

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION IN EXISTING UNIT FOR INGOTS AND OR BILLETS MANUFACTURING UNIT (36,000.0 TON/ANNUM TO 1,56,000 TON/ANNUM) PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S SANT DNYANESHWAR STEELS PVT.LTD., GUT NO. 1076/77, GOLEGAON ROAD, MARKALGAON, TAL – KHED, DIST – PUNE

The public hearing for proposed expansion in the existing unit for Ingots and or Billets Manufacturing Unit (36,000 Ton/Annum to 156,000 Ton/Annum) in respect of Project Proponent M/s Sant Dnyaneshwar Steels Pvt. Ltd., Gut No.1076/77, Gholegaon Road, Markalgaon, Tal-Khed, Dist -Pune was conducted on 13th February, 2020 at 11.00 a.m. 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, (MoEFCC, GoI), 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 - 07 of 2020 issued under letter no.BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B - 281, Dated 28-01-2020 as below :-

- 1) Additional District Magistrate, Pune - **Chairman**
- 2) Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune - **Member**
(Representative of
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board)
- 3) Sub Regional Officer, Pune-2 - **Convener**
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Pune.

Shri Nitin Shinde, Sub Regional Officer, Pune-II, MPCB, Pune and Member, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee welcomed Hon'ble Chairperson 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 14th September, 2006 as amended on 1st 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 Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of application of M/s Sant Dnyaneshwar Steels Pvt. Ltd., Gut No.1076/77, Gholegaon Road, Markalgaon, Tal-Khed, Dist -Pune for proposed expansion in the existing unit for Ingots and or Billets Manufacturing Unit (36,000.0 Ton/Annum to 156,000.0 Ton/Annum).

The Member, Convener further informed that this project will have to obtain Environmental Clearance from an Expert Committee i.e. SEIAA – State Environment Impact Assessment Authority Department of Environment, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai, for which prior public consultation is mandatory. This project is in operation outside of notified industrial area and as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of project falls under Category B 3 (A).

The Project Proponent has applied to SEAC-I (State Expert Appraisal Committee-I) for permission of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Study and SEAC-I during their 168th meeting held on 26th August, 2019 approved Terms of Reference (ToR). An Expert Committee of Department of Environment has permitted the project proponent to prepare the Environment Impact Assessment Report which is called as ToR i.e. Terms of Reference. It shows the present status of environment and future ill effects if any of the project.

Member, 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.

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published in the newspaper wide circulated in local newspaper Daily Loksatta for Marathi and in national newspaper Daily Indian Express for English on 10-01-2020. 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-Pune; Additional

District Magistrate Office-Pune; Zilla Parishad Office-Pune; District Industries Centre-Office, Pune; Tahsildar – Rajgurunagar (Khed), Tal-Khed, Dist-Pune; Chief Officer- Alandi Nagar Parishad, Tal-Khed, Dist-Pune; Grampanchayat Offices at Markal, Solu, Dhanore, Golegaon, Tal- Khed, Dist-Pune; Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Pune-II; 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 suggestions or objections regarding the expansion of above project. The Convener further informed that a objection is received from Grampanchayat Office of Golegaon – Pimpalgaon and a Resolution passed by Grampanchayat on 11-02-2020. He informed that after presentation, the participants can raise any suggestions or objections regarding expansion of the project in environmental angle. He appealed Chairperson of the Committee to allow to start the proceedings.

Dr. Jayashree Katare , Chairperson of Public Hearing Committee welcomed all and informed officials of the project to explain the details of pollution control devices and environment management plan of the project in local language Marathi. She also appealed general public to give objection / suggestion if any about the project after their technical presentation.

The Environment Consultant appointed by the company has gave the presentation of the expansion project, Environment Management Plan (EMP), Disaster Management Plant (DMP) in detail and gave details of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund and Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) Fund and social awareness programme will be undertaken by the Project Proponent.

After presentation, the Public Hearing Committee appealed all to raise their suggestions or objections of the proposed expansion of the project in environment angle.

FOLLOWINGS HAVE PARTICIPATED DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, QUESTIONS AND ANSWER GIVEN BY PROJECT PROPONENT / PROJECT CONSULTANT / PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE :-

1) Shri Vilas Shinde, Resident of Vadgaon Shinde, Tal-Haveli, Dist-Pune:-

How many saplings will be planted by the Project Proponent and in which places it will be carried?

Project Environment Consultant informed that as per the directives of Central Pollution Control Board and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, it is mandatory to Project Proponent to develop 33% of the total area as green belt. But Project Proponent is going to develop 36% of the total area. As per the guidelines, 777 saplings will have to be planted. But Project Proponent is going to plant 839 trees.

