

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED MODERNISATION & EXPANSION IN EXISTING UNIT OF SUGAR FACTORY (FROM 2,500.0 TCD TO 7,500.0 TCD), MOLASSES BASED DISTILLERY (FROM 20.0 KLPD TO 100.0 KLPD) & PROPOSED NEW CO-GEN PROJECT OF 38.0 MW PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S SIDDHESHWAR SAKHAR KARKHANA LTD., AT GUT NO.21/1 TO 21/6, KUMTHE, POST -TIKEKARWADI, TAL-NORTH SOLAPUR, DIST-SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA

The public hearing for proposed modernization and expansion in the existing unit of Sugar Factory (From 2,500.0 TCD to 7,500.0 TCD), Molasses Based Distillery (from 20.0 KLPD to 100.0 KLPD) & Proposed New Co-Gen Project of 38.0 MW proposed by Project Proponent M/s Siddheshwar Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., At Gut no.21/1 to 21/6, Kumthe, Post -Tikekarwadi, Tal-North Solapur, Dist-Solapur, Maharashtra was conducted on Thursday, the 10th December , 2020 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, (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-70 of 2020 issued under letter no.BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B-201203-FTS-0123, Dated 03-12-2020 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 while welcoming all informed that as this Virtual Public Hearing is arranged in the background of Covid-19, we all have to follow the directives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi dated 14-09-2020 [referred at sr. no. (2)] and subsequent Order as issued by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board dated 17-09-2020 [referred at sr. no. (3)] above. Hence, 100 persons are allowed in the meeting hall in a session. If the participants are more, subsequent sessions will

continue until all the participants are given opportunities to attend the meeting.

As per the directives, it is requested all the participants to follow strict guidelines of Govt. of India. The thermal checking and use of sanitizer is kept at the entrance of the meeting hall and in the meeting hall, it is compulsory to wear mouth mask and follow the social distancing amongst the persons.

Convener of the Public Hearing Meeting 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. MoEFCC, 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 Project Proponent M/s

Siddheshwar Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., At Gut no.21/1 to 21/6, Kumthe, Post -Tikekarwadi, Tal-North Solapur, Dist-Solapur, Maharashtra to conduct public hearing for their proposed modernization and expansion in the existing unit of Sugar Factory (From 2,500.0 TCD to 7,500.0 TCD), Molasses Based Distillery (from 20.0 KLPD to 100.0 KLPD) & Proposed New Co-Gen Project of 38.0 MW.

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 B 5 (j), 5 (g) and 1 (d).

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 MoEFCC, GoI for sanction of Terms of Reference (ToR) and for preparation of Environment Impact Assessment and MoEFCC, GoI has sanctioned ToR on 03-12-2018.

Shri Bhosale, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee informed that this public hearing was arranged on 04-11-2020 for which 30 days in advance public notice was published as per provisions in the Notification in newspaper Daily Sakal and Daily Sanchar on 03-10-2020. But due to Graduates' and Teachers'

Constituencies 2020 Election, the Code of Conduct was declared and hence public hearing is to be postponed. Afterwards, the public hearing was fixed on 09-12-2020, hence the public notice was published on 08-11-2020 (30 days in advance) in newspaper Daily Sakal and Dainik Sanchar. But due to avoidable circumstances, the public hearing is arranged on 10-12-2020 instead of 09-12-2020. The public notice for this published on 26-11-2020 in newspaper Daily Sakal and Dainik Sanchar.

Also a copy of EIA report and executive summery 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; Tahsildar, Tahsil Office- Dakshin Solapur, Dist – Solapur; Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Dakshin Solapur, Tal – Dakshin Solapur, Dist – Solapur; Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Uttar Solapur, Tal – Uttar Solapur, Dist – Solapur; Gram Sevak / Sarpanch, Grampanchayat Office – Mouje Kumbhari, Kumathe, Shindakhed, Madre, Hotgi, Hotgi Station, Savatkhed, Hattur, Phatatewadi, Chandranal, Vadakbal, Samshapur, Nandur, Aherwadi, Mulegaon, Yetnal, Tal – Dakshin Solapur, Dist –

Solapur; Tal – Uttar Solapur, Dist – Solapur; Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur; Regional Office, MPCB, Pune and at Head Office of MPCB at Mumbai; Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai and on the website of MPCB. The public were appealed to send any suggestion or objection regarding the expansion of above project.

