

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING
HELD FOR
PROPOSED EXPANSION OF
SUGAR CANE CRUSHING CAPACITY FROM 5000 TCD TO 10000 TCD,
AND
PROPOSED MOLASSES BASED DISTILLERY OF 75 KLPD
IN RESPECT OF
M/S. SHREE DUDHGANGA VEDGANGA SAHAKARI SAKHAR
KARKHANA LTD., LOCATED AT BIDRI (MOUNI NAGAR)
TAL: KAGAL, DIST: KOLHAPUR
(MAHARASHTRA STATE)**

The environmental public hearing for proposed expansion of sugar cane crushing from 5000 to 10000 TCD and proposed molasses based distillery of 75 KLPD in respect of M/s. Shree Dudhganga Vedganga Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. was held on 06-11-2019 at 11.30 A.M. at the factory site, Bidri (Mouni Nagar), Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur

Following panel members were present for the public hearing:-

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| 1. | Hon'ble Shri. Bhausaheb Galande,
Additional District Magistrate, Kolhapur.
(Representative of District Collector, Kolhapur) | - | Chairman |
| 2. | Shri. Ravindra Andhale,
I/c. Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Kolhapur.
(Representative of Maharashtra Pollution
Control Board) | - | Member |
| 3. | Shri Prashant Gaikwad,
Sub Regional Officer, MPC Board,
Kolhapur. | - | Convener |

First of all, Shri Prashant Gaikwad, Convener of the environmental public hearing welcomed the participants and with the permission of Hon'ble Chairman started the public hearing. He informed that the proposed project comes under category 'A' of EIA Notification 2006 as amended of MoEFCC, Government of India and hence, environmental public hearing is mandatory for the project. For that purpose the project proponent has submitted proposal to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. MoEFCC, New Delhi has approved ToR to the project proponent on certain terms and conditions to prepare a draft EIA Report for the proposed project. Thereafter, the project proponent has prepared and submitted draft Environment Impact Assessment Report to the Government. Thereafter, the Additional District Magistrate, Kolhapur gave date

for the public hearing. After that, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board published notice regarding environmental public hearing in daily newspapers, the Marathi newspaper daily "Pudhari" and English newspaper "The Times of India" on 05-10-2019. The copies of EIA report and executive summary were made available for study to public at the District Collector Office, Kolhapur; District Industries Center, Kolhapur; Zilla Parishad, Kolhapur; The Secretary, Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mantralay, Mumbai; Head Office of M.P.C. Board, Mumbai; Regional Office, MPC Board, Kolhapur; S.D.O., Kagal; Tahsil Office, Kagal; Panchayat Samiti Office, Kagal; Gram Panchayat, Bidri, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur and requested to submit their complaints, objections, suggestions etc. The convener requested public to ask questions, submit their complaints, suggestions orally or in writing. These will be included in the minutes of the environmental public hearing. He informed that MPC Board has received five written complaints regarding proposed project. He clarified that this committee does not take any decision regarding granting permission to the proposed project. The purpose of this public hearing is to inform the public about the proposed project, its effects on environment and precautionary measures to be taken to protect the environment and also to record suggestions and objections of the public and to submit the minutes to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

Thereafter, the environmental consultant Dr. Sangram Ghugare, M/s. Equinox Environments (I) Pvt. Ltd. presented information with the help of slide show. He mentioned that the proposed project is located at aerial distance of more than 10 kms. from Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary, and hence, it is not necessary to obtain clearance of National Board of Wild Life, New Delhi for the proposed project. The ecological sensitive zone of Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary is at a distance of less than 5 Kms from the proposed project, hence, as per EIA Notification, 2006 of MOEFCC such projects are considered in Category 'A'. Also not a single village in Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary comes in the EIA study area of 10 km. radius.

