

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED PROJECT OF INSTALLATION OF 2X40T INDUCTION FURNACE FOR PRODUCTION OF 3,96,000 TPA, MS BILLETS & ROLLING MILL FOR 3,88,080 TPA, TMT BARS BY HOT ROLLED PROCESS & 1,06,920 TPA BY REHEATING FURNACE PROJECT LOCATED PLOT NO. A-8 & A-13, ADDITIONAL MIDC, PHASE-III, JALNA, TAL. & DIST. JALNA BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S. VED STEELS & ALLOYS PRIVATE LIMITED, PLOT NO. A-8 & A-13, ADDITIONAL MIDC, PHASE-III, JALNA, TAL. & DIST. JALNA, MAHARASHTRA.

The Environment Public Hearing Meeting for the proposed project of installation of 2x40T Induction furnace for production of 3,96,000 TPA, MS Billets & Rolling Mill for 3,88,080 TPA, TMT Bars by Hot rolled process & 1,06,920 TPA by Reheating furnace project located at. Plot No. A-8 & A-13, Additional MIDC, Phase-III, Jalna, Tal. & Dist. Jalna by project proponent M/s. Ved Steels & Alloys Private Limited, Plot No. A-8 & A-13, Additional MIDC, Phase-III, Jalna, Tal. & Dist. Jalna, Maharashtra was conducted on 23-05-2023 at 11.00 am at the project site.

As per Board's Office Order No. E- 28 of 2023 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B - 230426- FTS- 0017 dated 26-04-2023. Panel for Public Hearing was formed. Following Panel members were present during the public hearing:

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1. **Shri. Keshav Netake,**
Additional District Magistrate, Jalna,
Dist: Jalna. : Chairman.

2. **Shri. S.M. Kurmude,**
Sub-Regional Officer,
M.P.C. Board, Jalna. : Convener.

Shri. S. M. Kurmude, Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Jalna and Convener of Environment Public hearing welcome the Hon'ble Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel, officials, and public present for the hearing and with the permission of the Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee he gave information in brief about Public Hearing.

Shri. S. M. Kurmude, informed that, as per the EIA Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEFCC, GoI) dated 14th September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public hearing to certain projects which are covered in the Schedule of the said Notification and this unit comes under the purview of this Notification. The Project Proponent has submitted an application to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board on 17-04-2023. He also further said that the plot of the proposed project was taken from resale in which four sheds were constructed at the time of purchase and BCC was taken from MIDC. The public hearing was scheduled on 23-05-2023 time 11.00 a.m. with approval of Hon'ble District Collector Jalna. Accordingly notice was published in Daily Times of India (English) & Daily Sakal (Marathi) on dated 20-04-2023. Also the documents pertaining to the summary of the Environmental Assessment Report on the

project (in English and Marathi) was made available for study to the interested public in the respective Gram Panchayat offices and other government offices. Accordingly, today's public hearing is being held. A copy of EIA report and executive summary was made available at various Govt. offices as under-

- 1) District Collector, Jalna.
- 2) Zilha Parishad, Jalna.
- 3) District Industries Centre, Jalna.
- 4) Municipal Council, Jalna.
- 5) Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation Office, Jalna.
- 6) Grampanchayat Office, Khadgaon, Davalwadi, Ghanewadi, Javasaon, Tq. & Dist. Jalna.
- 7) Sub-Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Jalna.
- 8) Regional Officer, Maharashtra MPCB, Plot No. A-4/1, MIDC Chikalhana Aurangabad.
- 9) Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 2nd,3rd & 4th Floor, Sion Matunga Scheme Road No. 8, Sion (E), Mumbai - 400 022.
- 10) Environment Department, Government of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai-32.
- 11) Regional Office, Ministry Environment, Forest & Climate Change, (WCZ), Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur.

Further he clarified that, Board had given 30 days period for submission of any suggestions/Objections/views etc about the project as per the notifications and Sub-Regional Office, M.P.C. Board Jalna has received 4 nos of objections/Suggestions as below-

1. Mrs. Vatsalabai Jadhav, Sarpanch, Dawalwadi.
2. All villagers of Dawalwadi.
3. Mr. Rangarao Kothakonda, Savearth, Telangana.
4. K. Shridevi, Welfier People Foundation.

Also he informed to the public that, participants can raise their objections, comments etc. in oral or written during the Public Hearing. After that Shri. S. M. Kurmude requested the project consultant to give presentation about the proposed project.

