

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC
HEARING
OF
M/s. WCL, KOLARPIMPRI
OPEN CAST MINE
WANI NORTH AREA, Tq: WANI, DIST:
YAVATMAL

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Environmental Public Hearing in respect of M/s. WCL, Kolarpimpri Extension OC Project, Wani North Area, Tq. Wani Dist. Yavatmal was conducted on 23/12/2008 at 11.30 hrs. in the hall of Mahasul Bhavan, Tahasil Office, Wani, Tq. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal, under the Chairmanship of Shri Rajendra Deshmukh, Dy. Collector (Equivalent to A.D.M.), Representative of District Magistrate, Yavatmal, for enhancement in production from 1.05 MTPA to 1.50 MTPA & expansion of lease area from 511 ha. to total ML area of 1488.42 ha. M/s. WCL, Kolarpimpri Extension OC Project, Wani North Area, Tq. Wani Dist. Yavatmal has submitted proposal to M.P.C. Board for conducting environmental Public Hearing. A Public Hearing was conducted as per Notification dtd. 14/09/2006 issued by Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India, New Delhi. Shri N. G Nihul, Regional Officer, MPC Board, Assisted the Chairman during the Public Hearing as a Member & Shri S.S. Kotwal, Sub Regional Officer, Amravati-II, worked as a Convener of Public Hearing Panel. Shri Shyamkant Maske, Tahasildar, Wani, Dist. Yavatmal & Shri Vijay Bhakare, Sub-Divisional Officer, Wani, Dist. Yavatmal were also present during Public Hearing.

A Public Hearing Panel was constituted by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board vide Office Order No. E –105 of 2008 dtd. 16/12/2008.

The Convener of the Public Hearing Panel started the proceedings of Public Hearing with the permission of Chairman. He welcomed the Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel and the Public present. He briefly gave information about the necessity to obtain Environment Clearance from Govt. of India for enhancement in production from 1.05 MTPA to 1.50 MTPA & expansion of lease area from 511 ha. to total ML area of 1488.42 ha. He told that this is proposed

expansion project of existing open cast coal mine and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has adopted the procedure to conduct this Public Hearing in accordance with MoEF, Govt. of India Notification dtd. 14/09/2006. He informed that a notice was published in News Papers viz. Daily “Lokmat” (Marathi), Daily “Deshonnati” (Marathi) & Daily “The Hitavada” (English) on 22/11/2008. The Executive Summary & draft EIA report both in English & Marathi (hard and soft copies) submitted by the project proponent pertaining to this project was placed at different Govt. Offices to ascertain details of the project and the environment to the public. Through this public notice given in the News Papers, objections / suggestions / views from the public were invited in writing at Regional Office / Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Amravati-II within 30 days from the issue of the Public Notice on 22/11/2008. He further informed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board did not receive any objection/suggestion/views from the Public till the date of Public Hearing in writing about the said project. However, he clarified that the objections/suggestions/views can be raised by the public during Public Hearing. Also, public can submit their objection/suggestions/views in writing during the Public Hearing.

With the permission of Chairman, the convener requested to the Project Proponent to give power point presentation about their proposed expansion project.

But, Shri Tikaramji Kongre, Member, Z. P, Yavatmal, Dist. Yavatmal interrupted the Public Hearing proceeding by way of demanding some clarifications before presentation of the project, which includes status of rehabilitation and resettlement of villagers of Govari. The village Govari is in the mine lease of existing Kolarpimpri OC Mine of WCL. He stated that WCL has not taken effective steps for providing infrastructure at the new place where the village is to be shifted. Roads, drainage, drinking water supply scheme, electricity etc. is yet to be completed and WCL is not giving the shifting allowance and compensation of their existing house so far. Therefore, the Govari villagers could not shift to the new location.

