

**Minutes of Public Hearing Panel in respect of proposed 37 nos. of Sand Mining Projects in the Akola District proposed by District Mining Officer, Collector Office, Akola Maharashtra dtd. 02/01/2023 at 15.00 hrs., at Niyojan Bhavan, Collector Office, Akola**

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The District Mining Officer, Mining Department, Collector Office Akola has submitted the application for conducting Environmental Public Hearing for obtaining Environmental Clearance in respect of 37 sand ghats in Akola District. The said Public Hearing has been conducted as per the provisions made in the notification dtd. 14/09/2006 issued by Ministry of Environment and Forest (Climate Change). Accordingly, the Public Hearing in respect of the sand mining projects has been conducted on 02/01/2023 at 15.00 hrs. at Niyojan Bhavan, District Collector Office, Akola. The Hon'ble Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has issued Office Order No. E-101 of 2022 vide letter no. BO/JD(WPC)/PH/B-221213-FTS-0150, dtd. 13/12/2022 of constitution of Environmental Public Hearing Committee to conduct the said Public Hearing.

The following members of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee were present for the Public Hearing.

1. Hon'ble Neema Arora, District Magistrate, Akola – Chairperson.
2. Shri R.A. Rajput, Regional Officer, MPCB, Amravati – Member.
3. Shri Manish Holkar, Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Akola – Convenor.

The public notice for conducting the Environmental Public Hearing has been published in Daily "Lokmat" (Marathi) and Daily "Hitwada" (English) on 03/12/2022. Accordingly the Environmental Public Hearing has been conducted on 02/01/2023 at 15.00 hrs. at Niyojan Bhavan, Collector Office, Akola.

The Public Hearing was started with due permission of Hon'ble Chairperson. Shri S.D. Patil, Sub Regional Officer, Amravati welcomed the participants present in the Public Hearing. He further briefed about the requirement of conducting Environmental Public Hearing of the said project. He further stated that the District Mining Officer, Akola has submitted Environment Management Plan, Executive Summary (English & Marathi) in respect of 37 sand ghats in Akola District. The said documents were made available at following offices for the people residing in the project area / environmental groups in order to obtain suggestion / objections, if any, from the concerned.

1. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalptaru Point, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> floor, in front of cineplanet theatre, near Sion Circle (East), Mumbai-400022.
2. Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sahakar Surabhi, Near Vivekanand Colony, Bapatwadi, Amravati-444606.

3. Sub-Regional Office Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Hutatma Chowk, Near Neharu Park, Akola.
4. Collector Office, Akola.
5. Zilla Parishad, Akola.
6. District Industry Centre, Akola.
7. All the Sub-Divisional Officer (revenue), Dist. Akola.
8. All the Tahasil Offices, District, Akola.
9. All the concerned Gram Panchayat Offices, Dist. Akola.

With the permission of Chair Shri S.D. Patil, Sub-Regional Officer, Amravati and member of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee briefed about the procedure of Public Hearing and requested the Project Proponent to give the presentation regarding sand ghat projects.

The representative from Enviro Techno Consultant Pvt. Ltd., Nagpur (Environmental Consultant of the Project Proponent) had given the presentation regarding sand ghat projects.

Shri S.D. Patil, Sub-Regional Officer, Amravati stated that the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has not received any objection/suggestions in respect of the sand ghats. He appealed the participants to raise their suggestions /objections.

Shri Amit Kalkar, Akola, informed that last year the auction had been carried out for those sand ghats where shallow water was present. Due to shallow water at sand ghats, the sand mining could not be carried out. Such sand ghats shall not be included in the auction in this year.

Hon'ble Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee brought to the notice that presently those sand ghats have been included where the water level will not increase.

Shri Nilesh Bhagat, Akola, brought to the notice that the incidences of theft of the maximum sand from sand ghats located at village Nimba circle has been noticed. He further asked that what precautionary measures will be taken to prevent such illegal mining. He further stated that the G.P.S. system has not been provided to the tractors carrying sand from sand ghat.

Hon'ble Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee stated that the revenue department has appointed flying squad to restrict illegal mining activity. The improvement in this respect will be carried out as per the new guidelines issued. Hon'ble Chairperson further told that after receipt of suggestion necessary action will be taken in this regard.

Shri Kalkar told that last year after 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022, there was no any control of respective govt. agency over illegal mining. He further brought to the notice that

apart from Akola city the use of illegally mined sand is rampant in the district thereby affecting the legal business.

Hon'ble Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee stated that the illegal sand mining activity will be monitored thoroughly to boost legal sand mining activity.

Shri Balkrushna Divate told that previously even before commencement of auction process of sand ghats at village Lohara – Nimbha, the sand was mined illegally. Therefore, they are facing the loss in the business.

Hon'ble Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee stated that henceforth Talathi or Kotwal will be deployed to curb illegal mining at every sand ghat and daily report will be called regarding the available sand stock. Hon'ble Chairperson further gave instructions to the District Mining Officer to pass the order accordingly and fees will be charged only as per actual sand stock available in the sand ghats.

Shri Hariram Gawande stated that the auction of sand ghat shall be started immediately so that enough time is given for sand mining activity. He also stated that permission should be extended till the month of December, 2023 for sand mining.

Hon'ble Chairperson stated that the auction of sand ghats will be started as early as possible by following the due procedure and within time limit and it will also be recommended to the GoM to continue the sand mining till the month of December.

With the permission of Hon'ble Chairperson the Public Hearing concluded with vote of thanks.



(Manish Holkar)  
Convenor

&

Sub-Regional Officer,  
MPC Board Akola



( R.A. Rajput )  
Member

&

Regional Officer,  
MPC Board Amravati



(Neema Arora)  
Chairperson

Public Hearing Committee  
&

District Magistrate  
Collector Office, Akola.