

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING OF THE AMALGAMATION OF GUMGAON AND KHODEGAON MANGANESE MINE (AMALGAMATED LEASE AREA – 212.736 HA.) AND EXPANSION IN MANGANESE ORE PRODUCTION CAPACITY FROM 3,05,200 TPA to 6,05,200 TPA OF M/s. MOIL LIMITED, GUMGAON, KHODEGAON, TEGAI, KHAPA, KHAPAPETH & RAJNA, TAL-SAONER, DIST-NAGPUR DTD. 12/09/2025.

M/s. MOIL Limited, Gumgaon, Khodegaon, Tegai, Khapa, Khapapeth & Rajna, Tal-Saoner, Dist-Nagpur has applied for Environmental Public Hearing in respect of proposed Amalgamation of Gumgaon and Khodegaon Manganese Mine (Amalgamated Lease Area – 212.736 Ha.) and Expansion in Manganese Ore production capacity from 3,05,200 TPA to 6,05,200 TPA 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 At Project Site Gumgaon Mine, M/s. MOIL Limited, Po-Khapa, Tal-Saoner, 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 panel, and Smt. Dhanashree Patil, Sub-Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Nagpur-I as a Member Convener. The Public Hearing commenced at 1130 am with the permission of the Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel. Attendance of the citizens present during the public hearing is attached as **Annexure-I**.

BACKGROUND:

M/s. MOIL Limited submitted a request with Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to conduct Environmental Public Hearing for Amalgamation of Gumgaon and Khodegaon Manganese Mine (Amalgamated Lease Area – 212.736 Ha.) and Expansion in Manganese Ore production capacity from 3,05,200 TPA to 6,05,200 TPA on 16/06/2025 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-250624-FTS-0115 dtd. 24/06/2025 **Annexure-II**.

PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE:

Public Hearing procedure was initiated with the permission of Chairman of Public Hearing panel. The Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Nagpur-I welcomed the Chairman and Member of the public hearing panel, local citizens and others.

The Chairman of Public Hearing Panel informed that, the Public Hearing is conducted for recording the views/objects/suggestions of the participants regarding the project, and the same will be communicated as it is to the Ministry. Chairman also clarified that this panel is not here to take decision regarding accordance of approval to the project and appealed the participants to express their views and suggestions orally or in writing.

Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Nagpur-I explained the purpose of conducting this public hearing and informed that as per MoEF&CC, GOI Notification SO 60(E) of 27th January, 1994 amended on 14th September 2006 notices for the public hearing were published in local widely circulated Newspapers i.e. the 'Hitavada' (English) and 'Lokmat' (Marathi) on 06/08/2025. Copies of the same are enclosed as **Annexure-II**.

Copies of the draft EIA & 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. The public hearing panel was constituted vide MPCB Board Office Order No. E-59/2025 vide letter No. BO/JD/(WPC)/PH/B-250813-FTS-0004 dtd. 13/08/2025. Copy of the same is enclosed as **Annexure-III**. 2 representations were received to MPCB till the date of public hearing. Copy enclosed as **Annexure-IV**.

Thereafter, Sub-Regional Officer, Nagpur-I and Convener requested the project proponent to give the detailed presentation about the project. Accordingly, representative of the project proponent gave detailed power point presentation of the project in Marathi language. Project proponent explained regarding project location, benefits of proposed project, proposed facilities, fire-fighting facilities, description of environment and identification of anticipated impact, Land environment, climate and meteorology, Air Environment, existing water quality, water consumption, biological environment, socio-economic environment, impact on local infrastructure, environment management plan, air emission, preventive maintenance / inspection etc.

After the presentation Sub-Regional Officer & Convener Smt. Dhanashree Patil requested the citizens to express their views, comments, concern & suggestions after mentioning their name & name of the village.

FOLLOWING MEMBERS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN PUBLIC HEARING AND RAISED QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS. THE DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1) Shri. Piyush Burde, Khapa, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	How much land will the project proponent take on lease for expansion and how much will the total lease be? It is also necessary to provide information about the lease to the farmers.	Point noted. The opinions of the farmer to be taken while considering the lease aspect is noted.
2	The public announcement regarding the public hearing was made in all the 3 Grampanchayats of Khodegaon, Tegai & Khapa. However, the locals were unaware regarding the purpose of the public hearing.	A public notice regarding this environmental public hearing was published in two widely circulated local newspapers, daily Hitavad (English) and daily Lokmat (Marathi), on 06/08/2025. Also it was explained that, the this public hearing is conducted to note down the views/comments/objections if any regarding the Environmental aspects of the project.

