

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED PROJECT FOR CO-GENERATION POWER PLANT (GT-IV) AND ENHANCED REACTIVE THERMAL OXIDISER (ERTO) UNIT AT URAN, TAL – URAN, DIST- RAIGAD, MAHARASHTRA STATE BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S OIL & NATURAL GAS CORPORATION (ONGC) LIMITED, A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING

An Environmental Public Hearing for proposed project for Co-generation Power Plant (GT-IV) and Enhanced Reactive Thermal Oxidiser (ERTO) Unit at Uran, Tal – Uran, Dist-Raigad, Maharashtra State by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., A Govt. of India Undertaking was conducted on 27th August, 2019 at 11.00 hrs at project site of ONGC Ltd., Uran, Tal – Uran, Dist – Raigad, Maharashtra State.

As per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEFCC, Gol), New Delhi and subsequent amendment on 01-12-2019, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has constituted Public Hearing Panel vide Office Order No.E- 58 of 2019 issued under letter no.BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B – 3140, Dated 26-08-2019 as below :-

- 1) District Magistrate, Raigad - **Chairman**
or his representative not below the
rank of an Additional District Magistrate
- 2) Regional Officer, MPCB, - **Member**
Navi Mumbai
(Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board)
- 3) Sub Regional Officer, - **Convener**
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Taloja

Shri Rahul Mote, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee and Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Taloja welcomed Chairperson of

the Public Hearing Committee, all government officials and officials of project proponent and participants who were present in large.

Convener of the Public Hearing Committee with the permission of Chairman of the Committee welcomed all who were present in large number and informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment (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. MPCB has received for proposed project for Co-generation Power Plant (GT-IV) and Enhanced Reactive Thermal Oxidiser (ERTO) Unit at Uran, Tal – Uran, Dist-Raigad, Maharashtra State by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., a Govt. of India Undertaking

He informed that as per EIA Notification, 2006, the proposed project activities fall under Category A 5 (c), which requires Environment Clearance before commencing the project for which prior public consultation is mandatory. Convener further informed that the project proponent applied for Terms of Reference (ToR) which is granted by the MoEF & CC, Govt. of India, New Delhi on 22nd March, 2018.

Convener of the public hearing further 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.

He further informed that as per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published in the local newspaper daily Sakal for Marathi and in daily national newspaper in Indian Express for English on 23rd July, 2019. 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, GoI), Western Zonal Office - Nagpur; District Magistrate Office - Raigad ; Additional District Magistrate- Raigad; Zilla Parishad Office- Raigad; District Industries Centre - Raigad ; Tahsil Office-Uran, Dist- Raigad; Uran Nagar Parishad, Uran, Dist – Raigad; Grampanchayat offices/Group Grampanchayat Offices at Nagaon, Mhatwali, Chanje, Sheva, Bokadvira, Bhendkhal, Pagote, Dongri, Karal Sawarkar, Sonari, Jaskhalr, Navghar, Hanuman Koliwada, Kegaon , Tal-Uran, Dist – Raigad; Head Office of MPCB at Mumbai; Environment Department,

Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai; Regional Office, MPCB, Navi Mumbai; Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Talaja and on website of MPCB. It was appealed to send any objections / suggestions regarding the project. Convener of the Public Hearing Committee further informed that this meeting will have two sessions. In the first session, the representative of the project proponent will give presentation regarding proposed project and environment management plan. In the second session, the participants, local people can raise their suggestions or objections in environment angle of the proposed project. Then Project Proponent will give the answers to the participants. With the permission of the Chairperson, Convener informed Project Proponent to give presentation.

Project officials gave presentation regarding proposed project and environment management plan. In the presentation, the location of the project, necessity of the project and further job opportunities due to expansion, safety measures in the project and social economic development of the Region due to project is informed.

