

**MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING OF 30KLPD PROPOSED MOLASSES BASED DISTILLERY IN RESPECT OF M/S. SIDDHI SUGAR AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES LTD., MAHESHNAGAR, UJANA, TQ. AHMEDPUR, DIST: LATUR ON 21/02/2015 AT 11.00 A.M. AT THE FACTORY SITE**

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An environmental public hearing in respect of 30 KLPD Molasses based Distillery of M/S. Siddhi Sugar And Allied Industries Ltd. Maheshnagar, Ujana, Tq. Ahmedpur, Dist: Latur was conducted on 21/02/2015 at 11.00 a.m. at the factory site of M/s. Siddhi Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd., Maheshnagar, Ujana, Tq. Ahmedpur, Dist: Latur.

Following members were present during the public hearing:

1. Shri Vishwambhar Gawande,  
Additional District Magistrate, Latur,  
Dist: Latur. Chairman.
2. Shri P.M. Joshi,  
Regional Officer, MPCB, Aurangabad. Member.
3. Dr. R.A. Rajput,  
Sub-Regional Officer,  
MPCB, Latur. Convener.

A list of members and public participants present for the Public Hearing is annexed herewith. All those present were welcomed by the Convener. Shri S.A. Redasni, Field Officer, Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Latur with the permission of the Chairman of the panel narrated the procedure to be followed for obtaining environmental clearance from Government of India by explaining the provisions of the MoEF Notification No. S.O. 1533 dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 & amended Notification No. S.O. 3067 (E) dated 01/12/2009 and Summary of the project right from the date of receipt of application for conducting Public Hearing till notice issued by MPCB in the local newspapers Daily 'Lokmat' and Daily 'Lokmat Times' dated 19/01/2015. He stated that as per the said notification, some major polluting industries like Pharmaceutical Industries, Distilleries, Thermal Power Plants, etc. require Environmental Clearance from the Central Government and the proposed project of 30 KLPD Molasses Based Distillery Plant of M/s. Siddhi Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd. falls under the said Notification, hence it is necessary to conduct the public hearing for the said project. He further stated that it is also necessary to conduct the public hearing so that the people in the area as well as Government shall know the today's environmental situation of the area and the situation to be arised after establishment of such type of project, preventive measures to be taken by the Project Proponent, etc. Thereafter, he requested the Project Proponent or his representative with the permission of the Chairman of the Panel to give the detail presentation of their proposed project.

Prior to start the presentation of the proposed project, Shri Vishwambhar Gawande, the Additional District Magistrate Latur & Chairman of Public Hearing Panel stated that, we are gathered here for the public hearing with respect to the proposal of M/s. Siddhi Sugar & Allied

Industries Ltd. for 30,000 Ltr. per day capacity of Molasses Based Distillery Plant. The Project Proponent will give the presentation of their proposed project including the details about water pollution, air pollution, soil pollution, etc. and the control measures to be taken thereof as well as some special planning/programmes to be undertaken, etc. and after detailed presentation, the public participants may express their difficulties, views, suggestions, etc., with free of mind and then he requested the Project Proponent to give the detail presentation of said project so that the people in the area can be aware of the proposed project.

Shri Amol Deshmane from Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Pune, the Project Consultant started the power point presentation of the proposed project of 30 KLPD Molasses Based Distillery Plant & details of pollution control devices/plans, etc. During the presentation, he stated that M/s. Siddhi Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd. has proposed to establish a Molasses Based Distillery Plant having its capacity of 30,000 Ltr./day. The molasses required for the said project is produced from their existing sugar factory as a by-product and with proper management of by-product, alcohol will be manufactured from the proposed distillery plant. About 15.5 acres of land is required for the said project, which is available with the factory and therefore, the question of rehabilitation, etc. will not arise in the area. The molasses, bagasse, steam, press mud, etc. required as a raw material for the proposed project will be made available from their existing sugar factory. He showed the geographical map, satellite image, lay out of the proposed project site and stated the said project will be established in Latur district of Maharashtra State at Ahmedpur in the premises of existing sugar factory. He further showed the slides about study area of 10 km. radius of the project site where monitoring is done, photographs of the proposed site and compost yard, map of project site, etc. He further briefed about the project site and stated the site of the proposed project is located at a distance of 75 km. from Latur city and 70 km. from Nanded city. The project site area is plain and the National Park, Sanctuary, Biosphere, Reserved Forest, Historical Monument, etc. are not observed within the area of 10 km. radius of the proposed project site. He stated that out of total 15.5 acres of land 5.5 acres for distillery plant including biogas production unit, 6 acres for compost yard & storage lagoons and 4 acres of land will be required for the green belt development. The factory has made the provision of Rs. 14.00 Cr. towards environmental expenditure from which it is cleared that the factory is well aware about the environmental aspects. He further showed the detail break-up of Rs. 14.00 Cr. towards proposed environmental expenditure which includes spent wash storage tanks, biogas production yard with bore well, leachate management, laboratory, condensate treatment, biogas production, evaporator, fire fighting equipments, green belt development, wet scrubber, etc. and the recurring expenditure for the same proposed is Rs. 68.00 Lacs per year.

