

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON 25-02-2019
FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION & MODERNIZATION OF EXISTING PNP PORT
(JETTY) AT GUT NO. 346, DHARAMTAR CREEK, VILLAGE – SHAHABAJ,
TALUKA – ALIBAG, DIST – RAIGAD, MAHARASHTRA. PROPOSED BY M/S
PNP MARITIME SERVICES PVT. LTD., VILLAGE, SHAHABAJ, DHARAMTAR
CREEK, TALUKA – ALIBAG, DISTRICT-RAIGAD, MAHARASHTRA**

As per Notification issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi (MoEFCC, GoI) vide No. S.O. 1533 dated 14-09-2006 followed by Amended Notification No. S.O. 3067 (E), dated 01-12-2009, the Project Proponent M/s PNP Maritime Services Pvt. Ltd., Village-Shahabaj, Dharamtar Creek, Taluka-Alibag, District-Raigad, Maharashtra has submitted the proposal vide their letter dated 22-10-2018 for conducting public consultation for their proposed expansion and modernization of existing PNP Port (Jetty) at Gut No.346, Dharamtar Creek, Village-Shahabaj, Taluka-Alibag, Dist-Raigad, Maharashtra., to Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point Building, Sion East, Mumbai 400 022 on 19-11-2018. As per the proposal, MPCB Head Office vide letter dated 04-12-2018 has directed Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-II, MPCB to proceed for conducting public hearing.

As per the above Notifications, the MoEFCC, GoI, has issued Terms of Reference (ToR) to the project on 22-03-2018. As per the Terms of Reference (ToR) dated 22-03-2018 issued by the MoEFCC, GoI vide above Notifications (i.e. 14-09-2006 and 01-12-2009) and as per directives of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Sion, Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-II has published 30 days' advance public notice in local newspaper Dainik Krishival in Marathi and in national newspaper Daily Indian Express on 25-01-2019. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, objections regarding environment management plan of the project in writing. Also the copies of Draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report and Executive Summary in English and Marathi were made available to public at various notified offices of Government viz Ministry of Environment, Forest, Climate Change, Govt. of India (MoEFCC, GoI), Western Zonal Office – Bhopal., District Magistrate Office - Raigad ; Zilla Parishad Office- Raigad; District Industries Centre - Raigad ; Tahsil Office-Alibag, Dist- Raigad; Grampanchayat office at Shahabaj, Tal-Alibag, Dist – Raigad; Head Office of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board at Sion, Mumbai-22; Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai; Regional Office, MPCB- Raigad, Raigad Bhavan, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai; Sub

Regional Office, Raigad-II, Raigad Bhavan, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai, and on website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

The public hearing for above project was arranged on 25-02-2019 at 11.00 a.m. at Collector Office, Rajasva Sabhagrah, Near Hira Kot Talav, Taluka-Alibag, Dist – Raigad, Maharashtra. Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide No.E-15 of 2019 under letter no.BO/JD/WPC/PH/B-633, dated 16-02-2019, following Public Hearing Committee was constituted to conduct the public hearing :-

- 1) District Magistrate, Raigad Or
his representative not below the rank of
Additional District Magistrate, - Chairman
- 2) Regional Officer
MPCB, Raigad - Member
(Representative of MPCB, Mumbai)
- 3) Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-II,
MPCB - Convener

Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Raigad-II and Convener of the Public Hearing Committee welcomed to all present in hall. He also welcomed Hon'ble Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee, and with his permission briefed the audience about the procedure of the environmental public hearing.

Convener of the Public Hearing Committee informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest, Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEFCC, GoI) dated 14th September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification. MPCB has received proposal for proposed expansion and modernization of existing PNP Port at Gut No. 346, Village – Shahabaj, Dharamtar Creek, Taluka – Alibag, Dist – Raigad. Hence this public hearing is arranged. He informed that the statutory procedure is followed before conducting this meeting such

as publishing the public notice 30 days in advance, making available the information regarding the project to public in advance.

With the permission of Hon'ble Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee, the Convener informed project proponent to give information regarding the project to all the participants.

Chairman of Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Raigad, welcome all and informed officials of the project to explain the details of pollution control devices and environment management plan of the proposed project in local and official language Marathi.

Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee appealed all to keep calm and raise any doubts, suggestions and objections against the project after the presentation. It will be included in the Minutes of Meeting which will be submitted to the Expert Committee of MoEFCC, Gol.

The consultant of Project Proponent gave the presentation of the proposed project, about Environment Management Plan (EMP), Disaster Management Plan (DMP) and Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) in detail in local and official language Marathi.

After the power point presentation, Regional Officer, MPCB, Raigad and Member of the Public Hearing Committee welcomed all and informed the participants to inform the name and place of residence before informing the suggestion or objection.

Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee appealed all to raise any doubts, suggestions and objections against the project. She also directed officials to take note of credentials of all the participants.

Followings participants expressed their views about this existing/proposed Project:-

1) Advocate Shraddha Mahesh Thakur, Local Resident, Kanakeshwar Apartment, Balaji Naka, Tal-Alibag, Dist-Raigad:-

Advocate Shraddha Mahesh Thakur, informed that she is daughter-in-law of

Ex. Local MLA Shri Madhukar Thakur who is present and raising the objections on his behalf in writing. The important points are:-

- a) Due to proposed expansion and modernization of the project, quantity of imported coal, sulphur, phosphate will increase, which will affect the local agriculture fields and there will be ill-effects on the health of local people. Hence, opposed the project;
- b) Due to unauthorised/illegal land fill on government and private agriculture fields for existing Project, natural water sources were obstructed, Kharland Scheme destroy and agriculture fields have become barren. Hence, opposed the project;
- c) In-spite of complaints about the violation of environmental laws against the existing project, the Project Proponent has not prepared the CER (Corporate Environment Responsibility), hence opposed the project.
- d) Due to expansion of this project, there will not be any benefit to local people and capitalists and big business will be benefited, hence opposed the project.
- e) The Project Proponent is already using the RCF railway line for their existing project. After expansion of the project, the usage of railway line will be increases, this may affect the passenger services between Alibag to Pen which is pending since long. Hence, the project is opposed;
- f) Project Proponent has illegally acquired the government land of Gut No.346, Mouje Shahabaj for this proposed expansion & also the information regarding illegally encroachment of 25 hectors Government land is kept hidden, hence the project is opposed;
- g) The procedure of public hearing is illegal; hence project is opposed.
- h) Project Proponent has not disclosed the information about illegal building construction on Government land bearing Gut no.346, Mouje Shahabaj by violating the CRZ notification, hence the project is opposed;
- i) Project proponent has not disclosed information about various court cases/orders, Government decisions during submission of proposal to environment department. Hence project is opposed;

Thus, as stated above, M/s PNP Maritime Services Pvt. Ltd., without any prior approval from the Competent Authority has commissioned the project on government land and proposes its expansion and modernization, for which I object.

Hence it is prayed by this objection that Environment Department should not give permission for the expansion and modernization of the project. Afterwards, she has handed over the copy of the objection letter to Hon'ble Chairman and Additional District Magistrate and requested to take cognizance of the letter at higher level.

2) Shri Darshan Atamaram Juikar, Resident of Shahabaj village, Tal-Alibag, Dist-Raigad :-

He has raised objection that since last 15 years, the project is in operation, but not a single social welfare scheme is undertaken by the project proponent in the local village for their developement. The project proponent is fined for 25/- Crores by the Hon'ble High Court, now the matter is pending before Hon'ble Supreme Court. Further he raised the issue of complaints against the project proponent regarding illegal land acquisition, illegal landfilling filed before the various Govt. Authorities, but no action taken against this project or project proponent. Also not given any information to me about the complaints. The job opportunities are not given to local people. The project proponent has illegally acquired the additional government land than sanctioned government land and built a building.

Shri Darshan Juikar further informed that cement mixed and coal mixed water is observed in the village. We are fighting since last 15 years for the misdeeds of the project proponent. You can confirm by visiting the jetty that there is a more outside peoples are working than the locals & local are denied the job opportunities. He became very aggressive while objecting for the expansion of the project. Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee appealed him to calm down and raise any suggestion or objection. He informed that most of workers are forcefully sent here by the project proponent to defend the interest of the project and support the same. He further demanded that this public hearing should be conducted on the project site or at Grampanchayat office Shahabaj,

so that local people can participate in the meeting and this meeting should be cancelled. And thereby he opposed the project.

3) Shri Madhukar Thakur, Ex-Local MLA, At –Satirje, Post-Mapgaon, Tal-Alibag, Dist-Raigad:-

He raised the concern that if the part of the house built by the poor person is illegal, then Government initiates immediate/prompt action and demolishes the illegal part. But here the Project Proponent has illegally acquired the government land and built a building and still no action is initiated against him. Further he informed that only 76 Guntha government land is sanctioned to the project proponent, but project proponent illegally captured extra government land & no action taken against this project proponent. He further blamed that MPCB does not take any action against the complaint registered at MPCB.

Member of the Public Hearing Committee informed that MPCB strictly implementing the various Environment Laws from time to time.

