

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING
HELD FOR PROPOSED MOLASSES BASED DISTILLERY OF 30 KLPD
IN RESPECT OF**

**M/S. AJARA SHETKARI SAHAKARI SAKHAR KARKHANA LTD.,
LOCATED AT SURVEY NO. 166, 165, 30, 32 OF VILLAGE GAVASE, TAL:
AJARA, DIST: KOLHAPUR AND SURVEY NO. 25, 27/1 & 27/2 OF
VILLAGE DARDEWADI, TAL: AJARA, DIST: KOLHAPUR
AKIWAT-TAKALIWADI ROAD, AT POST: TAKALIWADI,
TAL: SHIROL, DIST: KOLHAPUR (MAHARASHTRA STATE)**

Environmental public hearing for proposed molasses based distillery of 30 KLPD in respect of M/s. Ajara Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Survey No. 166, 165, 30, 32, Village Gavase, Tal: Ajara, Dist: Kolhapur and Survey No. 25, 27/1 & 27/2, Village Dardewadi, Tal: Ajara, Dist: Kolhapur was held on 16-11-2018 at 11.30 A.M. at the factory site, Village Gavase, Tal: Ajara, Dist: Kolhapur.

Following panel members were present for the public hearing:-

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| 1. | Hon'ble Shri. Sanjay Shinde,
Additional District Magistrate, Kolhapur.
(Representative of District Collector, Kolhapur) | - | Chairman |
| 2. | Shri. Nagesh Lohalkar,
Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Kolhapur.
(Representative of Maharashtra Pollution
Control Board) | - | Member |
| 3. | Shri Prashant Gaikwad,
Sub Regional Officer, MPC Board,
Kolhapur. | - | Convener |

First of all, Shri Prashant Gaikwad, Convener of the environmental public hearing welcomed the participants and with the permission of Hon'ble Chairman started the public hearing. He informed that the proposed project comes under category 'A' of EIA Notification 2006 and amendments of MoEFCC, Government of India and hence, environmental public hearing is mandatory for the project. For that purpose the project proponent has submitted proposal to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. MoEFCC, New Delhi has approved ToR to the project proponent on certain terms and conditions to prepare a draft EIA Report for the proposed project. Thereafter, the project proponent has prepared and submitted Environment Impact Assessment Report to the Government. Thereafter, the Additional District Magistrate, Kolhapur approved date for the public hearing. Thereafter, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board published notice regarding environmental public hearing in daily newspapers, the Marathi newspaper daily "Pudhari" and English newspaper "The Times of India" on 12-10-2018.

The copies of EIA report and executive summary were made available for study of public at the District Collector Office, Kolhapur; District Industries Center, Kolhapur; Zilla Parishad, Kolhapur; Sub Divisional Office, Bhudargad; Tahsil Office, Ajara; Panchayat Samiti Office, Ajara; Gram Panchayat, Gavase, Tal: Ajara, Dist: Kolhapur; Gram Panchayat, Dardewadi, Tal: Ajara, Dist: Kolhapur; Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mantralay, Mumbai; Head Office of M.P.C. Board, Mumbai; Regional Office, MPC Board, Kolhapur; and requested to submit their complaints, objections, suggestions etc. The convener requested public to ask questions, submit their complaints, suggestions orally or in writing. These will be included in the minutes of the environmental public hearing. MPC Board has received one representation showing objection to the proposed project and one representation in favour the project. He clarified that this committee does not take any decision regarding granting permission to the proposed project. The object of this public hearing is to inform the public about the proposed project, its effects on environment and precautionary measures to be taken to protect the environment and also to record suggestions and objections of the public and to submit the minutes to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

Thereafter, the environmental consultant for the proposed project presented information with the help of slide show. It includes brief information about EIA report, necessity of the proposed project, information about TOR, project summary, environmental details, map of the project and project site taken from google, plan of the proposed project, photos of the sugar factory, raw material, products, process of alcohol production, information about spent wash, baseline environmental data, brief information about environment, windrose, satellite image of study area within 10 Km radius and land use, digital elevation map, drainage map of study area, information about places at which study conducted, details and pictures of places of study, impact on the environment, impact on air quality, biological environment, agricultural environment, socio economic condition, environmental management plan, air pollution control management plan, management of solid waste and hazardous waste, odour management, industrial health and safety, green belt development, yearly rain water storage, socio economic welfare programmes, C.S.R., Cost of environmental management, advantages of the proposed project etc.

