

Minutes of Environmental Public Hearing

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED CAPACITY EXPANSION OF SUGAR FACTORY FROM 7,500 TCD to 10,000 TCD OF M/S. SAHAKAR MAHARSHI SHANKAR RAO MOHITE PATIL SAHAKARI SAKHAR KARKHANA LTD., AT POST – SHANKARNAGAR, AKLUJ, TAL – MALSHIRAS, DIST - SOLAPUR

An Environmental Public Hearing for proposed expansion of sugar factory from 7,500 TCD to 10,000 TCD in the existing unit of M/s. Sahakar Maharshi Shankarrao Mohite Patil Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., At Post – Shankarnagar, Akluj, Tal-Malshiras, Dist-Solapur was conducted on 22nd November, 2017 at 11.30 AM in the premises of sugar factory.

Following were the panel members as per Board's Office Order No.E-73 of 2017 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B -4904, dated 16-11-2017:-

- 1) Shri Sunil Pundalik Thorve, - Chairman,
I/c Additional District Magistrate - Solapur
(Representative of District Magistrate, Solapur)
- 2) Shri J. S. Salunkhe, - Member
I/c Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune
(Representative of MPCB, Mumbai)
- 3) Shri Navanath S. Awatade, - Convener
I/C Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB, Solapur

Shri Navanath Awatade, Convener of the public hearing welcomed all who were present in large number and informed that as per the EIA Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF & CC, GoI) dated 14th September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the Schedule of the said Notification. Sub Regional Office of MPCB at Solapur has received proposal from M/s Sahakar Maharshi Shankar Rao Mohite Patil Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Shankar Nagar, Akluj, Tal-Malshiras, Dist-Solapur for proposed expansion in production of sugar from 7,500 TCD to 10,000 TCD at the existing site of the industry.

The Convener further informed that, as per EIA Notification, 2006, the category of project falls under Schedule – I, Category - "B," Schedule 5 (j). The aim of conducting public hearing is to make aware, local people who can be participant in the hearing and they should know the developmental activities and environment management plan of the unit. The project proponent had submitted prescribed application along with pre-feasibility report to the State Environment Appraisal Committee-I, Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra for Terms of Reference (ToR) for conduct of EIA studies and MoEFCC, Gol, New Delhi considered the project in the 139th EAC meeting dated 29th June, 2017.

Convener further informed that as per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published in the local newspapers in Daily Sakal and Daily Lokmat in Marathi & English language on 24th October, 2017. The copies of EIA report and Executive Summary were made available at various notified offices of Government viz Ministry of Environment, Forest, Climate Change, Govt. of India (MoEFCC, Gol), Western Zonal Office, Nagpur; District Magistrate Office, Solapur; Zilla Parishad, Solapur; District Industries Centre, Solapur; Tahsil Office, Malshiras, Dist-Solapur; Grampanchayat offices at Yeshwantnagar, Akulj, Malewadi, Chaundeshwarwadi, Vijaywadi, Paniv, Girjani, Bagechiwadi, Malinagar, Sangramnagar, Savatgaon, Vizori, Dattanagar, Tal-Malshiras, Dist-Solapur; Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur; Regional Office, MPCB, Pune; Head Office of MPCB at Mumbai; Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai and was also made available on the website of MPCB. It was appealed to send any objections / suggestions regarding the project. The Convener further informed that not a single written objection is received by the Sub Regional Officer, Solapur & other offices also. With the permission of Chair, he informed the project representative to explain the project information to the audience.

The project consultant with the help of projector briefly explained about the project to the audience. Afterwards, Convener of the Public Hearing Panel requested the public to ask for their doubts, suggestions if any about the project.

Shri Chandrakant Shivdas Kumbhar, Local Journalist, resident of Shankar Nagar, Akhuj, Dist-Solapur informed as a local resident he observed that the people residing in the vicinity are not facing any water and air pollution problem due to this project. Hence local people desires that proposed expansion/modernization plan of sugar production from 7,500.0 TCD to 10,000.0 TCD of the project are approved.

Shri J. H. Salunke, Member of the Public Hearing Committee asked about the inception of Online Monitoring System as per the directives of Central Pollution Control Board and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. The Project officials informed that Online Monitoring System is already installed in the project and it is running smoothly.

