

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION IN EXISTING UNIT OF SUGAR CAPACITY FROM 4,500.0 TCD TO 7,500.0 TCD, CO-GEN POWER FROM 14.75 MW TO 29.5 MW AND COMMISSIONING OF 150.0 KLPD NEW DISTILLERY TO PRODUCE RECTIFIED SPIRIT / EXTRA NEUTRAL ALCOHOL/ETHANOL BASED ON "B"/"C" HEAVY MOLASSES/SUGAR CANE JUICE/SYRUP/GRAINS AT MAHATMA PHULE NAGAR, TALUKA-KANNAD, DIST - AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S BARAMATI AGRO LIMITED (UNIT-2)

The Public Hearing for proposed expansion in existing unit of Sugar Capacity From 4,500.0 TCD to 7,500.0 TCD; Co-Gen Power from 14.75 MW to 29.5 MW and commissioning of 150 0 KLPD New Distillery to produce Rectified Spirit / Extra Neutral Alcohol/Ethanol Based On "B"/"C" Heavy Molasses/Sugarcane Juice/Syrup/Grains at Mahatma Phule Nagar, Taluka – Kannad, District – Aurangabad, Maharashtra was conducted on Friday, the 08th October, 2021 at the site of the said industry at 11.30 a.m.

District Collector Aurangabad approved the date of public hearing on Thursday, the 30th September, 2021 and as per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, GoI), New Delhi and subsequent amendment on 01-12-2019, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has constituted Public Hearing Panel vide Board's Office Order No. E- 81 of 2021 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 210914 FTS- 0104, dated 14.09.2021 and Hon. Collector Aurangabad has appointed Additional District Collector as a Chairmen vide letter no. 905 dated 02.10.2021 for the said public hearing: -

Following Panel Members were present during the public hearing:

- 1) **Dr. A. B. Gavani,**
Additional District Collector, Aurangabad
District Aurangabad. : **Chairman**
- 2) **Dr. P. M. Josh,**
Regional Officer, MPCB, Aurangabad. : **Member**
- 3) **Shri. P. D. Warhede**
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Aurangabad. : **Convener**

Mrs. Seema Mangulkar, Field Officer of MPCB, Aurangabad on behalf of Shri. Pradeep Wankhade, Sub Regional Officer, Aurangabad-I, MPCB, Aurangabad and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Dr. Anant Gavane, Additional District Magistrate, Aurangabad and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Dr. Pravin M. Joshi, Regional Officer, MPCB, Aurangabad and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists and Company Officials and local people/participants who were present and informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF & CC, GoI) dated 14th September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification.

Field Officer on behalf of Convener of the Public Hearing Committee welcomed all and informed that the meeting is called in the prevailing situation of Covid-19 pandemic. Hence, it is requested all the participants to follow strict guidelines as issued by Govt. of India and Govt. of Maharashtra from time to time. As per the guidelines, only 100 persons/participants are allowed in a session. If the participants are more, then remaining will be allowed in next session. The sessions will continue till all the participants are given opportunity to attend the meeting. The thermal checking and use of sanitizer is kept at the entrance of the pandol and now it is compulsory to wear a mask and follow the social distancing amongst the persons in the meeting hall.

She informed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of application from Project Proponent M/s Baramati Agro Limited (Unit-2), Mahatma Phule Nagar, Taluka-Kannad, District - Aurangabad, Maharashtra for their for proposed expansion in existing unit of Sugar Capacity From 4,500.0 TCD to 7,500.0 TCD; Co-Gen Power from 14.75 MW to 29.5 MW and commissioning of 150,0 KLPD New Distillery to produce Rectified Spirit / Extra Neutral Alcohol/Ethanol Based On "B"/"C" Heavy Molasses/Sugarcane Juice/Syrup/Grains.

Field Officer on behalf of the Convener 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.

Field Officer on behalf of the Convener further informed that this existing project is established outside the Industrial Zone and as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of project falls under Category A 1 (d), 5 (j) and 5 (g), which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department, Govt of India, New Delhi (MoEF & CC, GoI), for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application alongwith pre-feasibility report to the MoEF & CC, Govt. of India, New Delhi for Terms of Reference (ToR) for conduct of EIA studies and it has been considered and given online approval on 17-04-2021.