He presented information regarding geographical location of the project, its satellite images, upgradation of boiler of cogeneration plant, environmental settings, integrated information of the project, features of the proposed project, project proponent, products and by products, raw material, manufacturing process of sugar plant, co-generation and distillery, use of water for sugar and co-generation plant, present and after expansion waste water generation of sugar and co-generation plant, use of water for distillery and waste water generation, proposed Sewage Treatment Plant and industrial Effluent Treatment Plant of the sugar factory, proposed CPU of sugar factory and distillery, sources of pollution, emergency management system, green belt development programme, rain water harvesting, expenditure on social and economic development, proposed social and economic development programme, details of expenditure on environmental pollution control, capital investment and maintenance, study of Environmental Impact Assessment conducted from December 2018 to February 2019, satellite map, topography map, land use, biodiversity, habitat, CREP standards etc.

After above presentation, following discussion / question-answer took place.

Q.1. Shri. Eknath Chavan, Village Borawade, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur.

I am satisfied about the information given during presentation but I have some questions. What will be the crushing capacity of the sugar plant after expansion ? How much alcohol will be produced from the proposed distillery ? What will be the total cost of these two projects ?

Ans:

The environmental consultant replied that due to good rate, alcohol generation will be increased. 230 litres of alcohol will be produced from one ton of the molasses. For sugar factory, recovery will be reduced. Hence, there will be economic benefits. Alcohol will be produced from cane juice. And hence, the factory need not depend on other factories for molasses.

Q.2. Shri. Annaso Powar, village Bidri, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur.

I am local villager. You have presented information about use of modern technology in the proposed project. Such type of information was also presented while starting the cogeneration plant. These projects are located near human habitation. We had made complaints to the Managing Director of the sugar factory regarding pollution caused due to bagasse of cogeneration plant. At that time, factory had stopped the pollution by providing sheets. As per the presentation shown now, concrete steps should be taken to prevent pollution especially for village Bidri, village Borvade, village Sonali etc. We are not against proposed project, but it will not cause nuisance to us. Yesterday afternoon, I have made complaint about noise pollution from the sugar factory. The factory cause air, noise pollution. Hence, have you taken separate measures for these villages ?

Ans:

The environmental consultant agreed that present factory has caused nuisance. He informed that for such type of complaints, environment cell will be formed. There will be 10 member committee and I will be the Chairman of the committee. The committee will look after environmental issues. You should make your complaints to the cell, after collecting complaints we will certainly take proper steps.

Q.3. Shri. Bhikaji Patil, Member, Grampanchayat Bidri, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur and sugarcane producer member.

Pollution caused by the factory is the sensitive issue of our village which needs to be discussed thoroughly. All waste water generated by the factory should be collected and treated together. Then only it should be disposed outside. But if we see the present

situation, the factory sends only 50% of total waste water generation for treatment, but I do not say that this waste water is treated. Remaining 50% waste water directly discharged into nalla and finally enters into river basin. Because of direct entry of waste water into the river, the biodiversity has come into danger and also the health of the people living around the river has also badly affected, soil and sugar cane crops have badly damaged due to use of polluted river water. The people in this area have been agitating from time to time, but the factory management has not paid attention. Grampanchayat has also given various representations from time to time but they have not taken any steps to control pollution. I say that the 50% of total waste water which is sent to the effluent treatment plant is also not treated properly. We say that first of all, implement the measures as shown and suggested in the presentation to prevent pollution from present plant, treat the waste water properly then only we will give permission to the proposed project. Give your opinion on this issue.

Ans:

The environmental consultant replied that sugar industry is water intensive. In such type of industry, the generation should be stopped at source. We have planned to reduce the water use in the proposed project for which the management has made provision of Rs. 2 crores. Old plant has caused nuisance but in the proposed project we are going to make upgradation for which give us an opportunity. We will carry out periodic monitoring. We are going to control all types of pollution step by step. Give us one season for providing all pollution control equipments. If you want, I will explain all the plans to you personally.

Shri. Bhikaji Patil said that even though giving lot of opportunities from time to time to the industry, they have not made any improvement. Hence, instead of giving another opportunity, make the old plant pollution free and then only go for proposed project.

