

**Minutes of Public Hearing in respect of proposed M/s. Ambuja Concrete North Pvt Ltd (ACNPL) for its proposed Greenfield Project of standalone grinding unit with Cement Production of capacity 6 MMTPA (2 x 3 MMTPA) at Village – Malkhed & Udkhed Tq. Chandur Railway & Amaravati respectively, Dist. Amravati dtd. 27/03/2025 at 12.00 Noon, at proposed project site, Malkhed Tq. Chandur Railway, Dist. Amravati**

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M/s. Ambuja Concrete North Pvt Ltd (ACNPL) had submitted the application for conducting Environmental Public Hearing for obtaining Environmental Clearance in respect of proposed Greenfield Project of standalone grinding unit with Cement Production of capacity 6 MMTPA (2 x 3 MMTPA) at Village – Malkhed & Udkhed Tq. Chandur Railway & Amravati respectively, Dist. Amravati. The said public hearing was 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 M/s. Ambuja Concrete North Pvt Ltd (ACNPL) was conducted on 27/03/2025 at 12.00 Noon at proposed project site, Malkhed Tq. Chandur Railway, Dist. Amravati. Hon'ble Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has issued Office Order No. E-18 of 2025 vide letter no. BO/JD(WPC)/PH/B-250307-FTS-0029, dtd. 07/03/2025 for constitution of Environmental Public Hearing Committee to conduct the said Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing has been conducted in presence of following members of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee.

1. Hon'ble Shri Anil Bhatkar, Additional District Magistrate, Amravati – Chairman.
2. Shri S. D. Patil, Regional Officer, MPCB, Amravati – Member.
3. Smt. Dhanashree Patil, Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Amravati-I – Convenor.

The public notice for conducting the Environmental Public Hearing has been published in Daily "Lokmat" (Marathi) and Daily "Times of India" (English) on 24/02/2025. Accordingly, the Environmental Public Hearing has been conducted on 27/03/2025 at 12.00 Noon at proposed project site Malkhed Tq. Chandur Railway, Dist. Amravati.

The Public Hearing started with due permission of Hon'ble Chairman. The convenor of the Public Hearing Committee, Smt. Dhanashree Patil, Sub-Regional Officer, Amravati-I welcomed the participants present in the Public Hearing. She further briefed about the requirement of conducting Environmental Public Hearing for the said project. She further stated that M/s. Ambuja Concrete North Pvt Ltd (ACNPL) has submitted Environment Impact Assessment report, Executive Summary (English & Marathi) in respect of proposed Greenfield Project of standalone grinding unit with Cement Production of capacity 6 MMTPA (2 x 3 MMTPA) at Village – Malkhed & Udkhed Tq. Chandur Railway & Amaravati, Dist. Amravati. 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) Environment & Climate Change Dept., 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, New Administrative Building Madam Cama Road, Mumbai.
- (2) Regional Office, MoEF & CC, Central Government, 104-128, Red Cross, Sadar Road, Nagpur.
- (3) Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation, Amravati Division, Old bypass road, Amravati-444607
- (4) Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 3rd and 4th Floor, Opp. Cine Planet, Near Sion Circle, Sion(E), Mumbai-400022
- (5) Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sahakar Surbhi Bapatwadi near Vivekanand Colony, Amravati – 444606.
- (6) Sub-Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sahakar Surbhi Bapatwadi near Vivekanand Colony, Amravati - 444606
- (7) Collector Office, Amravati
- (8) Zilha Parishad, Amravati,
- (9) District Industries Center, Amravati
- (10) Sub-Divisional Office (Revenue), Amravati/Chandur Rly/Nandgaon Khandeshwar, Dist. Amravati
- (11) Tahsil Office Amravati/Chandur Rly/Nandgaon Khandeshwar, Dist. Amravati
- (12) Gram Panchayat Offices of Kohala, Kavtha Kadu, Malkhed, Dhanora, Dahigaon, Lalkhed, Kathewadi Heti, Ta. Chandur Rly Dist. Amravati, Mhasala, Erandgaon, Ta. Nandgaon Kh., Dist. Amravati, Udkhed, Kastura Mogra, Pardi, Wadgaon Jire, Tq. & Dist. Amravati.

With the permission of Chair Smt. Dhanashree Patil, Sub-Regional Officer, Amravati-I and convenor of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee briefed about the procedure of Public Hearing and requested the Project Proponent to give the presentation regarding the said project.

The representative from M/s. Ambuja Concrete North Pvt Ltd (ACNPL) gave the presentation regarding the said projects.

Smt. Dhanashree Patil, Sub-Regional Officer, Amravati-I and convenor of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee stated that the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has not received any objection/suggestions in respect of the said project within 30 days from the date of publication of Public Hearing notices. However, during the course of Public Hearing total 106 suggestions/representations / objections in writing were received. The particular in this regard is annexed as Annexure-I. She appealed the participants to raise their suggestions /objections, if any.

