

8. PUBLIC HEARING

8.1. Public Hearing Details

As per the Terms of Reference condition no.30, Public Hearings have been conducted in 7 districts through which proposed pipeline passes; namely Bharuch, Surat, Navsari and Valsad of Gujarat by Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB), Palghar, Thane and Raigad of Maharashtra by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. Details of Public Hearings conducted along with date, venue and notice publication are provided in the **Table 117**.

Table 117: Details of Public Hearings Conducted for the Proposed Project

District	Date and Time	Venue	News Paper Notice
Gujarat			
Bharuch	29 th April, 2015, 11:00 A.M.	Open Plot (Block No.67), Village Matied, Ta. Ankaleshwar, Off. Hansot – Ankaleshwar Road (SH-6), Dist. Bharuch.	26.03.2015 1. Gujarat Samachar (Gujarati) 2. The Times of India (English)
Surat	08 th May, 2015, 11:00 A.M.	SMC Sarthana Community Hall, Opp. Sarthana Zoo, Near Swaminarayan Temple, Surat-Kamrej Road, Vill. Sarthana, Dist. Surat.	06.04.2015 1. Gujarat Mitra (Gujarati) 2. The Times of India (English)
Navsari	15 th April, 2015, 11:00 A.M.	Shri Navsari Purva Vibhag Koli Samaj Vikas Trust, Near M/s Jalaram Rice Mill, At & Po: Khadsupa Boarding, NH no.8, Ta & Dist. Navsari.	14.03.2015 1. Divya Bhaskar (Gujarati) 2. The Times of India (English)
Valsad	22 nd April, 2015, 11:00 A.M.	Unity Hall, Besides Renbasera Hotel, NH no.08, Killa Pardi, Tal.Pardi, Dist. Valsad.	18.03.2015 1. Sandesh (Gujarati) 2. The Times of India (English)
Maharashtra			
Palghar	10 th April, 2015, 11:00 A.M.	TIMA Auditorium, P-14, Recreation Centre, MIDC, Tarapur, Boisar, Dist. Palghar – 401 506.	07.03.2015 1. Lokmat (Marathi) 2. The Times of India (English)
Thane	10 th June, 2015, 11:00 A.M.	JSSP Arts, Commerce and Science College, Village Goveli, Taluka Kalyan, Dist. Thane-421 301.	08.05.2015 1. Sakal (Marathi) 2. The Free Press Journal (English) 09.05.2015 3. Hindustan Times (English)
Raigad	04 th April, 2015, 11:30 A.M.	Vishwaniketan Institute of Management and Engineering Technology Campus, Survey No.52, Vill. Kumbhivli, Near Khalapur Toll Naka, Off Mumbai-Pune Expressway, Tal. Khalapur, Dist. Raigad- 401202	02.03.2015 1. Dianik Krushival (Marathi) 2. The Times of India (English)

The district-wise summary of the questions raised by people during Public Hearing at Bharuch, Surat, Navsari, Valsad, Palghar, Thane and Raigad and the response given by the Project Proponent is presented in the **Tables 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123 and 124** respectively. **Minutes of the public hearinmgs are attached as Annexure-XIVa, XIVb, XIVc, XIVd, XIVE, XIVf, XIVg.**

Table 118: Public Hearing in Bharuch Dist.: Issues raised by the Public and Response given by Project Proponent

