

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING OF MAHARKUND MANGANESE MINE PROJECT FOR PROPOSED PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF MANGANESE MINING-25500 TPA (ML AREA 10.62 HA) HELD AT M/S. MAHARKUND MANGANESE MINE MOUZA-MAHARKUND TAH-SAONER, DIST-NAGPUR

Environmental Public Hearing in respect of Maharkund Manganese Mine Project of M/s VEETRAG HOMES PRIVATE LTD. Nagpur for the proposed production capacity of manganese to the tune of 25500 TPA (ML Area 10.62 Ha.) was held at project site situated in Mouza-Maharkund, Tah-Saoner, Dist-Nagpur under the Chairmanship of Shri K.N.K Rao-Additional District Magistrate (A representative nominated by the District Collector, Nagpur), Shri Rahul Wankhede-Regional officer, M.P.C Board Nagpur & the member of the public hearing panel and Shri. Kiran Hasabnis I/c. Sub-Regional Officer-I, M.P.C. Board, Nagpur as a convener. The Public Hearing started at 15.00 noon with the permission of the Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel. Attendance of the people present during the Public Hearing is attached as Annexure-1.

BACKGROUND:

Govt. of Maharashtra granted manganese mine over an area 10.62 Ha. located at Village- Maharkund, Tah-Saoner, Dist-Nagpur, to M/s. Veet Rag. Homes Pvt. Ltd. (VRHPL). The lease period is 30 yrs. Mining Plan and Progressive mining plan had been approved by IBM vide letter No. NGP/LST/MPLN. 782/NGP dated 22.12.2015. Mining plan period is 2013 to 2017. Open cast mining by "other than fully mechanized" (OTFM) "A" is proposed. Tree felling will not be required. Existing pits and dumps will be worked. Deposits within this lease are in the form of float ore/ dumps and also insitu.

It is proposed to produce manganese to the capacity of 25500 TPA as per approved mine plan of mine by IBM in order to cater the overgrowing need of manganese ore in the market.

The land is private and under the possession of Project Proponent. Area is plain, with average elevation of 380 m above MSL. Slope is towards SW. The proposed production will be achieved by developing this mining lease by mechanized Opencast mining method. There are pits and a few dumps in the lease area. Manganese deposits in the lease occur as float ore dumps and are in-situ.

An application for obtaining Environmental Clearance was made to the ministry of Environment and forest in accordance with the Notification of MoEF & CC S.O. 1533 dated 14.09.2006 by the lessee. Accordingly, the project was appraised by the MoEF in its 134th SEAC meeting held on 7-9 September 2016 for determination of Terms of Reference (TOR) for undertaking EIA study.

Project Proponent proposes to produce manganese to the capacity of 25500 TPA from M/s. Maharkund Manganese Mine from Mouza-Maharkund, Tah-Saoner, Dist-Nagpur.

As per EIA Notification published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-3, sub-section (ii) of Ministry of Environment & Forest dtd. 14/09/2006 and subsequent amendment in 16/11/2009, the proposed project fall in category-B of list of Projects or Activities requiring prior Environmental Clearance. The project would require environmental clearance from State Environmental Appraisal Committee.

PURPOSE OF PROCEDURE

With the permission of Chairman of Public Hearing, the I/c. Sub-Regional Officer-I, MPCB, Nagpur has started Public Hearing by welcoming the Chairman and member of the public hearing panel, Local citizens from the village and NGO were also present.

Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel stated that this Public Hearing is for informing the people about this upcoming project and to invite the views/objections/suggestions of the participants if any regarding environmental aspects of the project. Chairman also added that opinion of the people will be recorded and the same will be communicated to the Government. He also explained that this panel will not take any decision regarding granting any clearances to the project and appealed to the participants to express their views.

Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Nagpur explained the purpose of conducting this public hearing as per the Notification issued by MoEF vide SO60 (E) OF 27th January 1994 and amendment on 14th September, 2006. The notices for the public hearing were published in two widely circulated local newspapers i.e. the 'Hitavada' (English) and 'Tarun Bharat' (Marathi) on 05/09/2017. Copies of the same are enclosed as Annexure-II. Copies of the executive summary /EIA containing salient features of the project and other information/documents both in English and in Marathi were made available to the public by supplying these documents in various govt. offices as well as local Gram Panchayat as per MoEF GOI Notification. Suggestions, Comments and objections of the public were invited in writing before the date of Public Hearing from the publication of the notices in various offices. The public hearing panel is constituted vide MPC Board Office Order No. E- /2017 and letter No. BO/JD(WPC)/PH/B-. Copy of the same is enclosed as Annexure-III.

Thereafter, I/c. Sub-Regional Officer-I, Nagpur and Convener requested the project proponent to give their detail presentation about the project and the Environmental issues related with it. Accordingly, representative of the project proponent delivered detailed power point presentation of the project in local language.

