

Minutes of public hearing for proposed Vadodara Mumbai Expressway

Date & Time of Public Hearing :- 01.12.2014. Time :- 11.00AM
Venue :- Auditorium of PanchayatSamittiTalasari, Tal-Talasari

Public Hearing Committee Members Present at the Public Hearing.

1. Mr. Rajesh Katkar :- Additional District Magistrate, Palghar & Chairman of the Public Hearing.
2. Mr. S. R. Bhosale :- Sub Regional Officer MPCB Board Tarapur-I and Convener of the Public Hearing.

As per EIA Notification, 2006, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) constituted Public Hearing Committee in the Order No.E-107 of 2014 vide letter no.BO/JD/(WPC)/PH-B-4884 dated 28.11.2014.

This committee will record the comments, suggestions raised by the public about the project and is not authorized for making any decisions or recommendations. Final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report will be prepared and submitted by project proponent to the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) after incorporating the issues raised by the public and response made by Project Proponent during the Public Hearing. Thereafter, MoEF will consider the proposal for grant of Environmental Clearance.

Beside above, Smt. Anjali Bhosale-Sub Divisional Officer Dahanu, Shri-Ganesh Sangale-TahsildarTalasari were also present.

At outset Hon'ble Chairman Mr. Rajesh Katkar welcomes SarpanchGrampanchayat Members, Press reporters and Villagers of nearby Project Area of TalasariTaluka. Further he directed the convener to proceed further for public hearing process. Sub-Regional Officer, Tarapur-I and convener also welcomed the committee members, Reporters, Police officials and the participants. Thereafter convener explained the purpose of the public hearing with information such as National Highway Authority of India has submitted revised application along with EIA report to MPCB on 23.09.14 for the conducting public hearing. MPCB published public hearing notices in Indian Express (English) on 23.10.14 and 24.10.14 and in Daily Sakal newspaper (Marathi) on 23.10.14. The Convener stated that public hearing is related to environmental issues and main motto of this hearing is to explain and take consent for the proposed project of Development of Vadodara Mumbai Expressway (Phase-I) from Km 104+700 (Km 390+864 of NH-8) to Km 378+722 (Km 80 of NE-1) in the state of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli. Thereafter he outlined the public hearing procedure and informed about the MOEF notification on Public hearing. He further requested the participants to put forth their objection or suggestions etc. only after presentation by the Project Proponent. He then requested project proponent to make the presentation.

Thereafter Chairman outlined the Public Hearing procedure and requested participants to put forth their objections, suggestion any related to environmental issues only.

With the permission of chair, Mr. Rajesh Pekam, representative of project proponent made audio-visual presentation in Marathi regarding proposed project of Development of Vadodara Mumbai Expressway (Phase-I) from Km 104+700 (Km 390+864 of NH-8) to Km 378+722 (Km 80 of NE-1) in

the state of Gujrat, Maharashtra and Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli Projects. His presentation is based on EIA report and Executive summary. He also explained the present status and impact with respect to water quality, ambient air quality and noise quality as per the EIA report and narrated in nut shell.

The Honorable Chairman requested to the participants to put forth their views, opinion, question and suggestion etc. only on environmental issues.

The details of question answer session are given below:

Sr No.	Name of participant	Question/Objection raised
1	Shri-Laxaman Donagre Member of Group Grampanchayat- Savroli	Public hearing notice has not been given to all farmers. Hence, we oppose the project and we will not sign on the register. Every farmer should get the public hearing notice.
2	Shri Pravin, Member of Group Grampanchayat Samiti, Savroli	How many farmers are present in this hearing. Whose land is acquired for the proposed project. Why is this public hearing being conducted. Hence, I oppose the project and I will not be present for this hearing.
3	Shri-Barkya Managa Member of Zhila Parishad and Social Worker	Public hearing notices have not been given to all farmers. Notices should be given to individual farmers and then conduct the public hearing again. No person will understand the environmental issues, hence we oppose the public hearing.
4	Shri-Laxman Donagre Member of Grampanchayat- Savroli	There are number of Industries in Savroli Village which are causing environmental pollution and no action has been initiated on them.
5	Shri-Pravin Patil, Secretary Shetkari Sangharsh Samiti- Navje Village	Public hearing is conducted to understand the environmental issues of the project. But farmers are illiterates and cannot read and write. So the notice regarding public hearing should be given to all farmers individually at least prior to 8 days of public hearing.
6	Shri-Santosh Pawade, President Shetkari Sangharsh Samiti- Kirat Village	People have not been informed regarding the public hearing. I oppose the project. This public hearing should be held to understand the issues of farmers with respect to project. As the land will be taken from poor farmers, request to cancel the public hearing. Conduct the public hearing after taking farmers in to confidence.
7	Shri-Ramesh Pawar	Farmers do not understand the project and hence I oppose the hearing. Farmers should be given training for 8 days by MPC Board regarding environmental issues. Project proponent has made the presentation very quickly and we have not understood the project details and we are not experts. If the road project is laid, the greenery and vegetation will be denuded and how will farmers survive. Hence, cancel this public hearing. Honorable Chairman elaborated that only 8 Km length of this Project is going from Talasari Taluka and 240 Km length of this Project passing through Gujarat State and farmers of Gujarat State has given consent for this Project.
8	Shri-Pravin Bhise President-Student Union.	Here there are no farmers present and only police and other public are present in the hearing. Hence, I oppose the public hearing and leave the meeting hall. Honorable Chairman explained that the Police Protection is for us and he requested people not to leave the meeting hall.
9	Shri-Ramakant Ugale Member of Shetkari Sangharsh Samiti	The actual problems will arise in future due to this project and these problems should be considered now. Has the impact assessment been done pertaining to water pollution and Soil pollution. Villages will get separated

