

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF INTEGRATED PROJECT CONSISTING
OF POLY VINYL CHLORIDE (PVC) PLANT, POLYMER MODIFIED
BITUMEN (PMB) PLANT, GAS STORAGE TERMINAL, LPG
BOTTLING PLANT, GAS BASED CAPTIVE POWER PLANT, SEA
WATER DESALINATION PLANT (RO PROCESS) PROPOSED BY
PROJECT PROPONENT M/S VERITAS POLYCHEM PRIVATE
LIMITED AT POST – DIGHI PORT AREA, VILLAGE– NANAVALI,
TAL-SHRIVARDHAN, DIST – RAIGAD**

- Ref :-
- 1) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi's Notification dated 14-09-2006 and Amended Notification dated 01-12-2009
 - 2) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi's Notification dated 14-09-2020
 - 3) Directives as issued by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board vide no.B-200917-FTS-0082, Dated 17-09-2020
 - 4) Directives as issued by District Magistrate, Raigad-Alibag vide no.Gruh-MAG-1/Janasunavani/2020, dated 25-09-2020

Date - 29-09-2020 (Tuesday)
Time - 12.00 PM
Venue - Gat No. 18, Near Karlas Village,
Dighi Shriwardhan road,
Karlas, Tal:Shriwardhan,
Dist. Raigad – 402402.

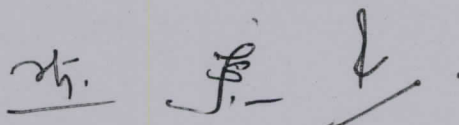
INTRODUCTION:-

M/s Veritas Polychem Pvt.Ltd. Mumbai will setup an integrated complex consisting of PVC manufacturing plant , Polymer Modified bitumen plant , Gas storage terminal, LPG bottling plant , Gas based power plant , Sea water desalination plant at reclaimed land & Gat no.49,50,51,52,53,54,56,57,61,63,66,75-A, Dighi port ,Village nanawali ,Taluka-Shriwardhan ,Dist-Raigad.

Maharashtra pollution control board received an application from M/s. Veritas Polychem Pvt Ltd. for Environmental clearance.

Project Proponent has received Terms of reference on 13.8.2019 from Ministry of Environment, forest & Climate change.

Ministry of Environment, forest & Climate change Govt. of India notification dated 14.09.2006 & Amended notification 01/12/2009, Member Secretary



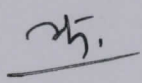

Maharashtra pollution control board office order no. BO/JD/PH/B-20097 FTS 0028 dated 07/09/2020 below committee has been formed to conduct the public hearing.

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| 1) District Magistrate, Raigad
or his/her Representative
(Not below the rank of an
Additional District Magistrate) | - | Chairperson. |
| 2) Regional Officer
(Maharashtra pollution control Board) | - | Member |
| 3) Sub Regional Officer
(Maharashtra Pollution control Board) | - | Convener |

As per Govt.Of India, Environmental Impact assessment notification, advertisement for the said project public hearing had been given in English & regional vernacular Marathi newspaper dated 25/8/2020, which was published 30 days prior to public hearing. Also amendment regarding the physical public hearing had been published in English & regional vernacular Marathi newspaper on 24/09/2020. Any suggestion, objection related to project can be furnished in writing to Maharashtra pollution control board Mahad.

Environmental Impact assessment report with summary in English & Marathi has been submitted to the following Govt.offices.

- District Collector Office, Raigad Alibag.
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Zilla Parishad, Raigad Alibag.
- General Manager, District Industries Centre, Dist. - Raigad, Alibag.
- Tahasildar, Tahasil Office, Shriwardhan, Dist-Raigad.
- Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Tal.Shriwardhan, Dist. Raigad.
- Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, 6th Floor, Raigad Bhavan, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai.
- Joint Director (WPC), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru point, 3rd & 4th floor, Opp. Cine Planet, Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai-22.
- Director, Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, New Administrative Building, 15th floor, Madam Karna Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai-32.
- Regional Office, MoEF, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office (WCZ), Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.
- Joint Director, Directorate of Industrial Health & Safety, 6th Floor, Kokan Bhavan Annexe, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai.

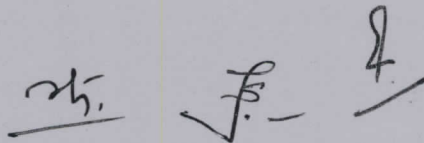
- Joint Chief Controller of Explosives, A-1 & A-2 Wing, 5th Floor, C.G.O. Complex, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai.
- Gram Panchayat Offices: Group grampanchayat Dighi (Nanavali, Maneri, Karlas, Savarde), At – Nanavali, Post – Dighi, Tal: - Shriwardhan, Dist-Raigad

Minutes Of The Public Hearing:-

Shri. Sagar Auti Sub regional officer Maharashtra pollution control board also the convener of public hearing had welcomed the Chair person, Regional officer, Villagers & started the Environment related public hearing. Convener expressed that in Covid 19 situation Virtual & Physical public hearing is being held simultaneously as per notification & Guide line issued by Ministry of Environment, forest & climate change ,Govt. of India. For virtual public hearing (online) Cisco Web ex link has been started. Convener informed that 20 objections has been received till date to Maharashtra pollution control board Mahad office.

First of all Project consultant & project proponent will give the presentation & explain the project in details also Environmental impact in surrounding area .After the presentation Villagers can ask questions, objections, Suggestion related to Environment & the proposed Project. At a time Only 100 people can be accommodated in this public hearing & next 100 will be called in next batch. The people present in public hearing should maintain the social distancing & wear mask compulsorily. Those who have brought complaints & objection in writing shall submit it to representative of Maharashtra pollution control board, Mahad.

Dr. Padmashri Shriram Bainade (Addl.District collector ,Raigad) & also the chairperson for the Physical public hearing welcomed people present in public hearing & asked them to furnish their objection, suggestion. She assured that every one will get the chance to raise their objection.



