

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION IN THE EXISTING DISTILLERY OF M/S PADAMSHREE DR. VITTHALRAO VIKHE PATIL SAHAKARI SAKHAR KARKHANA LIMITED, AT GAT NO.196/1, PRAVARA NAGAR, LONI, TAL – RAHATA, DIST – AHMEDNAGAR (413 712), MAHARASHTRA FROM 60.0 TO 240 KLPD BY USING C / B HEAVY MOLASSES / SUGARCANE JUICE / SYRUP.**

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The Public Hearing for proposed expansion in the existing distillery of M/s Padamshree Dr. Vitthalrao Vikhe Patil Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited at Gat No.196/1, Pravara Nagar, Loni, Tal – Rahata, District – Ahmednagar (413 712), Maharashtra from 60 to 240 KLPD by using C / B Heavy Molasses / Sugarcane Juice / Syrup was conducted on Thursday, the 17<sup>st</sup> February, 2022, 11.00 a.m. at site of the said industry.

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 as under:-

1) District Magistrate-Ahmednagar  
or his representative not below  
the rank of an Additional District  
Magistrate


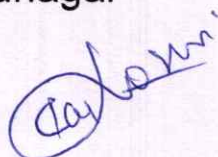
**Chairman**

2) Representative of Maharashtra  
Pollution Control Board -  
Regional Officer, MPCB, Nashik

**Member**

3) Sub Regional Officer,  
MPCB, Ahmednagar

**Convener**





Shri Sanjeev A. Redasni, I/c Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Ahmednagar and Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Sandeep Nichit, Additional District Magistrate, Ahmednagar and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Dr. Pravin M. Joshi, Regional Officer, MPCB, Nashik and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists and Company Officials and local people/participants who were present and with the permission of the Chairman of the Committee, informed the preamble of the public hearing.

**Convener** of the Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the meeting is called in the prevailing situation of Corona and Omicron pandemic. Hence, it is requested to 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 40 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 and now it is compulsory to wear a mask and follow the social distancing amongst the persons in the hearing. **Convener** briefed about importance of public hearing and procedure adopted for it. Convener of the meeting informed that total 05 nos. of supporting representations have been received by the Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Ahmednagar in respect of the proposed project.

**Project Environment Consultant** gave Presentation for proposed expansion and informed that the effluent generated will be treated in CPU and the treated effluent will be recycled and reused. This project will be Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD). The project will provide direct employment to 150 persons and indirect employment to about 400 persons. Environment Consultant also





informed that Corporate Environment Responsibility Fund (CER) is ear-marked as Rupees 120.40 lakh as per the Rules.

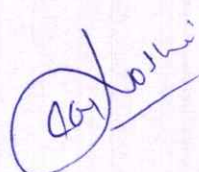
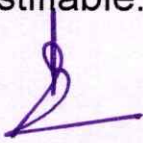
**Member** stated that to attach MPCB Visit Report with the EIA report is completely wrong and not enclosed required various permissions with the said EIA report.

**Convener** stated that the **Chairman** has pointed out many discrepancies in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. The introductory part of the report is missing. The name of Directors and their posts are missing. It should be checked and corrected.

**Chairman** asked that when the sugarcane crushing was carried out during the year 2021. **Managing Director** answered that the sugarcane crushing was started in November, 2020 and ended in the May, 2021. **Chairman** opined that environmental survey and pollutants monitoring should be carried out during only sugarcane crushing period. However, the survey and monitoring is carried out during non-operational season. He also stated that the survey and monitoring is carried out in villages which are far from the project site. It is expected to collect water and air samples from the vicinity of the project to understand the actual pollution level.

**Convener** asked about monitoring of water and air in the Kolhar Budruk village which is at five k.m. away from the project site.

**Chairman** asked whether study has been carried out in the wind directions during the crushing season? He remarked that the explanation given by the Environmental Consultant is not justifiable.





**Member** opined that the survey is expected to be carried during operations of the sugar factory to know the exact pollution level in the area as per the ToR. Survey is expected to be carried during operation of the sugar factory. However, the said survey is carried out during non-operation period by the Environment Consultant.

**Chairman** said that in the report, only 60 KLPD distillery is shown. However, the distillery project was first 15 KLPD and then it is 32 KLPD which is not mentioned in the EIA report.

**Project Officer** replied that the distillery project of 15 KLPD was extended to 32.0 KLPD. This 32.0 KLPD distillery project was on the basis of atmospheric technology and same will be discarded.

**Chairman** opined that this was not mentioned in the report. Therefore, there is a discrepancy between the current capacity and its effects on the environment.

**Convener** asked about the capacity of the existing distillery unit.

**Project officer** replied that the existing distillery is of 60 KLPD capacity and the atmospheric technology based distillery of capacity 32 KLPD will be discarded.

