

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED NAYAGAON PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT OF CAPACITY – 2,000 MW AT NAYAGAON, WADI SUNTODA, JANGALI KOTHA, PALASHI, BANOTI, GHORKUND, GONDEGAON, TALUKA – SOEGAON AND WADHOD, TALUKA-KANNAD, DISTRICT – CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, MAHARASHTRA, PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S GREENKO ENERGIES PRIVATE LIMITED (GEPL), HYDERABAD, TELANGANA.

The Environmental Public Hearing for the proposed Nayagaon Pumped Storage Project of Capacity – 2,000 MW by M/s Greenko Energies Private Limited (GEPL), Hyderabad, Telangana, at Nayagaon, Wadi Sutonda, Jangali Kotha, Palashi, Banoti, Ghorkhund, Gondegaon, Taluka – Soegaon and Wadhod, Taluka – Kannad, District – Chatrapati Sambhajinagar, Maharashtra was conducted on Wednesday, the 08th November, 2023 at 11.00 A.M at Wadi Sutonda Gram Panchayat Office, Taluka – Soegaon, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Maharashtra.

Dr. Prakash P. Mundhe, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar and Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Janardhan Vidhate, Additional District Magistrate, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar & Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee; Shri Sujit Dholam, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar & Member of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee; Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists and Company Officials and local people/participants who were present in large number and with the permission of Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee has started the proceedings.

Convener, Environmental 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 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 application from Project Proponent M/s Greenko Energies Private Limited (GEPL), Hyderabad, Telangana on 07-09-2023 to conduct Environmental Public Hearing Meeting for their proposed Nayagaon Pumped Storage Project of Capacity – 2,000 MW at Nayagaon, Wadi Sutonda, Jangali Kotha, Palashi, Banoti, Ghorkhund, Gondegaon, Taluka – Soegaon and Wadhod, Taluka – Kannad, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Maharashtra.

Convener further informed that as per EIA Notification, 2006, the proposed project falls under Category A, Sector - 1(C) which requires to obtain Environment Clearance from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi for which Environmental Public Hearing is mandatory.

Convener informed that the aim of conducting public hearing is to obtain the views of the local people on the proposed Project and associated developmental activities and Environment Impact and the Environment Management Plan of the project.

The EIA report was prepared in accordance with ToR issued by MoEF & CC, vide dated on 13.04.2020 and further he informed that MoU, signed with Govt. of Maharashtra, dated on 16.01.2023.

After approval of District Collector, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, to conduct the Environmental Public Hearing on Wednesday, the 08th November, 2023 at 11.00 morning, 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 Public Hearing Panel vide Board's Office Order No. E- 71 of 2023 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 231011---FTS---0222, dated 11-10-2023 :-

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

As per the said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by O/o Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar in the Local Newspaper in Daily Sakal for Marathi (vernacular language) and in National Newspaper Daily Times of India for English on 04-10-2023. The public were appealed to attend/send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed Project.

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

- 1) Zonal Office, Western-Central Zone, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department, New Secretarial Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur - 440 0001;
- 2) District Collector, Collector Office, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar;
- 3) General Manager, District Industries Center, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar;
- 4) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar;

- 5) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office – Soegaon, District - Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar;
- 6) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office – Kannad, District - Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar;
- 7) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti Office- Soegaon, District - Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar;
- 8) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti Office- Kannad, District - Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar;
- 9) Sarpanch/Gram Sevak, Gram Panchayat Office – Nayagaon, Wadi Sutonda, Jangali Kotha, Palashi, Banoti, Ghorkhund, Gondegaon, Taluka – Soegaon, District - Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar;
- 10) Sarpanch/Gram Sevak, Kannad, Taluka – Kannad, District - Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar;
- 11) Director, Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400 032
- 12) Joint Director (WPC) – Head Office – Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 3rd Floor, Sion Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Sion (East), Mumbai – 400 022
- 13) Regional Officer, Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Plot No.A-4/1, Paryavaran Bhavan, Behind Lokpatra, Chikalthana Industrial Zone, Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar;
- 14) Executive Engineer, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation, Railway Station Road, Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar;
- 15) Sub Regional Officer, Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Plot No.A-4/1, Paryavaran Bhavan, Behind Lokpatra, Chikalthana Industrial Zone, District - Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar;
- 16) Website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai;

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee informed that one representation has been received during the 30 days' notice period.

