

**MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC**  
**HEARING**  
**OF**  
**M/s. WCL, KUMBHARKHANI**  
**UNDER GROUND PROJECT**  
**PO. RASA, Tq: WANI, DIST:**  
**YAVATMAL.**

**MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING**  
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**M/s. WCL, KUMBHARKHANI UNDER GROUND PROJECT**  
**PO. RASA, Tq: WANI, DIST: YAVATMAL.**

Environmental Public Hearing in respect of M/s. WCL, Kumbharkhani Expansion UGM Project, Po. Rasa, Tq. Wani Dist. Yavatmal was conducted on 22/12/2008 at 11.30 hrs. near Project Site in the hall of **Samudaik Manoranjan Kendra, Kumbharkhani Township, WCL, Kumbharkhani UG Project**, under the Chairmanship of Shri Rajendra Deshmukh, Dy. Collector, Representative of District Magistrate, Yavatmal, for enhancement in production from 0.36 MTPA to 0.60 MTPA & increase in mine lease area from 327.00 Ha. to 442.00 Ha., only by under ground right. WCL 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 Mhaske, Tahasildar, Wani, Dist. Yavatmal was also present during Public Hearing.

A Public Hearing Panel was constituted by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board vide Office Order No. E –107 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 0.36 MTPA to 0.60 MTPA & increase in mine lease area from 327.00 Ha. to 442.00 Ha., only by under ground right by this proposed expansion project of existing under ground coal mine and the procedure

adopted by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board 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.

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

He 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 2002), 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.

After the presentation the Chairman has appealed to the public for raising their doubts if any regarding the project. The following points are raised by he public, the details of which alongwith reply /explanations given by representative & are as under:

**1) Shri Dilip Kakade , Member, Zilla Parishad, Yavatmal & Shri Khaibar Ali Sayyad & Shri Ganesh Mandavkar, Dist. Yavatmal:-**

Shri Dilip Kakade, asked public whether they have understood the plans & graph presented by WCL. He also informed that water level before starting mine was upto 10 fit which has now gone upto 35-40 feet after mining operations started at Kumbharkhani U/G Mine.

Shri Dilip kakade & Shri Khaibar Ali Sayyad & Shri Ganesh Mandavkar also informed that coal particles are observed in water because of by-passing of sedimentation tanks and thereby nalla carrying mine water which leads to the river Vidarbha has got deposition of coal particles in the Vidarbha river bed. Due to consumption of this water peoples are suffering from skin diseases & lung diseases. Similarly, air pollution caused due to transportation of coal which adversely affects the crops along the road side and also create health hazard to the farmers. Shri Kakade suggested that insurance cover shall be provided to the people in the vicinity of the mine. He further said that WCL is not operating pollution control equipments regularly including sprinklers and the mine water contaminated with residues of explosives those used for mining. He stated that there was one incident of causing burns to the legs of bull because of polluted water in the nalla.

**Reply/explanation by representative of project proponent:-**

Shri S.P. Patil, SOM/ Safety Officer, Kumbharkhani U/G Mine said that there is no impact of underground mining operation on depletion of ground water. No chemicals are added in the mine water & the mine water is lifted by pumps to the surface level and thereafter allowed to pass through sedimentation tank and after settling of particles the same water is utilized for sprinkling to arrest fugitive emission from Coal Handling Plant, on roads for which rain guns are provided.

Overloading of trucks is avoided and coal carrying trucks are provided with tarpaulin for covering the coal while transporting. Dust pollution control measures are implemented throughout 24 hours.

He further clarified that explosives used in the underground mine are gel type and the gel gets converted into gaseous state which exerts pressure in the blasting hole and thereby coal is excavated and the question of residue of blasting chemicals in the mine water does not arise.

He stated that near coal handling plant, space for parking of 60 to 70 nos. of trucks is provided to avoid congestion of vehicles and overloading of trucks is not there as each and every trucks passes through weigh bridge and their weights are recorded. He also clarified that there is one sharp turning which is one of the reason for road accidents and necessary traffic sign is being provided over there.

### **2) Shri Vasudeo Pimpalsende, Village Rasa, Tq. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-**

He stated that the population of village Rasa is about 3000 souls and there is well at bank of Kumbharkhani (Vidarbha) River which is used as a source of drinking water. The well water turns into black colour because of coal sediments and also causes blocking of path of water current in the well.

### **Reply/explanation by representative of project proponent:-**

Shri S.P. Patil, SOM/ Safety Officer, Kumbharkhani U/G Mine said that generally wells are 30 mtrs. deep and the mining is carried out at a depth of 50 mtrs. to 200 mtrs. The underground mining is carried out without disturbing the aquifer and there is no relation of underground mining with the quality of water in the well. However, reasons will be examined.