S.No.	Questions raised by Public	Response given by Proponent
1.	Compensation issues are not resolved for the previous pipeline project. Also pending court cases regarding compensation for previous pipeline project to be resolved	Company will make sincere efforts to expedite disposal of pending court cases through Competent Authority (CA) appointed by Government.
2.	Expressed satisfaction towards CSR activities and tree plantation done by Reliance in the past and requested to start the hospital in Dahej. Workman in Dahej area can avail the facilities.	Dahej Hospital will be started and dedicated for the public for treatment.
3.	Highest level of safety measures should be implemented to avoid leakages. Fire station should be set up.	International safety practices will be implemented to ensure the highest level of safety to minimise the probability of leakages.
4.	Tree plantation and signages should be done.	Tree plantation will be carried out as part of CSR programs.
5.	How will the RoU be acquired for the proposed pipeline project?	RoU acquisition and compensation will be undertaken as per the provisions of Petroleum Mineral Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962
6.	Measures should be taken to protect the environment.	Environment Management Plan will be adopted to minimise the impact on Environment.
7.	Safety precautions for the pipeline passing through habitations.	Extra safety measures such as increasing the thickness of pipeline and designing the pipeline for higher factor of safety will be implemented.
8.	Can the plantation of Hybrid Nilgiri in the RoU be done in the RoU as their roots are not deep rooted?	As per PMP Act, tree plantation is not allowed within the RoU.

Table 119: Public Hearing in Surat Dist.: Issues raised by the Public and Response given by Project Proponent

S.No.	Questions raised by Public	Response given by Proponent
1.	If the RoU is same for laying new pipeline, why the public hearing is held again?	As per the laws applicable and ToR issued by MoEF, public hearing is conducted.
2.	Draft Environmental Impact Assessment is prepared for 1.4 MMTPA and in ToR, it is approved only 1.25 MTPA.	Environmental Impact Assessment and Risk Assessment studies have been done for 1.4 MMTPA for higher factor of safety. However, approval will be taken only for 1.25 MMTPA.
3.	Has company considered alternate mode of transportation	Techno-economic feasibility of alternate mode of transportations have been studied and chose the pipeline transportation as the feasible option.
4.	Has the cumulative impact or domino effect of other pipelines and industrial areas been studied for the leakages?	Cumulative impacts of adjacent pipelines have been studied assessed in the Risk Assessment Chapter of EIA and proposed preventive safety measures will be implemented.
5.	What is the distance between existing pipeline and proposed pipeline?	According to OISD (Oil Industry Safety Directorate) Guidelines 214 T4S, second pipeline can be laid at a distance of 5m. If heave construction machinery is not used, it can be reduced to 3m. These standards will be adopted.
6.	Safety measures for preventing pinhole leakages	There are three systems to detect and control pinhole leakages 1. SCADA System based on GIS, 2. Online Leak Detection System (OLDS) and 3. Ultra-modern Pipeline Intrusion Detection System (PIDS) which will detect smallest leaks and send information to Control Room with its geographical location. Pressure monitoring will be done at every valve station continuously which will record the pressure drop and immediately report the information to control room.
7.	How the company propose to lay pipeline at Narmada river crossing.	Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) technique will be used for laying the proposed pipeline at the Narmada river crossing. The entry and exit points of the proposed pipeline will be 200 m and 400 m away from the Northe and South Bank respectively. This will not disturb the river regime.
8.	Permanent flaring system should be kept at compressor station and it should have tall flare structure	Permanent flaring system will be kept at Pump Station. In addition, mobile flaring facilities will be made available at strategic locations to attend the emergencies.