Thereafter, the convener of the environmental public hearing requested people to raise questions, objections, suggestions, comments etc. peacefully after presentation of the proposed project which will be recorded by the committee and the minutes of the public hearing along with CD will be submitted to the MOEF for further decision. Thereafter, he instructed environmental consultant of the proposed project to present the information.

As per Western Ghat Draft Notification dtd. 10 March 2014, village Gavase and village Dardewadi, Tal: Ajara, Dist: Kolhapur are included in the list of Western Ghat Eco-sensitive area.

Thereafter, following discussion / question-answer took place.

Q.1. Shri. Sadanand Patil, village Gavase, Tal: Ajara, Dist: Kolhapur.

The proposed distillery will be started on the the gat no. near village Gavase. No project should be established in this gat no. without showing exact location of the proposed project to the villagers. The sugar factory should give guarantee letter to grampanchayat by mentioning that there will not be any pollution. We are not against the project, but there will not be nuisance to the the villagers.

Ans:

The environmental consultant of the proposed project replied that after expansion of the project, the no. of shareholders will also increase. We accept your request. We will carry out expansion after taking you in confidence. There will be zero liquid discharge and environmental clearance is granted after detail discussion and various compliance. The factory management also do not want to cause nuisance to the public. I assure you that we will discussion about the gat number and find a solution.

Q.2. Shri. Santaji Sadashiv Sole, Farmer, Village Penoli, Tal: Ajara, Dist: Kolhapur.

We have no object to the proposed project if precautionary measures to control pollution are taken as per the presenation shown. But I have some suggestions. There should be plantation of local trees in the factory area, but we see that the factory has not planted such trees which does not stop pollution. These plants do not decompose. Hence, local trees should be planted. Secondly, this is molasses based distillery. Due to production of alcohol from the the proposed distillery, we will be able to save fuel which is the advantage of the project. The project will generate waste of about 75% which should be bio-degraded should be supplied to farmers for use as manure. But it is observed that there are no direct advantages of this manure hence, it should be supplied after carrying out tests of the manure. Thirdly, the liquid waste of the proposed project is discharged outside, it will mix in river Hiranyakesh, our source of water will be polluted and water environment will be in danger, and fishes will die. If this does not happen, we have no objection to the project. Please take care that there will not be pollution of water at Chaloba hill which is our source of water. Villagers will get employment opportunity in the proposed project. Due to ethanol production there will be saving of foreign currency. The project is better for people if run as per the presentation. This is agriculture based project which will help for increase in prices of crops. I hope that our next generation will get employment opportunity in the project. The proposed project should comply all environmental conditions. It should not affect our environment.

Ans:

The environmental consultant of the proposed project replied that we consider all the points you suggested while carrying out the

study. I assure you that we will run the project as per the presentation. In past spent wash was used for composting. Now spent wash is burnt and potash is produced. We purchase potash from outside at Rs. 28000 per ton. In proposed project, we will generate potash about 3.5 to 4 tons/day which will be provided to farmers at low cost or free of cost after testing in lab. There will not be effect on wild animals. We will plant about 5000 local trees which will grow fast in next 3 to 5 years with the help of forest department and social forestry department. We have given information about green belt development in EIA report. I assure that there will not be any pollution of river Hiranyakeshi and water source because incineration boiler will be installed and there will be zero liquid discharge.

Q.3. Shri. V. Sunanda Reddy, Environmentalist, Hyderabad.