Shri. Ravindra Desai, Managing Director of the factory, said that all steps as per presentation will be taken to control pollution.

Shri Bhikaji Patil said that I do not agree with reply of the environmental consultant and the Managing Director regarding the measures they are suggesting to take as these are impossible things which we have already experienced from time to time. First of all make the currently running plant pollution free because it is question of our life. We are living at a distance of 600 mtrs from the factory. We have badly suffered from pollution this factory which cannot be imagined. Its impact on us is very bad. First of all make the currently running plants pollution free then go for expansion.

Q.4. Shri. Sunil Maruti Patil, sugarcane producer member, Village Bidri, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur.

I have already registered complaint regarding the proposed project. My point is my irrigated land is located opposite to the sugar

factory. The factory discharges polluted waste water during night hours which is supplied to our crops through irrigation which has led to financial losses to me. This polluted water is also used for drinking purpose for people and animals. Secondly, the sugar factory has not taken any concrete measures to control ash. We are living at a distance of 500 to 600 meters from the sugar factory. Lot of ash is found while sweeping our homes. I think it would have been better to conduct environmental public hearing while the factory is in operation and then only, you could have observed the level of noise pollution, pollution from ash, air pollution and water pollution. You could have observed it with open eyes that how we are living in miserable condition. Heaps of bagasse are found in the surrounding areas and huge bagasse is spread in the environment. It has caused ill effects like eye damage, accidents etc. and also it has caused big problem of respiratory diseases among the villagers residing in surrounding areas. Citizens of village Boravade, village Bidri, village Farakatewadi, village Walve are down with respiratory diseases. But it is found that the factory management has not taken any measures to control environmental pollution. Our forefathers have transferred 72 hectares of land to you for the purpose of school education and welfare of the people in this area. The landless people do not get justice here. Hence, justice to the people from all fields in this area including citizens of village Bidri should be given. I request that minimum 10% of employment opportunities in the proposed project should be given the residents of village Bidri.

Q.5. Shri. Shahaji Pandurang Gaikwad, Ex-member of Grampanchayat Bidri, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur.

During the presentation given by the environmental consultant, he mentioned that the distillery is highly polluting industry. We have read that the waste water of the distillery will be discharged into river water. The environmental consultant mentioned that for production of one litre of alcohol 6 to 8 litres of spent wash is generated but I say that for production of one litre of alcohol 10 to 15 litres of spent wash is generated. Hence, I have doubts, even though you are trying to tell us how good the proposed project is. I request the Sub Regional Officer, MPCB and the Chairman of the committee that as representatives of government can you say that this industry is 100% pollution free. We have doubts about the proposed project and the villagers of Bidri strongly oppose the project. In January 2015, we had made complaint regarding pollution problems of the sugar factory. Panchaganga River Pollution Control Committee has mentioned in complaint that the industrial effluent treatment plant of the industry is inadequate, bagasse particles are mixed in atmosphere. The factory was discharging its waste/chemical water, molasses into nalla thereby into the river. The pollution caused by the one distillery is equivalent to the pollution caused by 10 sugar factories. If these industries are pollution free, then why Maharashtra Pollution Control Board forfeited bank guarantees of 10 sugar factories in Kolhapur district and one sugar factory in Sangli district in the last year. Hence, we have no trust on zero pollution

industry. Hence, we oppose proposed distillery and expansion of sugar factory. There is so bad situation that the ash particles through air find in our meals. We are complaining about this from time to time to the factory management, but they do not pay attention to our complaints. From past it is observed that whenever the factory brings new projects, its management speak sweet language to the citizens of village Bidri. But we have experienced that since last four years the factory management has not taken any measures to stop pollution. Hence, we can say that the project is a fiction. Hence, I request the Sub Regional Officer, MPCB and the Chairman of the committee that as representatives of government they should look into the matter. The sugar factory provides very impure water to us for drinking purpose. Due to pollution, the health of the people has come in danger and hence, I oppose the project.