Shri Vilas Shinde here remarked that just carrying the sapling programme is not at all accepted. The saplings should be nourished properly. The report of the same should be made available to local people. It is promised by the Project Proponent.

2) Shri Ramdas Lokhande, Resident of Nanekar Vasti, Tal-Khed, Dist-Pune:-

How many saplings will be planted in our Vasti i.e. Nanekar Vasti by the Project Proponent? How the water sprinkling arrangement/water supply for nourishment of trees will be made?

Project Environment Consultant informed that under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund, the planting of 50 trees will be carried in a school near the project as social activity.

Shri Ramdas Lokhande further informed that a road passes through ravine/gorge to the company. Half portion of the road is converted into tar road. The half portion is still muddy/not repaired. The burr (small iron rods) observed lying in the unrepaired roads due to which two wheelers of the students and local people get punctured. How Project Proponent will solve this problem?

The Project Proponent informed that the suggestions given will be considered at the earliest. The vehicles which comes in the factory will be covered by sheets. The magnet is installed.

3) Shri Mauli Lokhande, Resident of Nanekar Vasti, Tal-Khed, Dist-Pune :-

After inception of the project and after road widening, how much air pollution will occur and what steps will be taken to control the air pollution?

Project Environment Consultant informed that three months' survey is carried to know the future air pollution threat after inception of the project. The proposed air pollution will be controlled as per the directives of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and Environment Department. The technology standardized by CPCB, MPCB and Environment Department for arrest of dust and smoke will be installed and operated.

He further objected that whether the full-fledged technology will be in operation? He blamed that there is air pollution threat in the villages near the plant. The cattle at neighbouring villages are dying. Hence, most of the villagers have stopped cattle breeding.

Project Proponent informed that advanced technology will be installed to curb the air pollution. The project proponent has to submit status of air pollution for specified period from time to time to MPCB.

Here, Member, Convener, Public Hearing Committee remarked that the answer given by the Environment Consultant is incomplete. The local residents are not at all satisfied due to incomplete answer. The detail information regarding air pollution control devices should be informed. Which air pollution control devices will be installed, how the air will pass and how the dust particles will be arrested should be informed in detail.

Project Environment Consultant further informed that fume extraction system and dust collector system are provided alongwith chimney in the plant which is in operation. After expansion of the project, fume extraction system, dust collector and bag filter will be installed alongwith chimney. The height of the chimney will be 32 Meters as per the directives.

4) Shri Sachin Lokhande, Resident of Nanekar Vasti, Tal-Khed, Dist-Pune :-

Whether noise level will increase due to expansion of this project?

The Environment Consultant informed that after expansion of the project, there will not be any increase in noise level. There will be noise at the time of construction phase only. The construction work will be carried in the day time only, so as people should suffer due to noise.

5) Shri Ramdas Lokhande, Resident of Nanekar Vasti, Tal-Khed, Dist-Pune :-

Whether there will be any ill-effects of the smoke which will be produced in the production activities and will be released through the chimney? He further said that

as most of the local villagers have habit of not washing the vegetables, then whether smoke will affect the vegetables? The local people should be informed accordingly. Environment Consultant further answered that chimney with specific height as prescribed by MPCB will be erected. Here the chimney of the height of 32 meters will be installed. The smoke goes upside through the chimney. The smoke will be filtered while releasing in the atmosphere.

He further asked whether there will be any ill-effects on the workers who are working in the plant?

Environment Consultant informed that all the health and safety precautions will be taken of the workers. The workers will be provided safety boots, hand gloves, helmet, google, panorama spectacle, mask. The workers who will work near the furnace will be provided firefighting suites.

6) Shri Mauli Chowdhary, Resident of Golegaon, Tal-Khed, Dist-Pune :-

How much percentage of jobs will be reserved for local people? Whether local people will be given preference in job opportunities?

The local people are working in the present project. After expansion of the project, the local people will be given job opportunities as possible.

Shri Mauli Chowdhary further asked how the effluent will be treated which will be produced during the production activities?

Environment Consultant answered that there will not be any generation of industrial effluent during the process. The water will require for the drinking and domestic usages for the workers and other staff. The domestic effluent will be treated in Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and will be reused for green belt development in the project premises and also will be sprayed on roads in the project only to avoid dust pollution.

7) Shri Appasaheb Londhe, Resident of Markal, Tal-Khed, Dist-Pune:-

The villagers of the Markal village have raised objections, complaints against this project and registered it at Grampanchayat office from the time to time. But why Markal Grampanchayat is not called for this meeting?