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

Convener emphasized that this Committee is only for recording public opinion, suggestions, objections and 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 Impact Assessment Report of the Project Proponent will be submitted to Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi after taking note of the video recording of the said meeting, suggestions and objections recorded in the meeting after approval of Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. An Expert Committee of MoEF&CC, there takes further decision regarding the grant of environmental clearance to the project.

Thereafter, Convener has sought the Permission of Chairman of Environmental Public Hearing Committee to start the presentation by the Project Proponent.

Project Proponent represented by Shri Nanda PM, Executive Director has briefly introduced the salient features of the project. He informed the concept of Pumped Storage Project, wherein the excess electricity produced by Solar & Wind during day time shall be stored by this project by pumping water from lower reservoir to upper reservoir. Two reservoirs will be constructed for this purpose. When electricity is required, power is generated by releasing water from Upper to lower reservoir. The project is of 2,000 MW installed capacity and will take four years to complete. The investment for this project is about Rs 9,500 crore.

He further mentioned that considering the geographical position, as there is no other scheme coming up here, we have decided to develop the said scheme here. The said project will generate employment opportunities to the locals in the area, while indirect business opportunities will increase tremendously.

Thereafter, Project Officer Mr. Santosh Patil has made a detailed presentation in Marathi highlighting the project background, project details, environmental baseline status, environmental impacts and its mitigation measures including EMP budget. He informed that the major components of the pumped storage project that include lower reservoir, upper reservoir, power house and its infrastructure.

He further stated that the Environmental Impact Assessment study has been conducted and report was prepared by the environmental consultancy M/s R.S. Enviro link Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon in 10 km radius of the proposed project site over three seasons to study the impact on surrounding air, water, land and noise environment and the socio-economic conditions. He informed that the total land required for the development of the proposed project is about 529.32 Ha., including 333.35 Ha., of forest land and 195.97 Ha., of non-forest land. The forest land will be secured in accordance with the Forest Conservation Act 1980 and the private land will be procured through a process of direct negotiations with the land owners and in accordance with the Govt. rules duly consulting with the competent administrative authorities .

Further, he detailed out the Environment Management Plan (EMP) and informed that for implementation of EMP, a total budgetary provision of Rs 20773.065 Lakhs has been earmarked.

After the presentation was over, at the request of Shri Ravindra Garud, Wadi Sutonda, Taluka-Soegaon, slides on Environmental Impact Assessment in the presentation were once again presented.

After the presentation, Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee called upon the participants to put forward their apprehensions; suggestions, thoughts, objections, if any about the proposed project. He requested the participants that while registering suggestions, objections, full name and village should be mentioned first.

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

1. Shri Ravindra Garud, Resident – Wadi Sutonda, Taluka – Soegaon:-

He highlighted that about 800-1,000 acres of land will be acquired for this project and about 800 acres of land of forest department will be acquired. 800 acres of forest land has biodiversity developed for many years. I have prepared the environmental report of the village and life dependency on the biodiversity of the hill in our village. Due to this project, the environment will be degraded.

Due to this project, the temperature in the area will increase by one and a half to five times. The water storage/reservoir in the project will not benefit the village. Jampur has a dam, its water used to come down. Because of water of Jampur, the farmers here used to do horticulture. The water will not come down because of this project. It will affect horticulture and development will stop; I have three points to make -

- a) The people of this Nayagaon village are mostly landless and small land holders. As the agriculture cultivation area has become less, the number of laborers has increased in large. Hence if the remaining land is lost, the problem of their livelihood will arise.
- b) There will be no employment for farmers and laborers who depend on agriculture. However, we request that the permanent employment generated by this project should be given to the Project Affected Persons (PAPs). The skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers of the village should be appointed from the village itself.
- c) Local young boys and girls should be given prior training and be given permanent employment in the project without bringing any outside workers.
- d) This project will destroy the hills of the village, which will further ruin the biodiversity of the hill area. I have prepared the environmental report of the village and life dependency on the biodiversity of the hill in our village. However, we request that the villagers should get "Collective Forest Rights." The ownership of our village mountain should be given to our village. It will be our village plan to plant bamboo and cultivate horticulture on the hill top and nearby area.
- e) Wadi Village Revenue Department Gat No. 173 and 226 have 6-7 hectares of land, it is earmarked as "cattle grazing area." Around 150-200 families have been living there since 1997. Hon'ble District Collector should approve it as Village – Gaonthan/Basti and issue a letter to the people of the village.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the issues raised by him have been noted and it will be submitted to the Government.

