

Minutes of Public Hearing for Proposed Upparpind-2 Sand Ghat (Taluka Shirpur) of Dhule District conducted on 2/9/2020

The Public Hearing for Environment related issues at sand ghat of Shirpur Taluka of Dhule District was conducted through video conferencing (Zoom App) on 2/9/2020 at 11.00 am.

Name of proposed sand ghats	River	Nearest Gut No.	Taluka
Upparpind-2	Tapi	106,107,108, 119 & 124	Shirpur

Hon'ble Member Secretary, MPCB, Mumbai has issued office order vide letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/ PH/B-200824-FTS-0042 dated 24/8/2020 for panel formation as given below for the public hearing.

- 1) District Collector, Dhule or his Representative - Chairman
(Not below the rank of Additional Collector)
- 2) Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board - Member
- 3) Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board - Convener

Following panel members were present for the environmental public hearing.

- 1) Mr. Dilip Jagdale, Additional Collector, Dhule
- 2) Mr. Amar Durgule, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Nashik
(Through Video Conferencing)
- 3) Mrs. Saujanya Patil, Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Dhule

Other Government officers present for the public hearing are –

- 1) Mr. Kishor Ghodke, District Mining Officer, Dhule
- 2) Mr. Lalit Waikar, Junior Geologist, Groundwater Survey and Development Agency, Dhule

Convener of public hearing Mrs. Saujanya Patil, Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Dhule welcomed the Chairman of public hearing panel, Regional Officer, MPC Board, Nashik and all other authorities. R. O. MPCB attended the meeting through Zoom media. The public hearing was started with the permission of Hon'ble Chairman.

At all outset, convener of public hearing explained that it is mandatory to obtain environmental clearance for certain type of projects according to the provisions of EIA Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change dated 14/9/2006 and Amendment dated 1/12/2009 and environmental public hearing is mandatory before obtaining the environmental clearance.

Project Proponent District Mining Officer, Dhule has submitted proposal on 27/7/2020 along with requisite fee for conducting the environmental public hearing for proposed sand excavation activity at Upparpind-2 sand ghat, Taluka Shirpur of Dhule District.

Convener further explained that Mining Department, Central Government has published 'Sand Mining Frame Work, 2018' in March 2018. In which certain guidelines are given for sand excavation. Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in its order dated 19/9/2018 in the matter of OA No. 368/2015 issued directions to coordinate with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and to make necessary changes in the policies as per Sustainable sand Mining Guidelines, 2016 and Sand Mining Frame Work, 2018 and 2020 and to conduct environmental public hearing.

Convener of public hearing further narrated that the main purpose of public hearing is to get acquainted with the citizens' views about the various aspects of project and the effects thereof. Also to make people aware about the pollution control arrangements required in the project and the concerned rules, and to consider the views expressed during the public hearing.

According to the application received to MPC Board for conducting public hearing the date for the public hearing is arranged as per the approval of Hon'ble District Collector, Dhule. The notice for the public hearing was published in Marathi Daily 'Lokmat' Page No. 02 and English Daily 'The Times of India' Page No. 06, dated 30/7/2020. The documents containing the information of proposed sand ghats were made available at the respective grampanchayats and other Government offices as given below for the knowledge of the people.

- 1) Collector Office, Dhule
- 2) District Industries Centre, Dhule
- 3) Jilha Parishad, Dhule
- 4) Municipal Council, Shirpur, Tal. Shirpur, Dist. Dhule
- 5) Tahsil Office, Shirpur, Dist. Dhule
- 6) Sub-Divisional Office, Shirpur, Dist. Dhule
- 7) Grampanchayat Office, Upparpind, Tal. Shirpur, Dist. Dhule
- 8) Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Second Floor, Fulchand Plaza, Opp. SSVPS College, Bilari Road, Devpur, Dhule
- 9) Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Udyog Bhavan, First Floor, Tryambak Road, Near ITI, Satpur, Nashik-422007
- 10) Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, Third Floor, Sion (E), Mumbai - 400022
- 11) Environment Department, Government of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Fifteenth Floor, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai
- 12) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Bldg., Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001

Environment Department, Government of Maharashtra vide its letter dated 4/5/2020 instructed to conduct public hearing of sand ghats through video-conferencing as lock-down is imposed by the Government due to ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. Accordingly, the Environmental Public Hearing for above mentioned sand ghat of Dhule District is scheduled on today i. e. 2/9/2020 at 11.00 AM through video conferencing (Zoom App).

Thereafter, Mr. Rama Krishna (Integrated Precision System and Services Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad) on behalf of Project Proponent gave a brief presentation on proposed sand ghat and measures proposed for pollution control during sand excavation.

After the presentation, convener informed that one written representation from Mr Devendra Pandit Patil, Founder President, Lok Kranti Sena, Dhule is received regarding the public hearing of sand ghats.

Mrs. Patil, Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Dhule then appealed participants to express their views, objections, instructions etc. through the video conferencing. The details of views expressed by participants and replies given by project proponent is as below.