### **3) Shri Dilip Kakade , Member, Zilla Parishad, Yavatmal, Dist. Yavatmal:-**

He stated that there is layer of about 5 ft. thickness of coal sediments and residue of explosives used in the mine, in the Vidarbha River near Kumbharkhani dam which causes health hazard to the human being and animals.

Shri Shamkant Mhaske, Tahasildar, Wani, Dist. Yavatmal has suggested that the mine authority should test water samples for its contents and medical check up of the affected shall be undertaken by the mine authority.

**4) Shri Vitthal Surpam, Sarpanch, Rasa, Tq. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-**

Due to vehicle traffic of Ghonsa mine, water supply pipeline of Rasa village got damaged and hence the water supply should be arranged for the villagers on top priority.

**Reply/explanation by representative of project proponent:-**

Shri S. S. Karnavat, CGM, Wani North Area, informed that WCL will undertake repair work of the pipeline, if it is damaged due to vehicles of Ghonsa mine (which is near to this Kumbharkhani UG mine). We have also prepared the plan for diversion of pipeline to avoid the frequent breakdown and work will be completed at the earliest.

**5) Shri Satish Rajurkar, villaged Borda, Tq. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-**

He has repeated the same question regarding supply of black water from Vidarbha River.

**Reply/explanation by representative of project proponent:-**

Shri S.P. Patil, SOM/ Safety Officer, Kumbharkhani U/G Mine said that the reply for this question has been given by WCL. He also replied that the mine water is passes through sedimentation tank and then it is filtered through sand filter and carbon filter and same is used for drinking purpose in the mine area and colony of the mine.

**6) Shri Dilip Kakade , Member, Zilla Parishad, Yavatmal, Dist. Yavatmal:-**

He said that the information being provided by mine authority as regards to the drinking water and its quality is not correct.

**7) Shri K. M. Yedme, Village Surla, Tq. Zari Jamni, Dist. Yavatmal:-**

He said that the village Surla is situated at a distance of about 5 kms. from the mine. Due to transportation of construction materials of the mine, the village road Surla to Ghonsa gets damaged and there is no alternative road for the villagers and thus facing the acute problem of transportation. The mining authority should undertake the repair work of the above said road.

He also added that the over burden from the Ghonsa OC Mine (newly upcoming mine) is being dumped near the bank of Vidarbha River, which may result into the flooding of the area. There are mostly Adivasis residing in this area and they are not much aware of adverse impact of the above said act. Mine authority should look into it.

He also stated that the drivers used to park their trucks on both the sides of the Wani – Ghonsa, State Highway near Coal Stock Yard of the mine and thereby affects the traffic. Similarly, due to coal dust particles, crops and health of the villagers gets affected. The sprinklers provided by mining authority are not beneficial because pedestrians or motorcyclist passing by this road are facing the problems and also the tar road gets damaged.

**Reply/explanation by representative of project proponent:-**

Shri S.P. Patil, SOM/ Safety Officer, Kumbharkhani U/G Mine said that the village Surla is about 5 Kms. away from the mine and repairing of the road will be done by WCL through community welfare development fund.

Shri. Rajendra Deshmukha, Chairman, suggested that since the road is damaged due to material transportation by WCL, the mine authority should repair it through community welfare development fund.

**Reply/explanation by representative of project proponent:-**

Srhi S.S. Karnawat, CGM, Wani North Area, the repairing of road will be done after receipt of resolution from Grampanchayat, through welfare community development fund.

**8) Shri Ashok Gohokar , Dy. Sarpanch, village Dahegoan, Tq. Wani, Dist.**

**Yavatmal:-**

He said that coal produced by WCL is national wealth. During extraction of coal environment gets affected. So, WCL should supply free medical facilities to the villagers and a part of welfare fund may be allocated to Grampanchayat for community development proportionate to the population of the respective village & supply of free medical facilities.

Sri. Rajendra Deshmukha, Chairman, suggested that WCL should arrange health camp for the villagers & provide free medical help to the villagers in association with Public Health Centers.

**Reply/explanation by representative of project proponent:-**

Shri S.S. Karnawat, CGM, Wani North Area said that medical camp can be arranged jointly with doctors from State Government & WCL.

**9) Shri Babarao Dhankasar, Sarpanch , village Kumbharkhani, Tq. Wani,**

**Dist. Yavatmal:-**

He said that due to activity of existing Kumbharkhani UG Mine, the environment and water & air quality is changed. He also stated that coal dust is deposited in the intake well near Kumbharkhani weir.