He further stated that the existing mine is in operation since last 15 years and WCL has not taken effective measures for the control of air pollution. They have not planted adequate number of trees, there is spillage of coal on the roads during transportation of overloaded trucks of WCL. Due to fugitive dust emission, crops in the fields adjoining to the road is getting affected and no compensation is paid to the farmers so far. Agriculture department had undertaken the survey of the area regarding crop damage and compensation. He further said, in the report it was clearly mentioned that there is adverse impact of dust on the crops. He said that the above said report was submitted by WCL Authority to NEERI, Nagpur for expert opinion. He further brought to the notice that NEERI had opined that crops were not damaged by the coal dust of WCL. On the basis this opinion of NEERI, the WCL authorities have not release the compensation. He further said that till the above issues are not solved, Public Hearing for the expansion project of this mine should not be conducted. Revenue authority should intervene in the matter and force the WCL Authorities to give compensation and solve the rehabilitation issue of Govari village. He further said that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should take stringent action against the WCL for their casual approach towards pollution control.

Some other participants have also demanded for not to conduct the Public Hearing till the above issues are resolved.

The Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel has requested to Shri Tikaramji Kongre, Member, Z. P, Yavatmal & others that they should pay attention towards the presentation of this mine project and thereafter their suggestions / comments / objections shall be raised. But Shri Kongre has not responded to the appeal of the Hon'ble Chairman. He repeated & demanded to consider and resolve the above issues & decisions in this behalf be given by WCL Authority in presence of the Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel right now.

The Chairman & Shri Maske, Tahasildar, Wani have declared that the issue of compensation towards crop damage will be reviewed and the comments of

Joint Director, Agriculture Department will be called and will be sent to WCL mine through Collector, Yavatmal for consideration.

The Chairman has requested to mine authority to give the present status of the rehabilitation & resettlement of Govari village.

Shri Nandi, Representative of WCL mine has stated that roads, water supply scheme which includes two borewells out of which one is fitted with hand pump and the other with jet pump. Street poles are provided and also the 11 KVA electric line is charged. The work of Panchayat Bhawan, Community Hall, Crematorium, School Buldg., Play Ground, Balwadi, Ground Water Tank & strengthening of village approach road is completed by spending 55.77 lacs.

However, Shri Nandi, Representative of WCL mine state that the shifting allowance of Rs. 7000/- could be disbursed soon after the villagers starts shifting. We have 7 lacs rupees with us for this purpose.

Responding to this, Shri Kongre state that we have no faith in WCL as they failed to fulfill their commitment for several times in various issues. Thus, they should first disburse the shifting allowance as well as compensation of shifting of their houses.

The Chairman has requested to WCL mine for offering their comments on the above issue of shifting allowance and compensation.

Shri Karnavat, CGM, WCL has clarified that WCL has sanctioned the amount of shifting allowance and the fund is with his office but the same could be release when the villagers starts shifting to the new location. Similarly, the amount of compensation of houses is also reserved in WCL Head Quarter and same will be disbursed with interest after shifting is undertaken.

Reacting to this Shri Maske, Tahasildar, Wani has state that the money is required to construct the houses and if compensation is paid after shifting, the farmers may not be able to construct their houses. He also requested WCL to examine the disbursement of shifting allowance as an advance. The Chairman has also expressed the same view & requested the WCL to review their policy in this behalf.

Shri Karnavat, CGM, WCL has stated that in the past WCL had paid shifting allowance and compensation as an advance in their other projects but evenafter the receipt of the payment the villagers had not undertaken shifting. The Govari villagers should trust us and we will make the payment soon after shifting is undertaken. However, as requested by the Chairman & Shri Maske, Tahasildar, Wani, we will refer the matter to our Head Quarter for approval. If approval is accorded, necessary action in this regard will be taken.

After this, The Chairman and Member of the Public Hearing Panel have appealed to the public to allow to continue the presentation of Public Hearing of mine project which includes issue of rehabilitation and resettlement of Govari village and other project details. After the presentation, participants of the Public Hearing will be allowed to offer their comments / suggestions/ objections on the project.

Shri Kongre, said that in past we had raised the matter of environment pollution during Public Hearings but we have not received satisfactory replies and this should be recorded as our objection.

Shri Maske, Tahasildar, Wani, said that the objection raised during the Public Hearing shall be recorded.

Shri N.G. Nihul, Member of Public Hearing Panel informed that the entire proceedings of the Public Hearing is being recorded and the minutes duly approved by the Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel are hosted at Board's website & their copies are available at the offices of the concerned Grampanchayat, Collector Officer, Z.P. Office and concerned Board's offices, etc.

