

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION IN EXISTING UNIT OF SUGAR FACTORY (FROM 4,500.0 TCD TO 5,000.0 TCD), MOLASSES BASED DISTILLERY (FROM 30.0 KLPD TO 50.0 KLPD) & CO-GEN PROJECT FROM 14.8 MW TO 18.0 MW PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S SASWAD MALI SUGAR FACTORY LTD., MALINAGAR, TAL – MALSHIRAS, DIST-SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA

- 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 Office Memorandum Dated 14-09-2020
 - 3) Maharashtra Pollution Control Board's directives vide no. B-200917-FTS-0082, Dated 17-09-2020

The public hearing for proposed expansion in the existing unit of Sugar Factory (From 4,500.0 TCD to 5,000.0 TCD), Molasses Based Distillery (from 30.0 KLPD to 50.0 KLPD) & Co-Gen Project of 14.8 MW to 18.0 MW proposed by Project Proponent M/s Saswad Mali Sugar Factory Ltd., Malinagar, Tal – Malshiras, Dist-Solapur, Maharashtra was conducted on Friday, the 05th February, 2021 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-02 of 2021 issued under letter no.BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B-210119-FTS-0093, Dated 20-01-2021 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 Additional District Magistrate, Solapur and Hon'ble Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee, Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune and Member of the Public Hearing Committee, Company Officials, Government Officials, Environmentalist, Journalists 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 Saswad Mali Sugar Factory Ltd., Malinagar, Tal – Malshiras, Dist-Solapur, Maharashtra to conduct public hearing for their

proposed expansion in the existing unit of Sugar Factory (From 4,500.0 TCD to 5,000.0 TCD), Molasses Based Distillery (from 30.0 KLPD to 50.0 KLPD) & Co-Gen Project of 14.8 MW to 18.0 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, Gol for sanction of Terms of Reference (ToR) and for preparation of Environment Impact Assessment and MoEFCC, Gol has sanctioned ToR on 26-10-2020.

Shri Bhosale, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee informed that this public hearing on 05-02-2021 is approved by District Collector, Solapur for which 30 days in advance public notice was published as per provisions in the Notification in newspaper Daily Sakal and Daily Tarun Bharat on 05th January, 2021. The people were appealed to send any suggestions, objections regarding expansion of the proposed project in environmental angle only.

Also a copy of EIA report and executive summary were made available to general public 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- Malshiras, Dist – Solapur; Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Malshiras, Tal – Malshiras, Dist – Solapur; Gram Sevak / Sarpanch, Grampanchayat Office –Akluj, Mahalung, Yashwantnagar, Sangramnagar, Savatgaon, Bagechiwadi, Malewadi, Tal – Malshiras, 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 few objections and supporting letters by email and writing are received by Sub Regional Office, Solapur.

He informed that First the Environment Consultant of the Project will give presentation. After presentation, the participants will be allowed to raise their suggestions, doubts, objections regarding Environment Management Plan. While raising the suggestions, first name and place of residence be informed. In

the third stage, the meeting will be concluded. 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.

Shri Nitin Shinde, I/c Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune and Member of the Environment Public Hearing informed that we have gathered here to conduct the public hearing of M/s Saswad Mali Sugar Factory Ltd., Malinagar for the expansion of the project. This public hearing will be conducted in three stages. In the first stage, Environment Consultant of the Project Proponent will give the presentation regarding impact on environment due to proposed expansion of the project and Environment Management Plan (EMP) for it. Afterwards, in the second stage, the participants will be allowed to raise their suggestions, objections regarding the EMP of the proposed project. The participant while raising suggestion, objection, inform their name and name of the village. The views, objections, suggestions will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. In the third stage, the meeting will be concluded. The minutes of the meeting will be made in Marathi and English and it will be submitted alongwith Final EIA report to Government for further decision. He informed that this Committee does not take any decision regarding approval of the project. This Committee is constituted to know the feelings of local people, objections,

suggestions and to inform it to Government. An Expert Committee at Government here Environment & Climatic Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai will take suitable decision for the project.

