

Minutes of Environmental Public Hearing.

Environmental public hearing of M/s Sunflag Iron & steel co. ltd, Warthi, Tq Mohadi, Dist Bhandara, was conducted on 05 May 2016 at 11.30 a.m within premises of existing industry. Public hearing was conducted under the chairmanship of Hon'ble District Collector, Bhandara, Smt Hema Deshpande, I/c Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Nagpur was present as member and Mr.K.P.Pusadkar, I/c Sub-Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Bhandara was convener of the said Public Hearing. People representatives and people have attended Public Hearing enthusiastically, attendance register is attached herewith.

M/s Sunflag Iron & steel co. ltd, Warthi, Tq Mohadi, Dist Bhandara, have proposed expansion of their existing plant by 0.5 to 1.0 million Ton per year, which requires Environmental Clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forest, Climate change, Govt. of India. As per Terms of Reference, issued by the ministry, industry vide letter dated 10/02/2016, had applied to the Board to conduct public consultation along with draft EIA/EMP, executive summary in English & Marathi. The Head office of the Board, vide letter no.MPCB/JD (WPC)/P.H/B-1171 dtd 17/03/2016, had accorded approval to conduct public hearing procedure. Following guidelines stipulated under EIA Notification dated 14 Sep 2016, amended dtd 1/12/2009, venue, date and time was finalized after consultation of the district Collector, Bhandara. The Board office vide Office Order no.BO/JD(WPC)/P.H/B-1663 dtd 25/04/2016 issued office order to conduct public Hearing within premises of M/s Sunflag Iron & steel co. ltd, Warthi, Tq Mohadi, Dist Bhandara, on 05 May 2016 at 11.30 a.m under the chairmanship of Hon'ble District Collector, Bhandara, (copy enclosed).

Advertise of the said public Hearing was published in English daily "Times of India" & Marathi daily "Maharashtra Times" dtd 04 April 2016 with thirty days period to receive objections of the concerns. (Copy enclosed).

Draft EIA/EMP reports along with Executive summary in English and Marathi with soft copy were placed at following locations for information and study by the people.

- 1) Environment Department, Govt of Maharashtra, Mumbai.
- 2) Collector Office, Bhandara.
- 3) Zilha Parishad, Bhandara.
- 4) District Industry Center, Bhandara.
- 5) Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai.
- 6) Regional Office, M.P.C.Board, Nagpur.
- 7) Sub-Regional Office, M.P.C.Board, Bhandara.
- 8) Grampanchayat Office, Eklari, Tq Mohadi, Dist Bhandara.
- 9) Grampanchayat Office, Warthi, Tq Mohadi, Dist Bhandara.
- 10) Grampanchayat Office, Sirsi, Tq Mohadi, Dist Bhandara.
- 11) Panchayat Samiti, Mohadi, Dist Bhandara.
- 12) Tahsil Office, Mohadi, Dist Bhandara.
- 13) Regional Office, MoEF, climate change, at ground floor, East wing, New secretariat Building, Civil lines, Nagpur.

Said documents were also made available on Board's website mpcb.gov.in

For wide publicity of said public hearing press note was released through District Information Officer and published in Marathi daily namely Punyanagri, Deshonnati, Mahasagar, Lokmat and Marathi weekly Barfatil Jwala, dtd 30/04/2016 and communicated that said public hearing is open to all. Notices were displayed at offices of Grampanchayat, Warthi, Eklari & Sirsi. Announcement were given Warthi, Eklari & Sirsi through loudspeaker mounted on auto rikshaw on 03/05/2016, through Tahsildar, Mohadi a competent authority. (Details are attached herewith)

Eight written objections were received before Public Hearing and two were during hearing. One person had visited sub-Regional office to inspect public hearing documents. (Details are attached along with objections)

Public Hearing proceeding was started at 12.30 after due permission of the Chairperson. Convener Shri K.P.Pusadkar during his introduction speech explained procedure of public hearing and cleared to public that, public hearing committee doesn't have right to recommend or to approve project.

The proceeding of public hearing along with received written objections and video recording will be submitted to the Ministry for further needful action. He then invited industry representative to give power point presentation of expansion project.

Shri Sunil Lanjewar, AGM, M/s Sunflag, has explained production and manufacturing process.

Dr Wibhute, representative of technical consultant for said company carried power point presentations in Marathi regarding EIA/EMP and explained status of Water, Air & Noise pollution. Chairman had sought information regarding Noise monitoring locations, distance from industry site and monitoring procedure.

Shri Shailesh Gajbhiye and other have objected that, village Warthi is not considered for noise level monitoring.

Shri Wibhute, while explaining submitted that, Village Warthi and Eklari are on same direction. Since Noise level monitoring was carried in Eklari village which is closed to industry site i.e @ 0.5 K.M, noise levels was not taken at Warthi Village.

Chairman enquired whether study is carried by any third party. Dr Wibhute, replied that, EIA/EMP study and report is prepared by MoEF, accredited laboratory. As asked by the chairman, Consultant Company explained noise monitoring procedure.

