

**Minutes of Public Hearing in respect of existing Sugar factory of M/s. Piyush Sugar & Power Private Limited, Gat No.38/2, Walki, Post – Deulgaon Siddhi, Tal& District – Ahmednagar (414 006), Maharashtra for proposed C / B Heavy Molasses / Sugarcane Juice / Syrup Based Distillery of 60.0 KLPD Capacity.**

Shri Sandeep Nichit, Additional District Magistrate and Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee apologized the public for not being able to start the hearing on time due to important official work.

The Public Hearing in respect of existing Sugar factory of M/s. Piyush Sugar & Power Private Limited, Gat No.38/2, Walki, Post – Deulgaon Siddhi, Tal& District – Ahmednagar (414 006), Maharashtra for proposed C / B Heavy Molasses / Sugarcane Juice / Syrup Based Distillery of 60.0 KLPD capacity was conducted on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022, 11.00 a.m. at Project site.

Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has constituted Public Hearing Panel vide Board Office Order No. E- 126of 2021 & letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B-211228 -FTS-099, dated 28-12-2021 as under:-

- 1) District Magistrate-Ahmednagar - **Chairman**  
or his representative not below  
the rank of an Additional District  
Magistrate
- 2) Representative of Maharashtra - **Member**  
Pollution Control Board -  
Regional Officer, MPCB, Nashik
- 3) Sub Regional Officer, - **Convener**  
MPCB, Ahmednagar

Shri Sanjeev A. Redasni, I/c Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Ahmednagar and Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee expressed apology for delay in starting the public hearing.

Shri Sanjeev A. Redasni, 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 for public hearing.

Convener of the Public Hearing Committee informed that the meeting is called in the prevailing situation of Corona and Omicron 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 40 persons/participants are allowed in a session. If the participants are more, then remaining will be allowed in next session. The thermal checking and use of sanitizer are kept at the entrance and it is compulsory to wear a mask and follow the social distancing amongst the persons in the hearing.

Convener informed about importance of public hearing & procedure adopted for conducting the said public hearing. He also informed that total 14 letters are received by the Board regarding the said project. Convener informed that participants can raise their views, suggestions/objections for the proposed project in environmental angle orally as well as in writing & it will be noted in minutes of the hearing. Also the video recording of this meeting will be forwarded as it is to the authority.

Project Environment Consultant presented geographical location of the proposed unit, impact on the environment due to proposed project and details of Environment Management Plan. The waste water will be treated in C.P.U. and it will be recycled and reused in the process. The spent will be treated at Bio- Methanization, M.E.E. , composting and will achieve ZLD i.e. Zero Liquid Discharge. Environment Consultant informed that Rs. 520 lakh will be spent for Environment Management and Rs. 270 lakh will be spent every year for maintenance. Corporate Environment Responsibility Fund (CER) Fund of Rs. 68 lakh will be spent as per Rule.

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

**Following issues were raised during Public Hearing:-**

**1) Shri Laxman Gangadhar Bothe, Residence – Deulgaon Siddhi, Tal & Dist – Ahmednagar :-**

Shri Bothe stated that the survey is carried out in 10 Km radius and given presentation of existing situation for proposed project as per convenience of project proponent but the situation is totally different as there are bore wells at 1 to 1.5 Km from site. The chemical water from the plant is entering in the farmers well and we can't drink the said water. We have no any other



source for drinking water. The Public Hearing should be postponed and give us more time. We will give the samples of wells / borewells and if the quality of it will be good then we have no objection for the proposed project.

2) Shri Vikas Rajendra Ingle, Residence – Deulgaon Siddhi, Tal & District – Ahmednagar :-

Shri Ingle stated that while collecting the water samples in the 10 Km radius, whether obtained prior permission from the local administration? and which local administration and M.P.C.B. Officials were present during sampling. In the report the details about same is not mentioned. Shri Vikas Ingle objected that this EIA is not made available to local farmers.

**Convener**, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that EIA report is already kept at all the Grampanchayat offices falls in 10 km radius.

