

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF 120.0 KLPD ETHANOL PLANT TO PRODUCE 120.0 KLPD RECTIFIED SPIRIT/ETHANOL BASED ON SUGAR CANE JUICE/SYRUP/"B" HEAVY MOLASSES AS RAW MATERIAL IN THE PREMISES OF EXISTING SUGAR UNIT PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S SWAMI SAMARTH SAHAKARI SAKHAR KARKHANA LIMITED (SSSSKL), AT VILLAGE – DAHITANE, TALUKA – AKKALKOT, DISTRICT- SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of proposed establishment of 120.0 KLPD Ethanol Plant to produce 120.0 KLPD Rectified Spirit/Ethanol based on Sugar Cane Juice/Syrup/"B" Heavy Molasses as raw material in the premises of existing sugar unit proposed by Project Proponent M/s Swami Samarth Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited (SSSSKL) at Village-Dahitane, Taluka – Akkalkot, District – Solapur, Maharashtra was conducted on Friday, 29th September, 2023 at the site of the said industry at 12.00 noon.

Shri. Nikhil More, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur and Member, Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri. Dadasaheb Kamble, Additional District Magistrate, Solapur and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Environmentalists, NGOs, journalists, representative of media channels and company officials and local people/participants who were present and with permission of Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee started the proceedings.





Member, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF & CC, GoI) 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.

He informed that, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of an application from Project Proponent M/s. Swami Samarth Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited (SSSKL) to conduct Environmental Public Hearing for their proposed establishment of 120.0 KLPD Ethanol Plant to produce 120.0 KLPD Rectified Spirit/Ethanol based on Sugar Cane Juice/Syrup/"B" Heavy Molasses as raw material in the premises of existing sugar unit at Village-Dahitane, Taluka – Akkalkot, District – Solapur, Maharashtra.

Convener further informed as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of proposed project falls under Category A schedule 5 (g), which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt of India, New Delhi for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

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 unit.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application along with pre-feasibility report on 31/03/2023 to the, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi and it has been considered and given online approval on 10-04-2023.



After receiving sanction from District Collector, Solapur to conduct the Physical Environment Public Hearing on Friday, i.e., on 29th September, 2023 at 12.00 noon, and 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 Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Board's Office Order No. E- 65 of 2023 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 230913 FTS- 0322 dated 13-09-2023 as under:-

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

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur in the Local Newspaper in Daily Sanchar for Marathi and in daily Divya Marathi for English on 28th August, 2023. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed unit.





Also copy of EIA report and executive summary were made available in Marathi and in English at various notified Government offices as under: -

- 1) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Zonal Office, Western- Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur-440 001;
- 2) District Collector, Solapur;
- 3) General Manager, District Industries Center, Solapur;
- 4) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Solapur;
- 5) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office – Akkalkot, Taluka – Akkalkot, District – Solapur;
- 6) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti-Akkalkot, District – Solapur;
- 6) Gram Panchayat Offices related to – Mouje – Dahitane, Chapalgaon, Chapalgaonwadi, Dahitanewadi, Hasapur, Akkalkot (Rural), Sangavi Khurd, Sangavi Budruk, Kolekarwadi, Sindkhed, Bavkarwad villages, Taluka -Akkalkot, District – Solapur;
- 7) Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;
- 8) Joint Director (WPC), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 1st,2nd,3rd, 4th Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai – 400 022;
- 9) Regional Officer, Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Jog Centre, 3rd Floor, Wakadewadi, Old Mumbai Pune Road, Pune-411 003;



- 10) Sub Regional Officer, Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, 4/B, Bali Block, Civil Lines, Opp. Govt. Milk Dairy, Saat Rasta, Solapur – 413 003;
- 11) Web site of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Mumbai;

Convener informed that 01 written suggestions/ objections/ comments/ complaints for expansion of the project have been received by Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur.

Convener informed that an opportunity will be given to all participants to raise any doubts, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle, which can be submitted by orally or in writing also.

Convener asserted that this Committee is only for recording public opinion, views, suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only and the Committee has no right to approve, reject or recommend the project. The suggestions/objections raised by the participants in the public hearing will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Similarly, the revised Environmental Assessment Report of the Project Proponent and minutes of the meeting after approval of Chairman will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi after taking note of the video recording of the said meeting, suggestions and objections recorded in the meeting. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding the same He requested Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.