First Session – 100 persons Present

Followings have participated in the public hearing :-

1) Shri. Mohammad Memon, Resident of Borli Panchatan, Karlas Village, Tal – Shrivardhan, Dist – Raigad -

Our local people are innocent. Previously, many companies who have started their plants in Dighi port premises had given many promises. Nothing has been done afterwards. Hence, local people feels that this company will also behave like previous companies only.

Many companies who have installed their plant do spread false information/rumors and divides the local peoples. Due to lack of good educational facilities, the local peoples and youths may not have good education. The company should extend their own apprenticeship / training facilities and then job opportunities. Then only we will support the project.

In the presentation, it is informed that 467 permanent and 533 contractual workers will be required. What is the criteria for it? Secondly, if company brings outside peoples for their own business, then the local people not only should be given first priority for it but also should be given priority for business. Then only we will support the project.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee here asked whether local people desires any terms and conditions for the point you raised of giving business.

Shri.Mohammad Bhai informed that local people should be taken into confidence for any possible local supplies like sand business, stone metals/crushed stone business, transport business etc.

Small business personnel's might not have GST number. They should be co-operated by the company.

He further blamed that no social commitment is completed by the previous companies. Hence, local people feel that the promises made by this proposed project will also be futile. No promises was fulfilled by the previous companies. The local people have been made fool. If the company co-operates with local people, then only we will support the project.

But if anybody tries to take advantage of poor local people, we will fight and will not hesitate to laid our life.

Project Environment Consultant informed that as per directives of Central Government issued on 01-05-2018, it is mandatory to Project Proponent to reserve Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) Fund. It is 0.5% of total investment of the project.

Here Shri.Mohammad Bhai asked this may be for one village. But here there are 41 villages.

Environment Consultant answered that as per guidelines of Central Government, it is mandatory to Grampanchayat which are in 10 km. radius of the project to submit their proposal to District Collector Office. Even Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) can also submit their proposal to District Collector Office.

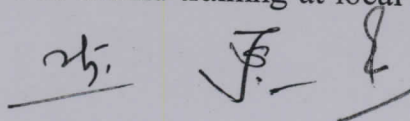
Project Proponent can give funds for Municipal Waste Management (MSW), constructing toilet blocks, development of green zone. Hence, the area can be developed.

The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund is different. It can spend if the project is in profit.

The manpower requirement is in every section of the project. There is requirement of additional education for certain posts. It will be given by the company. There are few unskilled posts, which also require training. It will be given by Veritas. The qualification for certain posts and requirements is already given in the presentation.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee, remarked that the information regarding details of posts with requirement of educational qualification, whether training is required and which training will be extended by the company should be published and made available to each Grampanchayat office

Shri. Salunkhe, I/c Regional Officer, MPCB and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee here asked to give explanation regarding apprenticeship/training facilities/basic training and asked whether Project Proponent will extend training at local level only so that



local people will not require to go outside for the job. Answer should be given accordingly.

Whether company will give them job opportunities who will complete their apprenticeship/training it should be explained here.

Environment Consultant answered that if local boys/girls complete the apprenticeship /training course and after successful examination, they will be given job opportunity. It is beneficial to project also. We assure to give job opportunities to local people. We have fixed 467 numbers considering all the aspects.

2) Shri. Nandkumar Govind Patil, Resident of Borli Panchatan, Tal - Shrivardhan, Dist - Raigad -

Due to this project, there is threat to the environment. Here tourism industry is going up. Due to air pollution of the project, local people, green belt, animals and birds will suffer. Whether pollution control devices will be installed permanently?

The projects which came earlier in this area have played the game of divide and rule. If this company would have made available the information of the project and job opportunities, many young boys and girls would have been trained. Many people could not come to attend this meeting due to COVID-19.

While objecting he asked that if there is cyclone, what the steps will be taken by the project officials? If there is an incidence like Bhopal, all the 41 villages will suffer. We are experiencing that local people are purposefully kept aside and people from outside Maharashtra have been job opportunities.

The local roads are completely damaged. How much project management will spend is not at all explained here. He said that purposefully this public hearing meeting is arranged in the COVID-19 background so as people should not come here. If at all the project is approved by the Government, we will go in the Court for justice.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed here that due to COVID, the lock down was declared. Now, the process of Unlock is already started. Now it is said that we have to live with Corona unless and until the vaccination is not comes in existence. Hence, keeping social distance, mask is essential. The Government has accepted the suggestions

made by the people and with online public hearing meeting, regular virtual public hearing meeting is allowed with group of 100 persons with following the guidelines issued in background of Covid-19. She directed Project Proponent to give answers for the objections.

Environment Consultant informed that the concerned person raised his views that whether we will complete this work, and will leave some work. Here, we promise that the commissioning of the project and installing anti-pollution devices will be fully completed.

There will not be any incidence like Bhopal as here no poisonous gas is used. The gas will be stored in mounded bullets in Storage Terminals.

There is strict vigilance of MPCB on the pollution of the project. Now MPCB has installed sensor and online monitoring is carried.

The detailed information regarding manpower requirement with posts, qualification will be made available to all Grampanchayat offices of 10 km. radius and at in I.T.I Murud. Local people will be given priority in this project. Company has considered factor of safety in terms of Cyclone, earthquake in designing of the plant facilities. The Disaster Management Plan is already prepared and it will be implemented. The ground water level will not decrease, as sea water desalination project (R.O. Process) is for the use of sea water.

3) Shri. Rajesh Kasare, Buddhawadi, Dighi Gaon, Tal-Shrivardhan, Dist - Raigad -

He said that I will comment on each of the company plant facility. The Project is Integrated Project. There is a gas storage project. The clean air of our area will be totally polluted by this project. And if there will be loss of life, then why these deadly projects should be installed here? The Buddha Samaj of the total area is opposing this project.