Shri Vikas Ingle objected that there are wells of local farmers at a distance of 100 meter from the project and will see its present status. You should consider the local farmers whose agriculture land is adjacent to the project. The report shows Shiradhon village, which is 15 Km from the project, Watephal village is at 15 Km and Deulgaon village is just 2 Km from the project site. In the report, it is mentioned that nothing is there in the two Km area but there is Kalokhe locality. There is an Ethanol tank & may be impacted be upto 1.2 Km in case of blasting. Whether you have provided information about this to the local peoples? This technical report has been prepared without taking confidence of the local peoples. Water samples are collected without consulting with local farmers. Shri Vikas Ingle demanded that water sample should be collected in presence of local people & Govt. Officials. He questioned that can you call the farmer from whose land the soil sample was collected? He objected that the air quality survey is carried out outside 10 Km radius of the project. Wind blows from west to east throughout the year and at west site in Hiware zare village the result will be normal. The survey is carried out during March 2021 to May 2021 during which the existing sugar unit was not in operation.

He further objected that there are two pomegranate orchards at a distance of 200-300 meters where the farmers are washing the plants everyday. He questioned that how the quality of pomegranate will achieve. The farmers are spending spent Rs.4 to 5 lakh per year and the said sugar factory is causing damage to the crops of nearby farmers. We will submit the application to



Collector which we have made to the Grampanchayat Office. Shri Vikas Ingle demanded that the samples should be collected before local farmers & Govt. officials.

**Member**, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked Environment Consultant to provide information of the villages which have studied by them. Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked information of samples collected from village Deulgaon Siddhi which is the nearest village. Member of the Committee opined that the objections raised by the participants are justified and suggested that the Environmental Consultant should give information in details.

**Environmental Consultant** said that samples were taken at Hiware zare village, Ambewadi, Khadki village, Ganga village, Ghege vasti, Shrikrishna wadi and Christ Church Walki.

**Member**, Environment Public Hearing Committee again asked Environment Consultant that whether samples at Deulgaon Siddhi have been collected or not? Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed participants to submit the list of farmers / local peoples having borewells to the factory administration & Gram Panchayat and instructed the Environmental Consultant to collect the samples of their borewells. Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee here remarked that as per ToR the survey is carried. The prepared EIA is draft EIA only. The suggestions, objections raised by the participants, local people will be included in the minutes. The public hearing procedure is totally transparent hearing. This public hearing is arranged to note your suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle. The Project Proponent will act accordingly & will final EIA report. The Govt. will consider the suggestions, objections raised in the public hearing while granting Environmental Clearance.

**Shri Vikas Ingle** further opined that this factory is private factory and they have installed Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP). The sugar factory is operated for just 5-6 months only but its effluent discharged at downside agriculture land it shows the efficiency of ETP.

**Member**, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that this public hearing is arranged for the new proposed distillery project. Hence, it is informed to raise the suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project only. Shri Vikas Ingle opined that if this is the condition existing unit how we allow the new project. There will increase in pollution load due to proposed distillery unit. The local peoples are bringing drinking water from village. The unit



have sprayed the water on road on today only for public hearing. Why we should give permission to new project as there is pollution problem due to existing unit.

**3) Shri Navnath Gangaram Ingle, Residence – Deulgaon Siddhi, Tal & Dist – Ahmednagar :-**

Shri Navnath Ingle said that my pomegranate orchard having 1200 trees is 1 Km away from this project and there is problem of boiler ash deposition in the said area. There is daily water washing of the trees. The leave is nose of trees and if it closes, how the trees will survive. The well water is also contaminated. The management for control of pollution is required.

**4) Shri Sahebrao Baban Ingle, Residence-Deulgaon Siddhi, Tal & Dist – Ahmednagar:-**

Shri Ingle stated that my land is at adjacent to the unit. The project boundary is in my land and our farm/agriculture area is about 300 meter away. There is problem of as deposition on the trees and well water is also contaminated & we are bringing drinking water from the village.

**5) Shri Bhimaji Mohan Ghodke, Residence – Deulgaon Siddhi, Tal & Dist – Ahmednagar :-**

Shri Ghodke stated that we have a farm/agriculture land of three and half acre. The polluted water from this factory flows through my land & due to which the said land can not cultivated. There is problem due to existing unit. It is requested to stop new project. There is air pollution problem due to boiler ash in the area hence to stop operation of existing unit.