While briefing about the manufacturing process of alcohol, Shri Deshmane stated that the manufacturing process of alcohol involves two stages, i.e. (1) Fermentation & (2) Distillation, wherein molasses is diluted with water and sent to fermenters where yeast strains of species *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* converts reducing sugar present in the molasses into alcohol. In this process, the spent wash and spent lees will be separated and then Rectified Spirit/Alcohol will be produced. The raw material required for the distillery plant will be molasses, water, electricity, fuel and steam. The total molasses required will be 111 Ton/day, i.e. about 31,000 to 33,000 per annum out of which about 22,000 MT of molasses will be made available from their existing sugar factory and remaining 9,000 to 11,000 MT of molasses will be made available from the sugar factories in surrounding area. The water requirement will be

300 CMD; electricity requirement will be 787 KW. The fuel required is bagasse, which is available with the factory and the steam required will also be made available from existing sugar factory. The products to be manufactured from the said distillery plant will be mainly Rectified Spirit, ENA & Anhydrous Alcohol, which is called as fuel alcohol as it is used to mix in the petrol.

While briefing about the use of water, he stated that total requirement of water will be 755 CMD, from which 455 CMD will be recycled after necessary treatment thereby, there will be saving of lot of water. Hence, actual requirement of water will be only 300 CMD. The steam requirement will be about 5.5 to 6.5 TPH for which the factory will provide a boiler of 20 TPH capacity. As stated above, the electricity requirement will be about 787 KW, which will be generated from the existing sugar factory. He further briefed about the waste water treatment and stated that there will be generation of two types of waste water, i.e. spent wash and spent lees. The spent wash will be treated in biomethanation and then it will be sent to Multi Effect Evaporator (MEE) from where 60 CMD of spent wash will be sent to bio-composting unit. The condensate of MEE of 300 CMD will be sent to condensate polishing unit. Spent lees of 75 CMD will also be sent to Condensate Polish Unit (CPU). Thus, 375 CMD water will be treated in Condensate Polish Unit (CPU) and recycled in the process. The condensate polishing unit consists of equalization tank, influent coolant, pH correction, primary clarifier, aeration tank, secondary clarifier, holding tank and multimedia filter. He stated that as per the CREP guidelines of Central Pollution Control Board, it is necessary to achieve zero discharge concept, hence the spent wash (polluted water) will be treated primarily in biodigester, then it will be sent to evaporator where its volume will be reduced from 300 cu.m. to 60 cu.m. and finally by mixing with the press mud, it will be converted into compost. The spent lees condensate and other secondary waste water will be reused after necessary treatment. In this way, such type of treatment facility will be adopted by the factory so as to achieve the zero discharge concept. The spent wash storage tanks will be provided as per the CREP guidelines and necessary care will be taken for avoiding leakages of spent wash. The compost yard will also be provided as per the CREP guidelines as there will be HDPE lining of 250 micron and the top finish will be of PCC. The compost yard will be provided with proper leachate collection system. While briefing about the bio-composting, he stated that the spent wash and press mud will be mixed together at the ratio of 1:1 for the formation of compost. About 45 days will be required for completion of one cycle. Considering the generation of about 60 CMD of spent wash, the production of compost is expected as about 8,750 MT per year. The biocomposting will be totally closed during the rainy season, however during the unseasonal rain, the windrows will be covered with polythene sheet or pull over cover and the spraying of spent wash will be stopped during such period.

#### **Environment Management:**

While briefing about Environment Management, Shri Deshmane stated as follows:

**Air:** The sources of the air pollution are boiler, bagasse, biogas, D.G. Set, etc. and the air pollutants likely to be emitted are dust particles, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, ash, etc., for control of which the measures proposed are: a) Provision of wet scrubber as air pollution control device, b) Stack of 65 mtr. height, c) Mechanical handling of bagasse and ash, d) Green belt development in the surrounding area, e) Use of biogas as a fuel and flare unit, etc. thereby there will be no emission

of green gases, as a result of air pollution will be controlled from the said distillery plant. Likewise, fermentation tanks will be covered so as not to emit the CO<sub>2</sub> and scrubber will also be provided for CO<sub>2</sub>. During the bio composting, the greenhouse gases, Methane, Carbon Dioxide will be emitted, which will be reduced by adopting proper aeration as well as guidelines. He further stated that as per the study conducted with the help of mathematical model (ISCST3), the probable increase in the air pollutants, i.e. PM<sub>10</sub> & SO<sub>2</sub>, will be about 0.10 & 0.62 µg/m<sup>3</sup> respectively, from which it can be concluded that the probable increase in the concentration of air pollutants in ambient air after establishment of the proposed project will be well within the prescribed standards.