The Representative Dr. Pradeep Pipalatkhar of M/s. Pollution & Ecology Services Ltd., Nagpur has given information in brief along with presentation on various environmental aspects i.e. Environment Impact Assessment and intention behind arranging the Public Hearing, Details about the Project, Project Plan, Environment Status, Details of local Environment and surrounding environment information, Locations of the study area, Air quality in the study area, Noise levels in the study area, Water quality in the study area, Soil quality in the study area, Bio-diversity, Socio-Economic Environment, Expected impact on the surrounding area, Environment Management Plan, Remedial measures on the various environmental impacts, Social Economic Development Plan, Budgetary provisions for environmental management, Net gain from the project etc. The information on the above is recorded in the CD and taken notes in brief in the minutes of the public hearing.

After concluding the power point presentation of said project by the Project Consultant, Shri. S.M. Kurmude, requested the public participants that if anybody would like to express any suggestions, notes, thoughts, questions, etc. related with the said project same may be asked by telling their name and village name.

After that, following suggestions, notes, thoughts, questions, etc were raised and reply to the same was given by project consultant/proponent.

Sr. No.	Name and address of the person along with suggestions, views, comments etc.,	Reply given by project proponent / Consultant
1.	Shri. Bhimrao Mhaske, village Mandwa, said that, whether local people will get employment here.	Dr. Pradeep Pipalatkhar, Project Consultant, replied that, in this project villagers in the radius of 10 km will be given priority for employment and the young generation will be given opportunities.
2.	Shri. S. M. Kurmude, Sub Regional Officer, MPC Board, Jalna said that, project consultant shall clarify about the capital expenditure shown in the presentation for air pollution control is very low and should be more than this.	Shri. D. B. Soni, Project Proponent said that, capital expenditure is expected to be higher than what has been shown this will be rectified and it is planned to install new technology for air pollution control systems which comprises of Primary & secondary fume extraction system followed by bag filers & chimney.
3.	Shri. Padmakar Hazare, Sub Regional Officer, MPC Board, Aurangabad asked that, how much and how you are going to use the approved CSR funds in the project.	Shri. D. B. Soni, Project Proponent said that, the CSR fund is utilized after about five years after the company will be in net profit, CSR funds will be made available as per the direction of the District Collector.
4.	Shri. Arjun Wahule, village Jamwadi, asked that, whether the new project would provide employment for women and whether there would be facilities for them. And what measures have been taken for the waste water that will be generated from the project.	<p>Dr. Ritesh A. Agarwal, Project proponent said that, the project will provide employment to the women with easy work wherever possible, mainly it is planned to provide employment at the office itself.</p> <p>About waste water, he said that, a sewage treatment plant will be set up in this project and this water will be used for plantations in the factory premises, so no sewage will be released outside the factory premises.</p>
5.	Shri. Sunil Hiwale, Jalna asked that, what measures have been taken to prevent air and noise pollution in this project.	Dr. Pradeep Pipalatkhar, Project Consultant, replied that, unit has proposed to provide advanced air pollution control systems which comprises of Primary & secondary fume extraction system followed by bag filers & chimney. Also updated systems with new technology will be installed for noise pollution. Workers will be provided with personal protective equipment like ear plugs etc. Additional facilities will be provided and extra care will be taken to prevent noise pollution inside the factory.

6.	<p>Shri. Vikas Kharat, village Mandva, asked that, What measures will be taken by the project for development of surrounding area.</p>	<p>Dr. Pradeep Pipalatkhar, Project Consultant, replied that, the company's CSR fund will be spent for the development of the surrounding area and the villagers should coordinate with the company's representative and inform them where the development works are to be done. It will be made available with the guidance of District Collector.</p> <p>On that, Dr. Ritesh A. Agarwal, Project proponent said that, under the chairmanship of Hon'ble District Collector Jalna meeting was held and it was been decided to carry out the deselting of Ghanewadi Lake the work will be completed soon. Also the work of tree plantation will be carried out by the company and for this company has already purchased the trees. Also a total 1000 nos. of trees have been planted at the nearby Parsi Tekadi. Also the residents of the surrounding villages will get employment here, which will definitely help in the development of the area. Also, he further said that if there are any development works, they will try to do them after meeting with the Sarpanch of the village.</p>
7.	<p>Shri. Kishor Kabara, Jalna, he asked that, What measures will be taken by the project for development of surrounding area.</p>	<p>Shri. S. M. Kurmude, this question has already been answered.</p>
8.	<p>Prof. H.M. Desarda, Jalna given the written presentation and also he had given brief speech in the opposition of the project.</p> <p>He raised objection about the project consultant who has prepared the EIA report of the project such as the credibility of his report, his educational qualification, the permissions received by him from the government and asked to give detailed information about the report. He also suggested that, he is not objecting the project but he expressed his concern that the environment and health should not be affected and asked him to give detailed information about the report.</p> <p>Also he suggested that, there should be state level officials in the said committee. Following highlighted points were given writing and also express</p>	<p>Dr. Pradeep Pipalatkhar, Project Consultant, replied that, about his educational qualification, and said that he is a Ph.D in Environment Science and has 3 to 4 years of experience in this field. And his agency is aggregated consultant form MoEF. Also he has already presented the report and once again gave brief information about the project and EIA.</p> <p>Also, the consultant of the project submitted that advanced air pollution control system will be provided in the proposed project including primary and secondary fume extraction system comprising of hood, ID fan, bag filter and chimney. Therefore, there is no question of air pollution in the area. Also, the EIA report is prepared after the deep environmental study of the area.</p> <p>He further stated that, the water supply will be given by MIDC for the project.</p>

