will be incorporated in the minutes and the same will be forwarded to the concerned for further necessary action and declared that the public hearing is concluded.

The representations/objections received before and during public hearing are 05 in numbers, which are as under

Sr. No	Views/Objections/Representation submitted by	Date
1	Gat-Grampanchyat Velsakhara, Tq. Umred Dist. Nagpur	04/11/2010
2	Shri M.R. Gedam Vill. Heti, Tq. Umred Dist. Nagpur	18/11/2010
3	Joint representation from the villagers of Ukkerwahi, Heti and Velsakhara, Tq. Umred Dist. Nagpur	19/11/2010
4	Smt. Anita Vishnuji Darne, Z.P. Member, Udasa, Tq. Umred Dist. Nagpur	19/11/2010
5	Shri. Ghanshyam Sonaji Rahate	19/11/2010

Comments, if any, on this proceeding may be sent directly to the Department of Environment, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai and the Project proponent.

(N.G.Nihul)
Convener &
Sub-Regional Officer-II,
MPCB, Nagpur

(A.T. Fulmali)
Member &
Regional Officer,
MPCB, Nagpur.

(Sanjay Dhiware)
Chairman &
Sub-Divisional Officer,
Umred