

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED 21 SAND BELTS IN AURANGABAD DISTRICT IN PHULAMBRI (VADOD KH & SHEVTA KH, NIMKHEDA), PAITHAN (NANDAR BHAG-1, NANDAR BHAG-2, NANDAR BHAG-3, NAVGAON BHAG-2, BRAHMGAEON), SILLOD (KOTNANDRA, BORGAON KASARI, SAVKHEDA BK, DHANORA), VAIJAPUR (MANDKI, ZOLEGAON, NAGAMTHAN, LAKHANI, PURANGAON, BHALGAON, LASURGAON, AVALGAON, WANJARGAON) & KANNAD (DEVLI) TEHSILS PROPOSED BY M/S. DISTRICT MINING OFFICER, COLLECTOR OFFICE, AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA CONDUCTED ON 30/11/2022 AT 11.00 A.M. AT COLLECTOR OFFICE, AURANGABAD, DIST: AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA.

The Environmental Public Hearing in respect of Proposed 21 Nos. of Sand Belts in Aurangabad District in Phulambri (Vadod Kh & Shevta Kh, Nimkheda), Paithan (Nandar Bhag-1, Nandar Bhag-2, Nandar Bhag-3, Navgaon Bhag-2, Brahmgaon), Sillod (Kotnandra, Borgaon Kasari, Savkheda Bk, Dhanora), Vaijapur (Mandki, Zolegaon, Nagamthan, Lakhani, Purangaon, Bhalgaon, Lasurgaon, Avalgaon, Wanjargaon) & Kannad (Devli) Tehsils proposed by M/s. District Mining Officer, Collector Office, Aurangabad, Maharashtra was conducted on 30/11/2022 at 11.00 a.m. at Collector Office, Aurangabad, Dist: Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

Following Panel members were present during the public hearing :

1. **Dr. Anant Gavhane,**
Additional District Collector, Aurangabad,
Dist: Aurangabad. Chairman.
2. **Shri Sushilkumar Rathod,**
Sub-Regional Officer,
MPCB, Aurangabad. Convener.

A list of members and public participants present for Public Hearing is annexed herewith. All those present were welcomed by **Shri Sushilkumar Rathod**, Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Aurangabad & Convener of Environmental Public Hearing Panel and started the proceedings of Environmental Public Hearing with the permission of the Additional District Collector, Aurangabad & Chairman of said Environmental Public Hearing Panel. He briefed about the purpose of Environmental Public Hearing in respect of proposal of Proposed 21 Nos. of Sand Belts in Aurangabad District particularly in Phulambri (Vadod Kh & Shevta Kh, Nimkheda), Paithan (Nandar Bhag-1, Nandar Bhag-2, Nandar Bhag-3, Navgaon Bhag-2, Brahmgaon), Sillod (Kotnandra, Borgaon Kasari, Savkheda Bk, Dhanora), Vaijapur (Mandki, Zolegaon, Nagamthan, Lakhani, Purangaon, Bhalgaon, Lasurgaon, Avalgaon, Wanjargaon) & Kannad (Devli) Tehsils and stated that as per the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India Notification No. S.O. 1533 dated 14th September, 2006 and amended Notification No. S.O. 3067 (E) dated 01/12/2009, it is necessary

to obtain the Environmental Clearance from the Department of Environment & Climate Change, Maharashtra for the proposal of Sand Belts and as part of it, it is mandatory to conduct the Environmental Public Hearing for the said Sand Belts.