**Solid Waste:** The sludge generated from fermentation, biogas & Condensate Polishing unit (CPU) as well as ash (bottom ash & fly ash) will be used for composting by mixing it with press mud.

**Sound & Ecology:** As there is no any major source for sound pollution, the sound level in the area will be within the prescribed standards of 75 dB (A). There are no any endangered or rare species of animals, plants, etc. observed in the area of 10 km. radius of the proposed project. The industry has proposed to develop a greenbelt on 33% area of the total open available land. He further showed the details of trees to be planted in the said area.

As stated above, he re-explained, the details about probable environmental impact and the control measures to be taken with respect to air emission, green house gases emission, sound environment, water quality, rain water harvesting, etc. While briefing about socio-economic environment, he stated that due to the proposed project, the employment will be given to about 69 people; this will be benefit for the local people. He stated that care is also taken for the control of air and sound pollution due to vehicular movement.

He further briefed about the local environment and stated that the climate in the area is hot and dry, average annual rainfall in the area is 800 mm. In totality, the air pollution, water pollution parameters, etc. are observed within the limits prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board in the area of 10 km. radius of the proposed project. He stated that the land in the area is mainly under agriculture, hence only some natural plant species are seen and as stated above, there is no any National Park, Sanctuary, Reserved Forest, Historical Monument, etc. observed within the study area.

He further showed the data about air monitoring, water monitoring, soil testing, sound level monitoring, etc. carried out within the area of 10 km. radius of the said project including analysis results of the same.

He stated that the industry has undertaken certain programmes, like supply of manure and pesticides & insecticides to the farmers at a reasonable cost, encouraging the farmers for the purchase of tractor, making available the information through discussions/training to the farmers for increasing the sugarcane crop, medical facility for the factory employees and their dependents, etc.

While briefing about the benefits of the proposed project, he stated that the people in the area will get the employment, and useful manure (compost) will be produced for the farmers in

the area by means of mixing together the press mud from sugar factory and spent wash from distillery. The Spirit (Anhydrous Alcohol) will be produced from the proposed distillery plant, which will be used as fuel by mixing it into petrol by means of which it will help in saving the foreign exchange of the country. Lastly, he stated that considering the above things, in totality the proposed project will be beneficial for the local people, citizens, and farmers in the surrounding area as well as beneficial for country. Then, he concluded the power point presentation of the said project and stated that, during the presentation, he has explained about the probable environmental impact due to the proposed project and the control measures to be taken thereof, however, if anybody is having doubt, questions, etc. about the said project, same can be expressed, which will be clarified satisfactorily.

Then, **Shri S.A. Redasni**, Field Officer, MPCB, Latur stated that if there is any view, doubt, suggestion, objection, etc. about the said project, same may be expressed, which will be recorded and submitted to the Central Government, New Delhi. During the course of public hearing, the panel members and public participants raised certain questions related to the said project and same were answered by the Project Proponent/Project Consultant as follows:

1. **Shri Ganpat Bhanudas Kasale** a resident of nearby village Ujana, Tq. Ahmedpur, Dist: Latur asked about the benefit to the common people in the area due to the proposed distillery plant.
2. **Shri Shivdas Dadarao Narwate**, a resident of nearby village Ralga, Tq. Aahmedpur, Dist: Latur asked to clarify about the air pollution after establishment of the distillery project and the control measures to be taken thereof.
3. **Shri Ankush Alapure**, a resident of nearby village Nagzari, Tq. Ahmedpur, Dist: Latur asked about the disposal of waste water to be generated from the proposed project.

**Shri Vishwambhar Gawande**, Chairman of Public Hearing Panel requested the public participants to ask different types questions related with air pollution, water pollution, etc. and not to repeat the questions asked by the earlier person on the similar subject.