With the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman of the meeting, the Environment Consultant appointed by the company while giving presentation informed that this project is established 80 years back. He gave the presentation of the expansion project and Environment Management Plan in detail. He informed that the investment of proposed is about 33.75 crores. This project is Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) and Rupees 50 lacs fund is ear-marked 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 Mahadev Narayan Bandgar, Resident – Ex.Dy. Sarpanch, Malinagar, Present Member of Malinagar Gramsabha, Member, Consumer Protection Cell, Dy. District Chief :-**

After expansion of the project, which products will be produced and what will be its quantity?

Project Environment Consultant informed that it can be known through the name/title of the project only. If the sugar crushing is 5,000 MT, then we can calculate 10% depreciation and there will be sugar production of 500.0 Ton, 18 MW Electricity Production and 50,000 Litre/Day production of Alcohol.

2) Shri Gandesh Murlidhar Jagtap, Sarpanch, Grampanchayat Malinagar, Tal-Malshiras, Dist – Solapur, Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi Prashasan:-

Whether waste water will be generated outside the factory due to expansion? How the waste water will be treated?

Environment Consultant informed that 70 litre waste water is created from one ton of sugar crushing. It is 200% less. The sugar factory and co-gen project works together. The treatment is given to total waste water and it is used for the development of green belt in the factory premises only. Not a drop of effluent/spent wash is generated outside the factory. Here sugar factory and co-gen works together. Distillery project works differently.

The spent wash produced in the Distillery Unit will be converted into powder form and it will be used as manure. Not a drop of effluent will be generated outside the factory.

3) Shri Sangram Dattatraya Bhosale, Malinagar, Tal-Malshiras, Dist – Solapur :-

New boiler will be installed for the expansion of the project. Which preventive steps will be taken to prevent the pollution from the boiler? Whether any anti-pollution devices will be provided to the boiler?

It is informed by the Environment Consultant that one boiler of 90.0 Ton capacity is in operation and Electro Static Preceptor (ESP) is already installed for it. The stack of 72 meters height is provided to it.

While expansion of the project, new boiler of 22.0 Ton capacity will be installed. The ESP will be installed to it.

Environment Consultant further informed that Electro Static Preceptor is most advanced devices for air pollution control which gives 99.9% efficiency. The stack of 60 meter height will be provided to it.

4) Shri Nagesh Sampat Tupsoudarya, Dy. Sarpanch, Malinagar Grampanchayat, Resident-Malinagar, Tal-Malshiras, Dist-Solapur:-

After expansion, how many days the project will be in operation?

Project Environment Consultant informed that the sugar factory unit is in operation till the sugarcane crop is available. It runs nearly 160 – 180 days. But Distillery project can be kept in operation for 330 days. The spent wash which will be produced in the distillery unit will be converted into powder form.

5) Shri Prakash Tukaram Kamble, Chairman, Republican Party of India (RPI), Malinagar, Tal-Malshiras, Dist-Solapur:-

How much water will require for the project after expansion?

Environment Consultant informed that the information for sugar and co-gen unit and for distillery unit is given separately. He informed that after expansion of the sugar and co-gen project, there will be 2361 M³/day, (say 2400.0 M³/day) requirement of water. The quantity of 2300.0

M³/day water from the sugarcane crop will be drawn which will be treated and reused in the process. Hence, 97% water from the sugarcane crop will be reused in the process and only 3% of fresh water it means 62,000 litre fresh water will require from the river.

In Distillery unit also, the water from the spent wash will be drawn and will be reused in the manufacturing process. Here also very less i.e. 80.0 M³/day water will require.

Here Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested Environment Consultant that the feelings of the participants here is that there is distillery unit which is in operation and composting is carried. The spent wash of future expanded distillery will be converted into powder form. Then the question in the mind of the people is whether total spent wash will be composted or it will be converted into powder form. This should be explained.

Environment Consultant answered that course of action is prepared considering the future planning only. After expansion, the composting will be stopped totally and all the spent wash will be converted into powder form. So, the past difficulties will be vanished. We will require less fresh water as the recovery of water will be more while converting the spent wash into powder form.