During presentation of Green Belt development, Shri Shailesh Gajbhiye, enquired location of greenbelt developed by industry, and whether trees near railway siding were chopped for expansion work. Shri Sunil Lanjewar, briefed green belt development locations and assured that, no trees near railway siding will be destroyed for expansion work.

Smt.Hema Deshpande, I/c Regional Officer, then invited objections from the public on Environmental issues.

Dr Prakash Malgawe, raised following issues;

- 1) Environment of villages is very important as it is directly related to people's life and necessary steps needs to be taken to protect Environment.
- 2) Company should provide permanent Health Care Facility for the villagers.
- 3) Company doesn't have separate truck parking facility. Heavy vehicles are always parked outside company premises, adjacent to main road and may invite accidents. He suggested to provide separate parking facility within factory premises.

Shri Ulhas Phadke, welcomed expansion project for industrialization of district. Industry authority ensure that, there shall no discharge of industrial effluent into Sur & Wainganga River to avoid river pollution. Industry authority shall give information to people and assured them that there is no harm to their health and farms by their industry.

Shri Milind Dhargawe, Warthi, welcomed expansion project and raised following points;

- 1) Company authority shall extend all facilities to public.
- 2) Labour Union is not fulfilling their responsibilities.
- 3) Company authority shall take over issue of health, safety & beautification of nearby villages.
- 4) Priority shall be given to local un- employed youths.
- 5) Company's school facility shall be extended to poor children of villages and ex-military personal's boys.
- 6) Payment of all labours shall be made through Bank and they shall aware about minimum wages.
- 7) Pollution from industry affecting children's health.
- 8) Advertise of public Hearing should have published in dailiy Lokmat.
- 9) Industry authority shall declare generation of skilled & unskilled employment.
- 10) Owner of industry shall pay visit to nearby villages.
- 11) No suitable work is given to un-employed youths of villages in company.
- 12) Company shall provide facility of ambulance and fire brigade for villages.
- 13) Employment shall be given to local people.

Shri Sharad Wasnik, Warthi, welcoming expansion project raised following issues;

- 1) Representation was given to extend public hearing date for one month, to create awareness among people regarding expansion and objected to public hearing.
- 2) Company authority has not complied with an agreement made with project affected people in year 1988.
- 3) Industry authority has not disclosed domicile of labours employed during year 2008.

Shri Ashish Gajbhiye, Warthi. He raised following issues;

- 1) There is pollution in nearby villages due to industry.
- 2) Industrial Effluent discharges towards Pandharabodi village.
- 3) Employment shall be given to local people.

Shri Shailesh Gajbhiye, Warthi. Said he has no oppose to expansion of industry and puts his views as below;

- 1) Company authority had acquired people's land and deceived them including me.
- 2) Information regarding employment generation in executive summary is vague, industry authority shall clear their employment policy.
- 3) Company authority shall explain compliance status for employment to local people.
- 4) We two brothers are unestablished and requested to accommodate any one of them in company service.

Shri Pramod Wasnik, said having no oppose to expansion and raised following issues;

- 1) Samplings shall be provided to farmers in monsoon.
- 2) Poor children shall be admitted in their school under RTE.
- 3) Employment shall be provided to local youths. List of un- employed youths can be obtained from concerned Grampanchayat office.

Shri Milind Wasnik, Kardha. Said he is General Secretary of union of company since 1989. Welcoming expansion of industry supported to demand of employment to local people. He further said that, opportunity of mass employment will be generate due to expansion of industry and supported expansion project.

Shri Vivek Ganvir. Suggested that, no permission shall be given to speak on non-Environmental issues.

Shri Vivek Ingle.

- 1) There is pollution in Warthi village especially at Gandhi Ward.
- 2) Industry authority has not planted trees in Warthi village.
- 3) Pollution shall be controlled and health care facility shall be provided to Warthi villagers.

Sunanda Reddy. Welcomed expansion project and said;

- 1) Industry shall recycle effluent.
- 2) Shall carry out plantation, avenue plantation.
- 3) Committee shall be formed to monitor CSR work.
- 4) Training shall be imparted for skill development.

Shri Dhananjay Dalal. We are supporting expansion of industry and demanded as following;

- 1) Priority shall be given to local people for employment.
- 2) Meetings shall be conducted by company authority with Sarpanch, members of local body and assured them measures taken to control pollution.
- 3) Training shall be given to local people for skill development and employment shall be provided as per their qualification.

Smt Meena Kodnewar. Supported expansion of project and demanded employment to local people and to control pollution.

Shri Gopu Pimpalpure. Extending support to expansion project raised following points;

- 1) Supporting demand to provide employment to local people.
- 2) Company authority shall carried plantation as per 2500 trees per hectare norms.
- 3) Company authority shall provide health facility to villagers.

Shri Vijay Khandera. He said that, industrialization helps development of area. However, industry authority shall also realize their responsibility towards better Environment and community development. He supported expansion project while demanding solving local issues.

Shri Patel. Congratulated Company authority to create employment opportunity while bringing expansion project in district. He demanded to take medical camps in schools of villages within 10 K.M radius and to supply free medicines.