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3	Whether the mining will deplete the ground water levels of dug wells, borewells and drinking water sources of the farmers. If yes what action plan the company will devise in order to maintained the ground water level.	Point noted. The company has planned to undertake plantation on a major scale in order to restore ground water levels.
4	What measures will be taken for transportation?	The village roads will be repaired/ constructed and the parking zone will be provided for heavy vehicles.

2) Smt. Sangeeta Bawiskar, Ex-Sarpanch, GP Tegai, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	Forest land has been given to MOIL through the Gram Panchayat and no steps to preserve environment have been taken by the concern. Roads have been damaged. Also, suggestion regarding beautification of the said land was given.	The village roads will be repaired/ constructed under Corporate Social Responsibility projects.
2	MOIL should help the Gram Panchayat or self-help groups. There is no healthcare facility available in the village.	Rs. 26 lakh has been reserved under Corporate Social Responsibility for carrying out development works and providing basic facilities to the villagers.

3) Shri. Ramesh Balaskar, Sarpanch, GP Tegai, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	MOIL should provide 2 acres of land for building the crematorium. The approach road for the farms is not constructed. Also the bridge shall be provided to cross the river.	Rs. 26 lakh has been reserved under Corporate Social Responsibility for carrying out development works and providing basic facilities to the villagers.

4) Shri. Praful Mohite, Khapa, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	This public hearing is conducted for the expansion of manganese mineral production capacity from 3,05,200 tons per year to 6,05,200 tons per year.	Point noted.
2	He said the project will have adverse environmental impacts such as increased mine lease area, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, change in climate, rainfall and temperature thereby impacting wildlife and birds. Depletion of groundwater levels and decrease of flow in the rivers. Change in noise levels and dust impacting health, agriculture & animals. Also it will impact the conditions of roads, temples, schools etc.	Point noted.

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3	He also added that the project will have positive impacts like generation of employment, economic development, availability of raw material to the local industries, which will lead to industrial growth and development of the area.	Point noted. 400 jobs will be created due to this project expansion.
4	MOIL should give priority to the locals of Khapa in employment. Also, they should acquire the land by taking local people into confidence.	Point noted. People from Khapa will be given priority in employment.
5	Trees should be planted in large numbers so that health is not affected.	A large number of trees will be planted.
6	Gram Panchayats should undertake projects under corporate social responsibility for Teghai and Khodegaon.	Rs. 26 lakh has been reserved under Corporate Social Responsibility for carrying out development works and providing basic facilities to the villagers.
7	Vacuum machines and JCB should be made available for cleaning drains and roads.	Point noted.
8	Traffic will cause noise pollution, MOIL should make arrangements for heavy vehicles.	Since the mine is underground, the noise levels will be limited to the prescribed limits. A parking zone will be constructed for heavy vehicles.
9	Modern equipment should be used for blasting in mines.	Modern equipments will be used for blasting in mines.

5) Smt. Sanghamitra Jibhe, Sarpanch, GP Gumgaon, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	A bridge should be constructed over the river in Gumgaon. The road should be asphalted, streetlights should be provided and a village road should be constructed.	Rs. 26 lakh has been reserved under Corporate Social Responsibility for carrying out development works and providing basic facilities to the villagers.

6) Shri. Pankaj Bansinge, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	There are unemployment issues in this area. The MOIL project has generated employment and the expansion will further increase the employment.	Point noted.
2	MOIL has provided employment. Also, they should plan to plant trees on a large scale and the fencing shall be provided to protect the plantation.	A large number of trees will be planted and fencing will be erected for protecting the trees.

7) Shri. Namdeo Gajbhiye, Khapa, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	He stated that the land records of the farmers do not have ownership of MOIL mentioned on them. Also, he suggested to provide contractual employment and expressed his support for the project.	Point noted.

8) Shri. Kiran Dahiwal, Gumgaon, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	Employment is given by MOIL.	Point noted.

9) Shri. Rakesh Patel, Contractor.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	There is an employment issue to the locals. MOIL shall provide employment to the local people.	Local people will be given priority in employment.

10) Shri. Khemraj Barapatre, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	Consider providing employment to local people. Maximum share of corporate social responsibility fund shall be allocated to the five nearby villages.	Local people will be given priority in employment. Rs. 26 lakh has been reserved under Corporate Social Responsibility for carrying out development works and providing basic facilities to the villagers.
2	Due care shall be taken to prevent damages to the environment. Trees should be planted on large scale and tourist sites shall be developed.	Point noted. A large number of trees will be planted.