9	Hydro-test water should be recycled. What is the disposal mechanism for hydro-test water?	Hydro-test water will be reused in other test section to the extent possible. Disposal will be done after meeting the discharge standards.
10	Who are the responsible persons in the event of accident?	Disaster Management Plan will contain the name and contact numbers of officers for responding to emergencies.
11	At the time of laying pipeline, Soil layer got disturbed which has affected crop yield.	The land in the RoU will be reinstated to near original condition and handed over to the owners for resuming farming activities.
12	Pipeline is likely to pass through residential areas of SUDA and Expanded City. Report does not deal with details of affected population in these areas.	Details of dwelling units on either side of pipeline route are considered while assessing the risk in the EIA report which deals with the combined effect for individual and societal risk.
13	What are the additional safety measures for the pipeline proposed through residential areas?	Highest factor of safety will be considered for the proposed pipeline at residential areas. The design safety factor is considered as 0.4 and accordingly thickness of 12" pipeline will be increased from 6.8 mm to 9.9 mm. Further distance between two valve stations in highly populated residential areas will be reduced from 24 km to 12km. Also, Hydro-testing for such residential areas will be done for 1.5 times the design pressure for 24 hours instead of 1.25 times of design pressure for 4 hours.
14	Fertility of the land has not been restored for the previous pipeline. Watering cannot be done where the trench is backfilled to level higher than normal.	The land in the RoU will be reinstated to near original condition and handed over to the owners for resuming farming activities.
15	Adequate compensation has not been given for the previous pipeline.	For the proposed pipeline project, compensation will be paid through Competent Authority (CA) nominated by Government as per Petroleum Mineral Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962.
16	Trees should be planted in the same village from which it is cut.	Compensatory afforestation will be undertaken in accordance with Forest Conservation Act and its rules for the trees cut in the forest. Also for every tree cut in private land, 10 trees will be planted in compensation.

Table 120: Public Hearing in Navsari Dist.: Issues raised by the Public and Response given by Project Proponent

S.No.	Questions raised by Public	Response given by Proponent
1.	Compensation issues are not resolved for the previous pipeline.	For the proposed pipeline project, compensation will be paid through Competent Authority (CA) nominated by Government as per Petroleum Mineral Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962.
2.	Land fertility will be reduced if the proposed project is implemented.	Top soil will be stacked separately and reinstated to its near original position upon completion of pipeline laying. Hence there will be no loss of fertility.
3.	Pending court cases regarding compensation for previous pipeline project to be resolved.	Company will make sincere efforts to expedite disposal of pending court cases through Competent Authority (CA) appointed by Government.
4.	Why is the environmental public hearing being conducted?	As the proposed pipeline is passing through Dahanu Eco-fragile area, Environmental Public Hearing is to be conducted in all districts through which the pipeline passing as per EIA Notification, 2006.
5.	Notices regarding RoU acquisition for the proposed pipeline have not been received.	Notices regarding RoU acquisition will be issued separately by Government appointed Competent Authority (CA) as per provision of PMP Act.
6.	Project capacity as per ToR is 1.25 MMTPA whereas Draft Environmental Impact Assessment report mentions 1.4 MMTPA.	Environmental Impact Assessment and Risk Assessment studies have been done for 1.4 MMTPA for higher factor of safety. However, approval will be taken only for 1.25 MMTPA.
7.	What are the safety measures for the proposed pipeline?	The pipeline design will conform to the ASME B31.4 and OISD 214. The entire pipeline will be hydro tested and radiography will be done for all weld joints. For real time pipeline operations, SCADA, Leak Detection System (LDS) and Pipeline Intrusion Detection System will be provided. Remote valve operation facility and Cathodic Protection System will also be provided. In the rare and extreme case of leakage, flaring of Ethane will be done through Mobile flare.
8.	What are the protection measures for new pipeline	New pipeline will be made of Carbon Steel with 3 layers of Polyethylene Coating, In addition to this, Cathodic Protection System will be provided for corrosion protection,

Table 121: Public Hearing in Valsad Dist.: Issues raised by the public and response given by Project Proponent