4. **Shri Dnyanoba Baburao Kandangire**, a resident of nearby village Ujana, Tq. Ahmedpur, Dist: Latur asked about the effect of proposed project on the environment, whether good or bad effect?
5. **Shri Raosaheb Bhalbhimrao Kadam**, a resident of nearby village Ganga Hipperga, Tq. Ahmedpur, Dist: Latur asked about the actual treatment process to be done on waste water to be generated from the proposed project.
6. **Shri Balaji Madhavrao Kendre**, a resident of nearby village Ruddha, Tq. Ahmedpur, Dist: Latur asked to reply whether the employment will be given to the people in Nanded district or the educated unemployed persons from local area.
7. **Shri Vyankat Pralhadrao Vange**, a social worker & resident of nearby village Ujana, Tq. Ahmedpur, Dist: Latur stated that he has no any question and he supports the

proposed project at 100% as 3 years before, the area was totally dry, the trees, grass were dried. But, today the Paradise (Nandanvan) come to view here is because of that the Chairman & Executive Director of the factory has arranged water from nearby Manar dam and made about 8 to 10 farmers as sugarcane producer in the area. In their village Ujana, the production of Soyabean crop was @ Rs. 10,000/- per acre before three years, but, during the period of these three years, every farmer has seen the production of Sugarcane crop as @ Rs. 1,00,000/- per acre. The workers of their village were going to other areas for employment like sugarcane cutting, brick manufacturing, etc., but today's condition is that they do not get the workers in their own village. He stated that at least 100 workers are employed in M/s. Siddhi Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd. on monthly payment of Rs. 6000/- each and being he is a social worker, he experienced that none of the industry in the area is giving the payment of more than Rs. 4000/- per month to the workers. He also stated that as briefed in the presentation that 69 persons will be employed by means of which it will help for the survival of about 500 families. Therefore, he himself and on behalf of their villagers requested that the proposed distillery project shall be started at the earliest

8. **Shri Madhav Pandharinath Marewad**, a resident of nearby village Ujana, Tq. Ahmedpur, Dist: Latur stated that while establishing any industrial plant, some good and bad things are happens. Due to establishment of proposed distillery plant, there will be benefit to the factory, but simultaneously the farmers in the area will also be benefited by means of getting proper rates towards their sugarcane, hence, he requested to start the proposed project as early as possible.
9. **Shri Digambar Rama Rathod**, a resident of nearby village Ujana, Tq. Ahmedpur, Dist: Latur stated that it is very good thing that the proposed project is being established in their area and he is very much pleased for the same.
10. **Abdul Mujeeb Patel**, a resident of nearby village Kalegaon, Tq. Ahmedpur, Dist: Latur having his agriculture land in village Ralga, Tq. Ahmedpur stated that the Chairman, Board of Directors, Manager and employees of the factory are well efficient to control the pollution problems to be arised due to proposed project. They have developed Paradise (Nandanvan) on this barren land by starting the operation of sugar factory, which was not in operation. He stated that due to establishment of distillery, alcohol will be produced from waste material (molasses) thereby the sugarcane producing farmers will get more rates and this will be benefit to the farmers in the area. He also stated that the Executive Director and Board of Directors of the factory are efficient and capable for implementing and complying the terms and conditions about environment to be imposed by the Central Government, State Government, hence he requested the Environment Department and Additional District Magistrate to give the environmental license to the proposed project at the earliest.
11. **Shri Govind Ramrao Bembade**, the Sarpanch of nearby village Bembadewadi, Tq. Ahmedpur, Dist: Latur stated that the existing factory is beneficial for the farmers as the farmers having about 2 to 2.5 acres of land have earned about Rs. 2 to 3 Lacs so far and if the proposed project is started, they will get more benefit and more income, hence he requested to grant the permission for the said project.

12. **Shri B.S. Rathod**, a resident of nearby village Sangavi Tanda, Tq. Ahmedpur, Dist: Latur stated that since the factory is taken for operation by the Chairman of factory, 100% people are developed and employment is also got to the people those are not having agriculture land in the area and again the remaining people will get the employment due to establishment of proposed project, hence he on behalf of his village said that there will be 100% support to the proposed project
13. **Shri Baburao Rama Rathod**, a resident of nearby village Sangavi Tanda, Tq. Ahmedpur, Dist: Latur stated that their society and farmers are developed since the starting of sugar factory. They have got more benefit by means of getting employment to them. Hence, he stated that the people in his village support the said distillery plant and requested to start the same as early as possible.

