

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING
HELD FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION OF
SUGAR CANE CRUSHING FROM 6000 TCD TO 13000 TCD,
CO-GENERATION FROM 21 MW TO 90 MW,
PROPOSED NEW MOLASSES BASED DISTILLEY OF 150 KLPD
AND REFINED SUGAR 1755 TPD FROM RAW SUGAR
IN RESPECT OF
M/S. SHRI GURUDATT SUGARS LTD., GAT NO. 61/A,
AKIWAT-TAKALIWADI ROAD, AT POST : TAKALIWADI,
TAL: SHIROL, DIST: KOLHAPUR (MAHARASHATRA STATE)**

Environmental public hearing for proposed expansaion of sugar cane crushing from 6000 to 13000 TCD, Co-generation from 21 MW to 90 MW, proposed new molasses based distillery of 150 KLPD and Refined Sugar 1755 TPD from raw sugar in respect of M/s. Shri Gurudatt Sugars Ltd. was held on 05-12-2018 at 11.30 A.M. at the factory site, Gat No. 61/A, Akiwat Takaliwadi Road, Takaliwadi, Tal: Shirol, 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 come under category 'A' of EIA Notification 2006 and amendment 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 03-11-2018. 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; The Secretary, Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mantralay, Mumbai; Head Office of M.P.C. Board, Mumbai; Sub Divisional Office, Ichalkaranji; Regional Office, MPC Board, Kolhapur; Tahsil Office, Shirol; Panchayat Samiti Office, Shirol; Gram Panchayat, Takaliwadi, Dattawad, Tal: Shirol, Dist: 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. Till today MPC Board has received four complaints against the factory and the proposed 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, Shri Madhavrao Ghatge, Chairman of M/s Gurudatta Sugars Ltd. expressed the need of ethanol production and policy of government of India towards ethanol production. He informed that due to production of ethanol and mixing it with diesel and petrol as fuel will reduce the cost of these fuels. He emphasized that this area of Shirol taluka was far away from development but after setting up of the sugar factory, this area is progressing. The factory has constructed road between Kurundwad and Sainik Takali costing Rs. 8.5 crores. He has taken follow up with the government and ministers to construct roads in this area which needs crores of rupees of investments. As a social responsibility, the factory provided shelter and food for people and their cattles during flood in 2005 which played havoc in Shirol taluka. The factory has also provided help to flood hit people in Kerala State. Factory has provided help for religious functions, started insurance scheme of Rs. 1 lakh for farmers as well as provided help to people in this area by way of providing seeds, saplings, chemical fertilizers and organic manures to the farmers interest free. The factory has carried out testing of soil and water in this area and taking steps to improve saline land, helping farmers through drip irrigation, kisan card, providing sugar at low cost, arranging sugar cane development programmes under guidance of experts, Sugar cane crushing has been increased. Factory has always paid attention to the people and farmers development. The factory is on the top regarding developed technology. This factory is amongst top five sugar factories in India in recovery. We have developed technology that require minimum bagasse. This is first sugar factory in India having developed condensate treatment technology in which after condensation of water in the sugarcane, the water is fully recycled. We have given highest rate for sugarcane. We are going to use incineration boiler in the proposed distillery which is the best technology in the world. Due to this technology, not a single drop of spent wash will be discharged outside. We are going to generate electricity from this technology. And hence, the question of damage to the agricultural land, reduction in

productivity will not arise. Hence, he requested to support the proposed project.

Thereafter, the environmental consultant for the proposed project presented information with the help of slide show. He informed that the sugar factory takes care of waste water by adopting modern technology. Condensate polishing unit has been provided through which condensate water is recycled. Other sugar factories consume 11 lakh literes of water for crushing 5000 MT of sugarcane where as our sugar factory consumes only 3 lakh litres of water and saves about 8 lakh litre of water. The waste water is treated as per the prescribed standards of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board regularly and hence, environmental pollution is not caused. We have installed online monitoring system, thereby Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and Central Pollution Control Board keep record of these parameters every minute. In India, our sugar factory stood first to provide anaerobic filter system through which water pollution is controlled and hence, from last many years the results of our treated waste water are within standards prescribed by MPC Board. All treated water is used on sugar factory's own land. The waste water generation from production of 5000 TCD sugar is normally 5 lakh litres per day. But we have not generated more than 3.5 lakh litres of waste water from our sugar factory with internal planning. We have controlled generation of waste water at source which will be continued in future projects also. There are lots of misunderstandings about distillery. The technology used in distillery before 25 to 30 years was not efficient to control pollution but this factory has adopted modern technology and hence, concentration incineration boiler will be installed in the proposed distillery unit in which, with the help of steam the waste water generated in the distillery will be concentrated and the condensate generated, after treatment will be recycled in the distillery and the concentrated spent wash will be burnt in the boiler. Hence, not a single drop of waste water from the distillery will be discharged outside. Also, air pollution control will be done at source. The moisture level in bagasse will be reduced hence, which will reduce bagasse for burning by 20%. Hence, air pollution will reduce. In India, E.S.P. system is used to control air pollution in which 100% air pollution is controlled. This system has been provided to boiler in the sugar factory and it will also be used in the proposed project. Tree plantation is carried out as per the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board. We will reply all the questions of the people present in this public hearing in the technical manner.