6) Shri Dhiraj Dattatraya Jadhav, Gut no.2, Mahalung, Tal – Malshiras, Dist – Solapur :-

The expansion of sugar, co-gen and distillery units will be carried. Then whether upgradation of Effluent Treatment Plant will be carried or not?

Environment Consultant informed that sugar unit, co-gen unit and distillery are two different projects. The Effluent

Treatment Plant (ETP) provided at sugar and co-gen units will be upgraded. In Distillery unit, composting is also the part of Effluent Treatment Plant only. It will be totally stopped and all the spent wash will be converted into powder form by incineration. Nearly Rupees 30/- crores will be spent for it.

At this moment, Shri Dhiraj Dattatraya Jadhav asked for how much capacity the Effluent Treatment Plant will be upgraded? Environment Consultant informed that at present 313 M3/day effluent is produced and there will be 350 M3/day effluent generation. It means that only 37 M3/day effluent will be generated. Though the present Effluent Treatment Plant is capable to treat the effluent of 350 M3/day, the project proponent desires that qualitative improvement should be carried in the effluent, hence modern devices will be installed in the ETP.

Shri Dhiraj Dattatraya Jadhav here raised the objection that his agriculture field is near the plant. The fly ash generated from the project do spread on the crops of the agriculture fields, water bodies and on open space. The ash also falls on the grass/feeds of the animals. It also falls on the hands of the children while they play, which naturally goes to their stomach.

Here, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that the objection raised is noted.

7) Shri Amar Nazar Kazi, Resident – Savatgaon, Tal - Malshiras, Dist – Solapur:-

The ESP system is already installed in the project, due to which not a particle of ash flows outside the factory. He

informed that he stays adjacent to the factory only. The farmers do burn the sugarcane fungus and the ash flows to nearby houses, herds. But the ash produced in the project is not at all flows outside the premises. We have no objection for it.

At this moment, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that this meeting is not at all called for reviewing how the factory is working efficiently. This public hearing meeting is called for the assess the impact on the environment due to expansion of the project and for Environment Management Plan (EMP) to be implemented by the project proponent. Hence, the suggestions and objections should be raised for the proposed project expansion in environmental angle only.

8) Shri Arun Nivrutti Madane, City Chief, Malinagar Shivsena, Tal -Malshiras, Dist -Solapur :-

How much water will require for producing one litre of Alcohol?

Project Environment Consultant informed that for producing one litre of Alcohol, ten litre fresh water is allowed by the State Government. We are using 1 ½ litre fresh water for one litre of Alcohol. It means we are using less 85% of fresh water.

At this moment, Shri Madane remarked that it means there is no threat of pollution. Environment Consultant here informed that total spent wash will be converted into powder form. He informed that there are many projects who are converting the spent wash into powder form are in operation.

Shri Madane here remarked that we do walk in the surrounding areas. Few people may talk differently but we have not observed pollution problem.

9) Shri Sanjay Mahipati Dalvi, President, Malshiras City Congress Party :-

Whether surrounding villages will be benefited due to this project?

Environment Consultant informed that due to expansion, the production will increase. Then there will be economical development. The job opportunities will be available in the project. There will be tremendous increase in local business which will be benefited to many local people.

10) Shri Shivkant Kanagachi, Resident – Malinagar, Tal-Malshiras, Dist – Solapur:-

How the waste will be treated which will be produced in project?

Project Environment Consultant informed that the liquid effluent will be treated and will be recycled and reused in the process. The procedure is already informed.

The ash which is produced from the boiler will be made available to local farmers to use as manure. The yeast sludge will be burnt and the ash will also be given to farmers as manure. All the quantity of ash will be disposed of scientifically.

11) Shri Nana Salunkhe, Resident – Malinagar, Tal – Malshiras, Dist – Solapur:-

Which steps have been planned for the development of green belt development in the proposed expansion of the project?