He stated that the application for conducting the Environmental Public Hearing in respect of the proposal of **Proposed 21 Sand Belts/Ghat** in five Tehsils in Aurangabad district is received to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board on 25th October, 2022, accordingly, a public notice had been published in the newspapers Daily Sakal (Marathi) and Daily The Times of India (English) dated 30th October, 2022 and today's Environmental Public Hearing has been organized on 30th November, 2022 at 11.00 a.m. at the Collector Office, Aurangabad and the copies of Environment Management Plan and Executive Summary (Marathi & English) of said project were placed at the concerned 21 Grampanchayat Offices in the area in various Tehsils in Aurangabad district viz. Grampanchayat Office, Vadod Kh, Shevta Kh, Nimkheda in Phulambri Tehsil, Nandar Bhag-1, Nandar Bhag-2, Nandar Bhag-3, Navgaon Bhag-2, Brahmgaon in Paithan Tehsil, Kotnandra, Borgaon Kasari, Savkheda Bk, Dhanora in Sillod Tehsil, Mandki, Zolegaon, Nagamthan, Lakhani, Purangaon, Bhalgaon, Lasurgaon, Avalgaon, Wanjargaon in Vaijapur Tehsil and Devli in Kannad Tehsil likewise other Government Offices viz. Collector Office, Aurangabad, District Mining Officer, Aurangabad, District Industries Centre, Aurangabad, Zilla Parishad Office, Aurangabad, Tehsildar, Tehsil Office, Phulambri, Paithan, Sillod, Vaijapur & Kannad, Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Phulambri, Paithan, Sillod, Vaijapur & Kannad, Regional Office and Sub-Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Aurangabad, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (Head Quarters), Sion, Mumbai, Environment Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai and Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Nagpur for study of the citizens and citizens were requested for recording their environmental suggestions, thoughts, notes as well as objections, etc. regarding said project at Sub-Regional Office, M.P.C. Board, Aurangabad within 30 days from the publication of advertisement, accordingly, the Sub-Regional Office, M.P.C. Board, Aurangabad has not received any suggestion/objection/complaint in respect of above proposed project till today. He requested the public participants that if anybody would like to express certain environmental suggestions, thoughts, notes, objections, etc. regarding said project, same can be recorded during the today's public hearing of said project, here also orally or in writing and the questions may be asked related with the environment only. The Project Proponent will answer the questions/clear the doubts and the same will be recorded after proper guidance and by satisfying the doubts by the Project Proponent upon it and the said things will be recorded in the minutes; and the video recording of said public hearing is being carried out and it will be submitted as it is to the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi for further necessary action. And after that, with the permission of the Chairman of Environment Public Hearing Panel, he requested the Project Representative to start the presentation in detail regarding the proposed project.

Thereafter, **Shri Ashish Shukla**, the Project Consultant (Environment Consultant M/s. Enviro Techno Consultant Private Limited, Nagpur) on behalf of the Project Proponent, M/s. District Mining Officer, Collector Office, Aurangabad started the power point presentation of the proposed project including the details of project, environmental pollution, plans, devices, control measures to be taken thereof and briefed the details of proposed 21 Sand Belts/Ghat as below :

Sr.No.	Name of Tehsil	Name of Village	Name of River	Available Sand (in Brass)
1	Phulambri	Vadod Kh & Shevta Kh	Girja	7067
2	Phulambri	Nimkheda	Girja	9541
3	Paithan	Nandar Bhag-1	Virbhadr	3975
4	Paithan	Nandar Bhag-2	Virbhadr	3816
5	Paithan	Nandar Bhag-3	Virbhadr	3710
6	Paithan	Navgaon Bhag-2	Virbhadr	8038
7	Paithan	Brahmgaon	Virbhadr	4053
8	Sillod	Kotnandra	Purna	5830
9	Sillod	Borgaon Kasari	Purna	3534
10	Sillod	Savkheda Bk	Purna	1837
11	Sillod	Dhanora	Purna	5088
12	Vaijapur	Mandki	Shivna	4417
13	Vaijapur	Zolegaon	Shivna	3975
14	Vaijapur	Nagamthan	Godavari	12326
15	Vaijapur	Lakhani	Shivna	5194
16	Vaijapur	Purangaon	Godavari	10600
17	Vaijapur	Bhalgaon	Godavari	3710
18	Vaijapur	Lasurgaon	Shivna	3710
19	Vaijapur	Avalgaon	Godavari	3998
20	Vaijapur	Wanjargaon	Godavari	12367
21	Kannad	Devli	Shivna	3657

