

## MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING

### MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION IN EXISTING UNIT OF SUGAR FACTORY (FROM 4,000.0 TCD TO 5,500.0 TCD), CO-GEN (FROM 14.5 MW TO 24.5 MW) & MOLASSES BASED DISTILLERY (FROM 30.0 KLPD TO 60.0 KLPD) CAPACITY PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S LOKNETE BABURAO PATIL AGRO INDUSTRIES LIMITED, LAXMINAGAR, AT POST – ANGAR, TAL-MOHOL, DIST-SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA

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The public hearing for proposed expansion in the existing unit of Sugar Factory (From 4,000.0 TCD to 5,500.0 TCD), Co-gen (From 14.5 MW to 24.5 MW) and Molasses Based Distillery (From 30.0 KLPD to 60.0 KLPD) capacity proposed by Project Proponent M/s Loknete Baburao Patil Agro Industries Limited, Laxminagar, At Post – Angar, Tal-Mohol, Dist-Solapur, Maharashtra was conducted on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2019 at 12.00 noon at the site of the said industry.

As per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF CC, 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- 84 of 2019 issued under letter no.BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B – 47/1, Dated 25/11/2019 as below :-

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

Shri Prashant Bhosale, I/c Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Solapur and Convener of the Public Hearing Committee welcomed Hon'ble Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee, Member of the Public Hearing Committee, Company Officials, Government Officials and public who were present in large number and informed that as per the EIA Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF CC, GoI) dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 as amended on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification.

He informed that the Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur was in receipt of application of Project Proponent M/s Loknete Baburao Patil Agro Industries Limited, Laxminagar, At Post – Angar, Tal-Mohol, Dist-Solapur, Maharashtra for proposed expansion in the existing unit of Sugar Factory (From 4,000.0 TCD to 5,500.0 TCD), Co-gen (From 14.5 MW to 24.5 MW) and Molasses Based Distillery (From 30.0 KLPD to 60.0 KLPD) capacity at the existing site of the industry.

The Convener further informed that the project is in operation outside of notified industrial area and as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of project falls under Category A 5 (j), 1 (d) and 5 (g). Convener of the Public Hearing Committee informed that the aim of conducting prior public consultation 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.

Project Proponent had sought permission from MoEF CC, Gol for sanction of TOR and for preparation of Environment Impact Assessment and MoEF CC, Gol has sanctioned TOR on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2018.

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published in the newspapers in Daily Lokmat and Dainik Sanchar for Marathi and in English on 03-11-2019. The public were appealed to send their suggestions or objections regarding the proposed expansion of the concerned unit.

Also a copy of EIA report and executive summary were made available at various notified offices of Government i.e. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, West-East Division Office, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Lines, Nagpur – 440 001; District Magistrate Office-Solapur; Additional District Magistrate Office-Solapur; Zilla Parishad Office- Solapur; District Industries Centre-Office, Solapur; Tahsil Office-Mohol, Dist- Solapur; Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samitee, Mohol , Dist- Solapur, Gramsevak/Sarpanch, Grampanchayat offices at Village – Bitale, Angar, Kuranwadi, Khandobachi Wadi, Ekrukhe, Hivare, Yavali, Tal – Mohol, Dist- Solapur; Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur; Regional Office, MPCB, Pune and at Head Office of MPCB at Mumbai; Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai and on the website of MPCB. The public in general were appealed to send any suggestion or objection regarding the expansion of above project. The Convener further informed that not a single objection is received by local MPCB Office,

Solapur. He informed that those who desires to raise any objections or suggestions can raise it by orally or in writing also.

He appealed Chairman of the Committee to allow to start the proceedings.

Shri Jagannath Salunkhe, Incharge Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune and Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed all and on behalf of Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee informed Environmental Consultant of the Project Proponent to give presentation in Marathi regarding expansion and Environment Management Plan of the project.

The Environment Consultant of the Project Proponent gave presentation regarding Project details of proposed expansion and Environment Management Plan (EMP) of the project. Afterwards, Shri Ajitsing Deshmukh, RDC and Chairman of the Environment Hearing Committee appealed participants to ask any questions, objections regarding Environment Management Plan of the project.

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

**1) Shri Shahaji Gund, Resident of Angar, Tal-Mohol,  
Dist-Solapur :-**

The Project Proponent has planned to increase the production capacity. Due to increase in production, there will be increase in the effluent quantity. What steps have been planned by the Project Proponent to treat the effluent?

Environment Consultant of the Project Proponent informed that due to increase in production of sugar, there will be increase in the effluent quantity. The total 440.0 M<sup>3</sup>/day effluent will be generated. The Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) consisting of Screen, Primary Clarifier and Equalization, Aeration Tank Secondary etc. is already commissioned and in operation to treat the effluent quantity of 500.0 M<sup>3</sup>/day. The effluent will be filtered and aeration capacity will be increased to increase the quantity of oxygen supply. The effluent will be brought to the standard as prescribed by the MPCB (i.e. BOD-100.0 mg/l). The treated effluent will be recycled and reused the process and for green belt development and agricultural purpose. Not a single drop of effluent generated will be late outside the project area campus The project is Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) project.