Shri Subhash Khandar, Res. Udkhed said that there is no mention of sending complaints anywhere in the booklets sent. The newspapers in which the advertisement published are circulated very rarely in this area. The Pollution Department has not given any information about this project. Land has been purchased from Udkhed and Malkhed villages for this project and seventy-five percent of the land belongs to Udkhed. Therefore, the project will be known in the name of Malkhed village instead of Udkhed village. The groundwater level in this area is very low. Agriculture in this area depends on groundwater. If water is extracted from groundwater table for the project, the groundwater level will decrease. As a result of this, there will be no water available for

agriculture. The health of the villagers will be at risk due to dust from the project. The roads in the village will be damaged due to heavy vehicles of the project.

Hon'ble Chairman informed that the issues suggested by him have been noted. Clarification regarding the said issues will be given by the company authority. Regarding the employment, Hon'ble Chairman said that generally priority is given to the local people for jobs in any company. In this company too, locals will be given employment according to their skills. The Sub-Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Amravati-I and Convenor of Public Hearing stated that with respect to the contention raised above for the circulation and communication of the information to the Udkhed Grampanchayat, the advertisement for the public hearing was published in the local and national newspaper which stated that the objection/suggestions of the residents can be submitted at the MPCB offices Amravati within 30 days from the date of the publication of the public notices. Regarding submission and communication of the documents it was clarified that the documents regarding the said project were submitted by the MPCB representatives at Udkhed Grampanchayat office for study purpose to the people residing at the adjoining area.

Shri Jeevan Deshmukh, Res. Malkhed asked regarding the source of water required for the company and plan for tree plantation on the available land. In this respect, Hon'ble Chairman said that tree plantation will be carried out on 33% of the open available land.

Shri Motiram Chavan, Res. Lalkhed said that he supports this project if company provides employment to the local people of Lalkhed village.

Mr. Manoj Ingle, Res. Malkhed expressed strong opposition to the project. He demanded that the company shall specify the extent that how much kilometer the pollution particularly in terms of dust would spread. He raised the question of whether the company would assume responsibility in the event that a family in the village suffered cancer resulting from pollution. He further mentioned that the dust particles could lead to respiratory diseases. He further stated that extraction of groundwater might lower the water table, and that the project's dust could diminish agricultural productivity. Additionally, he questioned whether the company would compensate in case of reduced production, and whether the roads, which might get damaged due to heavy vehicle traffic, would be repaired every two months. He also queried if the noise from the vehicles' horns would cause sound pollution, and what wages would be provided by the company to its labourers.

In response, the company representative clarified that as per government regulations and local labour skill assessments, wages would be appropriately provided, and that 80% of the employment would be allocated to local residents.

The Hon'ble Chairman explained that every company is obligated to comply with the provisions of various government departments. Any failure to do so could lead to legal action against the company. The three questions raised by Mr. Ingle were duly noted in the record.

Further, Mr. Rajkumar Chavan, Resident of Lalkhed expressed the wish that educated youth in the village and local women should be provided with employment opportunities.

Mrs. Sushma Choughade, Resident of Malkhed welcomed the project and emphasized that the company should take care of the health of the local population. She noted that if local villagers—especially the educated—could get employment within the village, they would not need to migrate to other cities for work, and she reiterated support for giving primary employment opportunities to women. She also stressed that the project should not cause any damage to agriculture due to pollution.

Hon'ble Chairman said that the suggestions made are correct. The issue of agriculture not being damaged due to pollution has also been taken into account.

Mr. Sudhakar Jadhav, Resident of Mogara expressed that local educated youth and women should be given employment and showed support for the project.

Mr. Niranjan Rathod, Former Sarpanch, Resident of Lalkhed inquired about the measures the company would take to address any potential health issues arising from the project's pollution. He proposed that a survey of the current ailments of the local population be conducted to ascertain the health impact.

Mr. Jagatap, Resident of Udakhed mentioned that the local community in the area primarily depends on agriculture for their livelihood. He asked what kind of pollution might affect agriculture once the project is operational and what preventive measures the company would implement. He urged the Pollution Control Board to ensure that the project does not lead to any pollution.

Mr. Anil Sonatakke, Village Panchayat Member from Malkhed requested that the company undertake measures to control pollution arising from heavy vehicles transporting goods. He also demanded that water be supplied from the nearby Varud Bagaji Dam to the villages located within 10 kilometer radius. The Varud Bagaji Dam is 45 km away from Malkhed, and that the company exclusively use water from the dam to prevent reduction in the water level in the local fields. He further insisted that the company should give assurance to the employment to those who have been residents of the area for the past 15 years.

