

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION IN EXISTING UNIT OF SUGAR FACTORY FROM 5,500.0 TCD TO 8,000.0 TCD, MOLASSES BASED DISTILLERY FROM 30.0 KLPD TO 90.0 KLPD & PROPOSED CO-GEN PROJECT OF 18.0 MW TO 36.0 MW PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S SHRI SOMESHWAR SAHAKARI SAKHAR KARKHANA LIMITED, SURVEY No.53, 61, 100, 101, 102, 104,124, AT POST – SOMESHWARNAGAR, TAL-BARAMATI, DIST - PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

The Public Hearing for proposed expansion in existing unit of Sugar Factory From 5,500.0 TCD to 8,000.0 TCD Molasses Based Distillery From 30.0 KLPD to 90.0 KLPD & proposed Co-gen project of 18.0 MW to 36.0 MW proposed by Project Proponent M/s Shri Someshwar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Survey No. 53, 61, 100, 102, 104, 124, At Post – Someshwarnagar, Tal. – Baramati, Dist. – Pune Maharashtra, was conducted on Wednesday, 09th March 2022 at the site of the said industry at 12.00 a.m.

While starting the meeting, Shri Pratap Jagtap, Sub Regional Officer, Pune-I, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the meeting is called in the prevailing situation of Corona -19 and Omicron pandemic by following all protocol issued by MOEF and Govt of Maharashtra .

Shri Pratap Jagtap, Sub Regional Officer, Pune-I, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune and Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Himmat Kharade, Additional District Magistrate, Pune and Chairman 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 informed that TOR is sanctioned to the project on 09-08-2021 by Environment and Climatic Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra. As per Terms and Conditions of TOR, Project Proponent has prepared draft EIA and as per Notification of Govt. of India dated 14th September 2006 and applied to MPCB for conducting public hearing.

District Collector, Pune vide letter dated 20-01-2022 approved the date of public hearing on Wednesday , 09th March, 2022 and as per the EIA 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- 11 of 2022 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 220225 -FTS-0061, dated 25-02-2022 as under:-

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

The public consultation is mandatory before obtaining EC. The public hearing for the above project is fixed on 09-03-2022 at 12.00 noon on the project site for which 30 days in advance, the public notice was published in local Marathi newspaper Loksatta and in national English newspaper Indian Express on 02-02-2022. The views, opinion, suggestions or objections for the proposed plant in environmental angle were invited from public, environmentalists and NGOs.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summery in Marathi and English were made available at various notified offices of Government i.e. District Collector, Pune, District Industries Center, Pune, Zilha Parishad, Pune, Regional Office Pune & Sub Regional Office Pune-I, MPC Board, Jog Centre, 2nd & 3rd Floor, Wakdewadi, Pune-Mumbai Road, Pune- 411 003, Member Sectary, MPC Board, Kalpataru Point, 3rd Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road



No.8, Opp. Cine Planet, Near Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai – 22 ,Zonal Office, West Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur- 440 001, Environment Department, Government of Maharashtra, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralay, Mumbai 400 032, Executive Engineer, MIDC Baramati, Tal-Baramati, Dist.-Pune, Sub-Divisional officer, Baramati, Tal-Baramati, Dist.-Pune, Tahsildar, Tehsil Office, Baramati, Tal-Baramati, Dist.-Pune, Chief Officer, Baramati Nagarparishad, Baramati, Tal-Baramati, Dist.-Pune, Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti Office, Baramati, Tal-Baramati, Dist.-Pune, Gram panchayat Office- Karanje, Karanjepul, Waghalwadi, Wanewadi, Sortewadi, Tal- Baramati, Dist.-Pune and on the website of MPCB. Also to attend the Public hearing online option given to public through following link:-

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89023399145?pwd=UERkR1IFL2IZQ1R0YzAva3JzYkZBUT09>

Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that participants who desires to give written suggestions/objections, they may hand over it to representative of MPCB. It will be submitted to Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee. Those who desires to raise oral suggestions, they may give after the Presentation. While giving oral suggestion, objection, the name and name of the village should be informed. Project Proponent will give answers. The minutes of the meeting will be prepared, and it will be submitted to Environment & Climate Change, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai through Head Office of MPCB. This Committee is constituted to know the feelings, opinion, views of the public and this Committee has no right to sanction or to recommend the project. The suggestions, objections raised during the meeting will be included in the minutes of the meeting. The total videography of the meeting, minutes of the meeting, written objections are submitted to Environment Department. The Expert Committee will take further decision. He requested to the Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to direct Project Proponent to start the Presentation.

Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee directed Project Proponent to start the Presentation.

With permission of Chairman, Project Environment Consultant gave the Presentation regarding Environment Management Plan (EMP) of the proposed project. She

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gave proposed project's geographical location, Potential impact on the environment due to the proposed project and EMP for it. It is informed that as per EIA Notification, the project falls under Category B1.

Project falls under B1 5 (j), 5 (g) 1(d) category which requires prior Environment Clearance (EC) from Environment and Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai.

Environment Consultant informed that 74 persons will get direct job opportunities and 30-35 persons will be indirectly benefitted. The 1,500 trees are planted in the project and in expansion trees plantation will be carry out. The capital investment for EMP is Rs.6,325.0 lakh and recurring cost will be Rs. 393.50 lakh. Rs 200.18 lakh are ear-marked for CER fund.

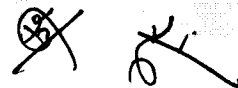
After presentations, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed the participants to raise their views, suggestions or objections regarding propose plant in environmental angle only.

Following persons have taken part in the discussions and Environment Consultant/Project Proponent has given answers

1) Shri Dhanraj Balasaheb Jagtap, Residence – Someshwarnagar Vanewadi, Tal-Baramati, Dist-Pune, Dy. Chairman, Human Rights Foundation Media, Western Maharashtra :-

Shri Dhanraj Jagtap said that Pote vasti is mentioned in the presentation and where is it located? Is it in 10 km radius from the project site and is it officially registered in Revenue Office, Gram Panchayat Office? He suggested to show the location of Pote vasti on the map.

The Environmental Consultant informed that the survey sites are in the radius of 10 k.m of project site. Pote-vasti is within 10 km. radius of the project. He showed the location of Pote Vasti on the map and informed that Pote Vasti is located to the east side of the factory.



Shri Dhanraj Jagtap asked that whether anybody from the Pote Vasti is present of this hearing and whether Pote Vasti has been registered under any Grampanchayat ?

Convener informed Project officials to give information regarding Pote Vasti.

The Environment Consultant said that while collecting the samples, the people of the local settlements, Wadi, Pada, Tanda, Chhota Kasba are asked for the name of location. In the same way, it is a small settlement. While collecting samples here, the locals named it as Pote Vasti.

Shri Dhanraj Jagtap objected that the villages Malshe, Vanewadi, Murum are near the location of the factory. Then why the samples were not collected in these villages?

The Environmental Consultant informed that the samples of air, water, soil and noise were collected as per availability and as per protocol by Central Pollution Control Board.

Convener directed Project Proponent to inform latitude and longitude of the Pote Vasti. Project Consultant informed that it is already mentioned in the EIA report and the information will be made available to the questioner. Chairman directed to provide requisite information to the respective person immediately.

Shri Dhanraj Jagtap further objected that the crushing is going on in Someshwar Sugar Factory. Bagasse is spreading in environment causing problem to local residences. In this regard, the factory administration does not take any preventive measures and does not spray the water. This can increase the risk of accidents.

The project Environmental Consultant informed that air monitoring have been carried out in the 10 k.m. radius of the project. The samples have been collected as per the guidelines issued by Central Pollution Control Board and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. The analysis report observed well within prescribed standards of Ambient Air Quality.