Shri Ravindra Garud then said that Central Government and Maharashtra Government spend huge amount of rupees for green belt development, tree plantation, social forestry every year, but nothing is gained, and here the forest is well maintained only by the villages of the foothills. If 800 acres of forest land is going to be affected, how the Forest Department gave permission for this project?

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee has reiterated that this project has not been granted any permissions. This meeting is arranged to know the views of the local people regarding the proposed project. The suggestions and /or objections raised by the participants regarding the proposed project is welcomed. Project Proponent will give the answers to the questions raised by the participants. The views, suggestions and/or objections raised during the meeting will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of meeting and as informed by the Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee and it will be submitted to MoEF & CC, Gol, New Delhi. An Expert Committee will take further decision regarding it. There will not be any loss of villagers.

2. Shri Mangesh Zanzal, Resident – Wadi Sutonda, Taluka – Soegaon, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:-

In our area, there are 126 species of flowers, 192 species of plants, 42 species of birds, 08 species of butterflies. So, 835 ha of forest area will be destroyed for this project. Then explanation should be given how this bio-diversity of 835 ha of forest area will be compensated by the Project Proponent and the Government. The company should take responsibility of rehabilitating the forest land along with bio-diversity.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that the objections have been noted and Project Proponent will give suitable answers in this regard collectively.

3. Shri Bhagwat Ghule, Resident – Wadhod, Taluka – Kannad, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:-

Explain the measures which will be initiated by the company due to loss of farmers' land or forest for the project. The forests at Wadhod village have trees which are 100-150 years old. If those trees are cut down for the project, how it will be compensated?

4. Shri Anil Bagul, Gram Panchayat Member, Wadi Sutonda, Taluka – Soegaon, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:-

About 803 ha of forest land will be acquired for the project and poor people directly and indirectly dependent on the mountains will be affected. Adivasi/Tribal brothers are associated with water, land, forest. If there is honey, gum at the forest, it is going to be completely ruined. Company should give an answer regarding what measures will be taken for this.

5. Shri Vijay Pachote Wadi Sutonda, Taluka – Soegaon, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:-

Our Cows, Buffaloes, Animals go to graze on the forest land that is going to be acquired for the project. Detailed information regarding alternate arrangements for cattle grazing should be given. Will the land that will be damaged by the project be able to produce as much as it does now, or ten years from now?

6. Shri Vaibhav Borse, Residence – Wadi Sutonda, Taluka – Soegaon, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:-

Can the project maintain Minimum Ecological Flow in the river? If the water that is going to be used in the project is not released into the river, whether the Minimum Ecological Flow can be maintained? Because only after releasing the water in the river, it percolates and goes to underground water and bore well gets it. Explanation of the impact of the project on the crop production of local farmers be given in detail.

7. Shri Bhagwat Patil, Residence – Wadi Sutonda, Taluka – Soegaon, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:-

I would like to point out that this project has pros and cons. The impact of the proposed project on the environment, bio-diversity and after completion of this project, the various facilities which would be provided by the project and the impact on the environment.

Some participants here mentioned that the temperature in this area will increase by 5°C, but the main crops cultivated here are cotton, banana. Whether these main crops and others will have any ill-effects due to raise in temperature. Detailed information should be given.

After completion of this project, will the local unemployed boys and girls get job opportunities in the project? Also, the government should not acquire land for this project by oppression without taking consent of the local people.

The next point is that if this project is allowed unanimously, the Government should take care of getting employment for our future generation in this project. If this project leads to the development of village, taluka and Maharashtra state, we will support it. But everyone's health is also important. Government should ensure that no disease spreads due to this project.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the Government has come up with a new Land Acquisition Law, according to the provisions of which, the farmers will get compensation.