After the presentation, Representative of Regional Officer, MPCB, Navi Mumbai welcomed all and appealed to give suggestions or objections regarding the environment management plan. The participants can submit their writing suggestions, objections also. While giving suggestions, objections orally, first name and name of the village should be informed. There should not be repetition of questions. The suggestions, objections raised will be noted and will be included in the minutes of the meeting which will submitted to an Expert Committee, MoEFCC, Gol, New Delhi. The Committee will take further decision regarding Environment Clearance.

Followings have participated during the discussions and the Answers given by the Project Proponent / Project Consultant / Public Hearing Committee :-

1) Shri Anand Gharat, Sarpanch, Matvali, Tal-Uran, Dist-Raigad :-

I am at present Sarpanch of Matvali village and with Dy. Sarpanch and other members of Panchayat Samiti are attending this meeting. 25 days back, the Grampanchayat office has got a letter. A report was sent along with the letter. While studying the report, some issues have raised. I am submitting the issues raised after studying the report to the Public Hearing Committee. It is requested

that Public Hearing Committee to consider the letter sympathetically. He submitted the written letter to the Committee.

2) Shri Rajendra Ataram Thakur, Ex-Sarpanch, Member, Group Grampanchayat, Kegaon, Tal-Uran, Dist-Raigad:-

This meeting is for the environmental issues. The project is essential for our Nation. In the report, the name of villages Nagaon, Matvali and Karanja have been given. But the village Kegaon, though project affected village, it is not mentioned. Why there is always partial treatment for Kegaon village and villagers? The Project Proponent has not taken into confidence the villagers of Kegaon. The project pipeline passes through Kegaon village. The villagers of Kegaon village have not opposed the project. Moreover they have supported the project. But the basic needs of the Kegaon villagers have not been fulfilled. The oil lifted in the project do enter in the sea water. It is not cleaned.

Several times in the past, the promise of building the barrage and cleaning of oil is made. But nothing is done till to-date. The fishing business came in danger due to this project. If anybody comes on two-wheeler from Panvel and Uran, then only the person knows how the obnoxious smell is released in the project. Without closing the nose, one cannot walk in this area. The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should look after about the obnoxious smell.

The Project Proponent gives job opportunities to the people from other State, but project affected persons from Kegaon village are not getting the jobs. The villagers of Kegaon have not any source for their livelihood. Hence, one day there will be revolt for this injustice. As there is public hearing, the villagers of Kegaon are allowed here. Otherwise, entry is prohibited. Due to this project, the fishing communities of the area are on the verge of starving.

Not a single penny is spent for the Kegaon village under Corporate Social Responsibility Fund. The livelihood problems of fishing communities should be solved. Due to this project, the generated polluted water should be puried wholly i.e. 100%. Nobody has given attention on this subject. It should be done.

Representative of the Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked Project Proponent regarding objection raised by Shri Rajendra Thakur for omission of the name of Kegaon village in

the report. He also directed to inform the participants regarding details of Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) and Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and Air Pollution Control system.

Project Proponent gave the answer that Air Pollution Control System is in operation and Air Quality is monitored from time to time. Online Monitoring System is in operation in the project and it is connected to the server of Central Pollution Control Board and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. All the air polluting parameters are within the permissible limits as prescribed.

The Project Proponent further informed that Effluent Treatment Plant is in operation. The treatment is given on the industrial effluent. The Project Proponent has its own laboratory and the effluent is checked. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) also, who collects the water samples. All the industrial effluent parameters are within the permissible limits as prescribed by the MPCB.

Project Proponent further informed that the name of the Kegaon village is not included in the report because as per the directives three categories are ear-marked for the Project Affected Villagers. The project constructed on the area of village is covered under Category-I. The Nagaon, Matvali and Karanje villages are covered. The Kegaon is somewhat side-tracked and pipelines have gone through the Kegaon village. Hence Kegaon village is covered under Category-II. The villages which have been considered for construction of roads are covered under Category -III.