Shri N.G. Nihul, Member of Public Hearing Panel further said that the purpose of the Public Hearing is to record the environmental issues raised by the participants during the Public Hearing and their replies from the project proponent so as to forward the same, for further necessary action, to the Ministry of Environment & Forest, New Delhi with the signature of Chairman of Public Hearing through the Board Office, Mumbai. He also clarified that the issue of compensation is not related to the MPC Board.

Shri Pathradkar participant of public hearing said that he is not satisfied and declared that we all are protesting the stand of MPC Board and the same shall be recorded.

Shri Vararkar, Wani said that after coal excavation is over, the coal mine area appears like Chambal Valley and apprehended that these sites could be used for anti-social activities. He pointed out that such mines shall be reclaimed and leveled. WCL has not so far leveled any mine.

Shri Karnavat, CGM, WCL said that the mines could not be leveled till they are in operation. Once, the mine is declared as abundant, mines closer plan will be implemented.

Shri Pathradkar said that WCL authorities are usually seeking environment clearance by declaring expansion of the existing mine instead of showing it as new mine.

Shri Kongre said that there is one big pit from where coal extraction has been stopped and requested to level the same.

Shri Karnavat, CGM, WCL clarified that as per project report at this location the coal seam is at deeper level and the coal and over burden ratio is 1:10. After extraction of the coal from this location it will be leveled.

After this Chairman & Member have requested the project proponent to proceed with the presentation.

Shri A.D. Jamkar, HOD Environment CMPDIL Regional Institute – IV, Nagpur on behalf of M/s. WCL, Kolarpimpri Expansion OC Project presented the details of expansion of the project with the help of plan & various environmental data by giving power point presentation in local language i.e. Marathi.

He has given the power point presentation and explained the salient features of the project and the Environment. The presentation includes technical details of the proposed expansion project viz. mine area, core zone, production in the existing mine since inception (year 2000), buffer zone, land use pattern in core zone, present status of environment including water, air, noise, ground water,

existing tree plantation at and in the vicinity of the project site & future plans for the abatement of environment, etc. and community development plan.

During presentation, Shri Kongare & Shri Pidurkar, Member, Z.P., Yavatmal asked regarding diversion of nallas and their routs. Shri Pidurkar demanded that MPC Board should have separate office for Wani considering the pollution problems in this area and also demanded not to permit the WCL authority for the expansion as lot of dust is contributed by the WCL in the atmosphere in the vicinity of Wani city. He also stated that WCL is not using water tankers regularly for dust suppression in mine area.

Shri Jamkar, on behalf of WCL informed that the diversion of the nalla will be undertaken as per the recommendation of Central Design Organization, Irrigation Deptt. Nashik and with prior approval from concerned Irrigation Deptt. In this Nalla diversion programme the participation of the concern local people will be sought.

Shri Pathradkar said that Wani city is one of the polluted city. He also enquired that which agency has prescribed the ambient air quality standards. He also asked that whether these standards are acceptable to MPC Board.

Shri Nandi, WCL stated that water sprinkling arrangement at Coal Handling Plant is provided and it is in operation. He further stated that there are three water tankers for spraying of water for dust suppression. There are also water sprinklers for dust suppression.

Shri Pawar, WCL, has clarified that water sprinkling is carried out in all the three shifts regularly to control the fugitive dust emission.

Shri Vararkar, Wani, enquired about whether sprinkling facilities are operational in existing mine.

Shri Pawar, WCL, answered in affirmative.

Responding to the query of Shri Pathradkar, Shri S.S. Kotwal, Convenor of the Public Hearing has clarified that the ambient air quality standards are prescribed by the Ministry of Environment & Forest, New Delhi and these are applicable all over the nation.

Shri Prabhakar B. Bode, Village Bramhani, has enquired about whether the pollution could be checked that cause due to transportation and sprinkling of water in the mine area. He said that our village is located near to Wani town and we are dependent on the agriculture field. The WCL is purchasing our land as per Coal Bearing Act at nominal cost, whereas the present land cost should be more than five lacs per acre as it is offered by private parties in other area.