4) Shri. Rishikesh Gole, Borli Panchatan, Tal - Shrivardhan, Dist - Raigad -

Why the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and Executive Summary is not made available in advance to the local people? How much sea water will be lifted is not explained. The used sea water i.e. effluent where it will be discharged is not mentioned. There will be ill-effect on the fishing activities. The livelihood of fishermen will be affected. In Konkan area, many projects have been installed. Previously every project official used to inform that there will be no pollution from

our project. There are chemical factories at Chiplun like M/s. Gharda Chemicals. There also sensors have been fixed. But the pollution is very alarming. Due to air pollution, the area is totally affected. M/s. JSW at Wakhalkar there was a gas leakage & most pollution took place due to this. The paddy crop does not grow there. Nothing is mentioned in the report regarding fishing activities. Nothing is mentioned regarding the same operation and production of the projects anywhere in India and Maharashtra. He supported the objections and suggestions given by Mohammad Bhai.

Shri. Wakhalkar suggested that the company should publish the Vendor list of local youths. It should be informed that how much fishing will be affected? How the Government has approved this project as historical heritage Murud-Janjira Fort is nearby of the project?

Member, Public Hearing Committee here opinion that Shri. Wakhalkar has raised the objections in detail. Your concern for historical heritage is absolutely right. The Government while allowing the project has considered the historical heritage i.e. Murud-Janjira Fort. The directives of Environment Department will be conveyed to the Project Proponent.

Secondly, here the objection is raised as Project Proponent will give promise and nothing will be done for Environment Management Plan in future. Hence, on behalf of Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee directed Project Proponent to give promises in writing. Further he explained that M/s Gharda chemical situation was different before 10 years & now there will be vast changes in that area. The pollution control board has made lot of changes to avoid any air pollution. For M/s JSW the accident took place because of electric short circuit & not because of Gas leakage. For this incident Maharashtra pollution control board has imposed a very heavy fine on the company

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee also directed project officials to explain ill effects in future on fishing activities if any.

Project Environment Consultant informed that sea water is a source of water for us. The industrial effluent will be treated and it will be recycled and reused in the process. Remaining brine water will be discharged in the deep sea through diffusers.

Company will reuse the water in process. It is given in the writing to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. Shri. Gole Wakhalkar here

objected that all the companies commissioned here gave the same promises. Afterwards, the local people suffer due to pollution. Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee

Environment Consultant further informed that Environmental impact assessment report in Marathi as well as in English has been distributed to all surrounding area within 10 Km radius. Also it is available on Maharashtra pollution control board website. Sea water is the only source of water available in this area. All the industrial effluent will be treated and will be recycled and reused in the process. For the desalination intake & out fall location full engineering report along with all technical study for water has been carried out for this SWRO plant & same will be submitted in Ministry of Environment & forest New Delhi. Mr. Gole objected on this point & said that the fishing is carried out in deep sea & not near by 10 to 20 Mtrs area. The water which was discharged into the sea will affect the fishing. In the bitumen project, the water will be used for cooling purposes only. Also the COD of water will be 30-40 mg/lit. We will give this in writing to Maharashtra pollution control board .

Chairperson, Public Hearing Committee asked Project officials that whether brochure will be made available to the concerned person. She has directed Shri Gole Wakhalkar to download it from the site. Shri Wakhalkar opposed the project.

5) Shri. Amit Kasare, Resident of Dighi Gaon, Tal-Shrivardhan, Dist - Raigad

The local people who are attending this meeting are innocent and illiterate. They do not know what is production. The company has not given any information regarding ill-effects on environment and fishing activities.

On page no.17, in the column of effects of noise pollution, it is clearly stated that effects of noise, suitable time of the shifts and concerned employees annual audio logical checking will be minimized. It means that the company is accepting that there will be noise effects on the workers. It means that after some years, the concerned person will be deaf. We oppose for this.

Nothing is mentioned regarding soil pollution, leakage of oil in the vehicular traffic in the presentation. Leakage of oil and grease, waste, transportation of hazardous chemicals in the trucks is not mentioned. The trucks carrying hazardous chemicals will stand on the road. Our



roads are small hence there will be accidents and local people suffer. If the leakage of oil and hazardous chemicals occurs in forest area or in the municipal area, there will be heavy casualties. This company should be commissioned in MIDC area only. We oppose this project.

Environment Consultant gave the answer that while preparing EIA, all the aspects are covered. The audio logical test of the workers working near the noise zone will be carried as per the Industrial Acts. The heavy noise releases in the small workshop. All the directives of Industrial Act will be followed. The timely maintenance of noise emitting machineries, ear-plug, and earmuffs will be provided to the workers. The oil leakage in the plant will be avoided.

Shri. Kasare here remarked that after adopting all modern system, if the worker is becoming deaf, then this project is not at all required. The project should be installed at MIDC only.

He further said that as per the information, such type of projects are commissioned and operated where there is no population. If there are ill-effects, we oppose the factory. If anybody will die due to working in this project, he will prefer to work on daily wages. We oppose the project.


Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee here informed Environment Consultant that the objections raised by Shri. Kasare are after reading of the Executive Summary Report only.

The objections on Storage of oil, leakage of oil in transportation, ill-effects of noise pollution are raised after reading the report which is prepared by your Agency only.

At this moment, Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed to give answer.

Environment Consultant informed that all the aspects are covered considering the future activities while preparing the EIA. It is mandatory to us to follow all the safety norms and financial provisions for it are made.

Shri .Kasare objected to this point, & raised his fear that if peoples will be deaf during his lifecycle then no need to bring such project in this area & this type of project should be shifted to MIDC. If we will going to die in next 5 years, then why should we not do our traditional work peacefully? We oppose to the project.



Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee here read the points of monitoring for remedies to overcome from the side effects of noise, oil spillage. These types of oil pollutant have been stored in closed drum, Also controlled by DCS. Hazardous waste has been transported by closed truck as per the guideline of Maharashtra pollution control board. There will be no storage of waste in open land. For monitoring the spillage, Sensors has been installed.