Chairman further informed that due procedure is always followed by the Government while acquiring land for any project and most of the time, unanimous decision is taken.

8. Shri Aillaji Devba Sable, at Post – Bormal Tanda, Jangli Kotha, Taluka – Soegaon, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:-

I say that those who plan to start this project should go to villages and create awareness among the people about the project. Because when the local people understood that their land will go for the project, everyone is in tension. People are scared. If the land is lost, the question is what will happen to the next generation.

However, some local people raised the issue that considering the future of our children, if they co-operate for the project, whether the children will be benefited? If the land is going to be compensated by money, then it is necessary to create awareness among the people. Here, our shepherds, Tribal community/brothers stay, and life of these communities will be affected.

Similarly, if the land of the forest department is adjacent, there is habitation of animals, then special care must be taken, so that there should not be any adverse effect on it.

Wishes success to the project.

9. Shri Sadashiv Jadhav, Resident -Wadhod village, Taluka – Kannad, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar:-

We have already given our views at Collector Office, Sambhajanagar personally. An application is also given to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. I am against the project. Our land is fertile, all crops, food grains land, besides it is adjoining to forest department. We have maintained the forest well and not a single tree has been cut down. We have grown the forest like Vrindavan.

Next to our land, there is 500-600 acres of forest land which we have protected and maintained. Encroachment is prevented. Company officials came and we gave them to count the plots on humanitarian ground.

On behalf of our village, we have approved the resolution and given our Say. But we have to make a decision, because our land is for growing all food grains. Our land is horticultural and we do not need to sell our land. I and many people in our village cannot do jobs, which we think it is slavery. But there are at least fifteen people who work everyday in my fields. We gave them employment. We are doing what the government do i.e. providing of job opportunities.

However, the Government should take a decision on this. We didn't ask for company, because we didn't need company.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that their views has been submitted to the Additional District Magistrate and it will be conveyed to the Government.

10. Shri Samir Ramdas Patil, Resident – Nayagaon, Taluka – Soegaon, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar:-

We, the residents of the Nayagaon village where the project will be installed. Our entire village is against this project. I am educated unemployed. I and all the villagers are against this project.

11. Shri Pannalal Rakhumaji Ghule, Resident – Wadhod village, Taluka – Kannad, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar:-

I am President of Forest Committee of Wadhod village. I have been the President of the Forest Committee for the last 25 years. I have not allowed a single tree to be cut in our forest and nobody dares to cut as I am looking after. Everyone knows the benefits of plants. Who says this hydro project does not pollute the water? Electricity will be generated only when hydrogen gas is released into water.

12. Shri Rajmahommad Shaikh Yakub, Residence - Wadi Sutonda, Taluka – Soegaon, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar:-

My land is at the base of this project. Due to this project, the water supply to my farm will be cut off and the environment will be damaged. Moreover, the temperature here is going to increase. Hence, please give me justice.

13. Shri Ajay Kambarsingh, Residence – Wadi Sutonda, Taluka – Soegaon, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar:-

Now as mentioned here our farm is at the base of the project. Here in the village, some say that the construction of the project is 100 feet below, some say 50 feet below, some say 200 feet. Someone says glass will come in, then concretization. That means that the water, which is generated, will be closed.

We farmers are told that solar panels are going to generate steam, so that heat is going to hurt and damage the crops. Our main crop is cotton. People say cotton will not grow taller than two feet. That means it will be damaged, similarly the water discharge will be stopped. Hence, Hon'ble District Collector should solve our problem and give us justice.

Hence, my suggestion is that what will be the plan of the project, how many feet the project will be constructed, how much construction will be done, in which village the land will be acquired, all this information should be made available in the project affected village panchayat office, so that the local people, the project affected people will know it.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee reiterated that no permissions have been given for this project. This public hearing is organized to understand the sentiments of the local people here. The suggestions and objections raised by you regarding the proposed project in the meeting are welcome. Your objections will be answered by the project proponent.

The views, suggestions and/or objections raised in the meeting are recorded and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting and will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi. An Expert Committee there will take further decision only after suggestions and objections raised. There will be no loss to the villagers.