	ti- Navje Village	<p>and there will be a big division if 25ft high above the ground road is constructed.</p> <p>Shri Rajesh Pekem representative of project proponent replied that there are 6 to 7 over bridges and 5 to 6 under by-pass. So there will be no transportation problem to nearby villages.</p>
10	Shri-LaxamanDonagre Member of Grampanchayat- Savroli	<p>Some people have got large amount of land like 50 acres. But people like us have only very few acres of land. If the land is acquired by the company, there will not be any benefit for us. Information should be given on relevant issues like rivers, nallahs, and farms instead of giving information of Vadodara.</p> <p>Honorable Chairman explained that Tahasildar will make inquiry under land acquisition act to protect the farmers.</p>
11	SarpanchSavroliGrampa nchayat	<p>Project proponent will cut the trees, install crusher and quarry due to which there will be pollution problem.</p> <p>Honorable Chairman explained that Quarry and Crusher is not concerned with this Project.</p>
12	Mrs. LataDhodi, Sarpanch-Kawada	<p>Farmers are dependent on land for cultivation. So, we will not give land for the project</p>
13	Shri – Dinesh Gharat, Police Patil-Nanivali Village	<p>In the previous road project, there was no provision made for crossing bullock carts. You are technical person, but you are not presenting technical points about 8 km road length. There will be difficulty in crossing when this proposed road will be built.</p>
14	Shri-Ramesh Pawar, Treasurer of ShetkariSangharshSamit ti- Navje Village	<p>You are presenting the benefits of the projects with respect to environment but you have not explained environmental related problems due to project and government will look into only benefits of the project.</p> <p>Shri Nadeem representative of project proponent explained that there is an environment management plan wherein there is a provision of water sprinkling arrangement whenever Dust emission.</p>
15	Shri – Santosh Patil, Reporter of MI Marathi	<p>When there was highway project before, many trees were cut, soil has been excavated, and mining was done. There were lot of problems to people. Proper care was not taken to protect environment at that time. Will it be repeated for this project as well.</p> <p>Honorable Chairman explained that Quarry and Crusher is not concerned with this Project.</p>
16	Shri-Bhawani Shankar Joshi, Working Chairman Maharashtra EktaPatrakarShanghPal ghar	<p>Project Proponent representative has not informed their name and designation to this auditorium. Further he explained that how many notices were served to farmers within 8 Km length of this Project. Farmers are unable to get compensation of earlier highway NH-8. Whether farmers will get compensation for this Project or otherwise. Whether local farmers will get benefit of Environment management plan. As the project cost is 3064 crore rupees, whether people will get compensation as per the land acquisition act or not.</p> <p>Honorable Chairman explained that above mentioned issues is not related to this Project Hearing, so please do not mix with the other issues. Honorable Chairman again elaborated that people should ask environment related question only. As farmers expressed their view regarding public hearing but not explained the reason for opposition for this hearing. Further he informed that there will be development of this area due to this Project and project proponent will try to give the compensation as per land acquisition act.</p>

17	Shri-Santosh Pawade, President ShetkariSangharshSamiti- Kirat Village	This public hearing is conducted for farmers. As many farmers are not present, why is this public hearing being held. Please close this hearing.
18	Shri-Bhawani Shankar Joshi, Working Chairman Maharashtra EktaPatrakarShanghPal ghar	He welcomed the Public Hearing of this Project. But you have not provided notices to farmers regarding this hearing. You have to serve the notices again and conduct the hearing once again. Chairman informed that notices of public hearing have been served to the concerned grampanchayats.

Chairman informed that that all oral and written questions and objections have been noted. Further, he informed that a separate meeting will be conducted regarding land acquisition and compensation issues. Lastly Hon'ble Chairman stated that whatever concerns and suggestion made by villagers and reply given by the project proponent will be recorded and submitted to Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi for technical appraisal of the project and voted thanks to all dignitaries, villagers, media personnel who were present for this public hearing & lastly declared the successfully completion of the Public Hearing of this project.

(S.R. Bhosale)

Sub-Regional Officer, MPC Board, Tarapur-I &
Convener of the Public Hearing

(Rajesh Katkar)

Additional District Magistrate Palghar &
Chairman of the Public Hearing