Member, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee here informed that as per the Notification of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India dated 14th September 2006, it is mandatory to publish Environment Public Hearing Notice 30 days' in advance prior to date of public hearing in wide circulated

local and national newspaper. Hence, the public notice of Environment Public Hearing was published in local news paper Loksatta for Marathi and in national newspaper The Indian Express in English on 10-01-2020.

The Markal Grampanchayat was informed in the public notice. Afterwards, the executive summary was made available to all Grampanchayat offices including Markal Grampanchayat. Markal Grampanchayat was appealed to attend the meeting. MPCB office has receipt of the same. If Markal villagers who are attending this meeting can raise their objections, suggestions if any for the proposed project in environmental angle. It will be included in the minutes of meeting which will be submitted to Government for further consideration.

8) Shri Tushar Pachpute, Resident of Markal village, Tal-Khed, Dist-Pune :-

After completion of the project, whether Project Proponent will carry social activities in the project affected area?

Project Environment Consultant answered that it is mandatory to Project Proponent to undertake social activities in the project affected areas as per guidelines under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund. The toilet blocks in the school, green belt development, providing the services of Ambulance will be provided in the project affected villages.

9) Shri Rohan Kakde, Vadgaon Shinde, Tal-Khed, Dist-Pune :-

He informed that the Village Vadgaon Shinde falls in the 10 k.m. periphery of the project. The project proponent should take utmost precaution for not to create any pollution nuisance. Secondly, the question of reserving the percentage for the local people was raised. The percentage is not answered. It should be informed to local people. The other villages in the periphery of the project should also get the benefits.

Project Environment Consultant promised to follow the suggestions made during the meeting.

10) Shri Ramdas Lokhande, Resident of Nanekar Vasti, Tal-Khed, Dist-Pune:-

Just as meeting called today should also be called again after completion of the project to verify the promises made in the meeting and whether promises are

completed or otherwise. Then only the Project Proponent should be allowed to operate the project.

Here Member, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee informed that MPCB officials do visit the various plants, operations as per norms specified by the Board and detailed vigilance is carried accordingly. The promises made for installing anti-pollution control devices are always verified. The samples are taken from the respective units. If at all the consent conditions are not followed, then action is initiated as per the Environment Laws. The consent granted is also can be refused. The process of Granting of the Consent and Refusal of Consent is transparent and total information is always made available on MPCB website for the public.

Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed the participants to raise any objection, suggestion regarding the proposed project in environmental angle. There was no response. Member, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee requested Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee to conclude the meeting.

Dr. Jayashree Katare, Additional District Magistrate, Pune and Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing while reviewing the discussions informed that, suggestions and objections made during the meeting, answers given by the Project Proponent will be included in the minutes of the meeting and it will be submitted alongwith the objections received in writing from the Grampanchayat Office and Final EIA report to Government.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee directed Project Proponent to give details of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund and Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) Fund. She enquired about details of CSR Fund, the social activities which will be undertaken; The list of projects proposed to be implemented under CER Fund, after obtaining prior approval from District Administration. which projects will be implemented?

She further informed that implementation of various social activities under CSR Fund is mandatory to Project Proponent. It is also mandatory to Project Proponent to obtain prior approval from District Administration under CER Fund and to implement various social welfare programmes.

Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee further remarked that during the meeting, the suggestions were made by the local people that local young men and women should get job opportunities in the project. The Skilled Development Programme to empower the youths and young girls to carry the duties in this project or other projects should be implemented for six months or for specific period.

One of the residents appealed Public Hearing Committee to read the objections raised by the Markal Grampanchayat. Here Member, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee informed that the objection is received from Golegan-Pimpalgaon Grampanchayat. But no objections is received from Markal Grampanchayat. Member, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee read the letter sent by MPCB to the Markal Grampanchayat.

While concluding the meeting, Member, Convener here suggested that as directed by Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee, the social work programmes/ social activities should be undertaken as per the necessity of the local people under CSR Fund. He further suggested that big trees be planted while developing green belt. Hence, the green belt will be developed at the earliest. He further suggested that number of trees should be increased.

Member, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee appealed to raise suggestions, objections if any. There was no response.

Member, Convener, Public Hearing Committee while concluding the meeting informed that the objections, suggestions raised during the meeting are noted and will be included in the minutes of the meeting. It will submitted alongwith Final EIA Report and writing objections to Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra. Further action will be taken by the Expert Committee, Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra.

Convener of the Public Hearing Committee thanked local people, government and project officials for attending the meeting and declared that the meeting the concluded.

The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.


(Nitin Shinde)

Member, Convener,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
and
Sub Regional Officer, Pune – II,


(Dr. Jayashree Katare)

Chairperson,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
and
Additional District Magistrate, Pune