

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED EXPANSION IN PRODUCTION CAPACITY FROM 2.0 MTPA TO 3.5 MTPA WITH 614.69 HA. AREA IN PHASE-I OF M/S. MAKARDHOKDA-I EXPANSION OC (PHASE-I) UMRER AREA, WCL, DIST. NAGPUR DATED 16-01-2020.

Environmental Public Hearing in respect of Proposed Expansion in production capacity from 2.0 MTPA to 3.5 MTPA with 614.69 ha. area in Phase-I of M/s. Makardhokda-I Expansion OC (Phase-I) Umrer area, WCL, Dist-Nagpur under the Chairmanship of Shri. Ravindra Khajanji, Additional District Magistrate (A representative nominated by the District Collector, Nagpur). Shri. Ashok Kare, Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Nagpur was the member of the public hearing panel and Shri. Anand Katole, Sub-Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Nagpur-II act as a convener. The Public Hearing started at 11.00 am with the permission of the Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel. Attendance of the People present during the Public Hearing is attached as **Annexure-I**.

BACKGROUND :

The existing Makardhokda-I OC mine (2.00 MTPA) is an on-going project of WCL located about 3 km west of Umrer OC mine and 10 km N-W of Umrer town of Nagpur District, Maharashtra. The Umrer township is located about 45 km south-east of Nagpur. The nearest operating mine is Dinesh (Makardhokda-III) OC in the north western side of the project. Makardhokda-II OC mine located east of Makardhokda-I OC mine has exhausted. Umrer OC mine is located to the further east of Makardhokda-II OC and Amb River separates the two mines. The Umrer Butibori railway line passes through the northern boundary of Makardhokda-I OC and exhausted Makardhokda-II OC mine as well as through the southern boundary of Dinesh (Makardhokda-III) OC.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has granted Environmental Clearance for Expansion of Makardhokda-I Opencast Coal Mine Project from 1.0 MTPA to 2.0 MTPA in a lease area of 660.70 ha by letter no. J-11015/54/2006-IA-II (M) date 26.11.2015. This expansion in Environmental Clearance was granted under 7(ii) of EIA Notification, 2006. The project of 1.0 MTPA was earlier accorded EC vide letter no. J-11015/54/2005-IA.II (M) date 02.0.2006.

Recently, WCL has decided to liquidate the mineable reserves of operating/on-going opencast project at a faster pace with the available infrastructure and land even with reduced life of the mine. Hence, the Mining Plan of Makardhokda-I Expansion OC for enhanced 3.50 MTPA capacity is justified and mine will help in reducing the gap between demand and supply of non-coking coal for power section.

PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE :

With the permission of Chairman of Public Hearing, Sub-Regional Officer-II, MPCB, Nagpur has started public hearing by welcoming the Chairman, member of public hearing panel, local citizens from the village and others presents.

Shri Ravindra Khajanji, Additional District Magistrate and the Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel informed that this Public Hearing is for recording the views/objects/suggestions of the participants regarding the project and the proceedings will be communicated as it is to the Government for further consideration. He also clarified that this panel is not here to take decision for approval or reject of the project. He then appealed the participants to express their views/comments regarding this proposed project.

Sub-Regional Officer-II, MPCB, Nagpur explained the purpose of conducting this public hearing that as per MoEF, GOI Notification SO 60(E) of 27th January, 1994 and amended on 14th September, 2006. The notices for the public hearing was published in two local widely circulated news papers i.e. the 'Hitavada' (English) and 'Navrashtal' (Marathi) on 07-12-2019. Copies of the same are enclosed as **Annexure-II**.

Copies of the executive summary / EIA containing salient features of the project & EIA both in English and in Marathi and other information/documents were made available to the public by making these documents available in various Govt. offices as well as local Gram Panchayat as per MoEF GOI Notification. Suggestions, comments and objections of the public were called in writing till before the date of Public Hearing from the publication of the notice. The public hearing panel was constituted vide MPC Board Office Order No. E-95/2019 vide letter No. BO/JD/(WPC)/PH/B-5144 dtd. 16.12.2019. Copy of the same is enclosed as **Annexure-III**.