The distillery effluent i.e spent wash will be concentrated by using MEE and reducing its volume. This concentrated spent wash will be burned into incineration boiler achieving zero discharge.

**2) Shri Abasaheb Bapu Shinde, Resident of Angar, Tal-Mohol, Dist – Solapur :-**

In the presentation, it is informed that the spent wash will be burnt. Then what steps have been planned to control the air pollution which will be created due to burning of spent wash? Further whether project proponent proposes to take steps to produce manure/fertiliser from spent wash?

Environment Consultant of the Project Proponent answered that at present management of the project has proposed the policy of burning of spent wash. But if at all Members and local people desires, 25-30% of total spent wash can be treated and then manure/fertiliser can be produced. The demand of the local farmers for the manure/fertilizer can be fulfilled. ESP will be installed for new boiler to be for air pollution control burning spentwash.

**3) Shri SamadhanKarande, Resident of Yawali, Tal-Mohol, Dist-Solapur :-**

The water is required for the production activities and after expansion, there will be an additional requirement of water. How the requirement will be fulfilled and what are the plans proposed by the Project Proponent?

It is informed that Govt. of Maharashtra, Irrigation Department has already sanctioned the 330.0 M<sup>3</sup>/day of water for the project. This water is provided from Ashati Dam. The treatment will be given on condensate from the sugar industry. There is 150.0 M<sup>3</sup>/day of fresh water requirement for sugar industry. The treatment will be given to condensate the water of distillery in the condensate polishing unit. The project will be installed at the earliest. The condensate produced will be treated, recycled and reused in the process only and hence no additional water will be required from outside for proposed expansion project.

**4) Shri Sharad Pankaj Salgar, Resident of Bitle, Tal-Mohol, Dist-Solapur :-**

While asking question, Shri Sharad Salgar remarked that it is informed in the meeting that the spent wash will be burnt. But if at all local farmers demands, get the manure as per presently at least 25-30% of the total spent wash shall be treated and manure shall be produced for local farmers. He further opined that



considering the costs of chemical fertilisers, definitely organic fertilisers produced from spent wash will be affordable. He requested project proponent to make the policy of producing manure from spent wash and obtain necessary approval from the Government. The project proponent replied that the necessary changes will be made in the EMP report and will be sent for approval of compliant authority.

He further asked whether the air pollution will be generated due to manufacturing process and what steps will be adopted to control the same?

Project Environment Consultant explained that the existing boilers which are in operation will be used in the new project also. But one new boiler will be purchased for burning the spent wash. The most advanced device i.e. Electro Static Precipitator (ESP) will be provided to the new boiler, which gives the efficiency of 99.0%. The adequate height of chimney will be provided to the boiler as per norms.

**5) Shri Ratnakar Ramchandra Naik Naware, Resident of Hivare, Tal-Mohol, Dist-Solapur :-**

After expansion of the project, what benefits the Members will get?

Environment Consultant informed that there is need of spending of some extra cost for the expansion. But the profit will be increased due to expansion.

He informed that there are direct and indirect benefits. The increase in the job opportunities and increased rate for sugar cane are the direct benefit. There are many indirect benefits such as increase in the business activities in the area like development of new tea stalls, small grocery shops etc. for the increased commerce and trade activities, increase in domestic transport facilities. It will change the socio-economic scenario of the area. The Government will also be get the additional revenue due to expansion of project safety.

**6) Shri Pandit RevannaDhavan, Resident of Ekrukhe, Tal-Mohol, Dist-Solapur :-**

Due to expansion, there will be increase in the workforce. What steps will be adopted for the safety of the workforce?

Project Environment Consultant here reiterated that the project proponent is bound for the safety of the workers. The protective clothing and helmets are

provided to workers. The Reverse Osmosis (RO) system at canteen and at project site is provided to make available the well treated water to the workers. Regular medical check up is carried of all the workers. These commitments will be strictly followed in future also.

**7) V. Sunanda Reddy, Environmentalist, Presidnet, Paryavarana Parirashana Samstha, Shivajinagar, Nalgonda District, Telangana State :-**

He congratulated Project Proponent for planning the expansion of the project. He informed that he is first Environmentalist in India who supports the project. There are more than 40 crores unemployed youths in the age of 18 to 35. They should get the job opportunities. He congratulated Environment Consultant for carrying detailed Environment Impact Assessment survey. He further suggested that the health and educational status survey of the 10 k.m. radius of the project be carried. Shri Reddy suggested to build big reservoir to save the rain water. The skilled development programme should be taken in hand to make local youths competent for the jobs.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee here asked Shri Reddy to submit the views in writing.

Shri Reddy appealed Environment Public Hearing Committee to sanction permission without any objections. He submitted his views in writing.

Project Environment Consultant answered that the suggestions given by Shri Reddy for Rain Water Harvesting and Ground Water Harvesting will be tried whole heartedly to implement.

**8) Shri Babasaheb Devkar, Business-Agriculture, Resident of Angar, Tal-Mohol, Dist-Solapur :-**

As project proponent has planned for expansion of production, what steps have been implemented for increase in the production of raw material i.e. sugarcane crop?