**6) Shri Shrikrishna Ramdas Kharal, Residence – Deulgaon Siddhi, Tal & Dist – Ahmednagar :-**

Shri Kharal stated that my land is at 200 mtr In the report, it is mentioned that there is no river. There is percolation tank at 200 mtr from my land and the source of is 1 Nalla which is originated from factory site. The unit has 80 feet deep well thereby the water of nearby borewells is contaminated. Our land became barren due to contaminated water. There are deer and rabbits in the area. What steps and taken to conserve wild life ? How many compensation given to public we want information about the sampling area. The Grampanchayat have not passed resolution in the Gram sabha for the said new project. In the report no human habitation shown within 3.41 Km but people are living at 100 mtr from the project. These people are voters of the area. He asked that what measures have been taken to prevent the adverse effect of air pollution on crop. In the presentation , it is mentioned that the funds will be made available for Environment Protection and social development. Taxes are balance with the industry. We have no trust on the management of the project. He further asked what are source of water, sugarcane



availability in the area and job opportunity etc. for the said project. There is no expectation from the project management and water sample should be collected before local farmers and Govt. Officials. How many Grampanchayat have made available EIA report to the local people. Public notice is published 30 days in advance. However, no newspapers are distributed in the villages due to ST strike. The management the project should stop further damage to the environment.

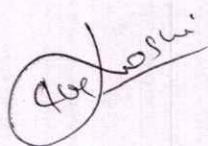
**7) Shri Subhash Baban Karale, Residence – Deulgaon Siddhi, Tal & District – Ahmednagar :-**

Shri Karale stated that the Deulgain Siddihi villagers have given 250 acre land to the sugar factory and no employment have been given to the villagers in the sugar factory. Our land is in Gut No. 54 & 55 and the sugar factory have carried out tree plantation in the said land. It is requested to handover the said land to me as i have no agriculture land. I oppose this project.

**Convener**, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise any views, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. There was no response from the participants. Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that the local people, participants have raised their problems and environmental issues in a very good manner. The views, suggestions, objections raised by them have been recorded. It will be included in the minutes of the hearing and will be submitted to Government.

**Chairman**, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that environmental public hearing is conducted for new proposed distillery project of 60.0 KLPD capacity. The Project Environmental Consultant has presented Environment Management Plan (EMP) of the proposed project. As informed in the hearing, this is draft EIA. The local people have noticed some discrepancies of the EIA report. The issues raised have been noted. Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee have given following suggestions/directives to the Project Management and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

- 1) EIA report should be published in Marathi at all nearby Grampanchayat Offices and entrance of the factory for study of the local people. The suggestions / objections of the public should be accepted by MPCB in the another in the 8 days.
- 2) The Project Management should prepare a report of existing sugar mill showing the standards of the pollutants for water, air and soil prescribe by MPCB and its present status.

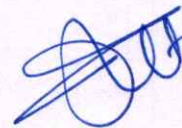
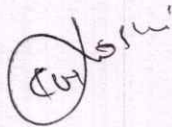




- 3) The sampling should be carried out in the village Deulgaon Siddhi, nearby villages, nearby agriculture land, wells, borewells & water supply scheme in presence of local farmers & government officials. The report of same should be published in the respective villages.
- 4) The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Office should obtain report regarding damages to crops in the nearby agriculture land from Taluka Agriculture Officer.

**Member,** Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that the local people have raised very good suggestions and objections. The local people are suffering and lodged objections. Member of the Committee suggested Project Management that if they have to commission and operate the new project, the local people should be taken into confidence. Local people should be given job opportunities. Their demand is absolutely right. He directed the Environmental Consultant to take a list from the local objectors and take water samples from their wells and bore wells. & report should be prepared. Member of the Committee further said that the OCMS installed by the factory, its results (air quality) should be made available to the public.

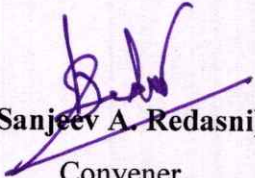
**Chairman,** Environment Public Hearing Committee said that all points raised during the meeting are noted. The points raised by Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee also noted. Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined that Project Proponent should spend more amount of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) for social development in the village where the project is located. While spending the fund, Local Bodies i.e. Gram Panchayat should be taken into confidence. It is expected that work in the field of drinking water and water conservation should be given priority. Chairman of the Committee said that employment priority should be given to the people of the villages where the project is located. For developing any area, it is necessary to develop allied agriculture industries. Examine Western Maharashtra and other parts of Maharashtra. Due to agriculture product processing units the income farmers will increase. Due to distillery unit the farmers will get more price than FRP.



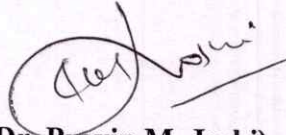


Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the suggestions, objections raised during the meeting are noted and it will be included in the minutes of the hearing.

The hearing ended with thanks to chair.

  
(Sanjeev A. Redasni)  
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