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Office, MPCB Aurangabad in the Local Newspaper in Daily Sakal for Marathi and in National Newspaper daily The Times of India for English on 06th September, 2021. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed unit.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summary were made available at various notified offices of Government i.e. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Zonal Office, West Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur-440 001; District Magistrate Office, Aurangabad; Additional District Magistrate Office, Aurangabad; Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad Office, Aurangabad; General Manager, District Industries Centre Office, Aurangabad; Tahsildar, Tahsil Office – Kannad, Aurangabad, Dist -Aurangabad; Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Kannad, Dist – Aurangabad; Nagraadhaksha, Nagarpalika, Kannad, Dondagaon (Vitthalpur); Bahirgaon (Malpur); Bhokan Gaon; Banshendra/Shirasgaon; Shivrai; Hatnur; Rel (Kanakawati); Navadi; Mundwadi; Makranpur; Andhaner; Narsingpur; Hivarkheda (Gautala); Kunjakheda, Tal-Kannad, Dist-Aurangabad; Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, Mantralaya, Mumbai; Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board; Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Aurangabad; Sub Regional Office, Aurangabad-I, Executive Engineer, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation, Aurangabad; Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Aurangabad; and on the website of MPCB. The

public in general were appealed to send any suggestion or objection regarding the proposed new distillery project.

Field Officer on behalf of Convener informed that participants can raise their views, suggestions/objections for the proposed expansion of the project in environmental angle only orally as well as in writing also. It will noted minutes of the meeting. Also, the video recording of this meeting will be forwarded as it is to Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

With the permission of Chairman, Project Environment Consultant gave geographical location of the proposed unit, proposed impact on the environment due to proposed project and details of Environment Management Plan of the proposed unit. Environment Consultant informed that Project Proponent has ear-marked capital cost of Rupees 4,800/- lakh and for maintenance of pollution control devices Rupees 164.0 lakh.

After presentations, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed the participants to raise their views, suggestions or objections regarding propose plant in environmental angle only.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed the participants to raise views, suggestions or objections regarding proposed project in environmental angle only in brief. While raising it, first name and name of the village should be informed.

Following persons have taken part in the discussions and the answers given by Project Environment Consultant/Project Proponent/ Environment Public Hearing Committee:-

- 1) **Shri Babasaheb Mohite, Ex. Sarpanch, Andhaner, Grampanchayat, At Post - Andhaner, Tal - Kannad, Dist - Aurangabad:-**

M/s Baramati Agro Limited (Unit-2), has planned for the expansion. New Distillery project will also be commissioned. Here, there will be additional requirement of water.

If we manage that water without disturbing any farmer, it will be good for the farmers as well as for the factories.

After expansion, additional wastewater will be generated in the production. Hence, the preventive measures taken by the Project Proponent to prevent bad smell should be made known to the public.

Similarly, the expansion of the factory and the commissioning of new distillery project will definitely increase the income of the factory. It should benefit the local farmers also. The sons of soil/local people should be given job opportunities in the plant.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee here suggested to give information regarding water management, employment opportunities, preference to local people in job opportunities.

While giving answers raised by the local people, Project Director, Shri. Subhash Gulve said that just now Shri Mohite, local person asked here how the additional waste water will be disposed of. As shown in the Presentation, the spent wash which will be produced, it will not be generated outside the factory. The spent wash will be burnt in the Incineration boiler. Due to which there will no generation of effluent outside the factory. The domestic effluent will be treated in the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and industrial effluent will be treated in Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) and in Condensate Polishing Unit (CPU), which will be recycled and reused in the process. Due to which the effluent will not go outside the project. Utmost Care has been taken to ensure that it does not cause any inconvenience to the farmers.

The second question is raised regarding job opportunities to the local people. In this plant, nearly 100-150 persons will be required. Here also there will need of Technical personnel. If the local person is qualified, then he will be given chance. I assure here that nearly 100-150 persons will be given job opportunities in the new Distillery project.

Project Director, Shri. Subhash Gulve, further said that the point is raised in the meeting that local farmers should get the benefit from the additional income of the distillery project.

