

The minutes of Public Hearing in respect of Hiwardara Limestone & Dolomite Mine of Project Proponent M/s Shree Bajrang Sales Pvt. Ltd., Village Hiwardara, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal conducted on 02/05/2015, 12.00 Noon at Project Site

The Environmental Public Hearing in respect of Hiwardara limestone & Dolomite Mine of Project Proponent M/s Shree Bajrang Sales Pvt. Ltd., Village Hiwardara, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal having production capacity 0.2 MTPA in 171.09 Ha mine lease area was held on 02/05/2015, 12.00 Noon at Project Site. The public hearing was conducted under the Chairmanship of **Shri S. N. Mishra** (Nominated by District Magistrate, Yavatmal).

Shri S. D. Patil, Sub Regional Officer, MPCB Chandrapur was the Convener of the Public Hearing. **Dr. A. N. Harshvardhan**, Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Chandrapur was the Member of Public Hearing Panel, The Public Hearing started at 12.00 Noon with the permission of the Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel.

First of all, the Convener welcomed to all of present for the Public Hearing. He told that, the Public Hearing is being conducted as per the provisions of EIA Notification dtd. 14th September 2006 and amended Notification dtd. 01/12/2009 of Ministry of Environment and Forest, New Delhi. He told that the project proponent received TOR (Terms of Reference) for this project from Ministry of Environment & Forest, New Delhi on 28/03/2013. Project Proponent submitted their application to the Board on 18/11/2014 requesting for conducting the public hearing.

The copies of draft EIA/EMP and Executive Summaries in English and Marathi were made available to the offices of (1) Environment Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai, (2) M. P. C. Board (HQ), Mumbai, (3) District Collector, Yavatmal, (4) District Industries Centre, Yavatmal, (5) Zilha Parishad, Yavatmal, (6) Regional Office & Sub-Regional Office, M. P. C. Board, Chandrapur, (7) Sub-Divisional Office, Wani & (8) Grampanchayat Kundra (Mouja Hiwardara), Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal for the knowledge of concerned.

The Board had issued public notice on 01/04/2015 in Daily Loksatta (Marathi) and Daily Hitwada (English) stating date, venue and time of public hearing. Through this

public notice it was informed that draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report, Environmental Management Plan and Executive Summary (English & Marathi) of the proposed project is made available at the above mentioned offices for the knowledge of concerned people. It was requested to file their objections / suggestions within 30 days from the date of public notice to the Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Chandrapur. The Member Secretary, M. P. C. Board, Mumbai has issued the panel order no. E-141 of 2015, dated 16/02/2015 for the Public Hearing.

Convener of the Public Hearing further informed that no written representation was received regarding public hearing to be conducted. He further appealed to the participants that, they can file their written objections / representations during Public Hearing and they could express their views orally after the power point presentation that will be given by the project proponent. He further clarified to the participants that the Public Hearing panel is not here to accord/recommend Environmental Clearance to the project, but for recording the objections/suggestions of the participants, which will be video graphed and will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forest, New Delhi through Head Office, of M. P. C. Board along with minutes of public hearing for further necessary action. During public hearing one written representation was submitted, details of which are given below.

- 1) Shri Haridas Ramchandra Buchche, Sarpanch, Kundra Grampanchayat, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal

The convener, with the permission of Chairman, then requested the project proponent to give information about their project through power point presentation in local language.

Shri. Shantanu Puranik on behalf of Project Proponent gave the presentation on the proposed project of Hiwardara Limestone & Dolomite Mine of M/s Shree Bajrang Sales Pvt. Ltd.

Thereafter, Chairman of the Public Hearing Shri S. N. Mishra appealed people to express their queries, objections, suggestions or comments regarding the proposed project.

The details of the questions raised by the people during the public hearing and the replies given by project proponent are given below.

1] Shri Keshav Maroti Aamne (Sarpanch, Nerad) demanded to explain the details of government land and private land to be acquired in the proposed project. He added that project proponent should explain that whether land acquisition process will be carried out by personal negotiation or other method?

Shri. Bhartiya (Project Proponent) replied that total 171.09 Ha land will not be acquired at once in the beginning but it will be acquired in steps. He added that government rules will be followed during the land acquisition process.

2] Shri Subhash Ganpat Atram (Ex Sarpanch, Kundra) informed that present Sarpanch of Kundra village could not attend the public hearing and he authorized Shri Atram to represent his views in the public hearing. He added that written representation of Sarpanch is with him and he will submit the same to the Public Hearing Chairman. He demanded to declare the names of land owners whose land comes under the project.

He added that there are several adverse effects on the people of Kundra & Hiwardara Villages due to pollution and blasting activities and alleged that water level is drastically reduced due to mining activities. The roads are damaged due to overloading of mineral transporting vehicles and accidents are happening. He alleged that mine authorities do not pay the tax to Grampanchayat. He said that there is no Government land remained in the region and thus no grazing land is available for cattle. He added that air pollution is causing adverse effects on crop and farmers' income is reduced.

He requested Public Hearing Committee to consider his issues and not to accord environmental clearance to the mining project. He added that people of the region will agitate against the project if their demands are not considered.

He said that people opposed earlier projects but it were sanctioned in spite of peoples' oppose and claimed that project proponent agrees to fulfill all demands of villagers during public hearing but does not keep his words later on. He further claimed that tigers exists in the forest of the region and many farmers were attacked by tigers, but Forest Department did not initiate any action in this regard. He demanded to give Government land to Adivasi in spite of mining project so that they can have their livelihood. He added that all villagers oppose the project.