He further objected that the factory had planted trees in the school at Someshwar Nagar. Now not a single tree was survived which were planted by the factory

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administration. If the factory administration does not take care of the trees, how will they take care of green belt development in further?

Convener explained that while granting Environmental Clearance, the conditions for planting and cultivating trees are mandatory. If it is not done, it is punishable. Shri Dhanraj Jagtap suggested that the factory should take care of the trees by planting them. Convener said that they have noted the suggestions made by Mr. Jagtap.

Chairman of the public hearing also informed that project proponent shall undertake tree plantation drive as per proposed expansion and maintain the same.

2) Sachin Hanumant Gadekar, Residence – Chopdas, Tal- Baramati, Dist – Pune :-

Shri Sachin Gadekar asked that the factory has planned for the expansion of the project. Whether there will be any effects on the agriculture land and crops of our fields?

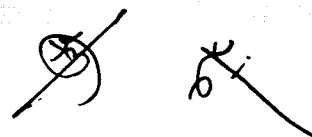
Environment Consultant informed that the guidelines prepared by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) are strictly followed for installation of air pollution control system in exiting plant and proposed expansion. Same will be followed for water pollution also

Shri Sachin Gadekar supported the project

3) Rahul Uttramrao Jagtap, Residence – Wanewadi, Tal- Baramati, Dist – Pune :-

Shri Rahul Jagtap asked that in the presentation, it is informed that there is sanctuary at 28 k.m. distance from the project. Whether project, includes only sanctuary or other forests also?

The Environment Consultant informed that the "Sanctuary" and "Reserved Forests" which are notified by the Central and State Governments are only consider. Social forestry is not considered while preparing EIA study. Shri Rahul Jagtap asked whether "authorized forest lands" are included? It is informed that as per the Notification, the authorized forest lands are not included in report.



Shri Rahul Jagtap informed to note that the project which is in operation is located in the jurisdiction of Waghawadi Grampanchayat and there is "authorised forest area" in the radius of 10 k.m. He further informed that though this is not a sanctuary, it is a "Protected Forest Land" by Grampanchayat and many wild animals like Chital, Deers. Rabbits are observed in large number. The other wild species are also observed.

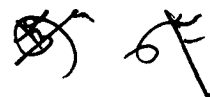
The Project Environmental Consultant informed that all the wild species in the radius of 10 k.m. are already mentioned in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report.

All the operations will be carried in factory premises only transportation of raw material and finish product will be outside factory Project Environmental Consultant informed that the potential impact assessment due to transportation is already covered in EIA Report along with precautionary measures like transportation shall not be carried out at night. Shri Rahul Jagtap asked who will monitor the implementation in this regard.

The Project Environment Consultant informed that implementation is monitored by the concerned Government Department.

Convener informed that all the suggestions presented in the public hearing are included in the final EIA report. An environment expert committee will scrutinized it and if there is any need to improve the pollution control system, orders will be issued accordingly. All the terms and conditions are included in the Environmental Clearance. Afterwards, MPCB issues Consent to Establish (C to E). Project proponent has to submit all information, installed pollution control system while obtaining consent to operate. Same are verified and after that consent to operate is granted by Pollution Control Board.

Shri Rahul Jagtap further said that the in existing project there was a 18 MW co-generation plant and has a 100 ton capacity boiler. In expansion proposal how many more new boilers will be installed? It is informed that a new 100 Ton capacity boiler with advance air pollution control system called Stack (Chimney) and Electro-Static-Precipitator will be provided. So, as environment air quality shall not be affected.



Shri Rahul Jagtap raise the issue of bagasse pollution. Environment consultant informed that suggestion like bagasse and ash management shall be done in close system is already given to project proponent.

At that time Shri Rahul Jagtap mention that if same is not implemented what will be further action?

The Environmental Consultant said that the report goes to the Expert Committee of the State Government. The committee scrutinized the reports and

Environmental Clearance is granted with certain terms and conditions. Every six months, PP has to submit compliance report of EC conditions. The Environmental Consultant suggested that the public hearing is for the proposed project expansion and requested to raise doubts, suggestions and objections about proposed expansion.