6) **Shri. Sushant Patil, Resident – Wadavali, Tal-Shrivardhan, Dist-Raigad -**

If at all there will be ill-effects on fishing activities in future due to this project, what guarantee will be given by the company? Whether compensation will be given? The 80% quota in job opportunities should be reserved for the local people only. The local people should be empowered to do the job in the project. Then only the project will be supported by the local people.

The Project Proponent here informed that it is beneficial to us to give priority to local people for the job opportunities. Local people will be given priority in job opportunities. There is requirement of 467 persons in the plant. The local people having educational qualification for the certain posts will be given priority. While appointing skilled worker, training will be given by the company and will be appointed in the factory.

After lifting of sea water, brine will be discharged into the sea only. There will not be any chemical contents in the water. Only salt contents will be there. There will not be any ill-effects on the fish.

This report is already given to various Government Departments.

Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee directed to send next batch after following the social distancing guidelines.



2nd Session

As per the guide line from MOeF ,100 People can be allowed to attend physical public hearing. The 2nd session has started with present of 100 people. M/s.Veritas Polychem Pvt. Ltd project proponent gave the presentation on the Project & environment effect.

- 1) Shri. Lakshman Hari Mendadkar, Former Sarpanch, Dighi Grampanchayat, Tal – Shrivardhan, Dist - Raigad and President of Ekvira Macchimar Society:-

Fishermen community will get affected due to this project/plant. On 15th March 2019 employees M/s. Aditya Environment arrived in the village without any prior notice. After enquiring they showed No Objection Certificate of Fisheries Department.

Shri. Mendadkar told that Dighi Port was established in 2006-2007. Before that, fishing was the prime business in the Dighi village. But because of establishment of Dighi Port, number of ships started arriving at the port and due to activities of ships, the fishing business is totally ruined. It has also increased the ocean pollution. The fishermen community is struggling to eat twice a day. Fishing business is totally stopped. Mangroves have been destroyed. The Dighi Port has destroyed Dighi Village.

The declaration of the project is not cleared about the direct and indirect job opportunities. The SWRO reject will send it into deep sea, It will vanish our fishing work. So we from koli samaj complete opposed the project. The project require additional water and hence if it used, then Dighi village will not have sufficient water.

There are many technical difficulties for carrying out online meeting. Whether the project is dangerous for Dighi village? Which types of damage and pollution may cause due to this project? Will they give us any kind of written confirmation about the same?

The Environment consultant told that, we have two teams working together, one team is working on behalf of National Bank of Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD)& one for VERITAS company. We worked for NABARD as per the instruction from Commissioner of fisheries Maharashtra .The team who came to you must be from NABARD team. They studied all the aspects like life style, problems they are facing I day to day life, hygiene, Social economy, Educational & many more for the People nearby Aagardanda & Dighi Village. We will gather all this data, Grievances & send it to Commissioner of Fisheries. Environmental consultant has assured that the fishermen and the fishing won't suffer. Our plant will not cause any kind of pollution. We will not be using water of the village Dighi. We will be using water of the sea. The industrial Sewage will be reused in the plant.

At this moment, Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee informed all that Online Public Hearing Meeting is well in process and Public Hearing Committee is watching it also.



Environment Consultant answered that local people should inform their requirements. There is no threat due to this project. Hence, it is requested that the local people should co-operate. The sea water will be lifted for the process. Hence, there will not be any use of groundwater. So the level of ground water will not decrease.

The Project Environment consultant has asked the residents of Dighi village for the list of concerns. The project will not cause any damage to the Village of Dighi and so residents are requested to co-operate. As water of the sea will be used, residents of Dighi village will not face water problems and it won't affect level of drinkingwater.

2) Shri. Harish Gajanan Dighikar, Residnet of Dighi village, Tal – Shrivardhan, Dist – Raigad -

He raised the objection that the presentation slides cannot be seen. He raised the objection that before commissioning of the plants, every company officials promises that they will take care of fishing communities. Dighi Port is in operation since 2007. There is two workers' union and 100-125 workers are working there. Not a single promise is fulfilled by the Dighi Port. We carry fishing activities neither for us, nor for company. We do fishing for the people. The company should give commitment that there will not be any ill-effect on the fishing activities. This promise should be given by the company.

Chairperson of Public Hearing Committee ordered that, don't give any speech, and only ask the relevant questions related to project & its impact. She al so asked to Environmental consultant to reply all the questions raised by the peoples.

Here Environment Consultant informed that due to this project, there will not be any ill-effects on the fishing activities. We are Maharashtrean. We do not want to do any damage to our Koli brothers.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee here remarked that the points/objections raised by Shri. Dighikar are totally right. Due to this project, whether there will be any effects on fishing business and what steps will be taken should answered to the participants. Only we will take care, this answer is not at all right answer. Environment Consultant answered that I say confidently that there will not any effect on the fishing activities. All the industrial effluent will be treated and it will be recycled and reused.

3) Shri. Kiran Kandekar, Resident of Dighi gaon, Tal – Shrivardhan, Dist – Raigad -

If the plant is planning to build a gas tank underground then we need assurance that there won't be an explosion underground, otherwise the whole village always will be in danger.

Project Proponent informed that storage tank is Mounded Bullets. RCC wall will be built all around. All bullets are covered with sand. It will be constructed as per the inner pressure criteria. The bullets will be designed more than the actual pressure required to store the Gas. For designing these types of bullets, IIT

25. J. L. 2

Bombay & Technip FMC engineers & Consultant will work together. As all the bullets are covered by sand & due to R.C.C. wall there will be no movement of person inside the mound. So no explosion will take place due to human error.

Shri. Kandeekar has concerns that the project/plant will start the production. The residents of the Dighi Village do not have good experience in the past with other companies. The production process will increase pollution. Hence, it is misadvised not to start the production process. If the production process starts, residents of village Dighi will protest which may result in the deaths of many? We do not want the production of any company.

The project proponent has mentioned that they have NOC for establishment of this project from Dighi port. Also M/S Veritas Polychem Pvt.Ltd. received a congratulatory letter from Maharashtra maritime board. Maharashtra Maritime board acknowledges this project inside the Port i.e. the production facility of the plant. We are letting you know this officially.