**Member** asked that there is briquette fire boiler mentioned in page no.4, Condition No.8 of ToR. However, in the EIA report, bagasse fired boiler is shown.

**Chairman** suggested that the corrected EIA Report shall submit to the Authority.





**Following points were raised and discussed during the public hearing meeting: -**

**1)Shri Ganesh Rangnath Vikhe, Residence – Loni Budruk, Tal – Rahata, Dist – Ahmednagar :-**

**Shri Vikhe** expressed his support for the project expansion.

**Member** asked whether you are working in the factory?

**Shri Vikhe** informed that he is not worker and he is villager and asked that how many trees will be planted by the Project Proponent while expanding the project.

**Environment Consultant** answered that at present there are 1,50,000 trees in the factory area.

**Member** asked how many trees have to be planted per hector as per ToR and how many total trees will be planted?

**Environment Consultant** informed that as per ToR, it is mandatory to plant 1,500 trees per hector, here Project Proponent propose to plant 2,500 trees per hector and total 25,000 trees will be planted.

**2)Shri Ravindra Parvat Dhavane, Member-Agriculturist, Residence – Loni Budruk, Tal – Rahata, Dist – Ahmednagar :-**

**Shri Dhavane** stated that he is Agriculturist Member and expressed his support for the expansion of the project. He asked whether local farmers will be made available the fertilizer?

**Project Officer** and Environment Consultant informed that compost fertilizer will be made available to the local farmers.






**3)Shri Amol Ambadas Thite, Agriculturist Member, Residence – Kolhar Bhagvatipur, Tal – Rahata, Dist – Ahmednagar:-**

**Shri Thite** supported the expansion of the project.

**Member** asked whether you are working in the factory?.

**Shri Thite** answered that he is not an employee of the unit and he is only Agriculturist Member.

**4)Shri Vijay Uttamrao Kadu, Residence – Tisgaon, Tal – Rahata, Dist – Ahmednagar :-**

**Shri Kadu** stated that he is Agriculturist Member and asked whether there is Environment Cell in the factory? If yes, then how many officers, supervisors and employees will be appointed?

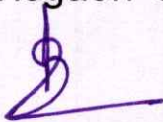
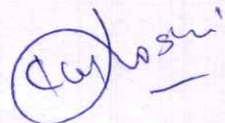
**Project Officer** informed that the Environment Cell is in the project.

**Member** remarked that the question is raised that how many people who have requisite educational qualification are working in the Environment Department and how many people will be recruited in view of future expansion, this should be answered.

**Environment Cell Officer** answered that he is M.Sc. (Environment) and three requisite educational qualified persons are working under him and three more persons will be appointed considering future expansion of the project.

**5)Shri Bhaskar Jadhav, Residence – Ghulewadi, Tisgaon, Tal – Rahata, Dist – Ahmednagar :-**

**Shri Bhaskar Jadhav** stated that his wife is Sarpanch of Tisgaon Grampanchayat. He informed that on behalf of Tisgaon





Gram Panchayat, we are in support of the proposed expansion of the project.

**6)Shri Raibhan Shivrai Aaher, Residence – Loni Budruk, Tal – Rahata, Dist – Ahmednagar :-**

**Shri Aaher** stated that he is Sugarcane Producing Farmer Member. He asked whether factory will provide electricity on the roads connecting the factory and if so, how it will be provided?

**Project Officer** replied that the factory has provided electricity facilities on the outer roads and electricity will be provided on the internal roads also.

**Member** asked which lamps would be supplied? It is answered by the Project Officer that solar LEDs will be supplied.

**7)Shri Ravindra Bendre, Residence – Babhaleshwar, Tal – Rahata, Dist – Ahmednagar:-**

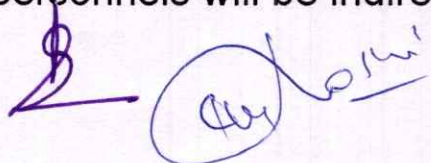
**Shri Bendre** supported for the expansion of the project.

**8)Shri Jagannath Bansilal Rathi, Residence – Loni Budruk, Tal – Rahata, Dist – Ahmednagar :-**

**Shri Rathi** supported the project and suggested that local people should be given priority while giving job opportunities in the expanded project.

**Member** asked to give explanation for job opportunities.

**Project Officer** informed that local people will be given priority while extending job opportunities. The 150 personnels will be get direct job opportunities due expansion and more than 400 personnels will be indirectly benefitted due to this project.





**9)Shri Prakash Dagadu Kharade, Dy.Sarpanch, Kolhar Bhagawatipur Grampanchayat, Tal – Rahata, Dist – Ahmednagar :-**

**Shri Kharade** asked that how the factory will provide health services to the local people?

**Safety Officer** informed that there is OPD at the factory. . But if at all there is serious injury, then the medical treatment is provided at Pravara Medical Hospital, which is just five kilometers away. All the medical facilities are available. Recently, the Karkhana has made available one Cardiac Ambulance.