Shri Jagtap informed that he is talking about the present situation, and if PP is not complying with terms and conditions in present project how we believe in future?

The environmental consultant was informed that on behalf of the PP we that the problems faced by the locals will be resolved. Mr. Jagtap protested on these issues and requested to note this point.

Chairman informed that video recordings of the issues raised here are being made. These issues will be brought before the Environment Committee at the state level and the committee will take further decision in this regard

Shri Rahul Jagtap objected that Protected Forest Area is in 10 km radius of the Gram Panchayat. Similarly, while preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, how samplings were carried out?

The Environment Consultant said that the survey of water and air samples were carried out in accordance with the guidelines issued by Central Pollution Control Board. All data is mentioned in the environment assessment report which is available in Gram panchayat office.

Convener said that the report has been made available to the villagers at the Gram Panchayat office thirty days in advance.



4. Shri Rajendra Tukaram Jagtap, Resident – Wanewadi, Tal – Baramati, Dist – Pune :-

Mr. Rajendra Jagtap said that there is no doubt about the expansion of sugar project. However, doubt is about pollution due to expansion project and what will be the effect on the social life in the area. It should be resolved

Environmental consultants informed that the main pollutants in the distillery project is Spent Wash which will be treated in MEE to reduce volume by evaporation and after volume reduction same will be used as fuel. Generated condensate will be treated and reused in plant. Not a single drop of effluent will be drained outside of the factory. Similarly, for air pollution control advanced system like electrostatic precipitator will be provided.

Mr. Rajendra Jagtap suggested to adopt Three R system - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. There is no doubt that this project is necessary for the development of the area.

5) Shri Vishal Ramdas Gaikwad, Karanjepur, Tal – Baramati, Dist – Pune:-

How will this expansion project beneficial for this area and the members?

The Environmental Consultant informed that due to project expansion there will be increasing Production of sugar, electricity and alcohol in the project. The expansion project will provide direct employment opportunities to 77 people and indirectly help to develop surrounding villages.

Shri Vishal Gaikwad said that if the area is going to be develop then we support it.

6) Shri Harishachandra Bhalchandra Jagtap, Residence – Murum, Tal-Baramati, Dist-Pune:

Shri Harishachandra Bhalchandra Jagtap asked that What and how will this project beneficial for sugarcane farmer?

At this time, Chairman directed Project Proponent and Environment Consultant both of them to answer the question.





The environmental consultant said that the sugar, electricity and ethanol generated by the expansion project would provide additional income, due to which farmers will get more price for their sugarcane.

The Managing Director of the project informed that study of last five years of cane production is carried out. It was observed that more than twelve ton of sugarcane would be available for crushing. Twenty-Eight thousand members give their sugarcane for processing to the factory. This was a big challenge before the Board of Directors how to process this excess sugarcane. To overcome this problem expansion proposal was undertaken. Also due to expansion of plant production cost will be reduced, profit will be increased ultimately give more price to sugarcane farmers.

7) Shri Uttam Mhasku Holkar, Residence-Hol, Tal-Baramati, Dist :-Pune:-

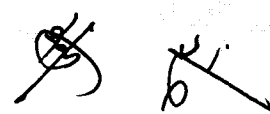
Will this expansion project cause any problem to agriculture, crops, cattle in the area?

The environmental consultant replied that during expansion proposal study of all this thing are carried out. Guidelines issued by Pollution Control Board will be followed. Accordingly, Electro-Static Precipitator air pollution control System, will be installed to take care of the surrounding area.

8) Shri Dhanraj Balasaheb Jagtap, Residence – Someshwarnagar,
Wanewadi, Tal-Baramati, Dist-Pune: -

Mr. Dhanraj Jagtap asked about information and video recording about the air pollution control system. The Environmental Adviser said that this report is available in the Gram Panchayat.