He informed that first the Environment Consultant of the Project will give presentation. After presentation, the participants may raise their suggestions, doubts, objections regarding Environment Management Plan. While raising the suggestions, first name and place of residence be informed. He directed Environment Consultant to give presentation in Marathi, an official language of the Maharashtra State.

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

With the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman of the meeting, the Environment Consultant appointed by the company has gave the presentation of the expansion project and Environment Management Plan in detail. She informed that the investment of proposed is about 404.35 crores. This project is Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) and Rupees 10 crores fund is earmarked for the Corporate Environment Responsibility Plans.

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

1) Shri Sanjay Thobade, Ex. Director of the Project, Residence – Bali Ves, Tal – Uttar Solapur, Dist – Solapur:-

He informed that he is former Director of this project and his father is Founder Member of the factory.

Shri Thobade remarked that in the presentation, it is mentioned as Proposed Project, which is totally wrong. The project is in operation since last five years. Now, we are gathered to attend the public hearing meeting of the existing operating industry, which is an unfortunate incidence. Moreover, as the Project Proponent has violated the Rules, instead of serving closure notice, here the farce of public hearing is going on. In the presentation, the word in English stack is used instead of chimney and it is informed that the survey of 10 k.m. is carried. Then, how they could not know that the Air Port is adjacent to the project?

He said the Members have come from District Collector Office, where I have already submitted the complaint regarding illegal erection of chimney/stack and for the illegal construction of chimney/stack, this public hearing is arranged, which is violation of directives of the Hon'ble Court. Now you are insulting our Constitution also, which is already conveyed by my complaint letter to District Magistrate, Solapur. But he has sent Additional District Magistrate. This is unfortunate incident which brought disgrace.

Secondly, erection of the chimney is illegal, hence total project is illegal and Government is conducting the public hearing of the illegal project.

At this moment, Additional District Magistrate, Solapur and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee here explained that District Collector is District Magistrate and Resident Dy. Collector is Additional District Magistrate (ADM) and as per the Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, ADM can preside the meeting as Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee.

Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee asked the participant Shri Sanjay Thobade to raise the objections, suggestions if any and legal aspect will be considered accordingly.

Shri Sanjay Thobade here objected that this is total illegal procedure and I condemn it. He further said that copy of the report should be made available to me. I am going to file a Say in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for contempt of court. I am going to file my Say against Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, District Administration and Project Proponent. Hence, copy of the report be made me available.

Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee here appealed all the participants to raise their suggestions, objections if any. At this moment, he informed Managing Director of the Project Proponent to give explanation on the points raised by Shri Thobade.

While giving answers, Managing Director of the Project clarified that the objection is raised by Shri Thobade that this project is not "Proposed Project," it is completed project. Here it is to submit that the public hearing for this project is already

conducted in the year 2017. In that public hearing meeting, the doubts were raised regarding Traffic Management Plan and at that time, the directives were issued for preparing the Traffic Management Plan and the ToR is issued accordingly. After compliance of it, we are approaching this Public Hearing Committee.

Project Proponent further informed that Shri Thobade has objected that this project is "totally commissioned project." This is true, but here I want give information of last three years. The sugar crushing project is of 2,500 TCD. In the year 2017-18, our sugar crushing was 7,45,000.0 TCD. In 2018-19, it was 6,45,000.0 TCD and in the year 2019-20 our crushing was 3,57,000.0.

In 2017-2018 – 3.83; in 2018-2019 – 5.65 and in 2019-2020 it 2.50 export of the factory. It means that if the project of 2,500.0 TCD runs for 160 days, as per the figures, if this project of 7,500 TCD is operated, then there should be crushing of 12 – 14 lakh crushing. Utmost care is taken that violations of directives/rule should not happen.

The issue of stack is raised. The discussions are already going on with various departments of Central Government regarding the stack and the airport. There will be discussions with the Airport Authority of India at Mumbai and all the objections will be rectified. Hence, here it is better not to give any comments. But this is Proposed Project.

