

The minutes of Public Hearing in respect of Khandla Limestone Mine (16.57 Ha) of Project Proponent M/s Vishakha Mines & Minerals at Gat No. 63, Village Khandla, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal for limestone mining on lease area 16.57 Ha having production capacity of 3,00,000 Tons/Year conducted on 09/01/2013, 10.00 am at Tahsil Office, Wani, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal

The Environmental Public Hearing in respect of Khandla Limestone Mine of Project Proponent M/s Vishakha Mines & Minerals at Gat No. 63, Village Khandla, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal having production capacity 3,00,000 Tons/Year and mine lease area of 16.57 Ha was held on 09/01/2013, 10.00 am at Tahsil Office, Wani, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal. The public hearing was conducted under the Chairmanship of **Shri Rajendra Deshmukh, Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal.**

Shri S. D. Patil, Sub Regional Officer, MPCB Chandrapur was the Convener of the Public Hearing. **Shri N. G. Nihul, Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Chandrapur** was the Member of Public Hearing Panel, **Shri M. P. Barhanpurkar, District Mining Officer, Yavatmal, Shri. L. S. Varhade, SDO, Wani** and **Shri. Ashok Misal, Tahsildar, Wani** were also present during the public hearing. The Public Hearing started on 11.00 am 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. 1st December 2009 of Ministry of Environment and Forest, New Delhi. He told that the project proponent received Model TOR (Terms of Reference) from Environment Department, Mumbai for this project according to the decision taken in 34th Meeting of the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) held on 30/09/2010. Project Proponent submitted their application to the Board on 14/06/2012 requesting for conducting the public hearing. Accordingly, the Board has issued public notice on 05/09/2012 in Daily Lokmat (Marathi) and Daily Hitwada (English) stating date, venue and time of public hearing. The public hearing was scheduled on 09/10/2012, 11.00 AM at Tahsil Office, Wani, Dist. Yavatmal. The said public hearing was postponed due to some unavoidable reason at that time. The notice about postponement of public hearing was published in Marathi Daily Lokmat and English Daily Hitwada on 08/10/2012. Afterwards the public hearing was scheduled on 09/01/2013 and the public notice was published on 03/12/2012 in Daily Lokmat (Marathi) and Daily Hitwada (English) stating date, venue and time of public hearing. The copies of draft EIA/EMP and Executive Summaries in English and Marathi were made available to the offices of District Collector, Yavatmal, District Industries Centre, Yavatmal, Zilha Parishad, Yavatmal, M. P. C. Board (HQ), Mumbai, Regional Office & Sub-Regional Office, M. P. C. Board, Chandrapur, Environment Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai, Tahsil Office, Wani and concerned Grampanchayat Khandla, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal for the knowledge of concerned. Also, through this notice 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-142 of 2012, dated 28/12/2012 for the Public Hearing.

Convener of the Public Hearing further informed to the participants that, **one written representation was received regarding public hearing** to be conducted and the same was made available to the Project Proponent. 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 by the people.** The Details are given below. The two written representations are enclosed herewith.

- 1) Villagers of Khandla, Gopalpur and Borgaon, Post Shirpur, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal
- 2) Villagers of Khandla, 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. Chandrakant Jadhav on behalf of Project Proponent gave the presentation on the proposed project of Chilai Dolomite Mine of M/s Mohammadi Minerals.

Thereafter, **Shri A. N. Katole** (Field Officer, MPCB, Chandrapur) 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 Vinayak Pandurang Tonge (Resident of Khandla) said that the region where proposed project is located, is drought prone and total population is dependent on agriculture. The total land was dry but now it is irrigated as water is available now. There will be many harmful effects on agriculture and environment due to the mine. Blasting will cause vibrations and dust generation due to which agricultural activities will hamper. Cattle will not get fodder in future as presently cattle graze in the land which is allotted to project proponent. Rainwater flow will be affected due to overburden dumps. Groundwater level will be declined / affected due to blasting. Farm workers will not work in the farms due to blasting activity. Pollution will be increased. The location of the mine is wrong as it is near Wani – Korpana Road. There are wild animals in the region viz. peacock, neelgay, deer, rabbit etc. which will be affected due to mine. He further said that many families will be destroyed due to mine and hence permission should not be given to the mine. Gramsabha was conducted in the village and resolution was passed for not giving permission to the mine. He demanded that said resolution should be considered. He further demanded that public hearing should be conducted at project site.

2] Shri Bhaurao Babaji Ghorude (Resident of Khandla) expressed his oppose to the proposed mine and said that there is agricultural land beside mine and it will not possible to work in this land due to blasting and mining activities. He demanded that permission should not be given to the mine.

3] Shri Devrao Tonge (Resident of Khandla) expressed his oppose to the proposed mine.