Thereafter, Sub-Regional Officer-II, 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 gave detailed power point presentation of the project in local language as under:

Project proponent has given information regarding project undertake by M/s. Makardhokda-I Expansion OC (Phase-I) Umrer area, WCL, Dist-Nagpur proposed Expansion in production capacity from 2.0 MTPA to 3.5 MTPA with 614.69 ha. area in Phase-I. He further explained regarding project location, benefits of proposed project, proposed facilities, fire fitting facilities, process description, description of environment and identification of anticipated impact, Land environment, climate and meteorology, Air Environment, existing water quality, water consumption, biological environment, socio-economic environment, impact on local infrastructure, environment management plan, air emission, preventive maintenance / inspection.

PROCEEDINGS :-

1. Shri. Chandramani Pillewan, Shirpur.

- There is a noise pollution problem due to heavy transportation. Nearby residents are suffering from health related issues due to vehicular movements. WCL shall take corrective measures for the reduction of noise pollution. FIR may be filed against WCL for noise pollution nuisance.
- Shirpur village is suffering from water scarcity and air pollution due to dust emissions. Pregnant women's are suffering from dust emissions.
- Residents of Shirpur are suffering from nuisance due to encroachment of wild animals into the agriculture field, resulting of which agriculture produce got damaged. WCL shall give compensation towards damage of crops.
- WCL administration had completed land acquisition in the year 1998 and given the compensation in the year 2003. Total 29 persons yet not got employment even the compensation was given up to 6 to 8 Lakh only. WCL official shall conduct meeting at Grampanchayat Office and resolve land acquisition, compensation and employment related pending issues.
- Shirpur Villagers are suffering from unemployment. WCL shall give employment immediately. Shirpur, Kanhva Village needs rehabilitation.
- Residents of Shirpur-Kanhva Village are against WCL.

2. Shri. Pramod Hadke, Shirpur.

- Village Shirpur is exposed to various problems due to mining of coal by WCL authority.
- Drinking water well of Village Shirpur is polluted due to mining activity. Villagers are exposed to polluted water supplied through this well.

- Air quality of Village is damaged due to chemicals used in blasting activity. There is a air and water pollution due to blasting activity. Cracks developed in the house due to blasting activity.
 - Residents are exposed to health related issues especially ladies and kids.
 - Shirpur Villagers are exposed to air pollution due to transportation and blasting activities as WCL has acquired land near their village. Due to coal dust emission water is not percolated in the agriculture field, there is no approach road to reach up to agriculture field as some blocks were not acquired by WCL, hence WCL shall acquire entire land.
 - Rehabilitation of Shirpur-Kanhva Village shall be done near Umred City.
- 3. Shri. Domaji Shrikhande, Sarpancha, G.P.Makardhokda.**
- Villagers of Makardhokda, Shirpur, Hevti & Katara have given their land to WCL unconditionally.
 - WCL authority has not given approach road due to which about 400 to 500 acres land remains barren.
 - Cracks developed at houses due to blasting activity. Yield of agriculture crops affected due to dust emissions. WCL authority is not giving any compensation.
 - Whether WCL authority has acquired 614 Hector land or it is already acquired. Any land acquisition shall be done as per the Central Government Policy.
- 4. Shri. Bhika Bhiyyaji Bhojar, Deputy Sarpacnh, GP Hevti.**
- Previous Environmental public hearing conducted for Makardhokda-III, but WCL has not full-filled assurance given the past public hearing.
 - WCL authority has not provided sanitary provision such as toilets for labour, due to which there is a smell nuisance problem in the village.
 - Agriculture crop is damaged due to dust emissions and WCL is not giving compensation. Villagers are exposed to the heavy noise pollution and their health is affected.
 - Adequate compensation not given by WCL. Cracks are developed in houses due to blasting activity by WCL.
 - WCL has not obtained NOC from Grampanchayat and works started without permission of Grampanchayat. WCL shall give adequate compensation to the farmers.
- 5. Smt. Veena Mandavkar, Deputy Sarpacnha, GP, Shirpur.**
- WCL shall acquire land of Kanhva Village. Survey has been carried out by WCL, but land yet not acquired.
 - Health of Kanhva Villagers are deteriorated due to poisonous dust emissions. Cracks developed in the houses due to blasting activity. Kanhva village shall be rehabilitated.
 - Path of River is diverted by WCL and resulting of which there is a flooding in the low lying area and agriculture fields are damaged.
 - Villagers are affected due to blasting activity especially old citizens and small kids. Agitation will be initiated if there will be no remedial measures taken by WCL.