After above presentation, the Hon'ble Chairman of the environmental public hearing informed that as per the instructions given through the notice of public hearing four complaints have been received. He said that all villagers present for the public hearing will be given opportunity to say if they have any doubts, complaints, instructions, comments or questions about the proposed project. People should express their views peacefully 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. This committee will not take any decision regarding permission to the proposed project. Thereafter, some villagers started shouting slogans at some last rows. The Hon'ble Chairman of the environmental public hearing once again appealed to conduct the proceeding peacefully.

Thereafter, following discussion / question-answer took place.

Q.1. Shri. Bhausahab Chougule, Farmer, Dattawad, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

I am a farmer having 30 acres of land. Earlier our sugar cane production was 40 tons per acre which has now increased to 80 tons per acre and hence for timely cutting of sugar cane expansion of the factory is necessary. Hence, permission should be given to the proposed project. The factory has carried out survey of saline land and helping farmers.

Q.2. Shri. Algonda Bandu Chinchane.

How much quantity of waste water generated in the distillery will be discharged outside ?

Ans:

The environmental consultant of the proposed project replied that not a single drop of waste water will be discharged outside.

Q.3. Shri. Vijay Sitaram Patil, Village Takali, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

I have two agricultural lands near this sugar factory. We have borewell in our agricultural land and the water of the borewell is used for drinking and agricultural purposes.

Q.4. Shri. Sampatrao Thorat, village Nandi, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

I request to give permission to the proposed project.

Q.5. Shri. Bajarang Satappa Badame, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

My agricultural land is located near this sugar factory. I use water provided by the sugar factory for drinking and agricultural purposes and there is no problem.

Q.6. Shri. Iqbal Babaso Bairagdar, Village Akiwat, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

Due to this sugar factory this area is developing, many people got employment opportunities in the factory, sugar cane production per acre has been increased up to 100 tons. Efforts are taken to study Saline land development. It is not proper to stop the project due to objections of some people. For development of this area, the proposed project is necessary. I request to give permission to the proposed project.

Q.7. Shri Sujit Hegade, village Takali, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

My agricultural land having Gat No. 60 and 62 is located near the ETP of the sugar factory. This agricultural land gets polluted due to discharge of waste of the factory. I have already submitted written complaints and also taking follow up with the government since previous public hearing of this factory. Will government representatives or the factory management give reply regarding my complaints ?

Ans.

The Hon'ble Chairman of the public hearing instructed environmental consultant of the factory to reply the question raised by Shri Sujit Hegade. The environmental consultant replied that the waste water of the factory is not discharged on the lands of Shri Hegade because there is no facility to discharge the water since all treated water is used on land owned by the factory through separate pipe line. Even this treated water quantity is not sufficient for irrigation of our land. Hence, the question of discharging waste water outside does not arise.

Q.8. Shri. Rajgonda Jodgonda Patil, Farmer, village Danwad, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

I provide 2000 tons of sugar cane to this factory every year. There is no problem of soil pollution due to this factory because not a single drop of waste water is discharged on lands of the farmer. Permission should be given to the proposed project.

Q.9. Shri. Yashwant Maruti Gurav, Ex Sarpanch, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

I am providing sugar cane to this factory from establishment of the factory. There has is no nuisance from the factory. Hence, without considering objections, permission should be given to the proposed project.

Q.10. Shri. Harishchandra Lahu Kamble, Farmer, village Mehargaon, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

This factory is necessary for the welfare of the farmers and employment to the unemployed villagers. Hence, permission should be given to the proposed project.

Q.11. A Social Worker, village Takali, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

It is not proper to oppose the project. This factory is providing help to poors and villagers. After expansion, there will be lot of employment generation. This factory has not caused nuisance to anyone in its history of 15 years and hence, people should not oppose the project. As a social worker I request to give permission to the sugar factory.

Q.12. Shri Nandkumar Kamble, village Takaliwadi, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

Will water lifting from the river increase due to the proposed expansion ?

Q.13. Shri. Gundaraj Bhokare, village Takali, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

I am residing at Gat No. 62 which is adjacent to this sugar factory. I am submitting my written complaint and request to give acknowledgement of the same. From the time to establishment of the sugar factory our water, and well water quality has been deteriorated which you can see after visiting our site, but no one has yet visited and inspected the site. We have submitted applications to various government offices but we have not yet received any reply. Please give acknowledgement to all the applications of the villagers and also give reply.

Ans.

Hon'ble Chairman of the public hearing committee replied that all applications will be accepted and acknowledgement to all the applications of the villagers will be given.