Here, Shri Thobade raised the objection that one thing happened good. The management has accepted that the project is in operation. But why the management misleading that the discussions are going on with various departments. Three times, District Collector have written a letter to Dy. Secretary that considering all the aspects, it is not possible to prescribe stay for the construction of the chimney. Then how

many meetings will be taken. Mumbai High Court has given the Judgment that the construction of chimney/stack is illegal. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has also declared construction of stack is illegal. This is very shameful act.

2) Shri Chandrakant Shankar Kulkarni, Resident – Kumbhari, Tal – Dakshin Solapur, Dist – Solapur:-

While raising the objection, Shri Chandrakant Shankar Kulkarni informed that while going from Kumbhari village to MIDC, the sewage flows. Nobody talks about it. Every day, I watch it, there is foam on the nallla water. Nobody talks about it. Here in our plant there is bagasse based co-gen. If the coal is used for producing electricity, the coal does not create. The coal is used to produce electricity at Chandrapur. After cutting sugar crop, the sugar, molasses is created, bagasse is also created. The electricity is prepared by bagasse. At distillery, there is biogas project. The farmers get manure. In this area, there is large availability of sugar crop. Now a days, in this area, its raining a lot. Hence, the sugar cane crushing should be increased up to 10,000.0 TCD. All the members do belief on the factory management.

Hence, it is requested to Environment Public Hearing Committee to sanction the project and give Justice to farmers, workers.

3) Shri Ashok Revansind Birajdar, Resident – Kumbhari, Tal – South Solapur, Dist -Solapur:-

I am member of the Karkhana / factory and I am sugarcane crop producer member. My agriculture fields are ½ k.m. away from the factory site. Due to this factory, the future of 35,000 members and workers have become bright. Our children learnt and now they are working on the higher

posts. There is no threat or pollution problem due to this project. We do not agree that due to the chimney/stack, there is threat to the existing airport. The planes are regularly coming here and going also, which we all are observing. If the survey is carried, then out of 35,000 members, 34,999 members will support the project. Whatever happened, it is good. Before inception of the project, there were unemployed people here. Now how much local people have been benefited, it should be noted.

Due to co-generation and distillery projects, how many local people have got jobs should be considered. How many sons of workers and members have got the job opportunities should be considered. Our Prime Minister says that unemployment should be reduced. If somebody says to remove the stack/chimney, then whether any solution is planned to avoid the unemployment. If at all any steps is taken of closing the factory, we all 35,000 members will oppose it.

4) **Shri Sanjay Thobade, Former Director of the Factory, Resident – Bali Ves, Tal – Uttar Solapur, Dist- Solapur:-**

While raising the objections, he thanked for informing the difficulties of the members, Shri Thobade remarked that as this karkhana is of 35,000 farmer members, it is mine also. I was Director in the Karkhana. My father was director, my mother was director, my brother was director and now my cousin brother is director of the karkhana. I am not at all enemy of the Karkhana. I am well wisher of the Karkhana. But those who have erected the stack/chimney illegally, they should be punished. Now the question of 34,000 member arises. If the stack is removed, our factory can be operated on the old stacks also. The person who did illegal work should give compensation to other members i.e. all 34,9999 member

should recover the amount. We will operate our Karkhana very nicely. He requested not to have doubts in mind.

Shri Thobade further appealed that instead of taking care of only 34,999 members, we should think all citizens of Solapur, who are 15 lakhs. If the Airport is kept in operation, many multi national companies will start their operations here. Many thousand local people will get the jobs. We should not think by one side only, we have think of all.

Here, Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all the participants to raise any suggestion, objection in writing as well as orally.

5) Shri J.B.Sangewar, Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune and Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee :-

Project Environment Consultant here informed that this project will be ZLD (Zero Liquid Discharge). Then which method will be adopted for ZLD. The information of all sugar, distillery and co-gen. should be given.

He further remarked that when you say about the ZLD, the details of all the units should be given.

Managing Director of the Project Proponent informed that our project is of 7,500 TCD. Here after adopting water management, additional 20% condensate water will be available every day. The additional condensate water and the water from the sugarcane crop which is 65-70%, which will be treated and due to this, there will additional water of 20.0 MT for each ton. The water will be treated in CPU, where the organics will be removed of the sugar unit and the additional condensate water will be used for distillery unit. Hence, there will not be any requirement of fresh water for distillery.