14. Shri Prafulla Borse, Resident – Wadi Sutonda, Taluka – Soegaon, District – Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar:-

Company should give a written guarantee that there is no danger to the local people and the environment due to the said project.

Thereafter, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee has instructed the Project Proponent to clarify the apprehensions, suggestions, objections and criticisms raised in the meeting.

Response of the Project Proponent regarding the issues raised by the Public:

Project Proponent represented by Shri Nanda PM, Executive Director, has said that he is thankful for the view expressed and suggestions, objections, raised by those present about the proposed project.

He noted that as stated by the Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, the copies of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, Executive Summary Report of the project were made available in the Gram Panchayat offices as required.

He assured that, the information required about the proposed project will be made available to the local people and Gram Panchayat offices from time to time. He then provided point wise response to the issues raised by the participants.

- a) **On the Local farmers fear that using the water in the project will leave them with no drinking water, as well as less water for their crops –**

On the above issue, it was mentioned that for the proposed project, water is taken only once a year. The water which enters the upper reservoir will be released into the lower reservoir in a closed loop; The same water goes to upper and lower reservoir. Once the water is taken, the project does not require the same quantity of water. For the project, we will be taking water exclusively in monsoon season only, when there are rainy days and when there is excess water available in the river and when water over flows.

We have rainy days from July to September. It will be taken/lifted in that monsoon season only. The same will be taken in the first year. Evaporation losses in the project will be minimal. However, we will not use/divert the water available for farmers and local people.

Hence, the water will always be available to the local people for crops, drinking, domestic use and will not be affected. State Govt will allow us to take water only after considering all these aspects. So, local people will not suffer due to the water required for the project.

b) Proposed land requirement for the project:

He informed that the details were made available on the proposed plan regarding how much land will be needed at which places in the EIA report. After this environmental public hearing, demarcation of the land/plot will be done and information of PAPs-Project Affected Persons/families will be prepared. Land compensation will be paid only after discussions with the actual project affected person/family. Compensation will be paid to all project affected persons as per the guidelines. As per the Land Acquisition Act, higher amount will be paid after the compensation is decided in consultation and direct negotiations with the land owners. The said transaction will be done in front of the Collector under his guidance. Also, according to the guidelines passed by the State Government regarding rehabilitation, the project will be constructed keeping the affected person/family in confidence.

c) Employment in the project during the construction phase, then after the completion of the project and priority for the land loser families.

He informed that a Skill Development Center will be setup in the local area to enable the local young boys and girls to get employment in the project during the commissioning of the project. Skill training will be given to the local youth, women, so that the local youth, women will be able to work in this project or elsewhere. The said Skill Development Center will be continued even after completion and operation of the project. So that the youth of the area will be enabled to get employment in other places;

After the commissioning and operation of the said project, there will be a huge increase in local indirect business e.g. – hiring of local vehicles for infrastructure / project, construction of project roads, running of canteens, plumbing, electrical works will be outsourced to local people;

d) Diversion of Forest land required for the Project:

He informed that the land of forest department is allotted as per the rules and instructions of Government of India. In lieu of the forest land proposed for diversion equivalent non forest land is to be provided to the forest department to raise compensatory afforestation. Also, green belt shall be developed near the project area. If Non forest land is not available near the project area, then land shall be provided anywhere in the State (here Maharashtra State).

e) Minimum environmental flow in the river:

He informed that natural river flow will not be stopped or obstructed. Further, no Project component is located on the perennial nallah/river. We shall draw water one time to store water from the seasonal drain into the upper reservoir. We will not disturb the natural flow of the river downstream. Also, the concept of Minimum Environmental Flow is applicable only for projects built on rivers. That concept does not apply to our project.

f) Tall promises are made and nothing is implemented in real:

All the proceedings of the public hearing is recorded and available in video, audio form. The said demands are specified to the Project Proponent while issuing Environmental Clearance (EC) in the form of terms and conditions and every six months, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India conduct reviews to monitor it. According to the promises given while making the Environment Management Plan (EMP), the environmental plan and the expenditure required for it are inspected. As per the promises made in the construction stage, all the information will be made available in the Local Gram Panchayat office from time to time.

g) Construction of the proposed project causes adverse environmental effects, dust pollution in the area.