during his speech.

1. Jalna city and its surroundings area is already affected, suffering from socially and ecologically due to steel and other polluting projects. As per this project consume heavy amount of the raw materials, water and electricity air, water, sound and biodiversity will be heavily polluted and affected due to that process.
2. Environmental clearance to this project shall be denied as this project requires 900 CMD water i.e. 9 lack liter of water per day and discharge more than one lack liter of waste water. It is unconscionable that MIDC should provide such abundant water to an industry when people in other areas are already suffering from water problems.
3. In addition, it will require 20 mega watt of electricity, which is environmentally harmful to set up an industry that requires so much electricity in a place where electricity generation generates huge carbon emissions. Supplying power to this highly power-intensive industry is highly flawed when common consumers such as farmers and small businesses face constant power shortages.
4. Mainly steel production is a very large carbon emitting industry. According to experts, producing one ton of steel produces 1.8 tons of toxic gases, which is almost double.
5. This may create major threat to the health of Jalna city and its surroundings.
6. Only 250 peoples employment is not expectable from this investment of crores of rupees. In summary, environmental clearance should not be given to this project which will cause

Shri. S. M. Kurmude, Sub Regional Officer, Jalna stated that, your written and oral suggestions have been recorded and the objections will be included in the minutes and informed to the government.

	<p>huge damage to land, water, tree resources, noise level and biodiversity.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Shri. Anna Savant, State Council Member of CTU, Jalna filled objections in written and raised the following points orally-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At present 14 major steel industries are running in Jalna Industrial Area. It is having a harmful effect on this area. Toxic substances, particles, carbon produced by the furnace mix in the air. Due to this, large amount of air, water, noise pollution and its effects on people, animals, crops, land. 2. When the present 14 steel industries were started, whether the promises made by them in their project report were exactly implemented, MPC board should answer that. If they are not implemented, the same will happen to this planned industry and the level of pollution will increase. 3. Respiratory diseases of the citizens and children of Daregaon village have increased. Crops of farmers in the area are getting damaged. It has also affected the silk industry. 4. 100% of the smoke generated from the existing steel plant furnaces is not emitted from the chimney and the smoke spreads around and affects the surrounding area. 5. The existing steel plant has insufficient space and the furnace temperature is 1800 to 1850 degrees Celsius, so the plants cannot survive. 6. Workers are not provided proper facilities while working in the company. Because of that, the accident rate is high in the factory. 7. Another reason for the increase 	<p>Dr. Pradeep Pipalatkhar, Project Consultant, said that, the existing air pollution control system including primary and secondary fume extraction system which comprises of hood, ID fan, bag filter and chimney will be installed in the proposed industry. Therefore, there is no question of air pollution in the area.</p> <p>Currently 14 steel industries in operation are in Phase-II, MIDC and its distance is approximately 3 km from this industry. This proposed industry will come up in Phase-III, MIDC Jalna. Also, 4 km from the village of Daregaon. is at a distance.</p> <p>In this proposed industry 33% of the land has been reserved for plantation as per rules. Trees of 4 to 5 feet height will be planted on this.</p> <p>The temperature of the furnace is 1200 to 1300 degrees and workers working here will be provided with proper personal protective equipment.</p> <p>In the said proposed industry, the production will be taken according to the capacity assigned by the government.</p> <p>And the said industry will be supplied water by MIDC.</p> <p>Preference will be given to local workers in the said industry.</p> <p>He also submitted his statements in written form in this regard.</p> <p>Shri. S. M. Kurmude, Sub Regional Officer, Jalna stated that, your written and oral suggestions have been recorded and the objections will be included in the minutes and informed to the government.</p>

in pollution is that the factory is producing double production so the level of pollution increases.