He stated that the District Collector, Aurangabad has proposed 21 Sand Ghat for mining as per the Sand Mining Guidelines dated 03/09/2019 and 28.01/2022 and appointed the District Mining Officer, Aurangabad as a Project Proponent for obtaining various clearances. The mining of said 21 Sand Ghat is proposed by open cast method with the help of ghamele, spade at Taluka level through the Taluka Technical Committee headed by the Tahsildar. He further stated that for the permissions required for said Sand Ghat, the District Mining Officer, Aurangabad has been appointed as a Project Proponent, the project is new, proposed for Sand Ghat and the mineral of mining is sand, the representatives from Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Geologist, Water Conservation Department are included in the Taluka Technical Committee headed by the Tahsildar for the same, permissions for all the Sand Ghat are received from Grampanchayat as per Sand Mining Guidelines, the Sand Ghat will be available for auction and sand mining for maximum period of one year excluding the monsoon period from 10th June to 30th September, the mining lay-out plan (*Khankam Arakhada*) is approved by the Geology & Mining Directorate, Nagpur as per letter No. STC/446/2020-21/4172 dated 10th November, 2022, the District Survey Report Draft-1 is published on District Website on 7th October, 2021 and a publicity notice is published in the newspaper Daily Lokmat dated 8th October, 2021 as well as the District Survey Report (Draft – Sand Amendment 2022-23) has been re-published on 01/11/2022 for recording the suggestions, objections; and permissions for the proposed 21 Sand Ghat are received, the Environmental Public Hearing has been organized for Environmental Clearance.

He briefed about the proposed Mining Method and stated that the sand mining is proposed manually through *topale*, spade with the help of labour, soil excavation shall not be done, transportation of lifted sand is proposed through tractor, no any heavy and mechanical machinery shall be used except tractor, it is not proposed to cut any tree during the sand lifting and sand transportation, no any sand ghat is proposed in the River Prohibited Area as per the judgements of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and it can be proposed to provide special colour to the sand transporting tractor trolley. The machineries proposed under the project are tractor having one Brass capacity and grader/truck per Ghat for water sprinkling on the road.

He briefed about the **Proposed Environment Management Plan** and stated as follows :

Air Pollution : The air pollution sources are Transport Road/Sand Transportation Road, Movement of Truck/Tractor, Sand Ghat & Sand Ghat Road and River Bank Management ,

Transport Road/Sand Transportation Road : The anticipated impact due transport road/sand transportation road is on air quality/land//road strengthening/road degradation and the control measures to be taken thereof are to strengthen and maintain the vehicle road, transportation of mineral in the tractor as per permission capacity and to monitor the air quality during the period of mining.

Truck/Tractor Movement : The anticipated impact due to truck/tractor movement is on air quality and the control measures to be taken thereof are, not to fill up the mineral in the tractor more than the permissible capacity, to cover the sand transporting tractor trolley with tarpaulin during transportation, to provide speed controller to the vehicles and to shut down the engine while filling the sand in the tractor at sand ghat.

Sand Ghat & Sand Ghat Road : The anticipated impact due to sand ghat and sand ghat road is on mining process and the control measures proposed for the same are, regular repairing and maintenance of sand ghat road, to provide dust masks to the workers and to carry out the mining and sand transportation during the day time.

River Bank Management : The control measures like to plant trees at the bank of river and to cultivate greenery/grass at the river bank are proposed towards river bank erosion & flood line management.

Occupational Health & Service Plan : The anticipated impact due to Occupational Health & Service is on safety of workers and mining for which the control measures proposed are, to create environment friendly and safety environment for the workers and measures for the implementation of the same will be taken by the approved Tender Holder/Contractor, to provide personal protection equipment (PPE) as well as training to the workers and to provide first aid, potable water and temporary shelter facility are also proposed.

Noise Pollution :The control measures like to provide ear muffs to the workers, to prohibit any noise polluting machine except tractor/truck, to keep the tractor engine switch off while filling the sand at sand Ghat, to carry out the health check-up of the workers and to provide personal

protection equipment to the workers and guests, etc. are proposed for the control of noise pollution.