The management of the factory has planned to commission the distillery unit considering the demand of the Ethanol and the rate given by the Central Government. This additional income/profit will be spent as per the directives of Saptarathi Rangrajan Committee, which says that 70% profit will be distributed to the farmers and 30% for the administrative expenses and for maintenance of the project.

Hence, after installation of the distillery, local farmers can be given additional rate for their sugarcane crop. We are committed to give it.

He further informed that coal will be used as per the requirement. We are mainly going to use bagasse. We will take care that there will be no pollution.

Since potash contents are in the ash which is produced, it is beneficial for sugarcane cultivation, we will make it available to the members by giving some discounts. The press mud will also be made available as per the requirement of the farmers.

He also requested to raise any doubts.

- 2) **Shri Shekhanath Ramrao Chavan, Ex. Dy. Sabhapati, Panchayat Samiti, Kannad, At Post-Chikalthan, Tal – Kannad, Dist – Aurangabad :-**

The farmers in our village are very hard worker/ industrious, but unfortunately the prices of agriculture have gone down for the last two years.

All the crops have been lost due to this year's crisis. So now farmers are looking forward to this single crop of sugarcane. We congratulate management of the project for planning the expansion of the project and commissioning of new distillery plant. However, as ash is being used as fertilizer for farmers, its area should be fixed

He suggested that the farmers who supply sugarcane to the factory should get benefit from it, so much care should be taken by the factory. It is a request to the farmers to get some income from the increased income.

Project Director, Shri. Subhash Gulve, while giving the answers informed that Kannad Taluka has co-operated us by increasing the field area of the sugarcane crop.

So the factory here assures that whatever is the benefit of the factory and whatever is the area of sugarcane, first all the sugarcane of Kannad Taluka will be crushed first. Also, whatever profit from the bye-products the factory get, it will first given to farmers of the Kannad Taluka. Similarly, any problems that may arise will be resolved through the factory.

Project Director, Shri. Subhash Gulve, further said that in the year 2016-17 25 km of rivers and streams in the area were maintained through the social activities of the factory through public participation. Most of the work we did in the Amdaner area. In future, under CSR fund, any work in Kannada taluka and surrounding villages will be done in priority.

- 3) **Shri Kishor Anna Walunje, Dy. Sarpanch, Rel Group Grampanchayat, At Post – Kanakavali Nagar, Taluka – Kannad, Dist – Aurangabad :-**

He congratulated factory management for planning the expansion. Due to this project, there will be creation of job opportunities. Hence, on behalf of the people of local people and Taluka, it is requested to provide more opportunities to the locals. Because there are no farmers of 2-3 acres left. Therefore, their sons and daughters are in need of employment. It is not possible for them to work in

another Taluka. They can afford it here on a low salary. Hence, they should be job opportunities in the project. The Project Proponent thanked for the cooperation and the concern/passion for local young boys and girls of the area. But factory management has to make available job opportunities as per the crushing pattern only, hence the Factory Administration has certain limitations.

4) **Shri Siddheshwar Pundalikrao Zalte, Member, Jaitapur Grampanchayat, Jaitapur, Post – Hatnur, Tal – Kannad, Dist – Aurangabad :-**

Just now in the meeting, it is appealed that there should be job opportunities in the project. We are happy that Baramati Agro has adopted new technology. Secondly, heavy rains have washed away a lot of roads in our rural areas. The farmers are in a dilemma and are looking forward to Baramati Agro that with their help, it will be possible to deliver the sugarcane to the factory. Hence factory management is requested to co-operate.

Project Proponent promised to make available one JCB and two tractors for the above work from the factory. Roads on dams in rural areas will be repaired through factories if pimples/murum are made available. But the main road will not be repaired.

Project Proponent demanded that local people have demanded that there should be school. It is informed that villagers should give their suggestion to Chief Executive Officer and in future, the factory will definitely develop Education Centre here.

5) **Shri Shivaji Thete, Rel Group Grampanchayat, At Post – Kanakavati Nagar, Taluka – Kannad, Dist – Aurangabad :- (Shivsena Dy. Taluka Chief)**

This factory is adopted advanced technology. Due to this factory, local people have got job opportunities. Previously, the ash coming from the intermittent chimney was a nuisance to the people in the area. Particles used to go in the eye. It will be known only when the factory is re-started.