Hence, the name of villages in which the proposed project which will be commissioned have been included in the report i.e. Nagaon, Matvali and Karanja. The proposed expansion of the project also will not be installed in Kegaon village. The Project Proponent has carried 2-3 projects in Kegaon. The proposal for carrying development work in the local will be considered if it is in prescribed norms and if the budgetary provision is approved. Then the CSR Fund can be utilised.

Shri Rajendra Thakur while objecting informed that the pipe lines of the project are passing through the Kegaon only. If the commissioning of the pipelines would have been prohibited, then how the project could have been commissioned. Kegaon village is purposefully neglected. Whether the back log fund under CSR would be made available to Kegaon? There should be permanent solution. The Kegaon villagers are not satisfied due to answer. Project Proponent should think of responsibility and should give the answers.

Representative of Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee here remarked that as Shri Rajendra Thakur is raising the issues by heart, it is noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

3) Shri Kashinath Sakharam Gaikwad, Ex Sarpanch, Nagaon village, Tal-Uran, Dist-Raigad:-

The issues raised by Sarpanch Shri Rajendra Thakur are of project affected areas. If the village Kegaon cannot be considered as "Project Affected Village," then Kegaon can be considered as "Pollution Affected Village." The total area is affected due to Health and Unemployment. The local people are not aware of the meeting. Hence, most project affected persons cannot attend this meeting. The problems of local people should be solved first, then the project should be commissioned. This meeting should be adjourned and it should be called again. The next time all the affected issues such as unemployment, health should be discussed in detailed. The Public Hearing Committee is requested to consider all the issues.

Representative of Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that this meeting does not take any decision. The issues raised in the meeting are noted and will be included in the minute of the meeting. It will be sent through MPCB Head Office to Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India.

4) Shri Pravin Gurav, Project Affected Person, Resident-Nagaon, Tal-Uran, Dist-Raigad :-

I am local person and I understood at night i.e. 1.00 that here is public hearing. I am journalist. In this meeting, how many are people are attached to the project, how many contractual persons are attending the meeting exclude their figure of attendance and how many project affected persons and local people are attending the people should be considered. The bifurcated figures should be published i.e. people working on contractual basis, people who are attached to the project and employees. We are not against the project.

Representative of Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that at the entrance of pandol, a register is kept. The attendance is noted there. He further informed that as informed by the Convener of the Public Hearing Committee that public notice was published 30 days' in advance in local as well as in national news

paper regarding public hearing. All the local people were appealed to send their suggestions or objections in writing if any regarding the environmental angle of the project. The public were also appealed to remain present in the meeting and can raise their suggestions or objections. The local and Project Affected Grampanchayat Offices were made available the Executive Summary Report. Everybody is allowed to attend this meeting. The transparent procedure is followed here.

Shri Pravin here remarked that here not more than 10% people are attending this meeting. Hence, as suggested here the public hearing should be called again.

He objected that pollution is not of just water or sea water. It is of employment also. I am journalist and I came here to raise the issues of local people. Since 1978 H₂S emissions are generated by the project proponent in the atmosphere. The local people can be asked and he will inform that after 8.0 o'clock in night, there is obnoxious smell. Due to H₂S emissions generation, there are ten people suffering from Cancer from Nagaon, Matvali villages. Here the question arises who will pay be bill of the villgers, who are suffering. The candidates from Nagpur and Orissa are coming here for training. But local people are not given an opportunity for job. Few days back, 65 candidates were given training, out of which only 05 were from Matvali and Nagaon village.

We, the local people have given their land for project, the local fishing business is stopped due to this project, there is no other source for livelihood and job opportunities are not at all given to the sons/daughters of Project Affected Person (PAPs). They do not have money for taking treatment. Hence, they should get the jobs.

He has taken further objection that project is in operation since 1978 and there were 165 Project Affected Persons (PAPs). But due to this project, there are local people who are suffering due to activities of this project. What should be called to them? The heirs of the people who are suffering due to this project though became eligible for job, they are not given the job. Though they are suffering due to H₂S, they do not have enough money for treatment. Hence, heirs of the sufferers should be given job opportunities. There is layer of oil in the well waters of the area. The CSR Fund is not used in the respective villages, instead of it, it is used outside the State. The CSR Fund is not used for the development of roads in the villages Nagaon, Matvali. The people who have given everything for the project did not get anything. The project is earning very good profit.

