

## **Minutes of Environmental Public Hearing**

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF INTEGRATED SUGAR INDUSTRY (SUGAR – 5,000.0 TCD, CO-GENERATION- 29.5 MW, GRAIN BASED DISTILLERY- 45.0 KLPD & MOLASSES / SUGARCANE JUICE/SUGARBEET BASED DISTILLERY– 60.0 KLPD) PROPOSED BY M/S. VITTHAL REFINED SUGARS LTD., AT POST: PANDE, TAL: KARMALA, DIST: SOLAPUR.**

The public hearing for proposed establishment of Integrated Sugar Industry (Sugar – 5,000.0 TCD; CO-Generation - 29.5 MW; Grain Based Distillery- 45.0 KLPD & Molasses / Sugarcane Juice / Sugar beet Based Distillery – 60.0 KLPD) Proposed By M/S VITTHAL REFINED SUGARS LTD., AT POST – PANDE, TAL – KARMALA, Dist – SOLAPUR was conducted on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at 11.30 am, at the site of the said industry.

Following Public Hearing Panel members were present, as per the Board's Office Order No. E-46 of 2017 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B-2269, dated 03-06-2017:-

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1) Shri Ajit Relekar,<br>Addl. District Magistrate, Solapur<br>(Representative of District Magistrate,<br>Solapur) | - | Chairman, |
| 2) Shri J. S. Salunkhe,<br>I/c Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune<br>(Representative of MPCB, Mumbai)                    | - | Member    |
| 3) Shri N. S. Awatade<br>I/c Sub Regional Officer, MPCB<br>Solapur.                                                | - | Convener  |

Shri N. S. Awatade, Convener of the public hearing welcomed Hon'ble Chairman of the public hearing, company officials, government officials and public who were present, and informed that as per the EIA Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEFCC, GoI) dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 as amended on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public hearing to certain projects which are covered in the Schedule of the said Notification. The Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur was in receipt of application of M/s. Vitthal Refined

Sugars Ltd., A/P:Pande, Tal:Karmala, Dist:Solapur for Integrated Sugar, Distillery and Co-Generation Power Plant of above quantity in the existing plant located at-Pande, Tal-Karmala, Dist-Solapur.

The Convener further informed that, as per EIA Notification, 2006 (As Amended), the unit falls under Category for Sugar Industry – B 5 (j)- for Molasses Based Distillery and Grained Based Distillery as A 5 (g) and for Co-generation Plant A 1(d) respectively. Convener of the meeting informed that 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 alongwith pre-feasibility report to the MoEFCC for Terms of Reference (ToR) for conduct of EIA studies and MoEFCC, New Delhi considered the project during the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of EAC (Industry) held during 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014. As per said Notification, one month advance public notice was published in the local newspapers in Daily Lokmat & in Dainik Sakal in Marathi & English language on 18th May, 2017.

So also a copy of EIA report and executive summery was also made available at various offices of government i.e. District Magistrate Office, Solapur, Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Solapur, District Industries Centre, Solapur, Tahasil Office, Karmala, BDO, Panchayat Samiti, Karmala, Chief Officer, Karmala Municipal Council, Karmala, Dist, Solapur, Grampanchayat offices at Devichamal, Pande, Devalali, Pothare, Gulsadi, Tal%Karmala, Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur, Regional Office, MPCB, Pune and at Head Office of MPCB at Mumbai, Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai & uploaded on the website of MPCB and at Western Zone Office of MoEFCC at Nagpur. The public in general were appealed to send a ;, objection / suggestion regarding the above project. The Convener further informed that total 12 written objections/letters have been received. He appealed Chairman of the Committee to allow starting the proceedings.

Shri Ajit Relekar, Chairman of Committee welcomed all and informed officials of the project to explain the details of pollution control devices and

environment management plan of the project in local language Marathi. He also appealed general public to give objection / suggestion if any about the project after their technical presentation.

The Environment Consultant appointed by the company has given the presentation of the expansion project and Environment Management Plan in detail.

After completion of the presentation, Chairman of the Committee and Convener of the Committee appealed general public to ask any questions/queries/objections if any to project officials.

**Shri Suhas Gholap, resident of Karmala:** informed that he has submitted his objection for the location of the project and submitted a letter to local MPCB office at Solapur for giving the report. The forest area is just adjacent to the project. Still the report is not sent to me. The ancient Kamala Bhavani Temple at Devicha Mal is just near the project, though as per the directives, the distance between the project and ancient temple should be minimum 3.0 Km. The Tahasil Office has noted the distance issue of forest and temple, but report is not submitted to me. The project proponent should give in writing that there will not be any threat to environment and temple.

**Ans:** Chairman of the Committee informed that the objections are noted and it will be considered.

**Shri Gholap:** further blamed that project proponent misled the Government and local people as declared Gut Numbers and Survey Numbers of project location are different, Sanction Plan got approved for another Gut Numbers and Survey Numbers and moreover, the project is commissioned on different Gut Numbers and Survey Numbers. This act of project officials is suspicious. The walls of Kamala Bhavani Temple at Devicha Mala developed cracks due to unbearable noise of boilers which creates vibration. The project proponent has carried trial runs of boiler few days back and there was terrible loud noise and vibrations which was unbearable. The walls of ancient Kamala Bhavani Temple got the cracks due to vibrations. The issue of Grant of Permission to this project is accepted by the Grampanchayat of Pande village on urgent basis and item is passed without any discussions. The project proponent

should give in writing that there will not be any pollution due to this project and there will not be any threat to Kamala Bhavani Temple.