- WCL has not provided any protection wall/compound wall around mining area and there is a habitation of wild boar. These animals entered in the agriculture field and damages the standing crops.
- 6. Shri. Ajay Bulkunde, Kanhva.**
- WCL is responsible for water & air pollution. The authority shall not give any clearance.
- 7. Shri. Rahul Hulke, Hevati.**
- WCL has blocked approach road of village Hevati, which leading to Makardhokda. Villagers is facing difficulty to approach Primary Health Centre.
 - Rehabilitation of Hevati Village is pending since last 5 years.
 - Respiratory diseases increased due to dust emissions and blasting activity.
 - Villagers are facing air pollution nuisance due to vehicular transportation near Bhajji Petrol Pump.
- 8. Shri. Vitthal Ramkrishna Uikey, Ex-President, Panchayat Samiti, Umred.**
- Why local MLA has not been called for public hearing?
 - Farmers and farm labours are exploited by WCL.
 - Drinking water supply is being affected due to mining and there is a health related issues due to substandard water supply. Hevati Village authority has requested WCL to provide RO Plant for village, but WCL yet not responded positively.
 - WCL has assured four times compensation towards land acquisition in the presence of local MLA, but adequate compensation yet not given. Villagers will start agitation and they will not allow coal mining activity in case adequate compensation is not given.
- 9. Shri. Suresh Bhende, Kanhva.**
- WCL shall initiate massive tree plantation on their vacant land so that, air pollution and unemployment problem will reduce.
- 10. Shri. Sunanda Reddy, Environmentalist.**
- He has extend his support to the proposed project.
- 11. Shri. Sunil Dahare, Kanhva.**
- My farm is near to railway line. My agriculture yield is reduced due to regular dust emissions. The yield of cotton is affected due to coal dust. Labours are not willing to work in my field.
 - WCL has constructed road without permission of Grampanchayat. Villagers has to ferry 15 KM due to encroachment of WCL.
 - Wild animals are damaging standing crops.
- 12. Shri. Ghanshyam Hadke, Member of GP, Sayki.**
- Villagers are suffering from air pollution. Crack developed in the houses due to regular blasting activity. Agriculture crops are affected due to deposition of coal dust and villagers have developed symptoms of respiratory disease.
- 13. Dr.P.M. Shembharkar, Hevati.**
- Rehabilitation of Village Hevati is pending since last 3 years. Why WCL has not expedite rehabilitation Work?

- Adequate land compensation shall be given as per the market value. Due to heavy transportation on Udasa bypass road, villagers are exposed to the road accidents. WCL shall provide adequate truck parking area. Police Department shall take stringent measures towards regulation of WCL transportation.
- Village Kanhva is affected due to blasting activity. Cracks are developed in the houses. Health and agriculture yield is deteriorated. WCL shall rehabilitate Hevati Village immediately.

14. Shri. Ashish Dahake, Employee, WCL.

- WCL is not providing adequate health facility at their hospital in Umred. Patients are harassed due to poor health facility.

15. Shri. Nitin Bobde, Shirpur.

- WCL has acquired land of 70 to 80 Villagers, but employment is not given. Villagers are frustrated due to non-availability of agriculture land and employment.
- WCL authority is giving employment to the outsiders, but not preferring project affected local villagers.

16. Shri. Vijay Ghode, Makardhokda.

- The agriculture land having 20 to 22 acre at Kh.No.71/1, 71/3, 59/1 is surrounded by Dinesh Opencast mine. This land stretch is exposed to dust emissions, air pollution, blasting emissions and mine water is entering in the agriculture land. The agriculture yield is reduced due to pollution. WCL shall acquire these land.