Transportation Management : The measures proposed for the transportation management are, to register the mineral carrying vehicle with the Forest and Revenue Department and it will be mandatory for every such vehicle to have a Pollution Control Certificate, all such vehicles will be certified under the high quality maintenance through norms regarding noise emission and dust/other emissions, all Drivers of such vehicles will follow the traffic rules and speed of all such vehicles will be controlled, transportation of mineral will not be allowed more than the capacity, to cover the mineral of mineral carrying vehicle with tarpaulin and to transport the sand in co-ordination with the other Sand Contractors so as not to hamper the transport.

Plantation Plan : To plant the local trees like *Neem*, *Pimpal*, *Karanj*, *Gulmohar*, etc. at the river bank & and at the vehicle road during the monsoon period (10th June to 30th September) is proposed and it is also proposed to implement the Environment Management Plan by the approved Tender Holder/Sand Contractor as per the Management Estimates. The approved Tender Holder/Sand Contractor will submit the compliance report of said Environment Management Plan implementation to the District Mining Officer, concerned Tahsildar and the District Mining Officer/concerned Tahsildar will ensure from time to time regarding the implementation of Environment Management Plan and will submit the report as suggested as per the Sand Mining Guidelines to the Committee headed by the District Collector.

He showed a list of proposed 21 Sand Ghat and details of estimated cost towards Environment Management Plan and stated that in this way, the Environment Management Plan will be implemented and then concluded the power point presentation of said project.

Thereafter, **Dr. Anant Gavhane**, the Additional District Collector, Aurangabad & Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Panel requested the public participants that if anybody is having any question, thought, views, objection etc. regarding the said project, same may be asked.

During the course of public hearing, the public participants and panel members asked certain questions related to the said project and answered the same by the Pamel Members/Project Proponent are as below :

- (1) **Shri J.J. Ahirrao**, the Gram Vistar Adhikari, Grampanchayat, Deogaon (Rangari), Tq. Kannad, Dist: Aurangabad stated that tractor shall be used for sand mining as per rule, but actually, we see that heavy machines are used for the same, then what steps shall have to be taken by the Grampanchayat? Upon which **Dr. Gavhane** stated that it shall be brought to the notice of concerned Tahsildar/District Administration and suppose, if anybody is going to operate JCB etc., then, do not allow for the same. He further stated that suppose, the Sand Ghat which are not proposed and in our district 21 Sand Ghat are proposed, but the river bed is too big in which there are no Sand Ghat at number of places from where also the people steal sand, so the responsibility of vigilance shall be taken by the Grampanchayat. He pointed out that there is also a Gram Dakshata Samiti under the Chairmanship of Sarpanch and suggested that a meeting of said committee shall be

conducted every fifteen days, and if illegal sand mining is observed or if violation of the conditions briefed here is observed the information of the same shall be given to the concerned Tahsildar and District Collector in writing as its record shall be maintained, suppose, while submitting the complaint to the Tahsildar, the Grampanchayat shall tell orally and simultaneously, a letter shall be given and receipt of the same shall be taken and if any wrong thing is done, it will not be hidden, because nowadays, there is a camera in mobile phone of everybody. **Shri Ahirrao** asked whether the photography of the activities not following the rules carried out and shown to the Tahsildar will be considered as authorized proof, **Dr. Gavhane** asked to clarify the said question, upon which **Shri Janardhan Kakade**, a resident of village Zolegaon, Tq. Vaijapur, Dist: Aurangabad asked whether a video prepared will be considered as authorized proof, upon which **Dr. Gavhane** stated that yes, but there shall be location of that place, vehicle Number, etc. in such proof, so that it is easy to trace out, He further stated that Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has issued judgements in the matter. Whatever the loss to be occurred to the environment will be the loss of the village and therefore a committee of the villagers is in the Government Resolution, the committee shall give proper attention in this regard and see that the compliance of all the condition is done. **Shri Sushilkumar Rathod** requested the citizens to tell their own name and village name before asking the questions. **Shri Ahirrao** asked that how many ft. of depth is required for sand mining, **Shri Kishor Ghodake**, the District Mining Officer, Aurangabad (Project Proponent) stated that as per the survey, the depth of every sand ghat is different in every Grampanchayat area, upon which **Dr. Gavhane** asked him to tell about maximum depth, upon which **Shri Kishor Ghodake/Project Proponent** stated that the total depth of sand ghat in Devli is 3 mtr. whereas approved depth for sand mining is 1 mtr.