S. No	Questions raised by Public	Response given by Proponent
1.	For previous pipeline project, how many trees were cut down? As per calculation 1.8 Lac trees were cut down. What steps were taken against them?	There are total 73, 228 trees were cut down. As per the requirement of the forest department, 10 trees have been planted for every tree cut.
2.	What are the measures proposed for noise pollution?	Sound muffling arrangements will be made so as to maintain the noise from all the sources within standards. No construction activities will be undertaken during the night time so as to reduce impact on environment.
3.	Upper layer of the soil get disturbed and soil fertility levels will go down.	For the proposed project, top soil will be stacked separately and reinstated to its near original position upon completion of pipeline laying. Hence there will be no loss of fertility.
4.	How much crop/tree compensation will be paid? Sufficient land compensation should be given.	Compensation will be determined by the Competent Authority (CA) as per provision of the PMP Act for removal of any standing crops/trees and for RoU Acquisition.
5.	Heavy earth moving machinery will damage the roads and environment.	Company will undertake repair works in consultation with public works department in case of any damage due to movement of heavy vehicles. Pipeline laying is one time activity and the effect on environment is temporary and negligible.
6.	What will happen in case of accident?	Onsite and offsite emergency response plan will be in place. Agreements have been made with other companies for mutual aid. District Administration will be part of disaster management plan and emergency response plan. Mock drills will be conducted for emergency preparedness. Valves will be cut off immediately and Ethane flow will be stopped. Company's emergency response team will reach the site along with district administration to attend the emergency. Mobile flaring will be operated.
7.	What are the provisions In case of accidents?	The liability (Statutory Cover) will be is covered as per Public Liability Insurance Act.
8.	Roots of the trees do not go to 7 feet depth then how it can damage the pipeline	As per PMP Act, planting trees is not permitted within the RoU.

9	Under CSR activities, organic/vermi compost fertilizer should be distributed to farmers. Tree plantation should be done.	CSR schemes will be implemented through Reliance Foundation based on need assessment and discussion with the concerned.
10	Tree plantation is not permitted within the RoU as per the PMP act. Company needs to ascertain whether tree plantation can cause any damage to the pipeline and provide guidance to the farmers.	It will be ascertained in consultation with horticulturists.

Table 122: Public Hearing in Palghar Dist.: Issues raised by the Public and Response given by Project Proponent

S.No.	Questions raised by Public	Response given by Proponent
1.	Whether new RoU will be acquired for the proposed pipeline	Major section of the proposed pipeline will be laid in the RoU of the existing pipeline. For a small pipeline section, new RoU will be acquired.
2.	Will there be employment generation	During the construction phase, based on qualification and skill set, local people will be given employment. There is no permanent employment as the pipeline will be buried underground.
3.	How will the company ensure development of the villages through which the pipeline passes?	CSR schemes will be implemented through Reliance Foundation based on need assessment and discussion with the concerned.
4.	Adequate compensation is not paid for the previous pipeline projects.	For the proposed pipeline project, compensation will be paid through Competent Authority (CA) nominated by Government as per Petroleum Mineral Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962.
5.	Land restoration is not done properly	In order to ensure proper restoration, contractor will be asked to obtain No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the landowner. Also, no payment will be made to the contractor until NOC from landowners is obtained
6.	Measures proposed in case of pipeline leak.	All activities along the pipeline route will be monitored through the Pipeline Intrusion Detection System (PIDS). The pipeline operation will be monitored through Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA). Online Leak Detection System will also be provided. The pipeline operation centre will immediately get information in case of any leakage. Also, the remote operated Mainline Valves will be closed to isolate the leak

7.	Benefits to the farmers due to RoU acquisition	Appropriate land, crop and tree compensation will be provided. After completion of pipeline construction, RoU will be reinstated to near original conditions and returned to the land owners for normal use.
8.	How will the farmers know about the new pipeline	Government appointed Competent Authority (CA) will issue Right of Use (RoU) notices to the farmers as per the provisions of PMP Act.
9.	How will people know about the existence of a pipeline after completion of construction?	RoU markers, Warning markers and Aerial markers are installed along the pipeline route. With the help of these, anyone can understand that there is a pipeline crossing close-by.
10.	Whether the proposed project has been approved by the government.	PNGRB has granted authorization for laying the proposed pipeline of RGPL.
11.	Farmers should be given a share in company profit.	Government appointed CA will take decisions on all compensation related issues.