He congratulated factory management for the propose project and said that generally environmentalists oppose the projects but I support it because in India there is large unemployment and also the project is necessary for industrial development of Maharashtra state. He made some suggestions for maintaining ecological balance. The EIA report prepared by the consultant regarding survey of air, water, land etc. is very good. He requested the management to collect and record the data regarding health status of the people in this area, crop production area and availability of water etc. It can be useful in future. Take effective steps to maintain ecological balance. You have only 113 acres of land. We receive 30 crores of litre water every year. Rain water haresting should be done to increase ground water level. The water should be used carefully. Tree plantation should be undertaken and medicinal plants and fruit bearing should be planted. Local people should be given employment opportunity. Skill development training should be given to local uneducated persons. For the purpose of C.S.R., a co-ordination committee should be formed including government officers, factory management and representative of grampanchayat etc. He requested public hearing committee to recommend to MOEF to give unconditional permission to the proposed project. He submitted written representation. (The copy of representation received from Shri. V. Sunanda Reddy is enclosed herewith).

Q.4. Shri. Bastruja Bardeskar, village Saroli, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

In the proposed project, the spent wash will be burnt. You told that in proposed project, you will generate electricity. Please tell us how much MW of electricity will be generated ?

Ans:

The environmental consultant of the proposed project replied that spent wash 80% and supportive fuel (coal or bagasse) 20% will be used. The mixture of these two will generate steam around 15 tons and

from the same 1.4 to 1.5 MW power will be generated, which will be used for distillery project.

Q.5. Shri. Maruti More, Ajara, Tal: Ajara, Dist: Kolhapur.

Presently, government and sugar industries are facing problems to give FRP for sugar cane. Due to proposed distillery, this problem will be solved. There will be welfare of the farmers. We will allow the project if it is run pollution free.

Q.6. Shri. Sambhaji Gopalrao Injal, Ajara, Tal: Ajara, Dist: Kolhapur.

Most villagers have no objection about the proposed project. I request that it should be run with responsibility which shall not cause nuisance to villagers.

Ans:

The environmental consultant of the proposed project replied that we accept the responsibility. We assure you that there will be zero liquid discharge.

Q.7. Shri Ashok Gurav, Village Gavase, Tal: Ajara, Dist: Kolhapur.

While giving no objection certificate to the proposed project we had given you four survey nos. 166, 165, 30 & 32. If you start project in survey No. 166 and 165, it will be good from the point of view of our village. During presentation, you told that there will be no effect on village and the environment. If you execute all these things responsibly, we have no objection. You have mentioned that while carrying out study you have observed crops like jwari and bajri. Tells us where did you find these crops, and who has studied and seen these crops in this area? We have no objection for the proposed project. But we are going to build a hospital there also there is our residential colony. I request that after considering these points, proposed project should be started.

Ans.

The environmental consultant of the proposed project replied that we have considered these points. Regarding your first question, I say that before starting the project we will take you in confidence. Because at present there are 34000 members of the factory who are living in the factory area and their views are important for us. I assure that factory management will take you all in confidence.

Q.8. Prof. Sunil Shintre, Shivsena, Ajara, Tal: Ajara, Dist: Kolhapur.

You say that you have zero liquid discharge system. But when M/s. Hira Sugar factory discharged waste water into river Hiranyakeshi which, we have brought to notice of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. Shivsena will support new project if it is 100% pollution free. In this area, production of rice like Ghansal and Jirga is on large scale.

Local trees are not planted. Kitawale water source located at Amboli is the biggest source of water of this area. There are medicinal plants found in large scale, the area under rice crop is large, these should not be affected. You have not shown all information during information. There is air pollution due to heavy traffic in this area on Ajara-Goa road. Sugarcane transport also causes traffic problems. I request to solve this problem on top priority.

Ans.

The environmental consultant of the proposed project replied that no waste water is discharged outside when there is zero liquid discharge. I assure that all water generation will be as per the norms of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. There is a plan for transportation which should be executed by all responsible persons including factory, board of directors etc. The Board of directors will consider your suggestions and execute the plan. r

Q.9. Mrs. Kalpana Dhanaji Parit, Sarpanch of Grampanchayat, Gavase, Tal: Ajara, Dist: Kolhapur.