**10) Shri Gajanan Shende, Sarpanch, village Sonegoan, Tq. Wani, Dist.**

**Yavatmal:-**

He stated that his village is located on up side direction of the mine, hence in future there is a chance of water scarcity due to underground mine.

**Reply/explanation by representative of project proponent:-**

Shri S.P. Patil, SOM/ Safety Officer, Kumbharkhani U/G Mine replied that underground mine working starts from 50 mtrs. depth and reaches upto 200 mtrs. depth. Hence, as such there is no disturbance to the aquifer. He also stated that we have introduced the Continuous Miner technology in the mine, imported from Australia where the use of explosives is not needed for the extraction of coal. In continuous miner no blasting is needed. In this blasting, the water current with high pressure is used to break the coal seam and coal is extracted by scratching. For this purpose mine water is used. The mine water is also used after sedimentation for dust suppression at CHP and domestic purpose in township of the mine after conventional treatment.

**11) Shri Satish Rajurkar, village Borda, Tq. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-**

He stated that labour from adjoining villages are coming to the mine and they also required to provide medical health check up and road facility for them.

**12) Shri Dilip Kakade , Member, Zilla Parishad, Yavatmal, Dist. Yavatmal:-**

He said that the distance of Vidharba river as shown in the map during presentation is 2 Kms. from Kumbharkhani U/G Mine but actually it is less than that. Tunnel of mine have gone upto Vidharba river and requested not to permit the mine authority to cross the river for mining. In the past, the Vidharba river was never dried but due to Kumbharkhani U/G Mine, the river get dry even before summer. Further he said that due to dumping of overburden of Ghonsa Opencast mine nearby the Vidharba river, the flooding of agriculture land may occur and farmers will have no alternative other than suicide. I have already informed to S.D.O., Wani & District Collector, Yavatmal regarding this and requested to arrange the meeting in this regard.

Shri N. G. Nihul, Member, has apprised that this issue is pertains to the Ghonsa OC Mine which is adjacent to this mine and this Public Hearing is meant for recording the views / suggestions from the people for the proposed expansion of Kumbharkhani UG Mine project.

**Reply/explanation by representative of project proponent:-**

Shri S.P. Patil, SOM/ Safety Officer, Kumbharkhani U/G Mine replied that the underground mining methods do not cause any effect on the water table, if mine workings are to be develop beneath the Vidharba river, the permission is required from Directorate General of Mines Safety, Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India. As such the working of mine is yet to cross the Vidharba river. Hence, there is no relation/ effect on the flow of Vidharba river and as an when the crossing of Vidarbha river is to be undertaken, it would be as per guidelines / conditions stipulated by DGMS.

**13) Shri Ganesh D. Paighan, Dy. Sarpanch, Village Borda, Tq. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-**

He said that water supplied to the village Borda through pipeline from Vidarbha river flowing from Ghonsa village, which is about 4 kms. away from the village Borda and this water is black in colour. He also stated that the water table

has been depleted due to mining activity. He has also submitted his written statement bearing signatures of other two persons namely Shri Panjab Vitthal Kumre and Shri Satish V. Rajurkar all from village Borda, the copy of which is enclosed herewith.

**14) Shri Sadanand Ganfade, Dy. Sarpanch, Village Kumbharkhani, Dist.**

**Yavatmal:-**

He said that Kumbharkhani U/G Mine is working since a long time but WCL has not invited us and solve our problems & used to discharge black coloured water in the river.

Shri Shamkant Maske , Tahasildar, Wani, Dist. Yavatmal stated that the WCL has replied the queries raised by Shri Sadanand Ganfade, Dy. Sarpanch, Village Kumbharkhani, Shri Ganesh D. Paighan, Shri Panjab Vitthal Kumre and Shri Satish V. Rajurkar, village Borda has been replied by the representative of WCL earlier. If any new question/ query is there, it should only be raised.

During the Public Hearing, 04 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, Rasa.	Water supply scheme to Rasa village	Chief General Manager, WCL, Wani North Area.
2	Surla Gramvasi, Tq. Zari Jamni	Repairing of Ghonsa to Surla road	Dy. Collector, Yavatmal.
3	Shri Dilip Kakade, Member, Z. P. Yavatmal	Environmental pollution & damage due to Kumbharkhani UG Mine	Dy. Collector, Yavatmal.
4	Sarpanch, Gram panchayat, Borda & other 3 villagers.	Supply of contaminated water & water scarcity.	Manager, Kumbharkhani UG Mine, WCL.

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 the 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,