4) Shri. Haridas Ganpat Patil, Dighi Kolivada, Tal - Srivardhan, Dist - Raigad

Koli/Fishing Communities worship sea as Sagar Devata. As per the Executive Summary Report, sea water after desalination will be used in the process and industrial effluent after treatment will be discharged in the sea. This is slow poisoning. We protest against the dangerous destroying project.

We oppose the project.

5) Shri. Devidas Chandrakant Kavale, Ex. Sabhapati, Shrivardhan Grampanchayat, Tal - Shrivardhan, Dist - Raigad -

Here there was 100% fishing business in existence. The people of all the caste and creeds used to stay happily. Many companies promised that cold storage will be built for the fishing communities, will build the dispensaries, will build the jetty. Nothing is done. The innocent fishing communities are fooled. If fever comes, there is no doctor. The Koli Samaj/Fishing Community will be ruined. Without consultation, Dighi Port Authorities have erected channels on their own. Hence, 70% Doli Business is stand-still up to-date.

We Koli Samaj Oppose the whole project of VERITAS.

Chairperson, Public hearing committee asked environmental consultant to explain more about Corporate Environmental Responsibility.

Environmental Consultant explained Corporate Environmental Responsibility will cover Roads, Primary health center, Education, Training. All the fund will be spending on such types of activity in only nearby village area.

6) Shri. Janardhan Kavari, Chairman, Mauli Kripa Trust, Dighi, Srivardhan, Raigad -

The agreement was done on 25th April, 2008 with Dighi Port. We are fooled. The sea water will be lifted and after desalination, it will be used in the process. After the process, it will be generated in the deep sea. The historical heritage Murud Janjira Fort is just 3 ½ k.m. away from us. The Koli Samaj/Fishing Communities are 12

 3

Crores. Here also many promises were made such as building of dispensary, road repairs, basic amenities to fishermen, nothing is done by Dighi port.

We oppose the project.

Here Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested company officials to give detailed information regarding Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) Fund. It is directed to ear-mark 0.5%

While informing, Project Proponent informed that as per the directives of Govt. of India, it is mandatory to Project Proponent to reserve certain amount for CER. As per the directives dated 01-05-2018, 0.5% amount is to be reserved on total investment. The proposal should be submitted through District Collector Office by the Grampanchayat who are under 10 km. radius of the project. The action will be taken accordingly.

There was outstanding attendance of women in the meeting.

7) Ms. Vanita Narayan Chikati, Dighi, Srivardhan, Raigad -

Ms. Vanita Narayan Chikati said we will die before supporting this project. This Creek is our Life and like our Mother.

Chairperson told people that, lot of questions are repeating. Those who want to give in writing can submit their forms to Maharashtra pollution control board.



3rd Session – another set of 100 persons Present

As per the directives of the Government, 3rd Session was conducted. In charge Regional Officer- Raigad, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and Member, Public Hearing Committee welcomed all and asked company officials to give presentation regarding project and Environment Management Plan. The participants were appealed to raise their suggestions, objections, doubts if any regarding Environment Management Plan.

Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee informed Project Officials to inform regarding Mounded Bullets.

Project Proponent informed that Mounded Bullets means where we store gas, All bullets will be covered with sand. The directives of MPCB will be followed. There is no pollution threat.

Followings have taken part in the discussions -

- 1) **Shri. Shamkant Vasant Bhokare, Dy. Jilha Pramukh, Shivsena, Former Member, Zilla Parishad, Raigad-Alibag –**

All Koli communities/Fishing communities are now in eruption. All the Fishing Communities have come together and given slogan in 2008 to Dighi Project – Chale Jao. Now the situation is same.

The situation is very serious here. Fishing business is in doldrums. All the projects while commissioning of the plant have promised a lot. The promises were fake. There is no drinking water facilities to fishing communities. Now there will be emotional eruption. We are opposing the Project.

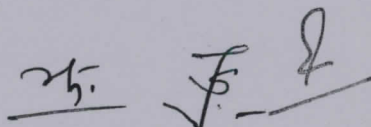
- 2) **Shri. Anil Navgane, Shivsena Zilla Pramukh, Raigad -**

Due to this project, there will be heavy loss of environment. Due to various projects which came in this region, the fishing activities is now in stagnations. Now it will be totally ruined. Shivsena will close this plant. Hence, this public hearing meeting should be stopped immediately. We will not allow to erect a single brick of the project.

- 3) **Shri. Parvejbhai Arjebeg, Resident of Karlas Village, Tal – Shrivardhan, Dist – Raigad-**

This company will produce poisonous products. What the benefit the local people will get? The accidents occurred at Bhopal and Vishakhapatnam. Poor people died. The Dighi Port is just 40-50 km. away. The environment will be totally degraded.

Project Proponent answered that there is no release of any poisonous gas in the process. There will not any loss of life. We wholeheartedly oppose the project.



- 4) **Mrs. Sumati Namdeo Shivane, Resident of Nanavali, Tal – Shrivardhan, Dist – Raigad -**

As we do not want Project, it is not necessary to give Questions and Answers. Here we are sitting here under the harsh Sun since morning. You have not done anything. Then what you will do after commissioning of the plant.

We do not want Project.

- 5) **Shri. Mangesh Jagannath Gunaji, Resident of Dighi Koliwada, Tal – Shrivardhan, Dist – Raigad -**

When we were entering here, our signature is taken. Hence I clicked my mobile. I read on the notebook the address of MPCB and it was mentioned that MPCB's signature campaign for the sanction of project of Veritas. It should be stopped immediately. Here we came to raise our opposition, then how our signature for sanction of the project is taken.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the signature is taken for attendance of your proof who came here and raised his/her objections. It is proof. The suggestions, objections raised during the meeting will be noted in the minutes of the meeting and your emotions will be informed to Central Government. The signature is not at all for the sanction of project. This Public Hearing Committee does not give any sanction to the project. We are here to convey your views to Central Government.