Shri Ram Rai, Area Planning Manager, WCL, said that reply regarding pollution control measures taken by WCL has been already attended. He further said that the valuation of the land is calculated by referring records of Registrar Office for last three years. 30 % more than the above average cost is offered as the cost of land. If there is delay in the disbursement of the amount there is provision of assessing 12% interest.

The Chairman enquired about the tentative cost of land in the area.

Shri Ram Rai, Area Planning Manager, WCL, said that the cost of the land varies from place to place and in this area the average cost would be about 1.5 lacs per ha.

Reacting to this, Shri Kongre vigorously stated that they will not give their land for this mine at the above said nominal rate and no clearance should be accorded to the expansion of the mine. He further stated that WCL has failed to absorb the project affected persons in the WCL.

Shri Ram Rai, Area Planning Manager, WCL, said that in addition to above compensation, there is provision of giving employment to one person if three acres of land is taken by the WCL.

One of the farmer approach to the Chairman and pointed out that the WCL is disposing the mine over burden on his land without giving compensation. He further stated that the land is acquired by WCL but he has not received compensation and WCL has started dumping of over burden.

Shri Nandi, WCL explained that in general this is not happened. Generally over burden is dumped at the designated place.

The Chairman said that WCL should investigate the matter and the compensation of land to this farmer shall be given on priority for dumping of over burden, if it is so.

Shri Nandi WCL replied that if it is true, the arrangement will be made to give the compensation. This issue is pertains to the Junad Open Cast Mine of WCL.

Lot of participants told at a time that WCL had acquired their land during year 1996 & 1998. Nearly 10 yrs. has been passed but employment is not provided by WCL to affected. They further pointed out that at the time of land acquisition the candidates were 15 years old i.e. minor and WCL has given in writing that after attaining 18 years of age, they will be given employment. But, no action in this regard is taken by WCL.

Shri Karnavat, CGM, WCL replied that these issues are old and the same was also discuss with Member of Parliament of this area and all these cases are referred to WCL Head Quarter and they are pending with WCL (HQ).

The Chairman enquired about the present status of the above cases of employment.

Replying to this Shri Karnavat, CGM, WCL informed that all the proposal are pending with head quarter. Pursuance of this matter will be taken & status will be communicated to the individual candidates.

On the emphasis from the farmers, the Chairman state that a separate meeting shall be scheduled shortly regarding employment to the land affected persons (about 150) by constituting the committee under the Chairmanship of S.D.O. Wani comprising of concerned WCL Authority from their HQ and representative of affected persons so that decision could be taken in the meeting and necessary orders shall be issued to the concerned.

Shri Karnavat, CGM, WCL stated that the concerned authorities from land deptt. & personal deptt. of WCL (HQ) will be called for the discussion with the S.D.O. Wani and project affected persons. Present status of their cases which

are pending at WCL (HQ) will be communicated to each of the affected person within 15 days.

Shri Dinkar Pawade, Vill. Rasa, Tq. Wani has stated that there are so many conditions for employment to the project affected person stipulated by WCL. He further stated that WCL should give employment to the project affected person without any condition. He also stated that before commencement of the expansion project, this employment issue should be resolved.

He also stated that mine development fund shall be distributed for the infrastructure development in the villages from which land is acquired for the project. He further stated that mine development fund shall be used for rehabilitation and resettlement of Govari village and thereafter Public Hearing shall be conducted.

Sau. Sunita Barahate, Sarpanch, village Govari, Tq. Wani, have asked that by what time the rehabilitation of Govari village will be undertaken shall be given in writing today itself.

Shri Nandi & Karnavat, CGM, WCL has again repeated the work undertaken by WCL towards rehabilitation and resettlement of Govari village and expenses incurred thereof.

Shri Bhakare, S.D.O., Wani stated that he will visit the Govari village in this connection shortly and look into the matter of shifting allowance and compensation, personally.