Table 123: Public Hearing in Thane Dist.: Issues raised by the public and response given by Project Proponent

S.No.	Questions raised by Public	Response given by Proponent
1.	Land restoration was not done properly for pervious pipeline project. Land becomes infertile and unsuitable farming.	For the Proposed Project, the RGPL will ensure restoration of land is done to the farmers' satisfaction. NOC will be obtained from the individual farmers after restoration of the land at the original condition.
2.	Adequate compensation was not paid to the land owners.	For the proposed pipeline project, compensation will be paid through Competent Authority (CA) nominated by Government as per provisions of Petroleum Mineral Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962.
3.	Construction activities cannot be undertake in the RoU acquired for pipeline laying.	Farmers can undertake construction activities in the area other than 30m RoU.
4.	Company should use maximum forest land instead of using farmers land for laying pipeline. How many trees have been planted for the trees cut in the previous pipeline project?	For the proposed pipeline, for the trees cut in the forest lands, land will be purchased separately and handed over to the forest department for raising compensatory afforestation. For the trees cut in the private land, adequate compensation will be provided to the farmers. Also for every tree cut in private land, 10 trees will be planted.
5.	CSR schemes should be implemented in villages. A co-ordination committee involving villagers should be formed.	CSR activities will be carried out in consultation with the local bodies based on the need assessment as per the provisions of Companies Act and CSR Rules.

6.	Due to the movement of heavy vehicles during construction, the road will get damaged.	Company will undertake repair works in consultation with public works department in case of any damage due to movement of heavy vehicles.
7.	Due to laying of pipeline, many trees will be cut.	The major section of the proposed pipeline will be laid in the Right of Use (RoU) of existing East West Pipeline (EWPL) of Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Limited. Hence tree cutting is not involved in the existing RoU. For the pipeline which will be laid in the new RoU, adequate compensation will be paid through Competent Authority (CA) as per provisions of Petroleum and Mineral Pipelines (Right of user in Land) (PMP Act). In addition to compensation, 10 trees will be planted against every tree cut. Also, preventive measures will be taken to avoid air pollution while laying the pipeline.

Table 124: Public Hearing in Raigad Dist.: Issues raised by the public and response given by Project Proponent

S.No.	Questions raised by Public	Response given by Proponent
1.	Adequate compensation is not paid for the previous pipeline projects.	For the proposed pipeline project, compensation will be paid through Competent Authority (CA) nominated by Government as per Petroleum Mineral Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962.
2.	Public Hearing date is to be changed and to be conducted Taluka-wise	As per EIA Notification and ToR issued by MoEF, Public Hearing has been organised district-wise.
3.	Proposed project passes through many hilly areas and many trees will be cut during pipeline laying.	Most of the proposed pipeline will be laid in the Right of Use (RoU) of existing East West Pipeline (EWPL) which is operated by Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Limited (RGTEL). For the pipeline proposed in the new RoU, compensatory afforestation will be carried out as per Forest Conservation Act. For the pipeline proposed in the private land, 10 trees will be planted against each tree cut as compensatory afforestation.
4.	Company should undertake plantation of trees in villages	Compensatory afforestation will be taken up as per the applicable laws.
5.	Preference should be given to local people for employment.	Preference will be given to local people based on the qualification and skill sets available.
6.	Employment should be given for land owners through which pipeline is passing.	Preference will be given to local people based on the qualification and skill sets available.
7.	Company should take up social welfare activities in the health and education sectors.	Company will take up CSR activities in health and education sectors in consultation with local bodies as per provisions of the Companies Act and CSR Rules.

8.	At what distance pipeline markers will be placed.	Pipeline markers will be placed at a distance 250 m. Also markers will be placed at the water body, roads and other crossing locations.
9.	There is a danger of pipeline getting ruptured across the river. If the trench is not restored properly, there will be change in course of river.	For major rivers, Pipeline will be laid through Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) Technique at a depth of at least 2.5 m from the scour level. There will not be any disturbance to river regime and will not be any change in course of river.