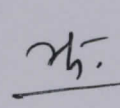
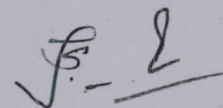
Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that it is a proof how many people have attended this meeting? This is your attendance sheet. This Committee does not give any permission. The minutes of the meeting are prepared in local language and in English and the copy of it is made available to the people.

Shri. Gunaji said that this company will be commissioned at Nanavali village. Karlas village, Gat no.18 is 6 k.m. away from the project. In the days of Corona pandemic, why this meeting is arranged here instead of project site?

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that in the background of Covid pandemic, Karlas village is fixed. The meeting place is fixed for the local public only. District Collector Office-Raigad, Alibag or other places are not considered for convenience of local people. The online meeting is also in process. Hence, all can see and give their suggestions.

Shri. Gunaji objected that this project will be commissioned in part of Nanavali village. Nanavali village is declared/falls under Green Zone. Hence, how the project can be installed? How the manufacturing activities can be commissioned in the Green Zone?

Project Proponent answered that Veritas Company has taken the land which is Reclaimed Land only. It is not under Green Zone. As per the permission from MMB, M/s. Balaji Infrastructure (Dighi Port Ltd.) has reclaimed the land. We have taken the reclaimed land on lease. The gut number 7/12 is on the name of M/s. Balaji Infrastructure. We, Project Proponent have taken it on lease.

Environment Consultant informed that no oil, coal or sludge will be used in the process. Natural gas will be used.

Shri. Gunaji further said that ,due to Dighi port lot of Excavation in mountain area , Back filling ,Reclamation was done ,Due to this our fishing business hampered lot.So Here on behalf of all our local people, we declare that We do not want project.

6) Shri. Harish Pandurang Chikati, Resident of Dighi Village, Tal – Shrivardhan, Dist – Raigad -

While objecting he remarked that why this questions and answers process is going on? Local people do not want project. We do not want questions and answers.

He asked Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee why you came here?We have not called you.You go from here. At this moment, Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee informed that as a representative of the Government I came here to complete the process of Public Hearing.

Here, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that Respected Chairperson came here to convey the views, opinion of the local people. This is public hearing process. Chairperson came here to hear your views. She is not sitting here for the company or others. Chairperson is here to inform your opposition to Government. Hence, this should be said, Chairperson is representative of the Government and Government is for the people, not for any project.

7) Shri. Damodar Patil, Member, Group Grampanchayat, Dighi, Tal-Shrivardhan, Dist – Raigad- Shivsena Vibhag Pramukh –

He asked that for installation of this project, whether the equipment's are lying on the Dighi Port? Local people are suffering due to Dighi Port. We, the Grampanchayat of Dighi has opposed this project. He said that he wants to ask few questions –

The presentation shown is to mislead local people. The Sea is Mother of our Fishing Community. The total area is developed by the Koli/Fishing Communities. There was no Dighi Gaon. The fishing communities are staying here generation after generation.

- a) Whether the company was in operation elsewhere? Why it is planned to set up plant here only?
- b) How the plot of MMB is leased to Veritas without prior permission of the Grampanchayat. It should be explained.
- c) Who has given No Objection Certificate? Is Grampanchayat has no importance/value?
- d) The government plot was allotted to MMB, how it can be given to Veritas without prior approval of the Competent-Authority? Group Grampanchayat has opposed this and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Govt. of Maharashtra is informed accordingly. The explanation should be given.

Environment Consultant informed that the world famous INEOS Company has given this technology. They have installed a plant at Malaysia.This is additional machinery which is kept here. Even packaging is also not opened.

Shri .Patil here remarked that it means that in 2016, the company has taken permission by misleading the Government. For this, even if the time comes for Atama Dahan, we will do it. We all villagers will sit in Mantralaya before Hon'ble Chief Minister for Fast Upto Death.

We oppose the Project.

8) Ms.Gita Bhadrassen Vadai, Dy.Sarpanch, Dighi Grampanchayat, Tal – Shrivardhan, Dist – Raigad –

She said that we Group Grampanchayat has opposed the project and it also published. Several letters were written.Hence, on behalf of Group Grampanchayat, Mahila villagers I hereby oppose the project. This public hearing process should be cancelled immediately.

She objected that Gut no.39, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 61, 63, 66 falls under Nanavali village. These plots are under Hill Area. But in the report, the plots are shown as Platform Area. How they can show the plots in Platform Area? Further it is objected that this Project Proponent is not at all Proprietor or Owner of the plot, then how can they commission the industry? I have given the writing objection also.

Second objection she raised that the respective plot is ear-marked/reserved for Bio-Diversity. We cannot give to anybody, as there is bio-diversity.

She further said that on Plot no. 75A, there is no place for cow gracing. Dighi Port Authorities have destroyed it illegally. As per the letter received from District Collector, the blasting is not allowed in the area. But illegal mining is started. The cow gracing plot/place belongs to villagers. It is reserved plot kept for animals.

She said that reclamations is totally illegal. It is illegally reclaimed.

As per the terms and conditions of the Environmental Clearance, there is no permission to reclamation on sand shore. But illegally 100 km. sand shore is reclaimed. The place is under jurisdiction of Nanavali Grampanchayat.

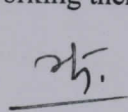

The sea is opposite the reclaimed land. The land of Grampanchayat cannot be given to anybody.

While developing Dighi Port, it was promised that hospital and school will be opened. Nothing is done. Roads are not repaired. Hence, the pregnant lady dies before reaching to hospital. There are eight companies. But there is no drinking facility in my village. This project will definitely create pollution. The sea is in front of Reclaimed Land. The traditional fishing activities will be stopped permanently. Their livelihood is totally on fishing business. We are opposing this project. A Writ Petition is already filed in the National Green Tribunal (NGT). Cow gracing place and reclaimed land is totally illegal.