4] **Shri Subhash Bapurao Tonge (Resident of Khandla)** said that groundwater level will be declined due to blasting activity and peoples' health will be affected due to increased pollution. People are poor and they are unable to spend money on medical treatment. He expressed his oppose to the proposed mine.

5] **Shri Shankar Madhav Varke (Resident of Khandla)** stated that villagers' demand are valid but the village will be developed due to mine and hence mine should be started. Pollution can be controlled by taking precautionary measures. Youths of the region are unemployed and mine will create employment for them. He expressed his support to the proposed mine.

6] **Shri Sunanda Reddy (Dharitri NGO, Hyderabad)** stated that project cost is given as 200 Lakhs which may not be correct. The project cost should be around 20 Crores. Environmental baseline data given is proper but health data is not correct. He suggested that mining should be carried out step by step i. e. 1 acre land should be mined in first one month and so on. This will be useful for environmental and resource management. He further said that about 100 to 150 vehicles will run every day for mineral transportation after mine starts, which will cause air pollution on large scale. Village Khandla is located near to the mine and healthcare facilities should be provided at the village.

7] **Shri Vinayak Tonge (Resident of Khandla)** said that bore-wells and dug wells are the only water source in the villages and blasting will cause damage to both dug wells and bore-wells. Thus water source will be affected and blasting activity will also cause chemical pollution of the water.

8] **Shri Raju Ghorude (Resident of Khandla)** said that farms are located beside the mine and it will not possible to work in this land due to blasting and mining activities. Agricultural land will become non-fertile and farmers will suffer a lot.

9] **Shri Maroti Zabaji Dhengle (Resident of Khandla)** said that farms are located beside the mine and it will not possible to work in this land due to blasting and mining activities. There are wild animals in the region which will be affected due to mine.

Shri N. G. Nihul (Regionl Officer, MPCB, Chandrapur) enquired whether anyone has to express views / opinions / objections regarding the proposed mining project. Thereafter nobody came forward. Then he instructed Project Proponent to reply on the issues raised by people so far.

Shri Kishor Jadhav on behalf of Project Proponent replied on the issues raised by people so far as below.

- Mineral Production will be about 1200 to 1300 Ton / Day. Controlled blasting will be carried out which does not create vibrations and stones and creates very less noise and dust as compared to normal blasting technique. Chemicals will not used for blasting activity and hence there is no question of chemical pollution of water due to blasting. However, villagers should also monitor whether blasting is carried out in controlled manner or what.
- Employment will be created for villagers and development of village will take place.
- Groundwater level will not be declined.

- Fodder for cattle is available in another part of land also so cattle will not suffer in future.
- Green belt will be developed by project proponent along the mine boundary and along roadside. Water will be stored in mine pits.

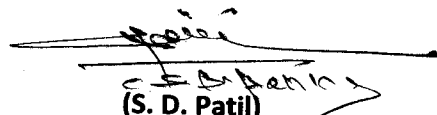
Thereafter **Shri Kishor Jadhav** invited **Shri Ajay Katkar** (Mining Engineer) to explain the details about blasting technique which will be used for proposed mine project.


Shri Ajay Katkar (Mining Engineer) said that controlled blasting do not create vibrations and stones and creates very less noise and dust as compared to normal blasting technique. Chemicals are not used in controlled blasting and hence it will not cause groundwater pollution.

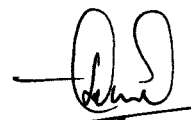
Thereafter **Shri N. G. Nihul** (Regional Officer, MPCB, Chandrapur) enquired as to whether anybody has to express views/opinions/objections regarding the proposed mining project. Thereafter nobody came forward. So he requested Hon'ble Chairman to have his concluding remarks.

Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh stated that effect of blasting on agriculture and groundwater is the major issue and villagers are in doubt regarding this. Project proponent has agreed to carry out controlled blasting every time. Project Proponent replied to the other issues raised by people viz. groundwater level decline, pollution etc. He instructed project proponent to develop green belt, to perform wet drilling and to make arrangement for water sprinkling. He further said that project proponent should organize health camps at villages and CSR funds should be utilized as per villagers' demands. In case of crop damage due to mining or transportation activities, compensation should be given to affected farmers. He instructed project proponent to implement Public Liability Insurance Act 1991 for the proposed project.

He explained that all views expressed by the people will be incorporated in the minutes of public hearing. The minutes along with video-graphy of public hearing will be further sent to Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra. He then summarized all discussions made during the public hearing and declared that public hearing is completed.


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


(N. G. Nihul)
Member of Public Hearing
Panel & Regional Officer,
MPCB, Chandrapur


(Rajendra Deshmukh)
Chairman of
Public Hearing Panel &
Additional District Magistrate,
Yavatmal