There are no good roads in the villages. There is oil layer on the well water. It is duty of the project proponent to provide drinking water by tanker to the affected villages.

The Project Officials stay outside the Uran village. They do not know the sufferings of local people due to this project. The project was in profit. Local people were working on contractual basis. After working for 17-18 years, they are getting very less salary, others are getting higher salary. Here in the meeting, No Decision-Making Authority is available. Whatever issues will be discussed, there will be no gain. The pipelines are passing through the Kegaon Village. The local farmers of Kegaon village are unable to cultivate and plant the banana crop in the pipeline area. They have been deprived by their legitimate right of getting enough compensation as the area in which the pipeline is installed falls under "B" Category. This is very surprising that project pipelines are part of the project, but the village Kegaon through which the pipe lines are passing is not considered as Project Affected Village/Area. The Nagaon village has given 500 acres of land for the project and Matvali village has given 300 acres of land for the project. The officials of project can visit the village. The condition of villages are very deprivable. In the past, the nearby villages used to lift and drink the water from the wells. Now most of time oil layer is observed on the well water. But project proponent does not accept this and says that the oil is not from their project. This meeting should be stopped immediately. We are not against the project, but first Project Affected Persons should be rehabilitated first. If worker is to be appointed, it is brought from outside. Please stop this meeting.

Representative of Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee here informed that the issues raised in the meeting have been noted and will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Representative of Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee here again informed that this Committee does not take any decision. The minutes of the meeting alongwith final Environment Impact Assessment Report will be submitted to the Expert Committee, MoEFCC, GoI by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. The Expert Committee will take further decision accordingly.

Here Shri Kashinath Sakharam Gaikwad and some other participants were loudly demanding that considering the local emotions, this meeting should be stopped immediately. Next date of meeting please be announced. The people residing in the vicinity of

project are suffering from 1974 and not from 1978. Five sons of soil have become martyrs as this project was rejecting their legitimate demand. We will not allow to install a single stone of this project.

5)Shri Pravin Gaikwad –

It should be looked after why local people are opposing the project. Hence, this meeting should be adjourned and next meeting should be called after 15 days. The conducting of this meeting is not known to local representatives and Panchayat Samiti Office also. This meeting is not at all for showing political strength. But the opinion of local people should be considered. The Chairperson of the meeting is requested to postpone this meeting and next meeting should be conducted in front of the local representatives.

6)Shri Mohan Kate, Sarpanch, Nagaon, Tal-Uran, Dist-Raigad:-

The opinion expressed by the local people should be considered and this meeting should be concluded immediately. I support the views of the local people.

Some group of local people were jointly requesting Chairperson of the meeting to stop/conclude the meeting.

At this time, Shri Anand Gharat, Sarpanch of Matvali requested for stop the proceedings of the meeting and call the meeting after 15 days.

Representative of Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that as informed by the Convener of the Public Hearing Committee, this meeting is conducted as per the Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Govt. of India, New Delhi dated 14th September, 2006. As per the Notification, District Magistrate or his/her representative is Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee. The officers of the MPCB are Member and Convener of the Public Hearing Committee. As per the guidelines, 30 days advance public notice was published in the local newspaper in Marathi and in national newspaper in English. The public were appealed to send their views, suggestions and objections if any in environmental angle of the proposed project. The EIA Report and Executive Summary Report were made available to the local and affected Grampanchayat offices for the study to the local people. It was also made available at Zonal Office of MoEFCC, Govt.

of India at Nagpur. The aim is local people can understand the production activities and environment management plan of the industry and they can send their objections in writing and can attend the meeting and raise their suggestions or objections if any.