9) Shri. Naresh Ramchandra Kamble, Resident of Nanivali village, Tal – Shrivardhan, Dist – Raigad-

We always say that Plant Tree and Save the Environment. Here there is pollution. Dighi Port is large project. But only four local boys are working there.

We oppose this Project.

10) Shri. Ikbai Bhai Jalali Resident of Dighi Village, Tal – Shrivardhan, Dist – Raigad -

There are many ports in India. But why Dighi Port is selected by the Project Proponent. The answer should be given. Due to pollution of this project, people of Dighi will die. The report should have made available to local people one month in advance.

We oppose the Project.

11) Shri. Dinesh Nagati, Resident of Nanavali, Tal – Shrivardhan, Dist – Raigad :-

The Project Proponent has prepared the report without taking into confidence the local people. This agitation will be carried permanently. If at all we have to give our life, we will agitate. If the company starts its commissioning, then whole villagers will be on road and if anybody losses his life, then it will be sole responsibility of the Committee.

12) Shri. Pramod Gorivale, Resident of Maneri Nanavali Village, Tal – Shrivardhan, Dist – Raigad -

Our village is situation on the hill adjacent to the project of M/s. Veritas. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood. Project Proponent will erect stack/chimney in the project. How much it will have the height? Whether we the villagers will suffer due to smoke?

He said he is asking another question. Whether guarantee can be given that Project Proponent will follow the Environment Management Plan?

He informed that the letter is given by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. There is no official stamp.

Project Environment Consultant informed that height of village from sea level is 125-150 meters. The stack/chimney will be height of 50 meters only. Only natural gas will be used. There will not be any use of diesel, oil, coal and sludge.

Shri. Gorivale objected that smell comes to natural gas also. Whether project officials came here to kill us. We protest against the project.

We are opposing the Project.

It was concluded with the comments from the company consultant that company will be using the natural gas as a fuel for the power plant & boilers will be running with waste heat recovery from the power plant, Hence there is no possibility of any air pollution from the project.

4th SESSION – Next set of 100 PERSONS PRESENT

As per the directives of the Government, the 4th session of the Public Hearing Committee is conducted.

After welcoming the participants, the Environment Management Plan of the proposed project is informed to the participants. Afterwards, the participants were appealed to raise their suggestions, objections if any for the proposed project.

Followings have taken part in the 4th Session of the public hearing:-

- 1) **Shri.Govind Gunaji]** Resident of Dighi Koliwada, Dighi Village, Tal – Shrivardhan, Dist – Raigad -

Pepole came from 3 Km to attend this public hearing ,We all Koli brothers opposed this project.Our people are still standing in sun ,Company has not made any provision to avoid them from sun Heat during the public hearing

- 2) **Shri.Shashikant Bedekar,** Resident of Dighi Koliwada, Dighi Village, Tal – Shrivardhan, Dist – Raigad -

Why this Public Hearing is arranged when there is total opposition to this project by the local residents.

We are opposing the project.

- 3) **Mrs.Sharaddha Gorivale,** Resident of Nanawali, Tal – Shrivardhan, Dist – Raigad -

The Project management here informed that there will not be any underground gas explosion. This is totally false. She informed that in Dombiwali MIDC, many industries are discharging their chemical waste and she herself experienced the explosion occurred just few years back. One of my relatives was burnt when he was walking on the open ground which is near the explosion site. Nobody has taken the responsibility. Once there was a blast in Dombiwali MIDC & 100 peoples died in that. As we are not safe in our house, then how company expects co-operation from us.

- 4) **Shri.Govind Mendadkar,** Resident of Dighi, Tal- Shrivardhan, Dist – Raigad -

I have seen in the circular that the project should be 13.0 km. away from the public vicinity but right now it is very close to village .Govt.officials blindly helping the company to setup this plant near villages. We the fishing communities oppose the project.

- 5) **Shri.Ramchandra Dharma Bhaldar,** Resident of Dighi Village, Tal – Shrivardhan, Dist – Raigad -

All the companies do give big promises before starting the project. But they have not provided the basic needs also. There is no drinking water facilities. There is no

medical assistance and no medical consultations facilities. In 2005, the Dighi Port started its operation Still basic amenities are provided.

This Veritas will also not provide anything.

We oppose the project.

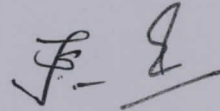
- 6) **Shri.Parshuram Kanbhore Gorivale, Resident of KanBorivale, Tal. Shriwardhan, Dist.Raigad -**

The companies which are in operation in this area does not do any correspondence. All job opportunities have finished. Fishing activities also stopped. For all this, the Government is responsible. We oppose the project.

- 7) **Shri.Kamalakar Bhangoji, Resident of Dighi, Tal- Shriwardhan, Dist – Raigad -**

When everybody is in tense due to Covid-19, calling Public Hearing Meeting is totally wrong. Public Hearing is for the Common Public only. Public has not demanded to conduct the public hearing. This project will destroy all the environment. Otherwise, we will drink the poison and will give our life.

It was mentioned by the consultants that the company understands that fishing is an ancestral business at Dighi & nearby village .The detailed EIA explains as how the water will be recycled & will not be sent back to the sea. The concentrate from the sea water desalination plant will be diffused in deep Arabian sea. The project will not have any impact on the fishing business.

25. 

FIFTH SESSION – Next 100 PERSONS PRESENT

As per the directives of the Government, the 5th session of the Public Hearing Committee is conducted.

After welcoming the participants, the Environment Management Plan of the proposed project is informed to the participants. Afterwards, the participants were appealed to raise their suggestions, objections if any for the proposed project.

- 1) **Ms.Mina Balaji Khopatkar, Resident of Dighi Village, Tal – Shriwardhan, Dist – Raigad -**

We are Fishing Communities. Nowadays we are not getting fish, our boats returns without fish many times. We totally depend upon the sea only. The Sea is our God. We do not want the company. .

- 2) **Mrs.Ulka Balkrishna Hande, , Resident of Dighi Village, Tal – Shriwardhan, Dist – Raigad -**

The blasting activities are carried during production activities of the company. Due to blasting, there are vibrations in our village.