He informed that some environmental impacts may occur during the construction phase of the project, for which environmental management plans are designed and will be implemented to minimize them.

In order to avoid dust pollution during the construction phase, various measures such as sprinkling water from time to time, controlled movement of vehicles entering the company are followed and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board shall monitor it. The information will be made available to local Gram Panchayats.

But lot of benefits in the future will be gained from this project e.g. – Water balance in the area is maintained due to two water reservoirs, humidity is maintained. Ground water level will increase. This kind of projects are called environmentally friendly projects compared to other projects. Efforts are made to minimize any impact on the environment, if any during the construction phase.

h) Influx of workers during the construction phase, wherein workers come to work from different places and anticipated health issues that may arise in the area.

He has informed that project policy is to give priority to local labour during the construction phase. Also after the completion of the project, priority will be given to the local people and first priority to PAPs whose lands have been acquired. At that time, job opportunities are given to local people only considering the need in the project and educational qualification. If local person is not available, then only migrant workers are considered. At the time of hiring a migrant worker, he/she is first medically examined and periodically examined through health camps and others to ensure that his/her health does not cause any harm to other workers.

After completion of Environmental Public Hearing, we will conduct health camps every three months in the project affected villages before the construction phase of the project. It provides free medicines to the needy patients. A health camp will be organized in each village affected by the project.

He further informed that, Government is trying to create solar energy and wind energy to support this project. While the investment of this project is about Rs 9,500 crores, this project will attract and encourage other projects to invest here.

He said that the questions and objections raised by the public have been answered and if there are any remaining or any other suggestions or objections, they may be raised.

15. Shri Vishal Sharadrao Borse, Resident – Wadi Sutonda, Taluka – Soygaon, District – Chatrapati Sambhajinagar:-

Although the project promoters have given clarifications on various issues, they have not clarified that the project will increase the temperature in the area. Also another issue is that some land will be acquired for the project. However, an explanation about any effects of on the land adjacent to the project is not informed.

With regard to increase in temperature and climate change issues. It was informed by the Project Proponent that temperature and climate change have become a global issues. This one project will not affect it in a big way.

Due to the said project, there is an impact on the environment during the construction phase. For that, appropriate mitigation measures have been incorporated in the report. Further, with water storage pond (reservoir) that will be created for this project, the humidity, the increase in ground water will be useful for environment.

With regard to impact on the land adjacent to the project, if there is any adverse effect on the land adjacent to the project, compensation will be given. If the concerned person is willing to give the land, it will be acquired for the project. If the person is not ready & similarly if there are standing crops in that land, it will be compensated as per current rules.

Further, the land will be rehabilitated and restored to its original condition. If the land is not rehabilitated, compensation will be paid for the affected period. If the damage is high, based on the willingness of the land owners the affected land will be acquired even if the project does not need the land.

16. Shri Mangesh, Resident – Wadhod village, Taluka – Kannad, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:-

Whatever forest will be cut down for the project, will be compensated elsewhere in Maharashtra. So the forest is in our village area will be destroyed, then why compensatory afforestation is undertaken somewhere else in Maharashtra, rather than in this area? It should be developed here only.

Project Proponent informed that as per the availability of land priority will be given to provide non forest land near the project area, however, a decision on this will be taken by the State Forest Department and they will have finally issue suitability certificate for the

identified land. We are also eager to develop the planation in this area only. But the approval of the Forest Department is inevitable.

17. Shri Nitin Babanrao Borse, Resident – Wadi Sutonda, Taluka – Soegaon, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:-

I have been watching for a long time that officials come for inspection and farmers come. If the said project does not cause any side effects in the area and if this project will benefit the area and if this area and Maharashtra will get electricity, then there is no problem in doing this project here.

But we have one demand that the young boys and girls in the area are largely unemployed. They feel that their sanctioned quota of water will be affected, the temperature will rise and hence company administration should visit villagers of the projected affected area and share all the information about the project. There is a need to create awareness about the project among the local people.