17. Shri. Raju Watane, G.P., Hevati.

- Drinking water facility is not available in Village. WCL shall provide borewell to Grampanchayat. Village road is not available. WCL shall give land compensation as per new policy.

18. Smt. Sushila Jadhve, Member of GP, Makardhokda.

- WCL has not given employment since last 5 years. They are not responding to our grievances.

19. Smt. Manda Bhusari, Ex-Sarpanch, GP, Shirpur.

- WCL has acquired land without receiving any NOC from Grampanchayat. Land compensation yet not received.
- Agriculture land is affected due to overburden dumping. Employment not given to the eligible candidates. Villagers has to move court against the WCL due to unethical practice adopted by WCL.
- Cracks are developed due to blasting activity and health related issues developed in the residents nearby vicinity. WCL is not providing any health services.

20. Smt. Yogita Mankar, Sarpanch, GP, Waigaon.

- Water sprinkling on transportation road carried out by WCL authority, resulting of which villagers are facing accidents due to slippery road conditions. WCL provide truck parking terminals.
- WCL shall provide massive tree plantation and RO Plant for drinking water through CSR fund.

21. Shri. Subhodh Hadke, Shirpur.

- WCL has acquired about 95% of agriculture land, resulting of which farm labours have no work and they are unemployed. WCL shall provide suitable employment to the farm labour.

- Contractual workers shall get same facilities as WCL regular workers.
- WCL shall provide all suitable services to the workers.

22. Shri. Ashish Kashimkar, Hevati.

- There is no progress on rehabilitation of Hevati Village. WCL shall full-fill their assurance.
- The agriculture land, which is near WCL Mine is not suitable for farming activity, resulting of which there an unemployment problem is arising in the village. Residents are exposed to the air pollution due to blasting and their health is deteriorated.

23. Shri. Roshan Patil, Reporter, Deshonnati.

- Health of villagers is deteriorated due to air pollution generated from mining activity.
- Road accidents are increased due to heavy vehicular movement and four lane. Police Department is not taking stringent measures against WCL authority. WCL is not co-operating with local police department.

24. Shri. Upasrao Pal, Hevati.

- Respiratory disease are increased due to coal dust emissions. Unemployment is a big problem for Hevati villagers.

25. Shri. Tarachand Mage, Makardhokda.

- WCL has not acquired agriculture land beyond 25 Km. Land compensation is not given to the project affected persons. Villagers are willing to give their land. Villagers are facing non availability of health services and employment.

PROJECT PROPONENT :

Project proponent has appreciated the local villagers for showing their concern regarding Environmental related issues, land acquisition, rehabilitation and employment. He expressed his willingness towards mitigation of all pending issues. WCL authority has given reply to the various issues raised by villagers.

Shri.A.P.Navale, Sr.Manager, WCL.

- The rehabilitation of Shirpur Village is under progress. The problem of drinking water for village Shirpur will be solved shortly as WCL has received proposal from Grampanchayat for digging of dug well especially for water supply.
- The proposal for acquisition of agriculture land of 2.5 Hectors was submitted to Mantralaya, but due to non-availability of NOC from Grampanchayat Shirpur, the proposal for acquisition was returned. Grampanchayat Shirpur shall submit resolution towards acquisition of 2.5 Hector land.
- WCL Umred area is giving health service to the villagers since last 2 years. About 3500 OPD patients have availed services of WCL hospital. Health camp is being regularly organized by WCL people and free medicines are provided in the camp. It is proposed to conduct monthly health camp so that, local villagers can avail free facility.
- WCL is giving assurance towards provision of tar road, water sprinkling arrangements on transportation road along with regular dust sweeping.

Shri.Sandeep Paranjampe, HOD (Land & Revenue), WCL.