Sr. No.	Name of Participant and views expressed	Response of project proponent
1	<p>Mr. Devendra Pandit Patil, Founder President, Lok Kranti Sena, Dhule – It was shown in the presentation that tree plantation will be carried out along the river bank and masks will be provided to the workers etc. But in fact, this never happened in the past. Sand is excavated without following the rules, till now. If any worker is injured at the site, there is no provision of even first aid at the site. Poklane should not be used as per the rules. However, it is often used for sand excavation and sand is excavated more than the allowed limit. Deep well-like pits are formed in the river bed by this type of uncontrolled excavation. Many time children caught an accidents in these pits. Overloading is often practiced to gain more profit, due to which road condition is worsened. The contractors do not mind Govt. Officers and Police, they even threat Sub Divisional Officers. Sand is excavated 2-3 times more than the allowed limit. This also causes loss of Govt. revenue and contractor is benefited. Also sand is excavated from the watery portion of river. Contractors earn more profit than Govt. revenue which results in the increase of illegal activities and crime. Activists like me are threatened by the contractors if visited to the sand ghat excavation site. It must be mandatory for contractors to provide copies of Govt. documents w. r. t.</p>	<p>Mr. Kishor Ghodke, District Mining Officer – Tahsildars, Sub Divisional Officers and District Committee regularly monitor the process of sand excavation. If some irregularities observed the necessary preventive action will be taken.</p>

	<p>sand excavation if someone wants to see.</p> <p>Sand is the soul of river, water holding capacity of river is increased due to sand. Excess sand excavation is resulted in the decrease of water level of surrounding region, which had an impact on agriculture. We don't have any objection if all rules are followed. But the rules are never followed in the past. Our resistance is not intentional, but we care for the environment. We expect that the rules will be followed for the whole sand excavation process.</p>	
2	<p>Mr. B. N. Birari, Dhule –</p> <p>The sand from Dhule District is supplied to Mumbai, Pune and Nashik. This activity should be stop. Environment is deteriorated due to uncontrolled excavation of sand. Water level is deteriorated. Agriculture sector is affected. Contractors do not work honestly. It is our request to stop the sand ghat auctioning. Inter-district transportation of sand should be stopped. Many times sand is smuggled in 50 Kg bags and even in containers.</p>	<p>Mr. Kishor Ghodke, District Mining Officer –</p> <p>Tahsildars, Sub Divisional Officers and District Committee regularly monitor the process of sand excavation. If some irregularities observed the necessary preventive action will be taken.</p>
3	<p>Mr. Vishal Borse –</p> <p>Which preventive measures will be taken with respect to effect on groundwater due to sand excavation?</p>	<p>Mr. Kishor Ghodke, District Mining Officer –</p> <p>Before finalisation of sand excavation sites, the sand level is demarcated by GSDA officials and permission is given up to that level only.</p> <p>Mr. Lalit Waikar, Junior Geologist, GSDA –</p> <p>The sand level at the sand excavation site is demarcated by GSDA by considering minimal impact on groundwater level and permission for sand excavation is given up to that level only.</p>
4	<p>Mr. Dinesh Deware, Shirpur –</p> <p>How the sand excavation site is finalized / selected?</p>	<p>Mr. Kishor Ghodke, District Mining Officer –</p> <p>Taluka Technical committee having expertise from various fields finalize the sand excavation site by considering important aspects like distance from road, bridge, village etc.</p>
5	<p>Mr. Manish Nikam –</p> <p>What are the timings scheduled for sand Excavation?</p>	<p>Mr. Kishor Ghodke, District Mining Officer –</p> <p>The scheduled timing for the sand Excavation is from 6.00 AM to 6.00 PM.</p>

6	<p>Mr. Nagraj Mahadu Patil – Sarpanch Upparpind, Tauka Shirpur.</p> <p>Whether grampanchayats will get the fund from the sand excavation auction process? Previous funds are not yet released.</p>	<p>Mr. Kishor Ghodke, District Mining Officer –</p> <p>There is provision of funds to the concerned grampanchayats from the auction of sand excavation sites. Previous funds will be released soon, same are under process.</p>
7	<p>Mr. Vikas Patil –</p> <p>How the sand excavation sites will be monitored for compliance check?</p>	<p>Mr. Kishor Ghodke, District Mining Officer –</p> <p>CCTV system will be installed at the sand excavation site through which it will be regularly monitored. Apart from this, frequent visits will be planned by concerned authorities to the sites.</p>

Convener of Public Hearing Mrs. Saujanya Patil, Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB and Chairman of Public Hearing Mr. Dilip Jagdale, Additional District Collector appealed to all participants to express their views, if any. But no one came forward to express their views.

Mrs. Saujanya Patil informed that the all the issues raised by the participants are noted. At the end, with the permission of Hon'ble Chairman he declared that the public hearing is concluded.

(Saujanya Patil)
Convener &
Sub-Regional Officer,
MPC Board, Dhule

(Amar Durgule)
Member &
Regional Office,
MPC Board, Nashik

(Dilip Jagdale)
Chairman &
Additional District Collector,
Dhule

धुळे जिल्ह्यातील डप्पर पिंड-2, ता. शिरपुर या वाळू घाटाकरीता पत्रावरून विषयक मंजूरी करीता आशोधित जाहीर लोक सुनावणी दि: 2/11/2020 सकाळी - 11.00 वाजता

अ.क्र.	आधिकार्याचे नाव	पदनाम	स्वाक्षरी
01	श्री. दिलीप जगदाळे	जनसुनावणीचे अध्यक्ष तथा डप्पर जिल्हाधिकारी, धुळे	
02	श्री. किशोर घोडके	जिल्हा स्वनिर्गम अधिकारी, धुळे	
03	श्री. अमर पुर्बुळे	जनसुनावणी समितीचे सदस्य तथा प्रादेशिक अधिकारी, म.प्र. नि. मंडळ, नाशिक	
04	श्री. सौम्या पाटील	जनसुनावणीचे संयोजक तथा उप-प्रादेशिक अधिकारी, म.प्र. नि. मंडळ, धुळे	
05	डॉ. प्रभाकर वावरे,	श्रीत अधिकारी, म.प्र. नि. मंडळ	
06	श्री. ललीत वाडकर	कार्यशाहीक प्रमुख, धुळे	

Total 22 participants have attended the Public Hearing through zoom App (video conferencing)

Sub - Regional Officer
M.P.C Board, Dhule