Mr. Amol Chandane, Village Panchayat Member from Barkhedi questioned the potential impact of the project on human health and local agriculture. He asked whether the company planned to build a well-equipped hospital for the local citizens.

Mr. Ravi Kalane, Journalist from Malkhed pointed out that the media had not been informed about this hearing, and many locals were unaware of it. He further inquired whether the company had arranged any hospital facilities or provided medical insurance for the residents, considering that pollution from the project could lead to respiratory or other health issues. He also asked for clarification regarding the company's commitment towards carrying out 33% tree plantation as a priority, the arrangement for the effluent treatment and whether the company had planned road

maintenance to counter damage from heavy vehicle movement. He asked if there is acid rain in the area due to this project and there will be reduction in the crop production, whether the company will provide insurance for the same. The raw material required for the said company will be transported through railway route, however, if the transportation is being carried out by road then the road will be damaged and whether there is any provision of construction/ repairing of the said road with the company.

The Hon'ble Chairman responded that many of these questions and suggestions were being repeated and that the company would provide detailed answers on these points at a later stage.

Mrs. Gunjabai Rathod, Resident of Lalkhed requested that for tree plantation and other related works, the company should provide employment opportunities to the local youth and women.

Mrs. Lata Lakshmanrao Patil, Resident of Malkhed stated that, according to the report provided by the Pollution Control Board, the project would not cause any kind of pollution. However, if any pollution occurs, the Pollution Control Board would be held responsible.

Mr. Darasing Chavan, Deputy Sarpanch, Village Panchayat of Lalkhed expressed his view that the project should create employment opportunities for educated and local unemployed persons as well as for women in Lalkhed, Malkhed, Pardi, and Udakhed.

Mr. Dinakar Kantode, Resident of Udakhed Pardhi enquired about the provisions made by the company for the children of those farmers whose land was purchased for this project. In response, the industry representative clarified that employment would be provided on the basis of educational qualifications and skills.

Subsequently, the Hon'ble Chairman stated that the company should issue clarifications on all the matters raised above.

The company representative then explained that this project is a stand-alone grinding unit and that no stone will be used in its operation. The raw materials required will be transported by rail. Regarding employment, it was reiterated that in accordance with the regulations of the Central and State Governments and considering the skills of the workers, employment will be given to the local candidates with due priority. In response to pollution concerns, the company stated that the project is having state-of-the-art technology and will not pose any risk of air pollution. The water required for the project will be used only after careful study of both groundwater and surface water, taking into account government directives as well as the opinions of local residents. The company further emphasized that no industrial effluent will be generated. The generated domestic effluent from the water used by the workers will be treated and repurposed for developing green belts.

Mr. Ghanashamji Brahmane, Sarpanch, Wadgaon Jire requested that if the company's pollution results in any damage to the agricultural output of local farmers,

the company and the government should arrange for compensation to the affected farmers.

Mr. Akshay Meshram, Sarpanch, Pardi expressed his opposition to the project, pointing out that the farmers whose land has been acquired by the company have already become unemployed. He further stated that the dust generated by the project would render the agricultural lands infertile and reiterated his opposition.

Mr. Niranjan Chavan, Resident of Lalkhed stated that the project would provide employment to the unemployed in the village and declared his support for the company.

The Hon'ble Chairman concluded by stating that all the suggestions and objections recorded during the hearing must be taken into consideration by the company, and that appropriate remedial measures should be implemented. The Hon'ble Chairman also directed that the company representatives should later provide further clarification and information in response to the queries and suggestions raised by the local residents.

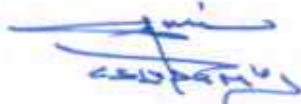
Following this, the company representative provided information regarding the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund. It was explained that various activities are undertaken through this fund, which include improvements in educational quality and school renovations, Promoting women's empowerment through savings groups, Weekly health check-ups and medical treatment provided via company-organized vans, Skill-based training for both skilled and unskilled workers to facilitate employment, Training for farmers in poultry and dairy farming to boost business, Implementation of water conservation and water harvesting projects, Repair and maintenance of local roads, construction of paved roads, and other public buildings.

Mr. Ashok Nindane, Resident of Pardi inquired about the total area of land acquired by the company, mentioning that 100 acres had already been purchased, and asking whether there were plan to acquire additional land. The industry representative clarified that there is currently no plan for further land acquisition.

With the Chairperson's permission, the meeting was adjourned, and the participants were thanked for their presence.



(Dhanashree Patil)  
Convenor  
&  
Sub-Regional Officer,  
MPC Board Amravati-I



(S. D. Patil)  
Member  
&  
Regional Officer,  
MPC Board Amravati



(Anil Bhatkar)  
Chairman  
Public Hearing Committee  
&  
Addl. District Magistrate,  
Amravati.