8. Due to existing steel factories, the villages, towns, land and water in the area have been affected due to pollution and its effects are getting worse. It would be unfair to sanction the said project when the level of air pollution has increased.
9. The project report of the proposed project is false and untrue. Because the actual air pollution control system is not mentioned in the project.
10. The exact extent of the adverse impact on the environment in the planned area has not been mentioned. What will be the effect of increased traffic? As this is also not studied in the report, the report is false and untrue.
11. The factory requires total of 900 KLD of water, Jalna town is already short of water. As MIDC will not be able to provide full water to this factory, this factory is not affordable as the factory will draw water from the ground and aggravate the water shortage.
12. Due to this factory, the social and economic development of the area as well as the local people are not getting developed.
13. The water in the surrounding area has been polluted due to the ongoing factory.
14. The approved CIDCO project in Jalna district has been canceled due to pollution.
15. Hon. District Collector, Shri Tukaram Mundhe when he was Collector, in the view of public complaints and gave notices to the factories and took steps to control the pollution. Therefore it is appropriate to take measures to reduce the level of pollution


	<p>and not to approve new projects.</p> <p>16. We request you to set up a three member committee to examine the assurances given by the factories, their implementation and the quantity of local workers and in which two representatives of the government, the employer and our organization in the committee shall be included.</p>	
10.	<p>Prof. H.M. Desarada, Jalna once again objected that, the news was reported in a Hindi newspaper and the concerned gram panchayat offices were not informed and the report did not clarify the current and future pollution caused by the project.</p>	<p>Shri. S. M. Kurmude, Sub Regional Officer, Jalna said that, the public notice was not given in any Hindi newspaper, but as per rules, it was given in Dainik Sakal and The Times of India newspaper 30 days in advance. Published on 20/04/2023 and all Gram Panchayats in the area, District Collector Offices, District Industries Centre, Municipal Council, Zilha Parishad Office, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation, Regional Office MPC Board, Aurangabad, Environment Department, Mumbai, MPC Board, Mumbai Headquarters, Sub Regional Office MPC Board Jalna, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Nagpur as well as information of the said project were kept on the website of MPC Board for study and perusal of the citizens.</p> <p>Further, Shri. Keshav Netake, Additional District Magistrate Jalna and Chairman Environmental Public hearing said that, as per the Sub Regional Officer, said that was given in Dainik Sakal and The Times of India newspaper 30 days in advance and the information was made available in the concerned government office. However, if the publication has not been done as per the rules as per the objection registered by you, further action will be taken after checking this.</p> <p>He further said that, the said hearing was started at 11.15 am on time and there was a detailed presentation about the project and the Environmental Impact Assessment report and you appeared late for this meeting.</p>

11.	Shri. Vinod Kale, Journalist, Daily Badalta Maharashtra, Jalna said that, the above no. 8 and 9 are the points raised by him, and further said briefly that, I am not against this new factory or any new factory coming up as because it helps the development of the area but the factory proponent should be careful if the factories are causing any harm to the environment or the health of the general public. And these factories should be monitored from time to time by the concerned officials. He further said that, drawing attention to the water shortage in Jalna city, he raised the question whether it is appropriate to supply water to such a large industry.	Shri Keshav Netke, Additional District Collector, Jalna and Chairman Environmental Public Hearing said that, in the presentation the project consultant has given detailed information about water supply and the issue raised by them has been noted.
12.	Shri. Rangarao Kothakonda, Sev Earth, Telangana, extended his best wishes and support to the project management. It mentioned that it is recommending MoEF & CC for unconditional environmental clearance of this industry. Also, the representative of the industry requested to take care of the environment. He also submitted his views in writing.	Shri. S. M. Kurmude, Sub Regional Officer, Jalna said that, his suggestions have been noted.

Shri. Keshav Netke, Additional District Magistrate Jalna and Chairman of Public Hearing Committee said that, a total of 4 statements have been received before the Public Hearing and it has been noted that a total of 8 written statements/suggestions presented by the citizens have been received during the public hearing. All these statements and the replies of the project proponent have been recorded here by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. Finally, he thanked the participants and announced that the environmental public hearing of the proposed project was over.

Lastly, the Public Hearing ended with a vote of thanks to the **Chair**.


(S.M. Kurmude)
 Convener
 And
 Sub-Regional Officer,
 MPCB, Jalna.


(Keshav Netake)
 Chairman
 And
 Additional District Magistrate,
 Jalna