**10)Shri Rajendra Kivnath Chechare, Residence – Lohgaon, Tal – Rahata, Dist – Ahmednagar :-**

**Shri Chechare** asked that whether any social projects will be implemented in the nearby schools and the public places?

**Project Officer** answered that various activities such as construction of school building, digitization of schools etc. have already been carried out in the nearby schools and same will continue.

**11) Shri Rushikesh Sunil Khande, Residence - Bhagwatipur, Tal – Rahata, Dist – Ahmednagar:-**

**Shri Khande** asked whether my well water will get polluted due to this project?.

**Project Officer** answered that incineration boiler will be installed in the proposed expansion and the concentrated spent wash will be incinerated in it. Hence, not a drop of water will be discharged outside the factory. The condensate will be treated in Condensate Polishing Unit (CPU) and treated effluent will be



recycled and reused, thereby the consumption of fresh water will be minimised. It is promised that there will not any well and borewell pollution in the vicinity.

**12) Shri Rahul Machindra Dhavane, Residence – Loni Budruk, Tal – Rahata, Dist – Ahmednagar:-**

**Shri Dhavane** asked whether the smoke from the project will affect the crops in the surrounding area?

**Member** suggested that **the** Environmental Consultant should inform about Ambient Air Quality Survey (AAQS) in the questioned village, wind directions etc.

**Environmental Consultant** informed that Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Survey (AQMS) has been carried in the Loni BK village and there will no increase in the air pollution level due to expansion in the said village. The ESP with stack of 90 meter height will be provided to incineration boiler.

**Member** asked about the results of existing OCEMS.

**Project officer** informed that due to installation of ESP to the boiler, the ash will be arrested thereby there will no impact on crop and human health due to boiler ash.

**13) Shri Babasaheb Pundlik Chechare, Residence – Lohgaon, Tal – Rahata, Dist – Ahmednagar:-**

**Shri Chechare** stated that there are number of 10<sup>th</sup> passed youngers in the village and the employment opportunity should be given to these youngers.

**Project Proponent** answered that local people will be given priority in the job opportunities and efforts will be made to give more chances to the young boys and girls of Lohgaon village.





**Member** opined that the said EIA report is not prepared by presenting Environmental Consultant. There are many misleading information noted by **Chairman and Convener**. He also opined that it is wrong to enclose the visit report of MPCB officials with the EIA report. He suggested that all necessary corrections should carry in the EIA report.

**Chairman** have given following suggestions.

- 1) The industry shall install the display board at public place showing the pollution level of the industry.
- 2) Maharashtra Pollution Control Board have already kept EIA report and executive summary at all nearby grampanchayat offices and Government Offices. However, MPCB shall conform whether reports are kept by these offices for notice of public or not?
- 3) The industry shall carry health survey of nearby villagers and identify the effect of air and water pollution on human being health and submit the said report within one month.
- 4) The industry shall implement Disaster Management Plan properly as there was an accident in the said industry in past.
- 5) There is four time expansion in the existing distillery unit. It is necessary to take utmost care on safety and fire and for that mock drill shall carry atleast four times in a year.
- 6) Radiant reflectors shall be provided on all vehicles using for transportation of sugarcane. The use of tape recorder shall be stopped by the drivers of these vehicles and to check fitness certificate of these vehicles.
- 7) To make available one warden at turning point of the factory from main road.
- 8) To give opportunity directly and indirectly to the local villagers.

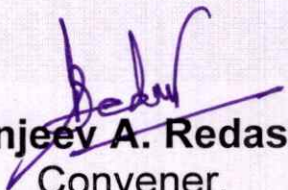
**Chairman** instructed to correct all errors/discrepancies in the Environmental Impact Assessment report,

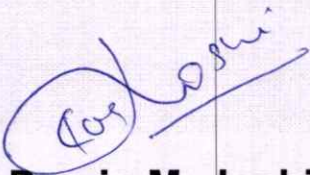





**Member** stated that that the project will be expanded from 60 to 240 KLPD. Utmost attention should be given to the molasses storage tank as accident in molasses storage tank may result damage to nearby crop. The molasses storage tank shall be inspected by a Competent Authority regularly.

**Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee** thanked all journalists, government officials, local people for attending the meeting and ended public hearing with due permission of Chairman.

  
**(Sanjeev A. Redasri)**  
Convener,  
Environment Public  
Hearing Committee  
And  
I/c Sub Regional Officer,  
MPCB,  
Ahmednagar

  
**(Dr. Pravin M. Joshi),**  
Member,  
Environment Public  
Hearing Committee  
And  
Regional Officer,  
MPCB,  
Nashik

  
**(Sandeep Nichit),**  
Chairman,  
Environment Public Hearing Committee  
And  
Additional District Magistrate, Ahmednagar,  
Dist – Ahmednagar