18. Shri Sujit Dholam, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar and Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee :-

Our citizen/participant asked a good question that if the trees are going to cut here (deforestation for the project), then why the compensatory afforestation is not going to be done here? So my request to the Project Proponent is that if there is going to be deforestation in the area of the Forest Department, then the private land that you are going to acquire for the project should be informed with planning and planting of trees on it. While granting Environmental Clearance (EC), Govt of India will apply terms and conditions regarding felling of trees in the forest land and green belt development on privately acquired land.

Project Proponent informed that they are ready to provide non forest land near the project area, however, State Forest Department has a final say and need to issue suitability certificate for the identified land. We are also eager to develop the planation in this area only. But the approval of the Forest Department is inevitable.

Project Proponent also informed that the green belt will be developed inside the project area as per the Terms and Conditions prescribed in the Environmental Clearance (EC).

19. Shri Patil, Grampanchayat Member, Banoti, Taluka – Soegaon, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:-

You have informed that the acquisition of 448 hectares of land will be carried. So, are you going to acquire all the land or some part of it? Even though I am a graduate, I don't understand the map you have given. Our small village is Nayagaon. People fear that the whole village will be acquired, or a part of Nayagaon will be acquired for the company.

However, your project map information should be told in the meeting. Similarly, will you acquire the land of all the affected families and the third issue is that you are going to

store water only once a year, you will not let that water percolate through the land. If that water is not going to benefit the local people, then the project is of no use to us.

Project Proponent said that very little water will seep into the soil. However, we will store that water during the monsoon season. Job opportunities in the project will be given to those whose land is acquired for the project. They will be given an employment -opportunity in the project keeping in mind the educational qualification they will have and the need in the project.

Project Proponent also informed that some portion of the private land procured for the project and primarily used for the amenities during the construction phase of the project and not required during the operation stage may be considered for returning back to concerned landowner if it is suitable to return. There are two reservoirs proposed in the project, and the Nayagaon village is far away from these and Nayagaon will not be affected.

20. Dr. T. P. Patil, Education Officer, Wadhod village, Taluka – Kannad, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:-

My entire land is under the Wadhod Dam and Project Proponent says that not a single drop of water will seep through the reservoir. So we will not allow the said project, because the water in our Wadhod Dam is irrigating a thousand acres of land. We have objection to the water reservoir that you are going to build for the project. Not even a drop of it will get down. If there is any problems during monsoon, people will not have water to drink.

The project will be commissioned in the catchment area of Wadhod Dam. Some villages get water supply from Wadhod Dam. If the same water is reduced, there will be no drinking water. We are against the project. Apart from this, the water coming to the second water reservoir, then there will not be water for the river from the mountains to Gondegaon.

Now the issue of employment for farmers' children. The children of these farmers will get jobs as Watchmen utmost, nothing else. I am living in Aurangabad and I have seen all the projects there. The sons of the farmers whose lands were taken are the gatekeepers there. If the company builds a compound, local people will not be allowed to enter. Apart from this, if the farmer is going to give the land, I have no say.

We will not allow to commission the project in our area.

21. Shri Mahendra Prahlad Patil, Wadi Sutonda, Taluka – Soegaon, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:-

If you are going to give 68 TMT of water for this project, how much water will be in the downside reservoir? Wadi Sutonda, which is a medium project, after total filling of water, water flows downside. 5-6 villages are dependent on it. Due to this project, water will not get to those villages, then how villagers can solve their water problem, as they have no other river. If there is no water left for drinking, how you will get water for irrigation?

The second question is the clarification regarding the development works to be done under this project. Because it has been experienced that after the project, there is very little development work. Hence, the company should issue a circular informing that specific works will be undertaken in a particular village. If the dependent village does not get water, what measures will company adopt to get the water to the villagers?

22. Shri Rana Devba Sabale, Resident-Gut No.65, Jangali Kotha Shivar, Taluka – Soegaon, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:-

I think with the proposed project the locals will get benefited and their dreams will come true. Instead of thinking about how much benefit or how much loss will be caused by the said project, one should think about when the light will come in everyone's life. If something goes wrong with this project, Borwa, Kada, Banoti, Kirga will come to Pachora and there will be a big center like Pachora, because this is India's no. 2 project which will be commissioned in our area.