The spent wash will be created in the production activities. It will be produced at the ratio of 6-7 litres of one litre. We

have adopted bottom system. We will adopt most advanced Industrial Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP). The spent wash will be created at the 6-7 lakh litre per day, five stage evaporators will be installed, and spent wash upto 50% will be concentrated. The bio-methinization will be carried on the spent wash. The Methen Gas will be removed. The colorobic value of the remaining spent wash will be nearly 1200 kilo. It (spent wash) and the gas removed from it i.e. on both fuel the incineration boiler will be operated and on the steam of boiler, we will operate distillery unit. Hence, the effluent from the distillery will not go to industrial effluent treatment plant. In Distillery Unit, only the condensate water will be reused. If the water storage tank of the sugar unit is filled totally, and after operating all the three units, sugar, distillery and co-gen, there will be availability of five crores litre of water after the season also.

The large usage of water is required in co-gen project. But in co-gen unit, we are installing air cooled condensate. The water is not required for it. We will carry condensate by air. Hence, in co-gen project, there is no requirement of additional water.

Here, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee objected that nothing is mentioned regarding the sugar factory effluent. It should be explained.

Managing Director of the Project Proponent informed that as per the directives, there will be creation of 100.0 litre effluent from the 100.0 MT sugarcane crop. The most advanced Effluent Treatment Plant will be installed in the plant. The treated effluent will be used for the green belt development in our 25 hector area. Now also treated effluent is used. The additional 50,000 trees will be planted and treated effluent will be used to cultivate.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that this is not called as ZLD. After giving treatment only to the effluent, it can be used for gardening. For this, you will have to install and operate Reverse Osmosis (RO). Project Proponent promised to install and operate RO.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked about the R.O. rejects. It is informed by the Project Proponent that R.O. rejects water will be used for cooling. At this moment, Member, Environment Public Hearing opined that there will be high TDS. Project Proponent informed that they have open type roller. We require circulating cooling water. The direct contact does not come there. We can use there.

Here, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that as per the directives of SEAC, action should be initiated.

6) Shri H. Madhu Babu, Social Environment Worker. Rural Environment Education & Health Awareness Society, Hyderabad:-

He informed that he has given 2-3 suggestions for the expansion of the Siddheshwar Sugar Factory. It should be considered. He has handed over his letter to Environment Public Hearing Committee.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed in the meeting that Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur is in receipt of objection against the expansion of the project from Solapur Vikas Manch, B-6, Madhumalati, Shivaji Hsg. Society, Solapur. In the objection letter, ten points have been given. Convener read the name of the persons who have signed on the Objection Letter. .

The second suggestion is received from Rural Environment Education & Health Awareness Society, Hyderabad. It is supporting the expansion of the project.

Convener of the Environment Public Hearing informed in the meeting that the objection letter and letter of support will be sent alongwith minutes of meeting and Final Environment Impact Assessment Report to State Government for further necessary action.

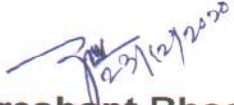
Convener of the Environment Public Hearing asked Project Environment Consultant whether Traffic Plan is prepared and submitted? He further directed Project Proponent to explain Traffic Plan in detail if anybody asks it.

Convener of the Environment Public Hearing appealed all to raise any doubts, suggestions or objections regarding the Environment Management Plan of the project. There was no response. At this moment, Convener of the Environment Public Hearing informed that the suggestions, objections as raised during the meeting are noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. The letters received in writing will be submitted alongwith the Final Environment Impact Assessment Report and minutes of the meeting to an Expert Committee, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai. The further decision will be taken by an Expert Committee.

Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all local people for attending the meeting and raising the suggestions, objections and also thanked project officials and government officials and on behalf of the Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee announced that the public hearing is concluded.

The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

One objection letter and one supporting letter as received are enclosed herewith.


22/12/2020

(Shri. Prashant Bhosale),
Convener,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
I/c Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB, Solapur



(Shri. J. B. Sangewar),
Member,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Regional Officer,
MPCB, Pune



(Shri. Arnit Deshmukh),
Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Solapur
Dist - Solapur