Shri Pidurkar, Member, Z.P., Yavatmal informed that private parties purchasing land in Bhadrawati Taluka, Dist. Chandrapur at the rate of Rs. 5 lacs per acre and we should get the rate Rs. 8 lacs per acre from WCL. He enquired that which type of trees shall be planted in the area. He said that WCL is planting Australian Babool everywhere, which are not much important. He suggested that trees i.e. Neem, Vad shall be planted. WCL Kolarpimpri has broken the PWD Road near Aheri village and the same shall be reconstructed. The pending cases of employment shall be expedited. Medical check up camp shall be organized by WCL for the people residing around the mine and its surrounding. WCL bear the

expenses incurred in this regard. Due to dumping of over burden the texture of soil gets damages. The over burden dumping near Wardha and Nirguda River shall be done 300 mtrs. from the bank river to avoid flooding problems and damage to agriculture field. The road from Bramhani Phata to Belora check post shall be concreted and rain guns shall be provided on this road. The expenses shall be made from the mine development fund. The coal is transported through trucks, the trucks drivers are not following the rules, they are illiterate and they are not having valid documents as per Motor Vehicle Act. Their vehicle are also not equipped with the side glass, proper number plates, indicators, parking lights, etc. The concerned Police Station should have record of such drivers. Due to such truck drivers incidents of road accidents are occurring in the area. The overloading of trucks shall be avoided.

Shri Karnavat, CGM, WCL assured that the overloading will be avoided and medical check up camp will be organized.

One of the participants has complained that none of the Granpanchayat have received the documents of this Public Hearing.

Shri N.G. Nihul, Member of Public Hearing Panel has clarified that the documents were kept in the concerned Grampanchayat offices by the Board. Shri S. S. Kotwal, Convenor of the Public Hearing has shown the acknowledged copy of the Grampanchayats regarding receipt of documents.

Shri Pidurkar, Member, Z. P. Yavatmal stated that he was on the Public Hearing Panel for several times in the past. But, he has not received the minutes of past Public Hearing conducted in the year 2006 and earlier.

Member of Public Hearing has told him to supply the copy of minutes if not made available earlier after receipt of written request. Generally, the copies of minutes are made available after completion of Public Hearing. As per MoEF Notification dtd. 14/09/2006, there is change in the constitution of Public Hearing Panel and thus copies of minutes of Public Hearing Panel are now be made available to the concerned local bodies and offices mentioned in the Public Hearing notice which was published well in advance in the leading news papers.

The Chairman has informed to the participant that the minutes of this Public Hearing will be made available to the respective Grampanchayat and other offices.

During the Public Hearing, **09 nos. of written representations** are received by the Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel. Their particulars are as below:

Sr. No.	Representation received from	Contents of representation	Letter address to
1	Grampanchayat, Bramhani	Regarding pollution	MPC Board.
2	Grampanchayat, Aheri	About problems of Aheri village.	S.D.O. Wani.
3	Suvarna Tatyaji Khadalkar, Village Lakhapur.	Regarding O.B. dump....compensation.	Chairman, Public Hearing Panel
4	Prabhakar V. Matte, Village Pimpalgaon.	Regarding employment	Collector, Yavatmal.
5	Praful Shyamraoji Upare, Village Bramhani.	Regarding compensation caused due to air pollution	MPC Board.
6	Tikarambhau Kongare, Member, Z.P. Yavatmal	Regarding pollution due to existing Kolar-pimpri mine, overloading of coal..... compensation.	MPC Board.
7	Sanjay R. Khade, President, Wani Taluka Yuvak Congress (I).	Problems caused due to coal mines in Wani North Area.	CGM, WCL, Wani.
8	Ashok Belekar, Village Junada	Regarding employment	WCL, Nagpur
9	Vijay Pidurkar, Member, Z.P. Yavatmal	Regarding pollution, overloading, employment, compensation & social development programme	Chairman, Public Hearing Panel

After the discussion/question/objection session, the Chairman of the Public Hearing has briefly summarized the Public Hearing proceedings and told to the public that their views have been duly recorded. The replies of the Project Proponent have also been recorded. Chairman further informed that the proceedings of the Public Hearing would be forwarded to the concerned authorities for further necessary action.

The convener has concluded the Public Hearing with vote of thanks to all present with the permission of Chair.

The copies of the said proceeding be sent to the concerned offices for displaying for general information. Comments, if any, on the proceeding which may be sent directly to the Ministry of Environment & Forest, New Delhi, the regulatory authority & the Project Proponent.

(Rajendra Deshmukh)
Chairman
Public Hearing Panel,