- WCL has acquired about 614 Hector land for Makardhokda-I Opencast, Phase-I. About 590 Hectors land is under possession and remaining Government land acquisition is under progress.
- The agriculture land acquisition measuring 45 Hectors of village Shirpur and Kanhva is proposed and acquisition will be done through direct dealing with land owners. Land acquisition will be done as per the prevailing new policy.
- Kanhva Village is not directly involve for mining activity, but the land acquisition of Kanhva Village will be consider after examine Environment impact assessment.
- Land acquisition process for Makardhokda-I was carried out in the year 2003 and its compensation was given as per the prevailing policy. However, about 19 persons have refused compensation, but these 19 persons have given compensation as per the Government Resolution, 2016.
- About 1500 Hector land acquisition carried out for Dinesh Opencast mine and their compensation was given as per the 2012 GR. Employment was given as per the prevailing R & R Policy.
- Employment was given for 149 Hevati villagers and for this project about 1234 new employment is generated and about 870 local employment is given.
- Employment was given to Shri. Pajai, but due to unfavorable health report, appointment letter was not given. Suitable substitute candidate such as wife or any legal heir may get employment, if their proposal will be submitted accordingly.
- The Rehabilitation of Hevati Village is under progress. The land for rehabilitation is acquired near Udasa Village in 2017. All necessary permission is obtained for rehabilitation and actual work such as compound wall, land levelling is completed.
- All the pending employment related issues will be addressed separately in the meeting with WCL authority at their Regional Office.
- It is proposed to conduct monthly meeting for remediation of employment and acquisition issues.

Shri. Shelke, Sr. Manager, WCL.

- WCL is engage in the blasting activity as per the guidelines issued by DGMS.
- Adequate tree plantation carried out in the vicinity of WCL Dinesh Opencast Mine.

Shri. Alok Kumar, Area General Manager, WCL Umred.

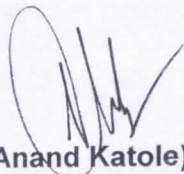
- WCL has done various corrective measures towards mitigation of Environmental related issues, employment & land acquisition. A separate meeting will be taken to solve whatever pending issues.
- WCL is willing to up-grade their Environmental scenario and this organization is serious about Environment protection.
- All the pending issues raised by villagers will be addressed by taking separate meeting with the concerned department.

Shri.Raju Parve, MLA, Umred.

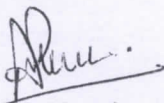
- Local public representative shall give invitation for attending Environmental Public Hearing and shown his displeasure for not receiving invitation.

- Being a local public representative, he is aware about all the suffering and pending issues of local villagers. Separate meeting will be called within 15 days for the remediation of all the pending works.
- Adequate compensation shall be given to farmers, which are exposed to dust emissions.
- Employment should be given to local villagers as skilled and unskilled manpower is available in the vicinity.
- WCL shall conduct meeting with local villagers and farmers to solve their grievances especially for village Hevati, Shirpur & Kanhva.
- WCL shall rehabilitate Piraya Village.

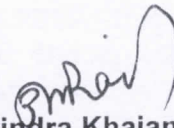
Shri. Ravindra Khanjanji, Chairman, Public Hearing Panel (Additional District Magistrate, Nagpur) has informed that the panel has obtained 5 nos. of written representation about this proposed project. The proceeding of public hearing is carried out as per the EIA Notification. Notice of public hearing is published in the Newspapers. He has expressed to public that all views and comments are noted and recorded. He has requested local villagers to submit their representation regarding pollution related matters to Pollution Control Board and District Administration for further investigation. He has instructed WCL authority to conduct separate meeting at local level to resolve grievances in respect of compensation and acquisition. This proceeding will be submitted to the Environment Ministry for further consideration. Finally Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel has summarized the proceeding of public hearing in detail and **Shri. Anand Katole, SRO, MPCB** thanks all the officials, public and local villagers present in the public hearing. The public hearing is concluded with the vote of thanks to the chair.



(Anand Katole)
Sub-Regional Officer-II,
MPC Board, Nagpur &
Convener of the Public
Hearing Panel



(Ashok Kare)
Regional Officer,
MPC Board, Nagpur &
Member of the Public
Hearing Panel



(Ravindra Khajanji)
Additional District Magistrate, Nagpur
& Chairman of the Public Hearing
Panel