However, the factory administration is requested to ensure that the surrounding people should not suffer due smell nuisance, which normally most of the distillery units emits.

You live here. Your workers live here. However, the project should be set up with a most advanced system so that the people around it are not suffered.

Similarly, involve farmers in project management. He further suggested that due to heavy rains, the farmers have become distraught. Hence, it is requested that factory should take control of our farm, but 7/12 of it should be kept with the farmers/ours only. In our farms, implement various process and deposit the amount directly in our bank accounts. Please come and help the farmers. We are not at all against the project.

Shri. Theete further said that it is already discussed during the meeting that Kannad Taluka is far behind in educational facilities. Hence, develop Education Center here, which will help poor students of the area.

Project Proponent said that the business would not be run by simply producing sugar. This factory does not produce alcohol. Here Ethanol is produced. Ethanol is required for petrol blending. Ethanol is fuel. We will implement the suggestions given in the meeting.

6) **Dr. Anant Gavahane, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee :-**

He expressed the opinion that many questions of public interest were asked here. The local people, young boys and girls and other sections of society should be benefitted. They have put their opinion.

He said that on behalf of Administration, he desires clarification regarding Rainwater Harvesting, Solar Power and regarding Green Belt Development.

Project Proponent informed that we have carried massive plantation at the backside of the project. On the 60th birthday of the Chairman of the Project, we had set a target of planting of 60 Lakh trees. With Kannad Taluka, in Karmala and Baramati Talukas, the green drive is undertaken.

We are implementing the suggestions given to us. Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee directed to give details of Rain Water Harvesting. Chairman wished that after implementing Rain Water Harvesting, the project should become self-reliant. There was good rain in last two years, otherwise most of the Marathwada Region faces scarcity. We do carry Scarcity Panchanamas. In this year, first time we carried Heavy Rain Panchanamas.

Environment Consultant informed that the Project Proponent will implement the Rainwater Harvesting system on total 16,700 square meter. The rain water

will be stored. Its capacity will be 6,706.00 M³. Here the average rain fall is 502.0 mm. So if at all there is excess rain, we have capacity to store the rain water.

For Green Belt Development, Environment Consultant informed that it is mandatory to develop 33% of the total plot for green belt. We kept 34%. At present, there are 21,728 trees. We are going to implement the policy of 1,500 trees per hectore. We will require 33,450 more trees. At this moment, there are 21,728, hence remaining 11,727 trees will be planted in next three years. We will plant Nilgiri, Lemons trees, which will minimize the pollution.

Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee further asked that some suggestion from other States have been received through email regarding your project. Those suggestions are consistent such as local people should get the job opportunities. It is natural that local people feels that they should get maximum job opportunities in the project. In this meeting you have already declared the policy also. It should be implemented.

Second point is that it is not possible for you to give jobs to all. But while appointing technical person, if the local person has requisite qualification and capacity, then he/she should be given preference.

Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested to undertake Skilled Development Programme for the local young boys and girls. It will be used in another area even if it is not used in your factory. The Skilled Development will be them to stand on their own feet and they will get the new direction. These suggestions have been received which are correct.

Further suggestion was received regarding road development in the meeting. Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Meeting said that not only road, but other development works which is need of the people should be carried and priority should be given to it under CSR fund. It should be explained here. Project Proponent informed that when management of this factory was taken, we surveyed the local area. The previous management was causing trouble to the local farmers and people. The staff here is 100% local. They have been extended training facilities and now Baramati Agro is fore-runner for adopting modern technology. Our offices are paperless offices. It is not recorded in our system unless it goes to the farmer's field boundary/bandha. Similarly, regarding weight

loss, the message goes to the farmer that the tractor arrived at a certain time, weighed so much and unloaded the goods at a certain time. It is also recorded if the driver fills the tractor with diesel. We are mapping until the farmer gets the cane from the field. We are running the system very transparently. The reason for installing GPS system is the high number of tractor thefts. The factory administration has adopted the same policy regarding weight loss.

