

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED 03 NOS OF SAND BELTS DREDGING/MINING IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT AT SOUTH SOLAPUR, PANDHARPUR & AKKALKOT TALUKAS ON BHIMA RIVER BASIN PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT DISTRICT MINING OFFICER, DISTRICT COLLECTOR OFFICE, SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA

The Environment Public Hearing for proposed 03 nos of Sand Belts Dredging/Mining in Solapur District At South Solapur, Pandharpur and Akkalkot Talukas on Bhima River Basin proposed by Project Proponent District Mining Officer, District Collector Office, Dist – Solapur, Maharashtra was held on Wednesday, the 13th April, 2022 on 12.45 noon at Niyojan Bhavan, District Collector Office, Solapur. The 03 nos of sand belts are as follows :-

Sr.No.	River	Sand Spots Stock	Taluka	District	Gut Nos	Area (Ha.)
1)	Bhima	Bhandar Kavathe	Dakshin Solapur	Solapur	829, 791 to 797	4.20
2)	Bhima	Chale	Pandharpur	Solapur	399,401/1, 401/1/2/1, 401/2/2, 402, 410, 413, 414/2B, 414/1	4.50

3)	Bhi ma	Kha nap ur	Akkal kot	Solap ur	225 to 234, 235 to 240, 243, 259	4.50
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District Collector, Solapur approved the date of public hearing on Wednesday, the 13th April, 2022 at 12.45 noon 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- 23 of 2022 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 120325 -FTS-0197, dated 25-03-2022 as under:-

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

Shri Ajit Vasantrya Patil, Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Solapur and Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Mrs. Shama Pawar, Additional District Magistrate, Solapur and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Shankar L. Waghmare, Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune 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, Gol) 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.

Convener of the Public Hearing Committee welcomed all and 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 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 hall and it was requested to wear a mask and follow the social distancing amongst the persons in the meeting hall.

Convener said that as per Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi's Notification no. 1533, dated 14th September, 2006 and as amended dated 1st December, 2009 and as well as letter from Department of Environment & Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai, Secondary/Minor Mineral (sand group) is included in B-1 category on 3-12-2019. Hence, for such projects, it is mandatory to get Environmental permission from the Government of Maharashtra, for which it is mandatory to conduct prior public hearing on environmental issues.

Shri Ajit Patil, Convener informed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has received an application from the Project Proponent District Mining Officer, District Collector's Office, District-Solapur, Maharashtra to hold an

Environmental Public Hearing on the proposed dredging of 03 nos of sand belt in Solapur district.

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 proposed project.

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur in the local newspaper in Daily Sanchar for Marathi on 13th March, 2022 and in national newspaper daily Indian Express for English on 12th March, 2022. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed unit.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summery 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 Collector Office, Solapur; Additional District Collector Office, Solapur; Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad Office, Solapur; General Manager, District Industries Centre Office, Solapur; District Mining Officer, District Mining Office, Solapur; Prant Officer/Sub Divisional Officer, Pandharpur; Tahsildar, Tahsil Office-Dakshin Solapur, Tal-Dakshin Solapur, Dist-Solapur; Tahsildar, Tahsil Office-Pandharpur, Tal- Pandharpur, Dist-Solapur; Tahsildar, Tahsil Office-Akkalkot, Tal- Akkalkot, Dist-Solapur; Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Dakshin Solapur, Dist – Solapur; Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Pandharpur, Dist – Solapur; Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Akkalkot Road, Dist – Solapur; Gram Sevak/Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Office-Mouje

Bhandarkavathe, Tal-Dakshin Solapur, Dist-Solapur; Gram Panchayat Office-Mouje Chale, Tal-Pandharpur, Dist-Solapur; Gram Panchayat Office-Mouje Khanapur, Tal-Akkalokot, Dist-Solapur; Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, New Administrative Building, Mantralaya, Mumbai; Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board; Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune; Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur; and on the website of MPCB. The public in general were appealed to send any suggestion or objection regarding the proposed 03 sand belts dredging project.

Convener informed that participants can raise their views, suggestions/objections for the proposed project in environmental angle only orally as well as in writing also. It will be noted minutes of the meeting. Also, the video recording of this meeting will be forwarded as it is to Govt. of Maharashtra.

Convener appealed all the participants to raise any suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only orally or in writing also after the presentation.

The **Environmental Consultant** of the Project Proponent while giving information about the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) informed that the respective Gram Panchayat Offices have issued No Objection Certificate for the excavation of these 03 sand groups and the dredging will be carried within the period fixed by the State Environment Committee. Similarly, excavation will not be carried during the monsoon period i.e. from 10th June to 30th September. The mining plan of this project has been approved by the Directorate of Geology and Mining, Nagpur.

After the Presentation, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed the participants to raise any suggestion or objection. While raising the question, the questioner should inform full name and address.

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

1) Shri Ajit Vasantao Patil, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee :-

Convener asked about the covering by tarpaulin sheets on the dumper/truck/tractor and said that when you will be transporting with the help of tarpaulin sheets covering, will you appoint a member of the gram panchayat to monitor it?