Shri Sunil Thorve, Chairman of the Committee asked about the utilization of Corporate Social Responsibility Fund (CSR Fund) and participation in Jalyukta Shivar Project as per the appeal of Govt. of Maharashtra.

Answer- The Project Proponent informed that since the inception of the project in 1963, the project management always do participate in various social welfare schemes. Last year as per the directives of Commissioner of Sugar, Maharashtra State, Pune, the amount of Rupees Ten lakh was deposited for the drought prone areas. Also as per the appeal of Govt. of Maharashtra, the amount of Rupees 65/- lakh (Rupees Sixty Five lakh) were spent for Jalyukta Shivar projects. As this Region has to faced drought in the last year, the project management has provided potable water treated in R.O. System to 73 vastis from time to time and amount of Rupees Two Crores Sixty Lakh were spent.

Chairman of the Committee Shri Thorve asked about the schemes of development extended to local farmers and Members of the project. The Project Officials informed that the project is established in 1963 and now there are 22,560 members and nearly Rupees 20/- Crores have been spent for installation of Drip Irrigation Scheme in the agriculture fields of local farmers.

Shri Salunkhe, Member of the Public Hearing Committee asked whether the project proponent have taken any efforts to guide local farmers for adopting modern methods to increase in the sugar cane crop, planting

modern seeds under Corporate Social Responsibility Scheme, also whether workshops were arranged from time to time for guidance to local farmers for the same.

Answer- Project officials informed that a Separate Cell is constituted in the project to guide the local farmers for adopting modern methods to increase in the sugar cane crop and planting of modern seeds. Nearly 3,500 acre of land is covered for the above schemes. The Separate Cell has already prepared a plan Soil Reclamation Measures and local farmers will be trained accordingly.

Shri Navnath Awatade, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee asked whether project proponent have implemented green drive in the area as per recent directives of Govt. of Maharashtra. Convener further informed that every year, the procession of Palakhi of Sant Dyaneshwar and Sant Tukaram goes by road which is near the project to meet the Deity Vitthal at Pandharpur. Lakhs of pilgrims and Warkaris go by walk from Alandi, Dist-Pune to Pandharpur, Dist-Solapur. He asked whether the project proponent have any plan of sapling programme to make both sides of Palkhi Road covering with lush green.

Answer- The project officials informed that since inception of project in 1963, the Board of Directors have always supported for green drive in the area and local species have been planted and nourished. Hence we are observing the green coverage in the area. He informed that since last twenty year the project officials are implementing green drive around the project site and more than 12,000 saplings have been planted and around the project area since last two years, which are also nourished. The project has Nursery exclusively for local species and saplings of local species have been undertaken from time to time.

Shri Mohan Baburao Londhe, resident of Malinagar, Dist-Solapur informed that the project proponent has gained Indira Gandhi Priyadarshani Award for implementing Green Drive in the area. The local people are not facing any pollution problem due to this project. The project proponent implements socio-economic development program from time to time in the local areas. Hence the local people have no objection for this project and the project should be allowed for expansion.

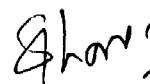
Convener of the Public Hearing Committee asked to give explanation regarding the requirement of fresh water for expansion project and plans to minimize the fresh water intake for production. The Technical Advisor informed that at present 1,531.0 M3/day fresh water is required for the production. As the 80% of water from the sugar cane will be used in the production and as the water will be recycled in the production activities, there is no additional requirement for the expansion.

After taking the review, Chairman of the Committee appealed the local people to give "Voice Vote" for the expansion of project. He informed that those in favour say "Yes" and those who are not in favour say "No." All the local people unanimously given support for the expansion of the project by "Voice Vote".

Chairman of the committee informed that the suggestions, comments made in this meeting will be incorporated in the proceedings and the report will be submitted to the State Environment Appraisal Committee-I, Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra for the consideration.

Chairman of the Committee thanked all government officials, company officials and general public who attended the public hearing/meeting and informed that the said public hearing is concluded.

The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair. The CD of the proceedings is enclosed.

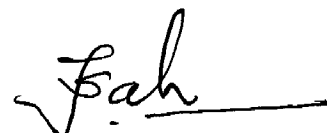


(S. P. Thorve)

Chairman of the Committee and
Addl. District Magistrate, Solapur



(N. S. Awatade)
Convener and
I/c Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB, Solapur



(J. S. Salunkhe)
Member and
I/c Regional Officer,
MPCB, Pune