7) **Dr. Pravin M. Joshi, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee :-**

In the meeting the point of Smoke Nuisance was raised. Now you are installing Incinerator Boiler, hence OCMC should be installed to it. Further it is directed to keep well Operation & Maintenance (O & M). You have already installed ESP. It should be checked from time to time, whether it is operative or not. If separate fund is ear-marked for O & M, it should be informed. What provision is made for water and air pollution control system? It is not mentioned in the report that whether

OCMC will be installed for the new boiler. When spent wash will be burnt in the Incineration Boiler, there is no mention of air pollution control system. It seems that if you avoid one pollution, another will happen. Hence inform the solution.

Project officer informed that the suggestion given by you for ESP, the Incinerator Boiler which will be installed, it will have fuel system to use coal and bagasse. We have enough bagasse, hence we will use it for 12 months. But in unavoidable situation only, we will use coal as fuel. But the ESP that is designed is high ash coal, the ESP is designed with all its proportions in mind. It will further increase its efficiency when using bagasse. So no smoke will come out.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked to give information regarding ear-mark of fund for O & M of ESP. He further said that as this is Distillery Project, OCMC installation is mandatory. If you have planned, then inform or it should include in the Final EIA.

Environment Consultant informed that 8.6 Crores rupees have been ear-marked for the ESP. Also for O & M, 20 lakh rupees are reserved. Additional expenses will be carried, if needed.

Project officer further informed that there boiler shut down every year. At that time, inspection is carried and repairs are made if required.

Here Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee here remarked that most advanced technology should be installed to solve the problem.

8) **Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee :-**

Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee asked to give details of Solar Energy and its planning. He remarked that at this moment, there is power crises before our Nation and State. Hence, the project should become self-reliant by implementing Solar Energy.

Environment Consultant informed that we have Co-gen plant. Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee directed to implement it in future.

Project Proponent informed that in Unit-I, we have implemented solar energy system and our administrative building is totally covered under Solar Energy Project. He promised to implement it in future.

9) **Shri Ashokrao Dapke, Sarpanch, Andhaner Grampanchayat, At Post – Andhaner, Tal -Kannad, Dist – Aurangabad:-**

He welcomed Environment Public Hearing Committee and informed that due to this project, many social developments works have been carried. He also discussed the issues raised in the meeting.

Project Proponent –Vice Chairman of the Project promised to implement all the suggestions in the meeting. He wished that large area of the Region should cultivate sugarcane crop. It will be crushed in the factory. He appealed to cultivate and grow good sugarcane crop. He also appealed to implement modern technology as it is used by Western Maharashtra farmer. The productivity of the sugarcane crop increases due to adopting modern technology.

At this moment, Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee expressed the opinion that factory should guide local farmers for it.

While concluding the meeting, Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee said this public hearing was as planned. Local people has given very good response. The participants have raised very good suggestions and objections. Environment Consultant has also given good answers. The proceedings of the meeting is video graphed. Doubts were raised in a playful atmosphere. He announced that Public Hearing is concluded.

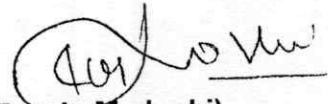
02 nos of support letter with few suggestions for protection of environment through email dtd. 27.9.2021 was send by V. Sunnnada Reddy, President Dharitri Paryavaran Shikshan Sanstha, Nalgonda, Telganna; Shri. Rangarao Kothakonda, Telganna. Copy of the said letter is handed over to the project proponent for information and necessarily follow up and one copy is enclosed with the minutes.

At last Dr. R. G. Auti, Field Officer, MPCB express the vote of thanks of all the panel and management committee of the proposed project and villagers and officials.

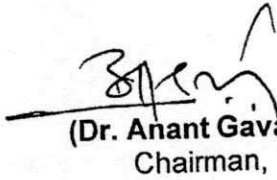
Lastly, the Public Hearing ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



(Pradeep Wankhede)
Convener,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
and
Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB, Aurangabad.



(Dr. Pravin M. Joshi)
Member,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
and
Regional Officer,
MPCB Aurangabad.



(Dr. Anant Gavane)
Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
and
Additional District Collector, Aurangabad,
District, Aurangabad