

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF DAHEGAON GOWARI UNDERGROUND COAL MINE WITH A PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF 1 MTPA BY M/S. AMBUJA CEMENTS LIMITED.**

M/s. Ambuja Cements Limited had applied for Environmental Public Hearing in respect of Development and Operation of Dahegaon Gowari Underground Coal Mine with a proposed production capacity of 1 MTPA. As per Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India Notification dated 14.09.2006 and amended notification dated 1.12.2009 the Public Hearing was held at project site of M/s. Ambuja Cements Limited, Dahegaon Gowari underground Coal Mine, Kh. No. 90, Vill. Walni, Tal. Nagpur (Rural), Dist- Nagpur under the Chairmanship of Shri. Anup Khande, Additional District Magistrate, Nagpur. Smt. Hema Deshpande, Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Nagpur attended the hearing as a member of the public hearing Committee, and Smt. Dhanashree Patil, Sub-Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board Nagpur-I as a Member Convener. The Public Hearing commenced with the permission of the Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee. Attendance of the citizens present during the Public Hearing is attached as **Annexure-I**.

**BACKGROUND:**

M/s. Ambuja Cements Limited submitted a request with Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to conduct Environmental Public Hearing for Development and Operation of Dahegaon Gowari Underground Coal Mine with a proposed production capacity of 1 MTPA in the mine lease area of 1562 Ha. on 16/07/2025 through email to MPCB(HQ), Mumbai. In view of this request MPCB (HQ) directed to initiate the process for public hearing vide letter No. MPCB/JD(WPC)/ENV-PH/B-250716-FTS-0197 dtd. 16/07/2025 **Annexure-II**.

**PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE:**

The Environmental Public hearing was conducted on 10/09/2025 at the proposed project site. Public Hearing procedure was initiated with the permission of Chairman of Public Hearing Committee. The Regional Officer, MPCB, Nagpur welcomed the Committee Members, local citizens and others.

Further she explained the purpose of conducting this public hearing and informed that as per MoEF&CC, GOI Notification SO 60(E) of 27<sup>th</sup> January, 1994 amended on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006 notices for the public hearing were published in local widely circulated Newspapers i.e. the 'Hitavada' (English) and 'Lokmat' (Marathi) on 07/08/2025. Copies of the same are enclosed as **Annexure-III**.

Copies of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment & executive summary containing salient features of the project in English & Marathi and other information/documents were made available to the public before 30 days in various Govt. offices as well as local Gram Panchayats as per MoEF&CC, GOI Notification. Suggestions, comments and objections of the public were called in writing during the notice period of the publication of the notice. In view of the public hearing around 1764 suggestions/representations have been received to MPCB through email/by hand. Copies enclosed as **Annexure-IVA**. Also 10 resolution copies from Grampanchayat, Walni, Khandala, Tondakhairi (Bellori) and Dahegaon have been received by hand. Copies enclosed as **Annexure-IVB**. The public hearing Committee was constituted vide MPC Board Office Order No. E-58/2025 vide letter No. BO/JD/(WPC)/PH/B-250813-FTS-0003 dtd. 13/08/2025. Copy of the same is enclosed as **Annexure-V**.



The Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board explained the purpose and procedure of conducting the public hearing. It was clarified that the role of the committee in this public hearing is limited to noting the objections received and forwarding them as it is to the Ministry, and that no decision regarding the grant of permission for the project would be taken at this stage.

After the introduction by the officials of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), the participants (public) were asked to present their points, objections, and suggestions if any regarding the project. The Chairman of the hearing, Shri Anup Khande, Additional District Magistrate, Nagpur, also appealed the public to express their views. The public representatives and citizens present expressed strong resentment and opposition regarding the proposed project. Taking this into consideration, the Hon'ble Chairman decided to stop the ongoing environmental public hearing and accordingly informed the same.

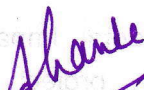
However, the public representatives and citizens opposed the decision to stop the hearing and demanded that the hearing shall be concluded formally. Also they demanded that the committee shall provide written proceedings (minutes of the public hearing) immediately. In view of the same the proceedings were prepared by the officials of the MPC Board at the public hearing venue. The Hon'ble Chairman read out the proceedings before the public representatives and citizens **Annexure-VI**. He also stated that, there is a strong opposition expressed by all citizens as well as the resolutions of the nearby Gram Panchayats. Considering the strong opposition from the public and its representatives the committee chairman concluded the public hearing and informed the same to the public.



(Hema Deshpande)  
Member of the Public Hearing Committee  
and  
Regional Officer, MPC Board, Nagpur



(Dhanashree Patil)  
Convener of the Public Hearing Committee  
and  
Sub-Regional Officer, MPC Board, Nagpur-I.



(Anup Khande)  
Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee  
and  
Additional District Magistrate, Nagpur