**Shri Vishwambhar Gawande**, Additional District Magistrate., Latur & Chairman of Public Hearing Panel summarized the questions, views, suggestions, etc. raised by 13 public participants and requested the Factory Management to clarify their opinion and action to be taken on the issues raised by the public participants. Then, **Shri Avinash Jadhav**, the Executive Director of the factory stated that there is a vision/mission of their company in which environment is prime part and other parts are society, bank, farmers and surrounding people. Their vision is that care is to be taken for control of pollution, etc. bearing in mind that the factory is their mother and not upon telling by the Government of MPCB. As mentioned in the presentation out of total project cost of Rs. 40 Cr., they have made the provision of about 30 to 35% of amount not only towards pollution control but to reduce it upto zero level Zero pollution is their goal for which efforts will be taken which are possible for human and if any latest technology will be available, same will also be implemented for the zero pollution concept. It is their vision that their grand children shall get more and more infrastructures, etc. than whatever is being got to today's generation. As far as technical aspect is concerned, the air pollution in the surrounding area is very less, i.e. less than even  $1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  as wet scrubber will be provided to collect the boiler ash and the black coloured smoke/dust particles emitted from the stack. Collected ash through wet scrubber will be sold for brick manufacturer or used for composting. As far as waste water is concerned, he stated that the waste water will be recycled/reused after necessary treatment. He stated that not a single drop of water will be discharged outside the factory premises as most of the waste will be recycled and rest of it will be used for gardening/irrigation through drip irrigation system. He stated that nowadays the waste water is not waste water because biogas will be produced from the said waste water and the same will be used as a fuel for boiler and steam generation. In short, he stated that they will produce money from the waste water thereby more rates will be given to the farmers for their sugarcane crop. . As far as employment is concerned, he stated that at present about 8 to 10 persons are technical in the existing factory. However, the proposed project will required about 2 years period for its completion and commissioning, hence they have started giving training to the people in the area as the employment will be given to local people.

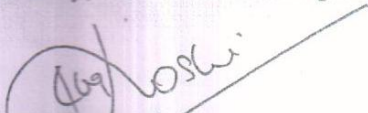
**Shri Vishwambhar Gawande** summarized the replies given by the Executive Director of the proposed project as well as various points raised by the public participants. He stated that

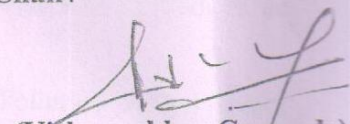
the points raised by the public participants as well as various planning/programmes to be undertaken and precautionary measures to be taken by the factory, etc. are recorded. He stated that if anybody desire to see the site of the proposed project, they can see it. He also stated that the meeting will be ended by concluding their findings.

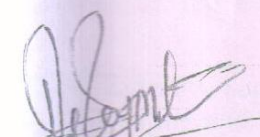
Prior to conclude the Public Hearing, with the permission of the Chairman of Public Hearing Panel, Shri P.M. Joshi, Regional Officer, MPCB, Aurangabad pointed out that as per the bench mark there shall be the effluent (spent wash) generation to the tune of 240 M<sup>3</sup>/day from the 30 KLPD capacity distillery, but it is reported as 360 M<sup>3</sup>/day, which is not correct. Secondly, the bagasse requirement is shown as 65.5 MT/d means 2.72 MT/hr, through which 20 Tons of steam will be generated, which is also not correct as from the above requirement of bagasse only about 9 Ton steam will be generated, hence he suggested to check these technical aspects and correct accordingly and it is agreed by the Project Consultant.

Thereafter, during the concluding part of the Public Hearing, Shri Vishwambhar Gawande, Chairman of Public Hearing Panel stated that he noticed certain important things during the course of Public Hearing, which he feels necessary to recommend it. He asked to clarify whether the products mentioned at Slide No. 16, i.e. Rectified Spirit - 28.5 KL/day & Anhydrous Alcohol - 27.00 KL/day are either or / separate, upon which the Technical Consultant clarified that it is either or. He further pointed out that at Slide No. 39 for air monitoring results, the parameter PM<sub>10</sub> is seen as 71.88 µg/m<sup>3</sup> at village Sangavi, which seems to be near to the prescribed Standards of 100 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, which may be because of that perhaps the village Sangavi would have been located near to the factory. However, he suggested to take care for the same permanently in future and also VSI shall suggest the suitable measures in this behalf. He stated that by hearing the process of Public Hearing including various points, views, objections raised by the public participants, a ground is prepared for recommending the proposed project for EIA and therefore he told that on behalf of the Chairman of Public Hearing Panel, he declare the recommendations required for the Environment Impact Assessment with respect to the proposed project and concluded the Public Hearing.

Lastly, the Public Hearing ended with a vote of thanks to Chair.

  
(P.M. Joshi)  
Member.

  
(Vishwambhar Gawande)  
Chairman.

  
(Dr. R.A. Rajput)  
Convener.