Environment Consultant answered at village level, there is Vigilance Committee (Dakshata Committee) as per the Rules. The Village Committee (Dakshata Committee) has been set up. Environment Consultant informed that the Committee keeps vigil on sand dredging and other activities.

Convener asked a sub-question; how many members are there in the vigilance committee?

Environmental Consultant replied that the Sarpanch of the village, Police Patil is a member. He further informed that in the Village Vigilance Committee, the Sarpanch of the gram panchayat is the Chairman, the Gram Sevak, Police Patil, Kotwal are the members, while the Village Talathi is the Member Secretary.

Convener said that he is satisfied with the answer. He appealed to the participants to raise any suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project.

**2) Shri Shivanand Vitthal Devangaon,
Sarpanch, Khanapur Grampanchayat, Dist – Solapur :-**

Shri Shivanand Devangaon while raising objections informed that Sand auction has been held in 2015, 2016 and 2017 in Gram Panchayat limits. As per the rules, 60% of the total revenue should be provided to the Gram Panchayat. It is not yet available to the Gram Panchayat.

Convener instructed the representative of District Mining Office, Solapur to give an explanation.

Representative, District Mining Office, Solapur said that funds are provided by the District Mining Establishment Committee. It is 10%. This issue will be taken up in the next meeting of the District Mining Office and District Khanij Pratishtan. When the Convener of the meeting inquired about the District Khanij Pratishtan /District Mining Establishment Committee, the representative, District Mining Office, Solapur said that the Chairman of the District Khanij Pratishtan (District Mining Establishment Committee) is the District Collector and the Member Secretary of the establishment is the District Mining Officer. The MLAs and MPs of the district are the members.

**3) Shri Dayanand Vitthal Khoban, Gram Vikas Adhikari, Khanapur,
Dist -Solapur :-**

Shri Khoban informed that in 2016-17, the sand dredging/mining was carried from Bhima river basin within the limits of Khanapur Gram Panchayat. The sand from the river basin between Khanapur and the adjoining village Ankali was auctioned for Rs 18.5 crore. Both the Gram Panchayats (Khanapur and Ankali) had to get development funds from that auction.

Shri Khoban further said that the 5.0 k.m. road from Tadwal to Khanapur has been completely damaged due to the traffic during sand dredging at that time. When the Convener asked about the ownership of the road, Shri Khoban said that the ownership of the road is with the Zilla Parishad. Khanapur does not have a secondary school. So, the road is used by school, college students by bicycle or on foot. Similarly, the transport that takes place while excavating sand is over-loading. Truck drivers do not follow any traffic rules. The women of the village go down that street to wash their clothes. Therefore, the lives of school children and villagers are in danger. All the sand is stolen and drained. Similarly, sand is transported at night.

Shri Khoban further demanded that there is a well for our drinking water supply in the river basin. Hence, sand should not be excavated near the well.

Convener also directed the representative, District Mining Department, Solapur to take special note of the fact that there are drinking water supply wells in the river basin, but sand should not be excavated near the wells.

Shri Khoban further objected that the Khanapur, Ankali Gram Sabha has passed a resolution three times seeking development funds. However, further action should be taken immediately.

Convener said in the meeting that all the above four points have been noted. However, since the public hearing is related to the environment, it is to inform the local people about the proposed impact on the local environment due to the proposed sand mining project and the measures to be taken for it.

Convener appealed all the participants to raise their suggestions, objections if any.

4) Shri Abu Suphiyan Shaikh, Resident – Solapur, Dist – Solapur :-

He informed that he supports the project.

5) Shri Amar Jadhav, Resident-Solapur,Dist-Solapur

This project is beneficial for getting new employment opportunities. It is also beneficial for the development of the district. Constructions that have been halted will be resumed as they have received sand.

Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all the participants to raise any suggestion or objections regarding the proposed project. There was no response from the participants.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed all that all the suggestions and suggestions have been noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. He directed Environment Consultant to prepare Modified/Final Environment Management Plan and requested Hon. Chairperson to conclude the meeting.

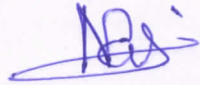
Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee while reviewing all the points raised during the meeting said that this public hearing is arranged about the possible environmental impact of the sand dredging project. Here many local people have raised their difficulties. The subjects such as sand excavation near drinking water supply wells in the river basin and non-availability of village development funds. These issues may be in another villages where sand mining is permitted. Chairperson have directed District Mining Officer to note of these points and do the needful.

Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the District Administration would take serious view regarding the excavation

and transportation of sand at night and sand theft and after thanking all the participants, she declared that the meeting is concluded.

The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

The written suggestions/objections received are nil.



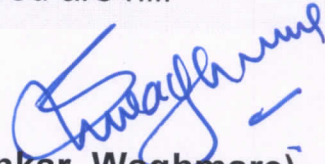
(Ajit Patil)

Convener

Environment Public Hearing
Committee

And

Sub Regional Officer
MPCB, Solapur



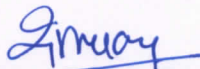
(Shankar Waghmare)

Member

Environment Public Hearing
Committee

And

Regional Officer
MPCB, Solapur



(Shama Pawar)

Chairperson

Environment Public Hearing Committee

And

Regional Officer
MPCB, Pune