Q.14. Shri. Dadasaheb Bhausahab Borwade, Village Takliwadi, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

For today's public hearing only well wishers of the factory, their workers, relatives of the workers and owner of the factory are present. I request that the committee should see the bad condition of the wells of Shri. Bhokare, Shri Kamble and the villagers. We have never objected the factory, but will not allow the distillery in this area in any circumstances. We have no objections to other plants. Sugar factory is running well and management is giving good rates for the sugarcane. But I request that don't start distillery. If there is any kind of health hazard to the villagers, we will not allow the distillery. We all villagers have strongly objected the proposed distillery in the meeting of gram panchayat held on 29-11-2018 and all villagers had demanded to arrange meeting there, but it was rejected. Gram panchayat has assured us that health of the villagers will be given priority. In the proposed distillery, the production of alcohol will be 150 KLPD from which 2500 KLPD spent wash will be generated which will damage agricultural lands, borewell water, well water and health of the villagers, and hence, we oppose proposed distillery.

Q. 15. Shri. Mahipati Shripati Babar, Kurundwad, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

I am shareholder of this sugar factory and providing sugar cane from the time of establishment of the factory. The sugar factories are working all over the Maharashtra State. There can be some problems of pollution. But this private sugar factory is giving highest rate for

sugarcane in all over Maharashtra and crushing is carried out with proper planning. The factory has not done anything causing loss to the farmers. The factory has developed this area which was economically backward. There are step by step improvements in the factory. We support proposed project. Permission should be given as early as possible.

Q.16. Shri. Ramesh Jakhale, Farmer, Village Ghosarvad, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

Our agricultural land has become totally irrigated land due to the sugar factory. The sugar factory has carried out survey of saline lands it has scheme for saline land. They have constructed road up to our village. We are thankful to the factory for this development. Permission should be given to the proposed project.

Q.17. Shri. Uttam Kamble, Ex. Dy. Sarpanch, Dattawad village, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur..

Those who are opposing the project, should know that they were facing problems of smell nuisance of wells due to the dirt deposited in the wells. They should believe the information shown in presentation steps that will be taken by the factory to control pollution. This area is developed due to the sugar factory. Don't forget that these are the good days only because of the sugar factory and hence, should not oppose the project. Those who have no agricultural land and unemployed are working in this sugar factory. Women in this area go for work in MIDC. I request that by considering this, permission should be given to the proposed project.

Q.18. Shri. Gundu Hariba Dalavi, village Danoli, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

This area is developed because of the sugar factory which is running by complying all conditions of environmental pollution prescribed by the government. Proposed project is necessary for higher rate to sugarcane and supply of electricity without shortage. We support the proposed project. The factory is implementing various schemes in our village. There will be development of our village. I request that permission should be given to the proposed project.

Q.19. Shri. Babasaheb Wanakore, Dy. Sarpanch of Grampanchayat Takaliwadi, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

We have held a coordination meeting with the factory management and officers of gram panchayat for primary discussion about the proposed project. At the time discussion, we took detailed information from the factory management, discussed all things openly regarding demands of our village in which it was proposed by us that in the proposed project, maximum jobs must be given to our villagers. Also, we requested the factory management if there is really pollution from the project, the factory should carry out technical study about

pollution problems and make necessary measures to control the pollution. The factory management and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should see that there shall not be any kind of pollution in this area due to the proposed project. I request the Chairman of the Sugar factory to prepare a separate pattern to solve the questions of Shri. Bhokare, Shri. Hegade and other villagers who say that their lands and water has been affected due to the sugar factory permanently, arrange a meeting with those peoples, consider their demands, and if necessary, call us for the meeting to find solution permanently. The factory should assure them that there will not be any pollution due to proposed project. There should be development without causing problems to the villagers. Per capita income of our village is low and hence, to increase the same, employment is necessary for the villagers. We will welcome projects which will generate employment but not pollution. Villagers should not object projects on misunderstanding. If there is no pollution from proposed project and maximum employment is provided to our villagers, then we will not raise objections for the proposed project.

Q.20. Shri. Chandrakant Krushnat Jog, Kurundwad, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

This sugar factory is implementing various welfare programmes for benefits of the farmers. Their planning is very good. The factory has extended help to the flood affected people during 2005. The proposed project should run without causing pollution. For development of this area, we support the proposed project

Q.21. Shri. Vijay Bhoje, Member of Zilla Parishad, Abdul Lat, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

During presentation, it was informed that modern technology will be used in the proposed project to control pollution. If this technology is approved by the Government of India and also if Maharashtra Pollution Control Board think that this technology is useful for pollution control, then we will support the project. Because after proposed expansion, sugar cane crop will be supplied timely to the sugar factory. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board is the expert government body in pollution control, hence they should check all aspects and thereafter permission should given. I support the proposed project.

Q.22. Shri. Ranjit Patil, Village Takali, Tal: Shirol, Dist: Kolhapur.

In case of any pollution due to the proposed project, the villages Takali, Takaliwadi, Dattawad, Akiwat and other nearby villages will get affected because these villages are located nearby the factory. In that case, those who are 2 ½ KM away from the factory will not get affected. We are not against the proposed project, but we propose that precautionary measures should be taken to control pollution.

After above discussion, Hon'ble Chairman of the public hearing committee said that the committee has recorded views expressed by the villagers today and also some written complaints have been received during the public hearing. At last, he thanked the public for their cooperating and thereafter, declared the meeting concluded.

Total 62 copies of representations received in respect of the proposed project are enclosed with the minutes.



(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.