Shri Shantanu Puranik on behalf of project proponent replied that depth of limestone mining is not that much deep which can deplete the groundwater level. He said that issues / suggestions raised by participants during public hearing will be duly considered and incorporated in the final EIA report. He assured that mine authorities will take care of all norms regarding pollution control after commissioning of project.

3] Shri Ashok Pandurang Akulwar (Social Activist, Nerad) said that Kundra village is mentioned as the nearest village from the project in the EIA report. However, Nerad (Purad) is the nearest village from the project which is located at 1 Km from the project and Kundra is located at 2.5 Km from the project. He demanded that CSR funds should be utilized in Nerad village also. He added that separate rate should be given to land according to the class of land. He further demanded to provide professional training to the youths of village and to give them employment in the project.

Chairman Shri S. N. Mishra said that if land acquisition is to be carried out, it will be according to Government rules only and if it decided to acquire the land through personal negotiations then villagers' demand will be considered.

Shri. Shantanu Puranik on behalf of project proponent replied that blasting will be carried out in specific timings as per the DGMS norms and safety precautions will be implemented within blasting zone and allover mine premises. He added that modern controlled techniques will be used for blasting. He added that CSR funds will be utilized in nearby villages for developmental works. He said that professional training will be given to the youths.

4] Shri Shyam Ramdas Gore (Purad) said that he has agricultural land in Hiwardara Village. He added that EIA report was sent to Kundra Grampanchayat, whereas Nerad & Purad villages are more close to the Project, to both of which report was not received. He alleged that plantation was not carried out by mine authorities, even after the mines are in operation since last 20 years. He said that rainwater enters into farms in monsoon and water level gets reduced in summer due to mines. He added that farmers' life is in trouble due to the mines.

Shri Bhartiya (Project Proponent) said that his mine was closed since last 5 years and he expects cooperation from all villagers for commencement of mining. He assured that all work will be carried out as shown in the report.

5] **Shri Ramkrishna Anandrao Thombare** said that mines should be started as they provide employment.

6] **Shri Pazare (Purad)** said that blasting carried out in mines causes severe adverse effects on the farmers. Farmers need to leave their fields during blasting. He demanded to consider the issues raised by maximum villagers instead of personal issues raised by few villagers. He claimed that water level is declined due to the mining. He alleged that project report was not sent to Grampanchayat of his village.

7] **Shri Shankar Laxman Kinekar (Nerad)** said that mines are not in operation since last 5 years and nearly 200-300 workers lost their employment. He claimed the project site is away from the agricultural land.

8] **Shri Gajanan Laxman Kinekar (Nerad)** said that limestone stock is available in Hiwardara, Kundra and nearby villages and the mining is carried out up to 3-5 meter only which does not affect water level. He added that blasting is carried out once a week only. He said that mining projects should be started for the employment generation.

9] **Shri Vishwas Tokamkar (Nerad)** said that villagers lost their employment due to closure of mines. He added that Kundra village is about 2.5 Km from the project site and hence it will not be affected due to mining activities. He said that agricultural land is 500-600 Meter away from the project site. He demanded for the commencement of mining project.

10] **Shri Pramod (Nerad)** said that his land is near the project and alleged that employment will be given to people from other villages and hence they are supporting the mining project.

11] **Shri Hemant Dongare** said that there are several adverse effects of agriculture due to mining and opposed the proposed project.

12] **Shri Bharat Nimbalkar** claimed that mining causes adverse effects to the agriculture and opposed the proposed project. He demanded to give compensation for the damage of crops due to air pollution caused by mining.

13] **Shri Santosh Borde (Ganeshpur Khadki)** claimed that mine authorities didn't follow the rules and regulations regarding pollution control and said that it is the responsibility of mine authorities to control the pollution from mine.

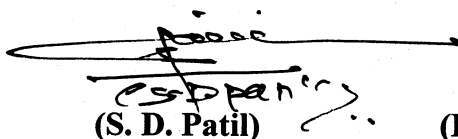
14] **Shri Sanjay Agrawal** said that mine owners had helped the villagers in the past many times.

15] **Shri Santosh (Grampanchayat Member, Nerad)** said that mine authorities provided funds to construct roads in the village. He added that mines are closed since last 5 years and before that there was no nuisance to the villagers due to mining. He demanded to start the mining project.

Chairman Shri S. N. Mishra enquired that whether anyone has to raise any issue regarding the proposed project. Nobody came forward to speak.

He said that major issues regarding the proposed mine are discussed and project proponent had given satisfactory replies to it. He added that project proponent is bounded for providing CSR funds for development of nearby villages.

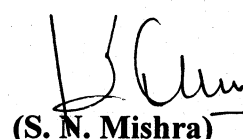
He said that it is mandatory for project proponent to follow Government rules during the land acquisition process and if the land is acquired by personal negotiation then rate of land will be finalized as per farmers' demand. He said that all issues raised by participants are properly noted and their demands are also noted. Thereafter he declared that the public hearing is completed.



(S. D. Patil)
Convener of Public Hearing
& Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB, Chandrapur



(Dr. A. N. Harshvardhan)
Member of Public Hearing
Panel & Regional Officer,
MPCB, Chandrapur



(S. N. Mishra)
Chairman of Public Hearing
Panel & Sub-Divisional
Officer, Wani