**Ans:** Technical Advisor of the project proponent informed that advanced technology such as ESP (Electro Static Precipitator) will be installed to prevent and control the air pollution. The project officials are bound to follow the prescribed standards for effluent and not a drop of effluent will be generated outside the factory.

**Shri Salunkhe, Member:** intervened and asked Technical Advisor of the project to explain the objections point wise as answer be given by company officials for steps to control noise pollution, whether the project proponent obtained NOC from Forest, NOC from respective Competent Authority for temple distance, explanation letter for change of Gut and Survey Numbers from Revenue Authorities.

**Ans:** Managing Director of project informed that advanced technology will be installed to control the noise pollution. The vibration will be in project area only and if at all excess vibration occurred, the machinery will be repaired immediately.

**Shri Chandrashekhar Vishnu Pawar, resident of Devicha Mal:** informed that he stays near the temple only. The temple of Kamala Aai is ancient and there were no repairs to the temple since last many years. Hence the temple got the cracks. The cracks on walls are not at all due to vibration or any other test carried in project site. The objection against the project proponent is totally misleading.

**Shri Rajendra Vishnu Pawar:** resident remarked that Shri Gholap, the previous resident is trying to take political revenge. The local person desires the project.

**Ans:** Chairman of the Committee hereby asked people to raise the objection or give suggestion for environment protection only and other issues will not be allowed.

Convener of the public hearing committee informed that the Kamalai Temple whether notified by the Competent Authority will be considered. The

project proponent is already directed to obtain NOC from Forest Department, NOC from Competent Authority for distance between project and temple, NOC from Revenue for objection in change of Gut and Survey Numbers. The respective NOC and letters be obtained while approaching to MoEFCC. The NOCs and letters will be attached to the report of the public hearing for consideration.

**Shri Sunil Sawant, resident of Karmala:** Dist-Solapur asked about the steps to control air pollution and job opportunities to local youths. Technical Advisor of the project informed that bagasse will not be burnt. The Electro Static Precipitator will be installed. The project officials are aware that without co-operation from local people, the project could not succeed. The local youths will be given preference as per the need of workforce.

**Shri Shivaji Patil, resident of Gulsadi village:** Dist-Solapur asked the efficient usage of water in the project and whether rain water harvesting system will be installed in the project.

**Ans:** Technical Advisor informed that effluent will be treated and recycled in the process. The storage of rain water will be carried.

**Shri Sunil Bhosale, resident of Pande village:** opined that there should not be any politics. We want project, but the local people should not suffer due to smell nuisance of spent wash. The particles of bagasse should not mix in the air. Company officials informed that installation of canopy will be completed in few days and hence particles of bagasse will not mix in the air. Effluent Treatment Plan is already commissioned so there will not any smell nuisance.

**Shri Sujit Shivaji Bagal, resident of Mangi village** remarked that project proponent has promised to give job opportunities and assures to give reasonable rate to sugar cane producers hence the project should be completed as early as possible.

**Shri Jayawant Kamalkar Pawar, resident of Devicha Mal** asked about the source of water for production, plan of green belt development. He further expressed fear that Kamalaai Mandir will get affected due to smoke of project.

**Ans:** Company officials informed that nearly 3,000 dugs have been made for saplings which will start after this meeting only. The green belt will be developed and maintained.

Chairman and Convener of the public hearing committee informed that project proponent to send the answers in writing for the objections received by the Committee as well as by local MPCB office.

**Shri Mahadeo Vayakule, resident of Dhayakhindi** asked whether the project proponent has obtained permission to lift the water from reservoir i.e. Pazar Talav, as it has lifted the water for testing purposes. He further remarked that if the water is lifted for production activities, the adjoining vastis (i.e. small localities) will not get water for drinking purposes.

**Ans:** Company officials informed that it had lifted the water for drinking purposes only.

**Shri Salunkhe, Member** asked how much water will require for distillery project and how it will be treated. Technical Advisor of the project informed that approximately 2,050 M3 water will require. Nearly 76% of water will be recycled and reused.

**Shri Shivaji Yeraba Pawar, resident of Devicha Mal** informed that the Pawar vasti is near the project site which is suffering due to smell of spent wash. The women are unable to cook, as smell of spent wash irritates.

Convener of the Committee remarked that this question is already answered. Chairman of the Committee appealed general public not to raise the issues which are already discussed.

**Shri Shahaji Zingade, resident of Pothare village** informed that last year there was epidemic of jaundice due to spent wash, this should not happen.

**Shri Ravindra Valekar, resident of Nimbore village** opined that due to this project, the local youths will get job opportunities. This project will benefit the socio-economic development of the area. He requested to control the noise pollution.

**Shri Sunandan Reddy**, an Environmentalist from Hyderabad gave suggestions that youth should be extended skilled training.

Chairman of the Committee informed that the as views in writing is received by the Committee, it should not be repeated.

Convener of the public hearing committee informed that as local people desires, the project proponent should give promises/pledges in writing which will be sent alongwith the report to MoEFCC, GoI. Also as suggested by the local people, the methodology of treatment and disposal of distillery effluent also be given in writing which will be sent to MoEFCC.

Chairman of the committee while concluding the meeting appealed project proponent to carry the socio economic development work under CSR Fund and priority be given to Jalyukta Shivar programme, removing the debris from nearby reservoirs, lakes and from water dams.

He thanked local people who came, raised objections and gave suggestions. 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 Expert Committee of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) for further 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.

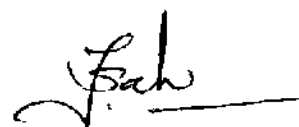


**(Ajit Relekar)**

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