11) Shri. Mukesh Tawade, Khapa, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	He suggested that MOIL should take farmers land only and ensure that farmers are not damaged.	Point noted. Underground mining will not harm the farmlands.
2	The frequency of road accidents has increased now a days due to the poor condition of the roads. In view of the same MOIL should undertake activity to repair the damaged roads.	The road will be repaired.

12) Shri. Rahul Lambat, Tawade, Khapa, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	I have got employment in MOIL.	---

13) Shri. Jayant Wankhede, Municipal Council, Khapa, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	What measures will MOIL take to control air and noise pollution?	Noise levels in underground mines will remain within prescribed limits. Modern methods will be implemented to control air and noise pollution.
2	The roads in the area are damaged due to heavy vehicle traffic.	The road will be repaired.
3	The expansion project will affect Khapa village adversely. Green belt should be developed.	A large number of trees will be planted.

14) Shri. Kishor Dakhore, Khapa, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	Farmers are facing water shortage for agriculture.	Point noted.
2	Contaminated water has affected livestock and farmers' dairy businesses.	Point noted.
3	He expressed resentment due to lack of information regarding the public hearing.	A public notice regarding this environmental public hearing was published in two widely circulated local newspapers, daily Hitavad (English) and daily Lokmat (Marathi), on 06/08/2025.

15) Smt. Sangeeta Uike, Sarpanch, GP Khodegaon, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	Despite submission of Gram Panchayat's resolution for their requirements since last 3 years to MOIL the Gram panchayats have not received any benefits under Corporate Social Responsibility.	Rs. 26 lakh has been reserved under Corporate Social Responsibility for carrying out development works and providing basic facilities to the villagers.

16) Shri. Dinesh Sambale, Khapa, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	Local people from Khapa have benefited from the employment generated due to MOIL. He expressed his support has shown for the project.	Point noted.

17) Shri. Amol Bhute, Khapa, Dist.Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	Dust and water pollution due to mining activity affects health of the people. MOIL should take measures accordingly.	Since it is an underground mine, the pollution due to dust particles will be minimum and a effluent treatment plant will be provided to prevent water pollution.
2	How many trees has MOIL planted?	---

18) Shri. Ravi Parteki, Khapa, Dist.Nagpur.

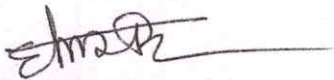
Sr. No.	Objections/Suggestion/Question	Comments/ made by Project Proponent.
1	Due to blasting, fine dust particles are mixed into the river and some animals have died after drinking water from the river. Appropriate measures should be taken to address this and farmers should be compensated.	Point noted.

Smt. Hema Deshpande, Member of Environment public hearing panel and Regional Officer, Nagpur addressed the public and said that the project proponent has provided complete information regarding the environmental aspect of the project through the presentation. The issues raised by the public and the responses given by the project proponent will be consolidated and

sent as it is to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India.

Shri. Anup Khande, Chairman of Environment public hearing panel and Additional District Magistrate, Nagpur He reviewed the issues raised by the attendees. The issue raised by the public was that, they were unaware about the purpose of the public hearing. On this the Chairman clarified that, the advertisement mentioning the purpose of the public hearing was published in widely circulated Marathi and English Newspapers. He also mentioned that the said public hearing is organized to know the suggestions and views of the public on the Environmental aspect of the project. He advised that, the project proponent should co-ordinate with the local people. MOIL should take adequate measures to address the problems like damaged roads caused by transportation and should provide parking zones for heavy vehicles. Also, MOIL should undertake projects under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) after consulting the local people's needs. Green belt should be developed. MOIL shall install upgraded water pollution system. He also advised that if anyone had any written representations, they should submit them to the committee. The issues raised by the above citizens as well as the responses given by the project proponent will be recorded and sent to the Ministry.

After that, the Public Hearing was concluded by extending vote of thanks to the public.

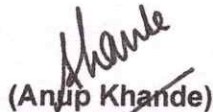


(Hema Deshpande)
Member of the Public Hearing Panel
and
Regional Officer, MPC Board, Nagpur



(Dhanashree Patil)
Convener of the Public Hearing Panel
and

Sub-Regional Officer, MPC Board, Nagpur-I.



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