Our gram panchayat has some problems. Gat No. 30 and 32 come under our gram panchayat hence, the project should not be started on these gat numbers, government has granted primary health centre at gat No. 50 and its construction will start within two months, in gat No. 30, there is residential colony. As a sarpanch, I say that this residential colony and the primary health care centre should not be affected due to the proposed project which should be noted.

Ans.

The environmental consultant of the proposed project replied that the project is not located in gat No. 30, we were thinking about gat No. 32. We have mentioned these gat numbers because the objections, suggestions etc. of the villagers can be taken into consideration at the time of public hearing. We will start project on the land of sugar factory and not to cause nuisance to villagers. We will change the gat no. and see whether it is technically suitable. I assure you that we will discuss this matter with board of directors and shall submit the proposal.

Q.10. Shri. Indrajit Desai, Village Velvatti, Tal: Ajara, Dist: Kolhapur.

Everyone asked questions about air, water and noise pollution and environmental consultant replied that there will be zero liquid discharge. The presentation shown looks good. If the project is run as per the presentation no one will take objection. We say that all norms should be complied scrupulously. You told that there will be 100 workers in the factory, please explain how many skilled and unskilled workers will be there and what is the possibility for local people for employment in the proposed project. Also, in the project local women should be given employment opportunity.

Ans.

The environmental consultant of the proposed project replied that as per educational qualification, there will 40-50 skilled and 60-70 unskilled workers in the proposed project. I assure on behalf of the management that employment will be given to local people only.

Q.11. Shri. Gangadhar Sidhhappa Bhatakalli, village Honewadi, Tal: Ajara, Dist: Kolhapur.

Please Shri. V. Sunanda Reddi's comments should be translated into Marathi language for our reply. Because 90% people support the proposed project. It should be pollution free.

Hon'ble Chairman of the environmental public hearing replied that Shri. V. Sunanda Reddy has supported the project.

Q.12. Shri Shivaji Patil, village Gavase, Tal: Ajara, Dist: Kolhapur.

I say before all that the resolution no. 2 passed by the grampanchayat does not mean that we are opposing the project. But for the purpose thsy our doubts must be clarified. Our only purpose is to obtain clarification and to solve the problem. If necessary, please call a meeting of the villagers with factory management.

Ans.

The environmental consultant of the proposed project replied that when the plan of the project will be submitted to CPCB, Environment Department and MOEFCC for obtaining environmental clearance. As per their terms and conditions a display board will be installed at factory gate showing location of the project. Hence, do not be doubtful about the location. The Notification and the gat numbers for which permission is granted will be published in news papers. I assure that all conditions of MOEFCC will be complied scrupolosly by the management.

Q.13. Mrs. Pratibha Patil, village Gavase, Tal: Ajara, Dist: Kolhapur.

The ash generated in the sugar factory gets deposited on trees and their leaves become black coloured and fall. Those who assure that there is no pollution will not appear after 10 to 20 years to solve our problems from pollution. We supported the factory for the welfare of the people. But they are facing nusaice from dust generated by sugar factory.

Ans.

The environmental consultant of the proposed project replied that now a days modern technology is adopted. We will provide E.S.P. to the boiler. Due to E.S.P. air pollution is totally controlled. Hence, I assure that there will not be any nuisance of air pollution. Also, presently the height of the chimney provided to sugar factory is 45 meters, The height of the proposed chimney will be 55 meters. ESP

absorbs ash content and the ash will be stored in close cyclo. Hence, there will be no emission of ash.

After above discussion, Hon'ble Chairman of the public hearing committee said that the committee has recorded questions and views expressed by the villagers. He thanked the public for conducting public hearing peacefully and thereafter, declared the meeting concluded.



(Prashant Gaikwad)

Convener

Cum

Sub Regional Officer,
MPC Board, Kolhapur.



(Nagesh Lohalkar)

Member

Cum

Regional Officer,
MPC Board, Kolhapur.



(Sanjay Shinde)

Chairman

Cum

Additional District Magistrate,
Kolhapur.