With the permission of the Chairman, the Environmental Consultant of the project made a presentation on the entire Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed project.

Environmental Consultant said that the total investment for the said project is Rs 98.0 crore and the said project is a ZLD - Zero Liquid Discharge project. 20.88 crore has been earmarked for Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in the project. According to the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board in the project, 2,500 trees per hectare are mandatory to be available on the land for green belt development and currently 1,356 trees are available on the land and the remaining 28,599 trees will be planted and conserved within three years after receiving the Environmental Clearance (EC).

The said project will provide employment opportunity to around 90 persons in skilled and unskilled cadre. Children of members, locals will be given priority. The company management intends to organize training for the children of the members before giving employment contract in the project. Similarly, due to the said project, there will be a huge increase in the indirect business in the area.

After the Presentation, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise their suggestions, objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. While asking questions, full name and residential address should be informed.

Views, questions, suggestions/objections raised during the Environmental Public Hearing and the answers/promises given by



the Project Proponent/ Project Environment Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee :-

1) Shri. Vivekanand Basappa Umbarje, Residence – Karajagi gaon, Taluka – Akkalkot, District – Solapur:-

The raw material to be used in the proposed distillery project will produce ash. So how ash will be disposed off?

Environmental Consultant of the project replied that as mentioned in the Presentation, the bagasse which will be used as fuel will produce ash. The ash will be managed very well. Ash can be used in bricks. The ash will be made available to local brick manufacturers on demand.

Similarly, the ash contains a large quantity of minerals. Press mud and ETP sludge can be combined with that ash to make excellent manure. The manure will be prepared and made available to local farmers. Factory Administration is trying that all the villages in the area and all the constituents of the village, the members of the factory, the local farmers can get the maximum benefit.

2) Shri. Motiram Shivu Rathod, Residence- Boroti village, Taluka – Akkalkot, District – Solapur: -

Just now Mr. Vivekananda Umbarje asked a question about the planning of ash generation in the project, accordingly I have a related question. Whether the large amount of ash generation from the boilers of the proposed distillery project will have any adverse effect on the agriculture, agricultural crops and farmers in the area? What measures will be adopted by the company administration to prevent any nuisance?

Environmental Consultant replied that, the proposed distillation plant would use bagasse as fuel for the proposed 1 x 30 MT/h boiler, thus producing about 4.48 MT/day of ash. Similarly, using bagasse for the existing 2 x 32 MT/hour boilers in the sugar division will yield around 10.47 MT/day ash.

So, for it, a modern system i. e. bag filter will be installed in the project. The capacity of Bag filter is very good. Hence, bag filters are also used in co-generation plants where large amounts of ash are



generated. Bag filter will be used here. The efficiency of bag filter is 99.9%. This will trap all the dust particles of the ash.

Similarly, boiler will be provided with 60-meter height of stack/chimney. Therefore, there is no possibility of the ash falling in the fields and surrounding areas. So, the ash will not cause any trouble to the local people. The ash will be made available to local brick kiln manufacturers for making bricks at fair price. The ash will be available for local brick kiln manufacturers to make bricks.

The ash produced at the project contains many minerals. Then by adding press mud and ETP sludge in the ash, an excellent type of manure is prepared. It will be made available to local farmers. The ash will not cause any problem to the farmers in the area.

3) Shri Shivsharan Kale, Residence – Arali village, Taluka – Akkalkot, District – Solapur:-

How many local people can get job opportunities in this project?

Environmental Consultant said that, after the project is fully operational, nearly 90 persons can get job opportunities in the project in skilled and unskilled cadre. Here, priority will be given to the children of Agriculturist-Members and local people for employment in the project.

Shri. Shivsharan Kale opined that, the local farmers have suffered lot for this factory. Therefore, only children of local farmers and members should be given job opportunities. Similarly, our demand is to start the project at the earliest.



Here, **Project Environmental Consultant** said that the factory administration intends to implement training scheme to make local children, members' children employable.

4) Shri. Somnath (Ramesh) Shivala Kutagi, Residence – Kumtha Village, Taluka – Akkalkot, District – Solapur:-

The water consumption for the proposed distillery project will be high. Lifting of water for the distillery project will cause problems for local farmers to get water for agriculture?