Ans:

The environmental consultant said that it is true that there is air pollution due to bagasse and ash of the sugar factory. To solve this problem we will form a committee of representatives of MPCB, sugar factory, grampanchayat, villagers and myself and we will carry out monitoring. We will hold a meeting of this committee as and when you demand for the same and will discuss on the monitoring reports. We have to submit monitoring reports to the Regional Office of MOEFCC every six months after the industry starts operating. Hence, in coming season we will collect monitoring data. The pollution control equipments must be run properly to achieve the standards. Secondly, I said that there will be zero discharge and not zero pollution. Thirdly, I request you to spare a day and I will show you two distilleries of 75 KLPD which are operating very well. Then ask any question, I will answer to your satisfaction. Such type of projects are necessary for the progress, and we do not want cause any type of nuisance to the villagers.

Q.6. Shri. Bhagawat Mahadev Warake, village Borawade, Tal: kagal, Dist: Kolhapur.

The doubts, questions about pollution raised by the villagers now are true. We are facing nuisance of pollution since long time and hence, it is important to solve this problem even if we get some rate cut per ton for the sugarcane produced by us. All pollution control equipments must run continuously and properly and their maintenance should be done regularly. Then only we will give permission to the proposed project. It is not possible for the villagers to come every time to factory management to make complaints, but the factory management should see that such type of problems shall not arise. Common man cannot find time from his day to day work to visit the management frequently. We are not against the the proposed project.

Ans:

The environmental consultant of the proposed project replied that we will carry out continuous monitoring. Complainant should visit

the factory once in three months or write letter about functioning of the project whether the project is running properly or not. We will make and implement a plan to control pollution.

Q.7. Shri. Chandrakant Bajirao Patil, Village Walawe Khurd, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur.

The total cost of the proposed project is Rs. 400 crores. But In comparsion to this, the total cost of the sugarcane development programme is Rs. 40 to 50 lacs which is very a small amount. The proposed project is based on sugarcane, then how will the project operate if sufficient sugarcane will not be available in future ? Hence, the sugarcane development programme should be implemented effectively and cost to that effect should be increased.

Ans.

Shri. K. P. Patil, Chairman, M/s. Shree Dudhganga Vedganga SSK Ltd. stated that we accept your suggestions. Due to over use of water, the productivity is decreasing. Government has declared scheme of 100% advance for drip irrigation system and we are going to implement the scheme by taking intiative. Last time the factory management had agreed that we will give set of drip irrigation of Rs. 10000 to the farmers but response of the farmers is very low. We will try to increase awareness in the farmers about sugarcane development programme and will try to implement the same maximum. In past most sugar factories had a problem of waste water treatment. Recently, new technology has been developed through which all the water in sugarcane is utilized in the plant and not a single drop of water is taken from outside. I assure that we are going to use this new technology in the proposed project and the the technology in the old plants will be upgraded. All water in the sugarcane will be used in the process. Hence, no waste water will be let into nalla as per current practice and there will be no pollution. We are going to upgrade the old systems in the sugar factory. There were no modern technology and hence we had not established distillery. But now modern technology for distillery is available in India, and hence, we are going establish the proposed distillery project. Our management will take all measures to control pollution. We will take into consideration the emotions of the villagers. Positive steps shall be taken in case of employment to the local people. I politely request all villagers to give consent for the proposed project. We will make it a model plant in Maharashtra. Also, people faced lot of nuisance due to co-generation plant, there were difficulties before use, misunderstanding among the people, and there were lot of comments on the management. We have upgraded the technology of the cogeneration plant. Ethanol production is very important and has all time a great market. Hence, we can give good rates for sugarcane producer farmers. It will be beneficial for the surrounding villages and the factory itself. We will certainly try to correct the previous mistakes. We welcome your views. We have provided ESP system to control air pollution from ash. This is project of all of us which has been established from the sacrifice of Bidri villagers. About 218 villages

around the factory have progressed due to the sugar factory, thousands of small commercial activities have started. Once the proposed project starts the whole area will be develop greatly. I heartily request the people of village Bidri to give consent to the proposed projected without delay.