Even if we are not happy, if we have a positive thought that our future generations should be happy, then only good things will happen.

Many people, farmers have sacrificed and gave their land to build Nath Sagar at Jayakwadi dam. Due to their sacrifice only, many lakhs of people have been benefitted. First we have to give/sacrifice, then only we get some benefits.

Even if we are not happy, if we have a positive thought that our future generations should be happy. Four thousand people will get work.

Even if five people are kept in one man's family, there will be a community of twenty thousand people here. Because of them, there will be a huge increase in the indirect business here, because they will require shops, drug stores, hospitals, garages, schools, colleges. Business hubs like Nevasa, Rahuri, Shirdi are expected to be created in the area.

However, my request to Environmental Public Hearing Committee is that even if the project is going to do well, should not be allowed to go to other areas. But the farmers whose lands are going to be acquired should be given many times of the benefit. Their children should be given jobs. Similarly, job opportunities should be given to the persons whom have requisite educational qualification.

I welcome the project.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee expressed an opinion here that in the preliminary form, all the villagers, citizens have raised their suggestions, thoughts, objections about the proposed project and also, project representative have presented replies accordingly.

He then requested the Local Member of Legislative Assembly to express his views.

23. Hon'ble MLA Shri Uday Singh Rajput, Kannad, District – Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:-

I was born in a village; I understand the mentality of a village. So I tell local people that this project will not be commissioned without your permission. It will take one and a half to two years for project approval and installation. If the project requires forest land, then the rule is that if they take one thousand acres of land, they have to plant another one and a half to two thousand acres of land.

Hence, my suggestion to Project Proponent is that in lieu of land acquisition in forest sector, land should be acquired for plantation development in Kannad Taluka itself, not outside Kannad Taluka. Company cannot take land from anyone without the consent of the local person/family. Similarly, 95% jobs should be reserved for the local people in officers' and employees' category. Project Management may appoint 5% people from other area in senior technical cadre.

Hon'ble MLA further said that such a project is the third in India and first in Maharashtra. If the local people co-operate, we will have the first number, otherwise we will fall behind. This project will give a huge boost to indirect business in the area. People from Maharashtra will come to see this project. At least 100-200 vehicles may require in this project.

Further Hon'ble MLA remarked that I am not saying that this project should be approved, but that the project should be started here in the future.

Hon'ble MLA, further informed Project Proponent to co-ordinate with all the people in the area and inform them about the project. Also 15-20 luxury buses should be taken to show the local people where such project is working in India. Fears and doubts in their minds should be removed. Kannad constituency has 100% support for the project. However, Project Management should take the local people into confidence and also give priority to local people while giving job opportunities.

If the project starts to operate, 4-5 districts will get electricity from here. But I am with the local people only. If they wish, the project will be commissioned. Hence, where there is such a project, local people should be taken to visit the place. Their misconceptions should be cleared.

After public have completed their submission of views/apprehensions, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee has requested Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee to give his concluding remarks.

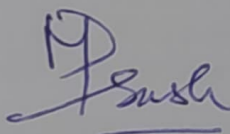
Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee while concluding the meeting said that the suggestions and objections raised by the participants in the meeting were duly recorded, it seems that the people have become aware about environmental protection, climate, temperature rise. Chairman further opined that, it is necessary to clarify the issues raised by the public it is difficult for a common citizen to understand in just one day presentation. However project proponent is advised to make it available the Merits/Demerits and detail project report in local language to concerned Grampanchayat. A large number of

people attended here and registered all doubts, thoughts, suggestions and objections regarding the proposed project. On behalf of District Administration, I thank them.

Thereafter, Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee thanked all government officials, project officials, journalists, charitable organizations working in the field of environment, media representatives and local people who were present in large numbers and on behalf of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee declared that the public hearing is concluded.

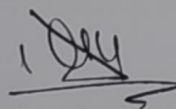
Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed herewith 5 suggestions/objections as received.



(Dr. Prakash P. Munde)

Convener,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Chatrapati
Sambhajinagar



(Sujit Dholam)

Member,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Chatrapati Sambhajinagar



(Janardhan Vidhate)

Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate,
Chatrapati Sambhajinagar
District - Chatrapati Sambhajinagar