Convener said that copy EIA Report along with Marathi and English summary is already made available before 30 days of public hearing in Karanje, Karanjepool, Waghalwadi, Wanewadi, Sortewadi Gram Panchayats, he also shown the acknowledgement copy.



9) Vaibhav Ashok Gaikwad, Sarpanch, Karanjepool, Tal-Baramati, Dist – Pune-

Will there be a shortage of water while expanding the project, and will there be employment generation during the expansion?

Environment consultant informed that after the expansion, the project will provide direct employment opportunities to 77 persons. Similarly, about 30-35 persons will get indirect employment opportunities. The project promoters have sought permission to draw water from the Irrigation Department, Pune. There will be no shortage of water.

Shri Vaibhav Gaikwad said that Karanjepool Gram Panchayat is supporting the project expansion.

11) Shri Tushar Rajkumar Sukunde, Residence – Waghalwadi, Dist-Pune

Shri Tushar welcome the expansion project. The factory has given a assurance to the Gram panchayat that due to the expansion, there will be no problem in the area and due care will be taken to maintain environment.


However, on behalf of the Gram Panchayat, he gave one suggestion to change the name of the village from Someshwarnagar to Waghalwadi on the display board provided at the entrance of the factory as all the gut number mentioned on the display board comes under the jurisdiction of Waghalwadi Gram panchayat . Environment Consultant informed that necessary correction will be carried out.

12) Rahul Uttamrao Jagtap, Res – Wanewadi, Tal – Baramatil Dist – Pune:-

How the spent wash will be disposed of?

The Environmental Consultant informed that in Distillation Project spent wash will be generated 720.0 cubic meters per day. It will be treated in MEE to reduce its volume to 180 Cubic meter per day After reduction in volume spent wash will be used as fuel along with bagasse.

At that time Mr. Rahul Jagtap asked a question about how to bring 720 cubic meters of spent wash to 180 cubic meters. The project promoter replied that it it will be treated in MEE to reduce its volume. During treatment condensate will be generated which will be further

treated and reused in process so as to reduce freshwater demand. The environmental adviser explained that the metareflective evaporator is a closed system.

Mr. Jagtap asked the question whether spent wash is harmful to human body? The environmental consultant replied that spent wash will be used as a fuel along with bagasse and for air pollution control advanced system will be provided.

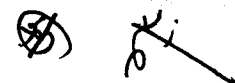
Convener said that now new technology is available. In past we used spent wash to manufacture manure. Now same will be used as fuel. Anyway, the spent wash in the project will not come into the environment.

Shri Rahul Jagtap informed that spent wash is harmful to human body and proper disposal of the same is not done by project proponent.

Shri Rahul Jagtap asked about management of bagasse storage what he did in case of bagasse storage. The environmental consultant said that existing bagasse storage measures have been taken to prevent bagasse from flying into the environment using some of the latest technology. Sheds have been erected, bagasse belling's is carried out, bagasse conveyors have been properly covered.

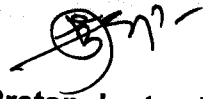
Shri Rahul Jagtap asked question about length of conveyer. Regarding same the managing director of the factory said that the co-generation project plan will be installed after the receipt of environmental clearance. After that proper planning will be carried out for co-generation plant at that time complete information about the length of the conveyor will be given in the project report. He said that the bagasse conveyor belt is closed / covered, without which permission is not granted.

At that time Mr. Rahul Jagtap said that the conveyor belt is not closed in the project. The Managing Director noted the point and assure to remove discrepancies in existing project and proposed expansion



Concluding the meeting, the Chairman said that a total of 11 people had raised their suggestions and objections. All the issues raised by you will be referred to the State Environmental Assessment Committee of the State Impact Assessment Authority, Government of Maharashtra, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra. The expert committee will take appropriate decision in this regard.

The Chairman thanked all those present and declared the public hearing concluded.



(Pratap Jagtap),
Convener,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer,
Pune-1,
MPCB, Pune



(Himmat Kharade)
Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate,
Pune
Dist – Pune