Environment Consultant informed that though it is mandatory to develop and maintain 33% of the total area as green belt, the project proponent has already developed the green belt of 40%. The local species and local fruit bearing trees have been planted. But additional 5% area will be developed as green belt as per new guidelines of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

12) Shri Ramzan Kasim Inamdar, Resident – Malinagar,
Tal – Malshiras, Dist – Solapur

How much cost will be incurred for the proposed project?

The Rupees 33 to 35 Crores will be spent for the proposed project.

Here, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed the participants to raise any suggestion, questions and objections if any for the proposed project. He asked whether there are anybody standing outside meeting campus to attend the meeting? If there are people, they will be allowed to attend the meeting in the next session. He informed Project Officials to confirm whether there is anybody who desires to attend the meeting?

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that MPCB Solapur Office and Pune Office are in receipt of the suggestions and objections regarding the proposed expansion of the project in which Shri Viraj Prakash Nimbalkar has sent two objections. Also the objection from Nitin Raosaheb Nimbalkar is also received. The letters for supporting the expansion is also received by both offices.

He informed that few objections have been also received by the MPCB office at Pune. One complaint has just taken back his complaint. All the objections and supporting letters have been sent to Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur. It will sent alongwith minutes of the meeting and Final Environment Impact Assessment Report to Government. The Government will take suitable decision for it. Member of the Public Hearing Committee further informed that after approval and signature of the Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, the minutes of the meeting will also be available on the website of MPCB. He requested Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform few words.

Additional District Magistrate, Solapur and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that he desires to raise 2-3 suggestions. He remarked that Project Consultant should answer to the objections received in writing. It should be submitted to MPCB office. It will be sent alongwith minutes of the meeting and Final Environment Impact Assessment report.

He further suggested that the figure given for job opportunities in proposed expansion of the project should be verified. As this is large project, it is surprising that only 25 persons will get job opportunities. Perhaps after expansion, the project may have fully automated system, hence the figure of job opportunity might have been shown very less.

Environment Consultant here informed that we normally mention the direct job opportunities. But there are very good chances of increase in local business opportunities. Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee informed to review this point and get the note in the EIA report.

Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee suggested that few participants have raised objections regarding water recycle and reuse. It should be clarified. He further informed that the survey of birds and animals is already carried while preparation of EIA report. But as 1-2 objections have been received for lung infection, the health survey should be carried for lung infection.

Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee remarked that it seems that the participants do not want to raise any question, further procedure be started immediately.

- 13) At this moment, Shri Y. Chandrasekhar Reddy, Social Worker, Telangana State while giving suggestions said that in the background of Covid, the expansion of the project is essential. He further suggested that Effluent Treatment Plant and Sewage Treatment Plant if operated scientifically, there will not be any problem. Shri Reddy further suggested that Below Poverty Line (BPL) people should be helped in the background of Covid and people who are affected due to Covid be helped under CSR fund. He said that for the progress, the expansion of the project is essential and hence suggested to allow the expansion. He has submitted his written suggestions also.


Here, Shri Dhiraj Dattatray Jadhav asked to initiate further procedure for the objections raised by him.

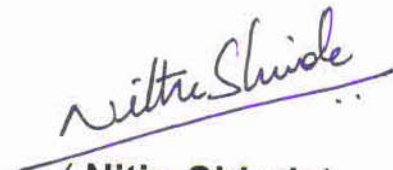
At this moment, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the objection raised is noted in the minutes of the meeting. The officials from Local MPCB Solapur Office will be directed to visit, verify and submit the report.

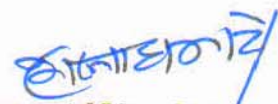
As there was no response from the participants. Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked

that it seems that now participants does not want to raise any issue. He thanked local people for attending and raising the environmental issues. Member, Public Hearing Committee also thanked project officials for nicely conducting the meeting in the background of Covid and on behalf of Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, declared that the meeting is concluded.

The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.
02 Objections, 11 Supports and 02 Suggestion letters are enclosed which have been received.


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


(Nitin Shinde),
Member,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
I/c Regional Officer,
MPCB, Pune


(Bharat Waghmare),
Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Solapur
Dist - Solapur