Q.8. Shri. Dayanand Kamble, Village Bidri, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur.

I appreciate the points raised by Shri. Shahaji Kamble. The project should be started after taking into consideration the probable dangers. We do not object the proposed project at all. But we are going to face the problems that will be caused due to pollution. From time to time, we are making complaint to the managing director of the factory about pollution from bagasse, ash, mixing of blackish polluted water to nalla and river. I request factory magement that by taking into consideration our problems they should take all steps to control pollution and there shall not be any kind of pollution due to proposed project. Secondly, while providing modern technology in the project, We shall form a committee including five representatives of village Bidri and five members of the management and shall enter into an agreement in which the factory management shall commit that there will not be any kind of pollution which will make people confident about the proposed project and hence, I trust that there will not be objections of the people. Also the people of village Bidri have not got any employment opportunity in the factory since last so many years, they are still working as labourers in the factory, hence, we expect that they should be given employment opportunity. We support the proposed project, solve pollution problems.

Ans.

Shri. K. P. Patil, Chairman, M/s. Shree Dudhganga Vedganga SSK Ltd. stated that whatever pointed out by Shri Dayanand Kamble is true and we accept it. Since last 25 to 30 years there has not been any recruitment in this sugar factory except technical persons and officers. I have been chairman of this sugar factory from last 17 years. We have declared in the general body meeting that we are going to recruit employees in the factory. In old days, drinking water schemes were implemented by Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran, all villages were getting polluted water for drinking purpose and still going on. Hence, we have placed an order to establish water purification plant to Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran approved contractor. The plant will come in operation within a few days. The factory management has decided to commission the plant on demand of the Bidri villagers. We have positive approach. We all should make the project successful as this is going to be a very good project.

Q.9. Shri. Shahaji Pandurang Gaikwad, Ex-member of Grampanchayat Bidri, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur.

Which material will you use to construct the spent wash storage tank ? Sarpanch and Dy-Sarpanch of Grampanchayat Bidri should have called a meeting of villagers to inform them about this public hearing and taken into confidence.

Ans.

The environmental consultant replied that the spent wash storage tank will be made from RCC which has epoxy coating and it will be three days capacity storage tank.

Q.10. Shri. Annaso Powar, Village Bidri, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur.

I request the chairman that as demanded by the Sarpanch of village Bidri, the committee should work transparently and all decisions of the committee should be communicated to the villagers,

Q.11. Shri. Sunil Maruti Patil, Sugarcane producer member, Village Bidri, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur.

The chairman of the sugar factory just told that they have approved drinking water plant. For this, I congratulate him on behalf of the villagers of Bidri. He told that there will be growth of 218 villages of this area, but I expect that priority should be given for development of village Bidri.

Ans.

Shri. K. P. Patil, Chairman, M/s. Shree Dudhganga Vedganga SSK Ltd. informed that the factory management has decided to form a study committee to look into the environmental aspect and to take proper measures to control pollution from the proposed project.

After above discussion, the Hon'ble Chairman of the public hearing committee said that the committee sufficient opportunity has been given to the villagers to express their views and many villagers have expressed their views. These views are recorded by the committee, these views will be included in the minutes of the public hearing and the minutes along with representations received will be submitted to MOEFCC for further necessary action.

At last, the Hon'ble Chairman of the public hearing committee thanked public for their cooperation in conducting the public hearing peacefully and thereafter, declared the meeting concluded.

Five copies of objection letters received in respect of the proposed project are enclosed with the minutes of the environmental public hearing.

(Prashant Gaikwad)
Convener
Cum
Sub Regional Officer,
MPC Board, Kolhapur.

(Ravindra Andhale)
Member
Cum
Regional Officer,
MPC Board, Kolhapur.

(Bhausaheb Galande)
Chairman
Cum
Additional District Magistrate,
Kolhapur.