Project Proponent briefed that M/s. Maharkund Manganese Mine project has proposed to produce Manganese to the capacity of 25500 TPA from mining lease spread over an area of 10.62 Ha. situated in Mouza-Maharkund, Tah-Saoner, Dist-Nagpur. He further explained about the benefits of the proposed project, facilities, disaster management, process description, description of environment and identification of anticipated impacts on Land environment, climate and meteorology, Air environment, water consumption, biological environment, socio-economic environment, impact on local infrastructure, environment management plan, air emission, preventive maintenance / inspection etc..

PROCEEDINGS:

1. Shri Moreshwar Dhurve

- Will there be any impact of mining activity on our farm lands and where from mineral transportation will be taken ?

2. Smt. Mandabai Dhurve

- Company shall provide employment to women.



3. Shri Raju Awhade

- Employment shall be provided to local villagers
- Wild animal damages the crop as the village is surrounded by forest.
- Hanuman Mandir at the entry of village shall be renovated before commencing mining activity

4. Rambhau Parteki

- What will be impact of mining on water table, on river and drinking water sources?
- What are the timings of blasting, because on one side of the village there is forest land and another side villagers move for grazing cattle, collecting NTFP and for earning their bread and butter?

5. Shri Ramaji Mohankar.

- Internal village road is narrow and passing through the village, not suitable for mineral transportation, pl. clarify where from you will transport mineral trucks?

6. Smt. Veena Bhivgade, Sachiv G.P. Tembhurdoh (Maharkund)

- Village is surrounded by forest and remote from main access. Amenities like, Road, Drinking water etc. are not up to the mark and villagers have to struggle for livelihood due to poor basic amenities.
- Do not use internal road for mineral transportation
- Employment figure of 40 as reflected in the report is for skilled OR unskilled workers

7. Smt. Lata Manohar Maraskolhe.

- Drinking Water supply is irregular
- Employment to women in the mine

8. Shri Madhubabu (Environmental).

- He suggested to improve Roads, To construct water harvesting tank and employment to local people.

9. Shri K.N.K.Rao

- The Mining lease is surrounded by forest, therefore forest NOC is being Obtained by proponent OR not
- Suggested to Verify whether National, Park, Sanctuary, Tiger Reserve is within 10 Km. Or not as proponent mentioned in the report that the same is beyond 10 Km.
- Separate road for transportation of mineral shall be constructed
- What will be the impact on drinking water after mining starts?



PROJECT PROPONENT

An authority from the project proponent thanked the people present in the hearing for listening to the presentation peacefully and to raise their suggestions and questions to improve the mining environment. The answers to the questions raised by the people in public hearing are as under

- If, Gram Panchayat makes land available for construction of new road for transportation of mineral, we will construct the road for mineral transportation.
- There will not be any impact of mining and blasting on the agriculture as blasting will be taken twice a week and dust sprayed due to mining and blasting will be suppressed by sprinkling water and also covering our trucks by trampoline.
- Farmers will definitely not be affected
- Ground water table will increase
- Hanuman mandir will be renovated before we start mining
- We will strengthen water supply facility under CSR
- We will prefer local person for employment. We will impart technical training to make them employable in the mine.
- We will provide employment to women also.
- 0.42 ha. of forest land diverted on 26th July 2010. This land is involved in the approach to mine from main road.
- We will fence our mining lease area by planting tree as well as fencing material so that wild animal will be stopped from entering in to the mine.
- Blasting will be taken twice a week. Every care will be taken before blasting execute, like, whistling siren, showing red flags and also proclaiming in the village regarding blasting schedule.
- No tiger Park, NP, biosphere, sanctuary exist within 10 Km. as reflected in the report. Forest department has already diverted forest land and before diversion of forest, forest department verify this during site visit.

Shri. Rahul Wankhede, Member of the panel (Regional Officer, M.P.C.B. Nagpur)

Representative of the project proponent has given all the information regarding project and environmental aspects like Water, Air & Green belt, project benefits, impact and management.

Shri. K.N.K. Rao, Chairman, Public Hearing Panel (Additional District Magistrate, Nagpur).

He said in the concluding speech that, people in the public hearing expressed their views/ opinion. The project proponent has given explanation w.r.t the point raised by people present in the public hearing. The public hearing is completed in friendly atmosphere. project proponent had also expressed their views regarding question raised in the public hearing. Thus, he declared that the public hearing is over.



(Kiran Hasabnis)
I/c. Sub-Regional Officer-I
MPC board, Nagpur &
Convener of the public
Hearing Panel



(Rahul Wankhede)
Regional Officer,
MPC Board, Nagpur &
Member of the Public
Hearing Panel



(K.N.K Rao)
Additional District Magistrate.
Nagpur & Chairman of the Public
Hearing Panel