Shri Madhukar Thakur, Ex. Local MLA informed that project proponent has not implemented any social welfare scheme in the local village/area. While commissioning of the project, the land was illegally grabbed by the project proponent and the material was filled in the local agriculture land. The complaints were registered at District Administration from time to time. He expressed dissatisfaction for non-initiation of action against his complaint. The local people and farmers are not compensated for the same. He further informed that the local people are not informed well in advance of this meeting, hence the meeting should be conducted at project site Shahabaj. He expressed the opinion by strong emotions that this meeting should be suspended and next meeting should be called at Shahabaj village only. He has given the example of cancellation of public hearing of M/s RCF Ltd.

4) Shri Ganesh Janardhan Juikar, Resident- Shahabadgaon, Tal-Alibag, Dist- Raigad:-

Shri Ganesh Juikar informed that project proponent has acquired the agriculture land of the local farmers. Agricultural land becomes barren due to illegal dumping by jetty. Local peoples are not extended the job opportunities. Moreover, people from other

States are appointed, and thereby most of the local peoples are starving due to lack of job opportunities. They do not have money to come here from Shahabaj to raise their grievances. Hence District Collector should come to Shahabaj to understand the grievances of the many local fisherman communities and this meeting should be conducted at Shahabaj only.

Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee appealed all to calm down and raise the suggestions or objections if any for the environmental aspect of the project. But some of the local while informing the grievances became aggressive and discussing loudly in between.

Shri Ganesh Janardhan Juikar objected that due to commissioning of various projects, there is increase in pollution level in the area. But no action is taken by the MPCB. Since last 15 years, the agriculture fields have become barren. He remarked that due to pollution, no crops are growing in his field. He informed the Public Hearing Committee that he is educated unemployed and at home, his wife is physically handicap.

5) Shri Dhananjay Mhatre, Sarpanch, Shahabaj, Tal-Alibag, Dist-Raigad and some local residents attending with him informed that they have not been forced by the Project Proponent to attend this meeting. Nearly 1,000 people have got the job opportunities. We should consider the same. Those who want to oppose the project, why they do not want to go to other companies?

Shri Dhanjay Mhatre, Sarpanch of the Shahabaj informed that he owns 11 (Eleven) pools of fish farming nearby this project & not a single fish died due to the pollution from his fish farming pools. A survey should be undertaken of the area to know the truth & he supported the project.

6) Shri Pratik Dhananjay Mhatre, Shahabaj informed that nearly 1,000 local peoples are working in the project and about 500 peoples are from Shahabaj. Some persons are opposing the project just for the opposition only. There is pollution problem of M/s Ispat company also. It should be discussed.

Advocate Shraddha Mahesh Thakur remarked that if there are 1,000 peoples working in the project and out of which if there are 500 local people, then the concerned person should prove the same. Further she

pointed out that question arises that whether the PNP Maritime Services is Authorised Company? As it has illegally grabbed the government land, it is unauthorised company only.

7) Shri Prashant Patil, Resident of Shahabaj, Tal-Alibag, Dist-Raigad :-

Shri Prashant Patil informed that there is a lake of 24 gunthas near the project. If the project proponent says that there is no pollution due to project, how the thick coal layer is spread on the lake water? It should be explained.

8) Shri Madhukar Nago Patil, resident of Shahabaj :-

Shri Madhukar Patil informed that there are five localities i.e. (local word Pade-Vasties). The women from this area could not attend this meeting. Hence, Public Hearing Committee cannot understand their problems. Hence public hearing meeting should be conducted at Shahabaj only and this meeting should be suspended/cancelled. Further he informed that local peoples are not against the project. But the project proponent has not undertaken any social welfare scheme in the village. The educated youths of Shahabaj village are unemployed.

Here Ex. Local MLA Shri Madhukar Thakur remarked that the participants informed their grievances to the Public Hearing Committee. Hence Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee should take further action/decision. In the meeting, it is suggested that a survey should be carried of the area and this meeting should be adjourned.

Shri Sawant, Personal Secretary of Ex. Local MLA informed that there is provision of adjournment of the meeting if there is any emergency situation. The local women of Shahabaj could not attend meeting here. Former local MLA informed that the public hearing meeting at RCF was adjourned and postponed.

Chairman, Public Hearing Committee informed that there is no provision of adjournment of this meeting. She appealed all to raise any suggestions or objections regarding the environment management plan, it will be noted.

Shri Madhukar Nago Patil, resident of Shahabaj informed that local people desire that District Collector should come to their village i.e. Shahabaj to understand their difficulties, miseries and should solve it. Local people are not against the project. But project proponent has not undertaken any social welfare schemes in the village. As informed by Ex. Local MLA that all local people desire that this meeting should be adjourned and again called at Shahabaj. At this time, there was argument/verbal clash in between the two groups. Sarpanch of Shahabaj Shri Dhananjay Mhatre remarked that if the meeting is to be taken at Shahahaj, we agree for the same, but people from other locality and villages rather than Shahabaj should not be allowed as they are opposing the project just to oppose.