Project Environmental Consultant said that, the project would require a maximum of 2,500.0 M³/day of water. The project will generate about 1,800.0 M³/day of effluent. It will be processed, recycled and reused again in the production process. Similarly, Rain water harvesting system will be fully implemented in the project. Therefore, the local farmers will not face any shortage of water due to the project, the farmers will not face any problem.

5) Shri. Mallinath Basavanappa Dulange, Residence – Dombargavakage, Taluka – Akkalkot, District – Solapur :-

The decision taken by the Board of Directors of Swami Samarth Co-operative Sugar Factory Limited to set up a 120.0 kiloliters per day Ethanol Project has been taken in the interests of the farmers and will help in improving the financial condition of the farmers. Congratulations to the Project Chairman and all the Board of Directors.

In the presentation, it was said that a total of 50.0 M³ per day of sewage will be generated through the sugar factory and 4.0 M³ per day



of sewage from the distillery plant i.e. total 54.0 M³ per day. So, whether treated sewage can be used by local farmers?

Project Environmental Consultant answered that 50.0 M³ from the existing sugar section in the project per day and 4.0 M³ per day from the proposed distillation section. A total of 54.0 M³ per day Domestic Effluent that will be generated daily will be processed in the STP of the project and will be reused for the development and maintenance of the green belt in the project. Not a drop of treated waste water from the project will be released outside the project.

Environmental Consultant appealed to the participants to raise any suggestions or questions.

6) Shri. Uttamrao Waghmode, Residence – Gondgaon BK, Taluka – Akkalkot, District – Solapur :-

I am a farmer and a well-wisher of this factory. Welcome to all government officials and participants for coming to this meeting. The project's proposal for an Ethanol Project was submitted to an Environmental Public Hearing Committee. It has been discussed. On behalf of all Members, Environment Public Hearing Committee is requested to approve the said project at the earliest.

This project will solve the problem of employment of Members' children to some extent. Along with the production of sugar, this distillation project will raise the financial capacity of the factory. Hence, it is requested that this project be approved as soon as possible.



Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to the participants that information about the proposed project was given in the Presentation. However, if the participants have any suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project, they should raise the same.

7) Shri. Sitaram Kalburgi, Residence – Wagdari, Taluka – Akkalkot, District – Solapur :-

If the pumped/lifted water from the river and the water which is used for crushing of sugar while the factory is running condition, if the impure water is treated and used in the project, water will be saved.

Project Environmental Consultant remarked that this is a very good suggestion. Sugarcane contains 70% water. The waste water from the project will be treated in CPU – Condensate Polishing Unit, recycled and reused in the project activities. We must save water. According to the directives as issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), the said project is a ZLD - Zero Liquid Discharge project and not a single drop of waste water can be released outside the project.

ZLD directive is binding on the project. Information about how to save water is given in the Presentation. It will also benefit the project. Also, the ash produced in the project contains many minerals. Press mud and ETP sludge from the project will be mixed with it to produce manure.

Also, Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be implemented in the project. Out of Rs 98 crore investment, Rs 20.88 crore



has been ear-marked for Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The said project will be implemented only after obtaining permission from Central Pollution Control Board and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. However, all the Members should contribute to the success of the proposed project, so as to help the development of the people, the area and the villages.

Member, Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee opined that in today's public hearing, the participants were given enough time by the Environmental Public Hearing Committee to register their thoughts, suggestions or objections. He appealed all to raise any suggestions and objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. There was no response from the audience.

Member, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that all the suggestions, objections raised in the meeting have been recorded. It will be included in the minutes of the meeting and it will be submitted along with the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report, written suggestions/objections with the approval of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee through MPCB Head Office to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi. An Expert Committee will take further decision accordingly.

Member, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all participants, government officials and on behalf of Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee declared that the public hearing committee is concluded.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.



The details of written 01 suggestions/objections/comments received regarding project expansion are mentioned below and are enclosed herewith: -

1) Welfare for People Foundation.



(Nikhil More)

Member, Convener,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Solapur



(Dadasaheb Kamble)

Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Solapur,
District – Solapur

11/11/11

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