Project Environment Consultant informed that project proponent can guide for increase in the production of sugarcane Seminars and field visits will be arranged The experts from this field can be called for guiding the farmers.

Here Incharge Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune and Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee

remarked that local farmers be provided high quality of sugarcane seeds, the awareness and training programme for adoption of new technology of variety sugarcane as per "Padegaon Guidelines." The Sarpanch, Dy. Sarpanch and local farmers be made aware the various benefits of this project. Also how much quantity of manure is produced and in future how much it will be produced should be known to all local farmers. All these points should be discussed with local people.

**9) Shri Sharad Salgar, Former Dy.Sarpanch, BitleGrampanchayat, Tal-Mohol, Dist-Solapur:-**

The presentation is shown regarding the expansion of the project. From the presentation, It can be revealed that without much increase in cost, the expansion can be completed. Several times, It is experienced that as the demand of sugarcane is fulfilled, the sugarcane is not purchased by the Project Proponent. It is purchased in the month of April – May. In the month of May, due to climatic conditions, plenty of water requires to preserve the sugarcane crop. The expansion is beneficial to farmers as all the produced sugarcane will be purchased by the Project Proponent in time.

The project proponent has planned for expansion of co-generation project from 14.5 to 24.5. The additional electricity will be supplied to MSEB Grid. Hence, enough electricity will be available for the farmers.

The local people have not suffered any threat from this project till date. As this project is beneficial for the farmers and surrounding area, it should be in operation at the earliest. The Project Proponent has also promised to implement Rain Water Harvesting. He wished success for the Project and requested Public Hearing Committee to sanction the project at the earliest.

Here Environment Consultant informed all that as suggested by Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee, all the Members/Farmers should be analysed the soil of their fields for getting extra sugarcane crops. The NPK of the agriculture fields should be studied and then only fertiliser of required quantity be applied in the soil. There is need of water analysis also. The facilities of soil and water analysis are available with the Project Proponent.

The Project Proponent will co-operate for making available the modern technology to local farmers and team of the local farmers will be assisted for visit to agriculture exhibitions. The project proponent will co-operate to farmers to use modern techniques to use minimum electricity, water and fertilizers and maximum production of sugarcane crop to make win-win situation.

10) **Shri Ravindra Pandurang Pachpund, Resident of Angar, Tal-Mohol, Dist-Solapur :-**

I am local farmer and Member of the Project. All the information in the presentation is provided regarding expansion of the project. It is informed that the Project Proponent is initiating the efforts to minimise the pollution and recycling of treated effluent in the process. Due to expansion, the wastage of sugarcane crop will be avoided as large quantity will be utilised for crushing. There will be socio-economic development due to this project. He congratulated Project Proponent for planning the expansion and the project should be in operation at the earliest.

11) **Shri Shrikant Jagannath Ghatule, Resident of Angar, Tal-Mohol, Dist-Solapur :-**

He informed that he is local farmer. The project proponent has planned for the expansion. But due to drought or wet drought situation, the sugar cane production can be hampered. Hence, whether project proponent has any plan to produce sugar from beet and jowar?

Project Consultant here answered that this project is planned to produce sugar from the sugarcane and distillery project on alcohol production is molasses based basis. The quantity of sugar production from the jowar and beet is less than sugarcane crushing. For producing sugar from jowar and beet, there is different technology which will have to be adopted by the project proponent. But if the Expert Opinion is made available and considering the future demand, the Project Proponent may consider to plan for the same.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that in the meeting, total four writing letters are received, which are supporting the project with some suggestions. Shri Reddy from Telangana State just read his views and submitted his letter to the Committee. The other three letters are from –



- a) Cheyutha Rural & Environment Development Society, Nalgonda District, Telangana State;
- b) Environment Pollution Control Society, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh;
- c) Sankalpa Swachanda Seva Samstha, Nalgonda District, Telangana State.

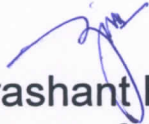
All the letters will be submitted along with minutes of the meeting to the Government.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee while concluding the meeting remarked that local farmers, Member of Project Proponent and Environmentalists have raised questions considering the modern technology. He informed that the questions, suggestions raised during the meeting and received by the local MPCB Office will be included in the minutes of the meeting, which will be prepared in Marathi and in English. The minutes of the meeting along with final EIA report will be submitted to an Expert Committee of Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra. The Expert Committee will take further decision.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee extended thanks to the Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Officials of the Project

Proponent and general public who were present in large number and on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee, he declared that the meeting the over.

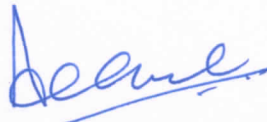
The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.



(Prashant Bhosale)  
Convener of the Public  
Hearing Committee  
and  
I/c, Sub Regional Officer,  
MPCB, Solapur



(Jagannath Salunkhe)  
Member of the Public  
Hearing Committee  
and  
I/c, Regional Officer,  
MPCB, Pune



(Ajit Deshmukh)  
Chairman,  
Public Hearing Committee  
and  
Additional District Magistrate, Solapur  
Dist – Solapur