The views, suggestions and objections raised during the meeting have been noted and will be inserted in the minutes of the meeting. It will be submitted alongwith Final EIA Report to the Expert Committee of MoEFCC, Gol, New Delhi. The Expert Committee considers all the meeting while granting Environmental Clearance to the project. Hence, the participants are appealed to raise their views, suggestions and objections if any. It will be noted. The Public Hearing Committee has no right to suspend or postpone the meeting. The aim of this meeting is views, opinion of the people be informed to the Government.

Representative of Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee again informed all that this Committee does not take any decision. The opinion of the local people is considered. The minutes of the meeting will be submitted to MoEFCC, Gol. Hence, the local people and participants can raise their issues. There was no response from the participants.

Hence, Representative of Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that Project Proponent has shown the presentation regarding the production activities and Environment Management Plan. Some suggestions and objections have been raised by the local people. Considering it, some questions, issues raised which should be clarified by the Project Proponent:-

- 1) As informed in the presentation, due to expansion, there will be increase of waste water of 100.0 M³/day. Whether it will be in Domestic Effluent or in Industrial Effluent? Whether present ETP is capable to treat the effluent or whether it will be upgraded?
- 2) The local people have raised many issues. The issue of oil layer on the well water is raised. Hence, the annual average quality of treated effluent should be calculated and made available.
- 3) In the present project as well as after expansion, there will be generation of air pollutants like Sulfur-die-Oxide, NO_x, SO₂. Whether present working Air Pollution Control (APC)

System is able to treat the air pollutants after expansion or whether APC system will have to be upgraded? Also if the air pollutants released more than the prescribed limits and for H₂S, whether air pollution detecting siren / bipping system will be installed? Detail answer should be given.

Project Proponent answered that here there is discussions of two projects. The gas which is produced in ERTO Plant goes to vent. H₂S is in the gas. Oxidation, Scrubber and Cooler is in ERTO. Hence, the quantity of H₂S is very negligible. The SO₂ and H₂S Detector will be installed in ERTO. Sodium Sulphate will be produced which will not be hazardous.

The existing effluent treatment plant has the capacity of 6,000 M³/day. It will be upgraded upto 10,000 M³/day. All the parameters are within the prescribed limits. As the Effluent Treatment Plant has become old, it will be upgraded at the earliest.

Representative of Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee requested Hon'ble Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee to guide the participants.

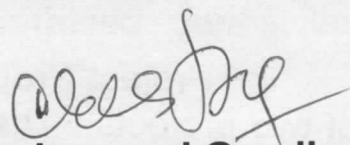
Mrs. Ashwini Patil, Additional District Magistrate, Raigad and Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that here the public hearing is conducted for Project Proponent i.e. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited for their Additional Co-Gen Project (GT-4) and Additional/Enhanced Reactive Thermal Oxidizer (ERTO). The officials of project, officials of MPCB and Government and local people are present. In the first session of the meeting, Project Proponent has given the presentation regarding the project and Environment Management Plan. In the second session, many questions were raised regarding many issues by the local people. The issues are raised for job opportunities in the project to local and PAPs (Project Affected Persons), oil layer on the water surface of wells in the vicinity and air pollution problems. All the suggestions, objections raised by the participant in the meeting are noted and will be included in the minutes of meeting. It is observed that local people are not satisfactory of non-spending of CSR fund, which is not utilised properly. The social welfare schemes should be implemented in the villages of the vicinity under CSR fund. The views, suggestions and objections raised during the meeting will be submitted to Government. It is observed that now that the participants do not

want to raise any issue. Hence, it is declared that this Public Hearing Meeting is concluded.

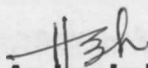
The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.



(Rahul Mote)
Convener,
Environment Public
Hearing Committee
and
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB



(Dr. Herambprasad Gandhe)
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB,
Navi Mumbai-II and
Representative of Regional
Officer, MPCB, Navi Mumbai



(Mrs. Ashwini Patil)
Chairperson,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
and
Additional District Magistrate, Raigad