We are opposing the project.

- 3) **Ms. Supriya Govari, Member, Panchayat Samiti, Shriwardhan, Dist – Raigad**

There was no necessity of conducting the public hearing when all are in tense due to Covid pandemic. We oppose the project. After blasting, the vibrations are observed in the village. This may occur heavy loss in our village.

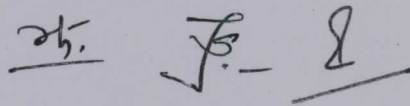
- 4) **Mr.Krishna Govind, Resident of Dighi Koliwada, Tal – Shriwardhan, Dist – Raigad -**

M/s. Veritas company has brought old equipments from outside & kept in Dighi premises from last 3 years .They will do blasting during construction ,due to this there will be vibration & may have ill effects on surrounding The Fishing Community opposes the project.

- 5) **Mrs.Abhilasha Chandekar, Resident of Dighi,Tal-Shriwardhan, Dist – Raigad-**

When all local people are opposing since morning and the project, it is not at all necessary to call new batch.

Chairperson informed that, we are here to listen the people and we will listen them till the last person. We have noted your all concerns and objections.



- 6) **Mr.Mangal Pandurang Bhopi ,Resident of Nanwali, Tal- Shriwardhan, Dist Raigad -**

This project will have ill-effects on birds and animals. Kindly go from our village.

- 7) **Shri.Shashank Govind Nakati, Resident of Maneri Village, Tal - Shriwardhan, Dist - Raigad -**

As there will be pollution due to this project, hence this public hearing is arranged. There is threat to Sea and Environment due to this project. Hence, Local People are saying -

Go Back Veritas -

- 8) **Ms.Hema Ananta Patil, Resident of Dighi Village, Tal - Shriwardhan, Dist - Raigad -**

All the previous commissioned companies have just given promises of cold storage, basic amenities. Nothing is given.

We oppose this project.

- 9) **Shri. Mahadev Govind Kawale, Resident of Dighi, Tal - Shriwardhan, Dist - Raigad -**

M/s.Dighi port gave lot of false promises like drinking water tankers of 100 nos will be given. Nothing is given. We have to go to bring the water from nearby area. In rainy season, we cannot go to bring the water. Road condition is totally bad. There is dust while having the lunch and dinner. The duster is not provided at Dighi koliWada.

- 10) **Shri.Yeshwant Govind Dighikar, Resident of Dighi,Tal - Shriwardhan, Dist - Raigad -**

Due to M/s. Dighi port the sea water get polluted. The size of fish and bombil is also change. Taste is also changing.

We oppose the Project.

- 11) **Shri.Chandramani Ramdas More, Resident of Dighi, Tai - Shriwardhan, Dist Raigad -**

Lot of companies came in Dighi port & gave false promises. Public hearing committee should be witnessed to the demands, suggestions of the local people and an agreement should be carried with the Project proponent. Today we have to go to court to get the water from Dighi port authority.

- 12) **Shri.Jagdish Chandrakant Bhadgoshi, Bhongaji, Resident of Dighi Koliwada, Tal - Shrivardhan, Dist - Raigad :-**

This project will affect the fishing business of our public life. Hence, I oppose this Public Hearing Meeting and we oppose the project.

Chairperson of Environmental public hearing informed that it is mandatory to continue this public hearing & we will listen to you. We will send all the objections, suggestion to the concern authority.

13) Shri.LaxmanKhambekar, Resident of Dighi Koliwada, Tal - Shriwardhan, Dist - Raigad -

If the company pollutes the Environment, then project should be shifted from here to other side.

14) Shri.Balkrishna Chikati, Resident of Dighi, Tal - Shriwardhan, Dist - Raigad

Due to Dighi Port, there is tremendous pollution. Hence, various categories of fishes, Bombil could not get. The fishing net also many times damaged by ships . Compensation for this damages is not given by Dighi Port.

If the projects comes, we will oppose. We will oppose and we will end our life.

15) Shri.Sajid Said Karjekar, Resident of Dighi, Tal - Shrivardhan, Dist - Raigad -

We residents of Dighi village informed our difficulties to Aditya Environmental Services Pvt. Ltd., during their visit. Nothing is done. The company which will be commissioned planned to use various hazardous chemical in their production activities. We are opposing the production activities.

We oppose the Project.

16) Shri.Avinash Gangaram Rode, Resident of Nanavali, Tal - Shriwardhan, Dist - Raigad -

Project should be removed from the area.

It was concluded with the remarks from the consultant that the company assures that 1st opportunity for the employment will be given to the villagers of Dighi & Nearby villages. In fact, once they join the company they will be trained & groomed within the company.

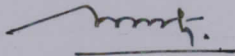
_____ 25. _____

While concluding the meeting, Member, Public Hearing Committee thanks all participants for co-operation to complete the public hearing. He informed that as per the directives, 100 persons were allowed in a session. Five sessions are conducted. All have been given opportunity to raise their views, concerns before the Public Hearing Committee.

Member, Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestions, objections raised during the public hearing will be included in the minutes of the meeting and it will submitted alongwith all written objections and finally send with EIA report to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi. An Expert Committee will take further decision accordingly. He thanked all for attending this public hearing and on behalf of Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee he declared that public hearing is concluded.

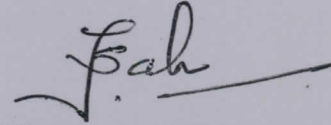
The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chairperson.

On the day i.e.29/09/2020 of public hearing Maharashtra pollution control board has received 253 hand written submissions from local villagers which herewith enclosed with minutes.



(Shri.Sagar V.Auti)
Convener

Environment Public Hearing Committee
and
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Mahad



(Shri.Jagannath Salunkhe)
Member,

Environment Public Hearing Committee
and
Regional Officer, Raigad, MPCB,
Navi Mumbai



(Dr.Padamshri Shriram Bainade)
Chairperson,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
and
Additional District Magistrate- Raigad