Shri Tareek Qureshi. Said there will be development of Bhandara district due to expansion project and will create mass opportunity of employment. Approval shall be given with suitable conditions.

Shri Sanjay Mirashe, sarpanch Warthi. Said there is no objection for Warthi village for expansion project and demanded following;

- 1) Written assurance shall be given for employment to local people.
- 2) Maximum funds shall be provided to Warthi village under CSR.
- 3) Company shall provide permanent Health Care Facility in village.
- 4) Industry shall carry out plantation in village with their maintenance.

Shri Dilip Uke.

- 1) Main issue is of local employment.
- 2) Employment shall be provided to local people.
- 3) Company shall provide medicines to Public Health Center under CSR.
- 4) Education facility shall be extended to poor children.

Smt. Lanjewar, Tumsar demanded employment to local people.

Smt. Manda Vaidya.

- 1) Unemployment rate will be increased due to close down of industry.
- 2) Employment shall be provided to local people.
- 3) Arrangement shall be provided to control pollution.

Shri Tathagat Meshram, while supporting expansion of industry raised following issues;

- 1) Employment shall be provided to qualified people of local villages.
- 2) Green Revolution shall be develop in villages.
- 3) Health Care facility shall be provided to villages.
- 4) Company authority shall adopt at least 50 children from Warthi, Eklari villages every year and provide them free education.
- 5) Company shall adopt villages within two -three k.m radius and shall provide them maximum facilities like street lite, rejuvenation of water sources, tree plantation etc.
- 6) Company authority shall consider objections of people and provide them justice.

Smt Sangeeta Sukhani. Congratulated company authority for better facility in school.

Hon'ble MLA Shri Charan Waghmare, said everyone has supported expansion of project registering objections which I support and put following views;

- 1) If company authority take care regarding pollution from industry will nullify people's complaints.
- 2) Company authority shall give assurance to follow rules and regulations to control pollution completely.
- 3) Priority shall be given to local people for employment.
- 4) If complied with various governments rule then no one will object expansion of industry.
- 5) 60 MW electricity will require for expansion project. Rather acquiring electricity from Government, Company shall explore solar power plants, which will generate more employment to run solar power plant and company will be benefited by low rate electricity.
- 6) Industry shall plant special species of plants for pollution control.
- 7) Industry effluent shall not find its way into river.
- 8) Extended his support to expansion project.

Shri R.B Dalvi, Executive Director, M/s Sunflag Iron & Steel Co.Ltd, while replying objections/suggestions raised during hearing said that, company has provided 82 % employment to local people. In last five- six year company has spent Rs 77 Crores towards pollution control systems. Medical camps have been taken at each villages and distributed free spectacles, medicines under CSR. We will also take medical camps at Warthi village too.

One objections has raised from the public that, company authority is giving wrong information. No camp has been taken in any village. They are discharging toxic effluent into nala passing through their premises and causing problem of irrigation to nearby farmers.

Smt Hema Deshpande, I/c Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, said, industry has made arrangement to control pollution, Instructions, directions are issued time to time to upgrade the same, if there is any complaint regarding pollution from industry then it shall be given to Board in writing and necessary inspections will be carried to sort out the same.

She further said that, major issue raised during hearing is about local employment and company authority shall clear their policy for that. On demand of Shri Sharad Wasnik regarding commitment guarantee, she further said that, this is Environmental public hearing and separate discussion should have been conduct for this issue.

Smt Pachbhai, Wrthi. Said her husband was died in year 2011 and no compensation till got from company management and requested help from company.

Shri Dalvi said at present I can't clear company's policy but assured to needful in each matter.

In concluding remark chairman said, Environmental objections were anticipated from the public so that we can have details from company management for Environment protection from expansion project, unfortunately very few people have put their Environmental views. Some people have raised vague questions regarding pollution from industry, it is directed Maharashtra Pollution control Board to inspect the fact and submit report. Health report will also been called from Warthi, PHC to know rate of respiratory diseases. It is also suggested that, company authority shall carry out health survey in the vicinity and submit report within thirty days. It is observed that, there is communication gap between Company management and nearby villagers. It is necessary to take people in confidence and let them know efforts taken by industry for welfare, pollution control, CSR work, and proper communication network is necessary. Compliance regarding employment to local people will be checked through labour commissioner and necessary instructions will be issued. Public has supported expansion project by large.

Company will invest about Rs 1500 crores for expansion project which will generate employment to 1200 to 1500 nos, which is appreciated for development of Bhandara district. Company authority shall promote small scale industries for their local needs which will help to generate maximum employment and entrepreneur development. People shall get their right like employment but not by compromising pollution. Instructions will be given to Labour commissioner to verify compliance of employment to locals. We expecting expansion of industry abiding to local employment, village development, good health of people, good Environment which is important for all concern.

Proceeding of public hearing extending thanks to chair.



(K.P. Pusadkar)

Convener & I/c Sub-Regional Officer



(Hema Deshpande)

Member & I/c Regional Officer



(Dheera Kumar IAS)

Chairman & District Collector, Bhandara

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