- (2) **Shri Janardan Kakade**, a resident of village Zolegaon, Tq. Vaijapur, Dist: Aurangabad stated that their Sand Ghat shall be considered for the Government work only and not to give the private contractor because last time, the auction was conducted for 6800 Brass of sand and sand mining is carried out for more than 30000 Brass and they have given number of applications as well as complaints in this regard, but nothing has happened, Hence he requested to give their Sand Ghat for the Government work at this time because the Government works of cement weir are approved in their area, upon which **Dr. Gavhane** stated that whenever there is demand for Government work from the Government agency at that time sand ghat is proposed and if any ghat is kept for Government work and if there is no need to lift the total sand from such ghat, it causes revenue loss without any reason, but **Shri Kakade** told that five cement weir are approved in their area including Bhokargaon, which falls under their area, upon which **Dr. Gavhane** stated that the proposal for sand ghat shall be from the Government Department, which will carry the construction and it is not expected from **Shri Kakade**, but as a suggestion, it is right and if the proposal received from Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samittee, Water Conservation Department, etc. for such work, the District Collector will consider the same.
- (3) **Shri J.J. Ahirrao**, the Village Development Officer, Grampanchayat, Deogaon (Rangari), Tq. Kannad, Dist: Aurangabad wanted to know about share of the Grampanchayat in the amount of sand auction, upon which **Shri Kishor Ghodak Project**

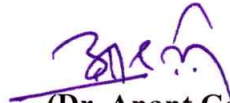
Proponent stated that the share of Grampanchayat in the amount of sand auction will be 10% of the cost of sand auction and said amount can be utilized for development work, environment friendly work as per Government Resolution, **Dr. Gavhane** also suggested him to refer the said Government Resolution (GR) for development works. After asking by Shri Ahirrao about not receiving of amount to their Grampanchayat of the previous auctions, **Dr. Gavhane** stated that it will be received and the Government ensures that the amount of the share is disbursed.

After observing that the questions of all the public participants are finised, **Shri Sushilkumar Rathod** requested **Dr. Rajesh Auti** for vote of thanks. After that, **Dr. Rajesh Auti**, Field Officer, MPCB, Aurangabad with the permission of the Chairman of Public Hearing Panel stated vote of thanks to all the public participants and ended public hearing with vote of thanks to the Chair.

The District Mining Officer, Collector Office, Aurangabad vide letter dated 30/11/2022 informed that Shri Rambhau Uttam Choudhari, Sarpanch, Group Grampanchayat, Lakhani/Jambkheda Tq. Vaijapur, Dist: Aurangabad has submitted his objection application regarding not conducting the auction of Sand Ghat at Mouze Lakhani, Tq. Viajapur to the District Mining Office, Aurangabad on 30/11/2022 after completion of the public hearing of Sand Ghat as he got delayed to appear for the public hearing and sent a copy of said objection application to the Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Aurangabad for recording it into the Minutes of Public Hearing. A copy of said letter dated 30/11/2022 along with objection application (with enclosures) of Shri Rambhau Uttam Choudhari, Sarpanch, Group Grampanchayat, Lakhani/Jambkheda, Tq. Vaijapur, Dist: Aurangabad is enclosed herewith.



(Sushilkumar Rathod)
Sub-Regional Officer,
MPCB, Aurangabad & Convener of
Environmental Public Hearing Panel



(Dr. Anant Gavhane)
Additional District Collector,
Aurangabad & Chairman of
Environmental Public Hearing Panel