At this time, Hon'ble Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee appealed all to calm down and informed that in the public hearing, anybody from any village is allowed to attend and to raise suggestion or objection on environmental issues of the project. As this place i.e. Office of the District Collectorate is convenient to all, this meeting is arranged here instead of Shahabaj. She informed that this Public Hearing Meeting was planned under the Chairmanship of District Collector and District Magistrate only. But as he has to go to Mantralaya for urgent meeting, he has directed me to conduct the meeting. The local people, participants are requested to raise any environmental issues of the project. It will be noted in the minutes of the meeting which will be submitted to Central Government.

Still Ex. Local MLA and Advocate Shraddha Thakur and others were demanding that this meeting should be adjourned and next meeting should be called at Shahabaj only. Chairman, Public Hearing Committee informed that she has no power to adjourn the meeting.

Further Hon'ble Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee read the names of people, institution who gave their suggestions or objections in writing during the meeting as under :-

Sr.No.	Name and Address
1	Conservation Action Trust, Mumbai

2	Shri Chintaman Shankar Juikar, Resident at Shahabaj, Tal-Alibag
3	Shri Prashant Raman Patil, At Post-Kamalpada, Shahabaj, Tal-Alibag,
4	Shri Santosh Mohan Patil, Resident-Shahabaj, Tal-Alibag
5	Shri Ashish Ramesh Kothekar, Resident-Shahabaj, Tal-Alibag
6	Shri Darshan Atmaram Juikar, At Post-Shahabaj, Tal-Alibag,
7	Shri Dwarkanath Namdeo Patil, At Post-Kamalpada, Shahabaj, Tal-Alibag,
8	Shri Manish Krishna Mhatre, At Post-Shahabaj, Tal-Alibag
9	Shri Sachin Ashok Patil, At Post-Sahabaj, Tal-Alibag,
10	Shri Jayendra Kamal Patil, At Post – Shahabaj, Tal-Alibag
11	Shri Sanjay Gangaram Sawant, Near Dattamandir, Alibag
12	Advocate Shraddha Mahesh Thakur, Alibag
13	Shri Madhukar Thakur, Ex. MLA, Alibag – Uran

The written objections received during the meeting. It is summarized as under:-

1) Sr. No.1 – Conservation Action Trust, Mumbai :-

The objections is taken on the points that the EIA Report is not made available on website of MPCB, not made available the ToR on the web, Non-mention of area of mangroves to be acquired while expanding the project. The letter is received in English.

2) From Sr.No.2 to Sr. No.12:-

The objections raised by sr.no.2 to sr.no.12 above are totally same. The major points are, the procedure of conducting the public hearing is not followed properly & thereby cancel the public hearing. They have objected on the various issues which includes Project Proponent has not attached the copy of the permission letter of 1,000 Mtr, waterfront from Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Meritime Board, Mumbai; Not made available the copies of directives of MPCB notice to Project Proponent who has violated the CRZ Notification by developing jetty at Dharamtar Creek. The

cutting the mangroves on the survey no.346 for which Project Proponent is fined.

They have also objected for the submission of proposal for expansion and modernization, though the project is illegally in operation on government land without any prior permission, non-submission of sewage treatment plan for the sewage. They have also objected for not giving any commitment by the Project Proponent for not discharging the domestic effluent into the Dharamtar Creek; Illegally developed the project on the government forest land; Not making available the documents of illegal cutting the mangroves on the survey no.346 for which Project Proponent is fined.

- 3) Sr. No.13 – Shri Madhukar Thakur, Ex. MLA, Alibag-Uran, Tal-Alibag, Dist-Raigad :- The objections raised in writing are read in the meeting by Advocate Shraddha Thakur, which are already incorporated in the minutes of the meeting

Chairman, Public hearing Committee assured that all above objections received in writing will be forwarded to Govt. of India for their consideration & further needful.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee again appealed all to raise any suggestions objections in environmental angle of the project. As there was no question raised, she declared that the meeting is concluded.

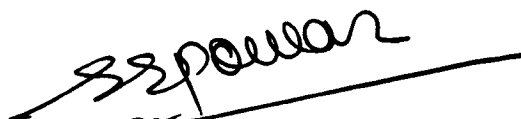


Convener

Public Hearing Committee
and
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB,
Raigad-2



Member
Public Hearing Committee
and
Regional Officer, MPCB,
Raigad



Chairman
Public Hearing Committee
and
Additional District Magistrate, Raigad