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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MOLASSES BASED DISTILLERY OF 60KLD CAPACITY AND
02MW POWER PLANT WITHIN THE EXISTING PREMISES OF SUGAR & CO -GENERATION PLANT AT
KUNDARGI VILLAGE, BILAGI TALUKA, BAGALKOT DISTRICT OF
M/S GEM SUGARS LIMITED.**

DATE : 29.10.2013
TIME : 11.00 AM
VENUE : AT PROJECT SITE

M/S Gem Sugars Limited having its corporate Office at #120, Hoodi Apartments, Cunningham Road, Bangalore-56002 has proposed to undertake following projects.

- Molasses Based Distillery --- 60KLD Capacity
- Co-Generation (Power Plant) ---- 02MW

DETAILS OF THE PROJECT LOCATION

Survey Numbers – 125 to 134, 325 to 328 of Kundargi Village of Bilagi Taluka, Bagalkot District, Karnataka.

OFFICERS PRESENT

The public hearing was conducted as per the EIA notification of MoEF, Government of India 14-09-2006 & amendment notification 01-12-2009.

Public Hearing Panel

Public Hearing Panel Members Present		
1	Sri Manoj Jain., I.A.S, Deputy Commissioner, Bagalkot District	Chairman
2	Sri M A Maniyar, District Environmental Officer, KSPCB Regional Office, Bagalkot	Member

REPRESENTATIVES OF M/S. Gem. Sugars. Ltd. (PROJECT PROPONENT)		
1	Sri Jawaharlal Doddannavar	President
2	Sri C R Saigavi	Director
3	Sri R G Patil	Director
4	Sri K Marimuthu	Executive Vice President
5	Sri R S Patil	Sr General Manager
6	Sri C Vijayakumar	Asst General Manager
7	Sri Vasanth Shetty	Asst .General Manager (HR)
8	Sri R P Kamath	Dy General Manager (Adm)
9	Sri R Mahalinagum	General Manager(Tech)
10	Sri V Ponnusami	Asst General Manager(Pro)
11	Sri M M kori	Consultant

As per the Notification issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India on 14.09.2006, it is a prerequisite to get Environmental Clearance from the MoEF and it is mandatory that an Environmental Public Hearing at the Project Site is held under the Chairmanship of an officer not below the rank of Additional Deputy Commissioner.

As per the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India Letter dated 09-08-2012 and the request of the Project proponent for the Environmental Public Hearing vide letter dated: 24-01-2013, the Public

Hearing was conducted by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board on 29-10-2013 at the Project Site, chaired by the Deputy Commissioner Bagalkot.

As per the EIA Notification, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board gave the Notification 30 days in advance. The advertisement to this effect was published in the Kannada Daily Newspaper "SAYUKAT KARNATAKA", English Daily Newspaper "INDIAN EXPRESS" both dated 29-09-2013 and in local daily Kannada Newspaper "SUDINA" on 01-10-2013. The suggestions / views / comments and objections of the interested bonafide residents, Environmental groups and others located at the Project site likely to be affected by the proposed project were invited and project affected people could send their suggestions, objections, grievances, etc either orally or written or through E-mail to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board / Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee, within 30 days from the date of Publication of this Notification.

The copy of the EIA draft Report and Executive summary of the EIA report both in Kannada and English have been placed at the following places for the references of the general public:

- 1) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Bagalkot
- 2) Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Zillah Panchayat, Bagalkot
- 3) District Industries and Commerce Centre, Bagalkot
- 4) The Chief Officer, TMC- Bilagi Dist: Bagalkot.
- 5) Gram Panchayat Office- Kundargi, Taluk – Bilagi, Bagalkot
- 6) Senior Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Zonal Office, Dharwad
- 7) Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Bagalkot
- 8) Ministry of Environmental & Forests, South Zone Office, Bangalore
- 9) Help Desk, KSPCB, Parisar Bhavan, Bangalore.

The Deputy Commissioner and Chairman of the Public Hearing panel Bagalkot verified the Notifications issued in the newspapers and ascertained whether sufficient publicity had been made as required under the statute.

The Deputy Commissioner's Office Bagalkot & Regional office, Bagalkot have not received following written submissions till 27-10-2013.

On 29-10-2013, at Sri M.A.Maniyar, Environmental Officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Bagalkot extended a warm welcome to the Deputy Commissioner Bagalkot, all the public, all the officials of different departments, elected representatives and members and the Staff of the Company who were present. He briefly explained the need for Environmental Clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India and the Environmental Public Hearing as per the EIA Notification, and informed that accordingly publicity was given in the newspapers 30 days in advance and explained the procedure of the Public hearing and the documents kept for the Public Hearing. He requested the Deputy Commissioner, Chairman of this Environmental Public Hearing to preside over the Public Hearing and requested the Public to interact and to discuss about the Project and to present all their submissions either in written or orally, which would be a part of both written record and video graphed.



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On behalf of M/s B.S.Envitech Pvt Ltd., Hyderabad, the Environmental Consultants, Sri M M Kori, presented the Power Point presentation of the objectives of the proposed project, the Environmental base line data, present scenario of existing environment in the project area, the impact of the project on the environment, Environment Management Plan, measures proposed to control / mitigate the Environmental Pollution and its protection. The hard copy of the presentations made in the Public Hearing is enclosed with this proceeding Enclosed as **Annexure-01**.

Leaders of various political parties, villagers from surrounding villages, NGOs, Students, Press and other interested parties, attended the Public Hearing. List of participants, who attended the Public Hearing, is enclosed as **Annexure-02**.

The Deputy Commissioner requested all the participants to submit their views and comments in writing also, if any to the Chair.

- **Shri. Holabasayya Kidayya Mathapati R/o Shiraguppi Village,**

- He informed that, sugarcane is main source of income to the farmers.
- In the present scenario the company is not getting fair price for sugar in the market, due to which, farmers are not getting their cane payments in time.
- From this proposed project the company may incur additional income. The financial status of the company will improve, this will make a way to clear all cane payment dues in time.
- Hence this project is advisable.

- **Shri Ishwargouda Patil of Arakeri Village**

- He said that, from the proposed project, financial position of the company improves; therefore there is no objection from their end.
- The company should adopt inbuilt monitoring system to measure the pollutants. Modern & sophisticated / best available technologies have to be implemented in order to protect the water, air, soil noise & surrounding environment from the pollution/ contamination & health of the people.

- **Mr. Sunand Reddy from Dharitri NGO, Hyderabad**

- He informed that, regarding air & water pollution the management has already taken necessary steps by providing Rs.20 crores for CSR scheme.
- He said that, the management has already reserved 33% for green belt. By considering the future population.
- He requested the management to extend the green belt to 40% to 50% inside the factory and in surrounding villages too.
- He suggested that, the medicinal & fruit plants shall be preferred in greenbelt development in surrounding villages.

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- The implementation of green belt developments programme & welfare schemes of company shall be monitored by committee. The committee should be formed including the members from the management & peoples representatives of surrounding villages.
 - He demanded to provide drinking water facility to the villagers in phase manner.

• **Shri. V V Machappanavar of Arakeri village**

- He requested that the Company should adopt the latest and sophisticated Pollution Control Equipment and latest technologies so that dust and other emissions are maintained at the zero level for the Environmental safety and the health of the surrounding villagers
- He informed that, the management should take all necessary steps to implement the environmental management plans sincerely.
- There is no objection for the proposed project.

• **Shri. Venkanagouda Channappanavar of Tummaratti village**

- He informed that to grow & supply sugarcane to the factory it will take 12-14 months.
- For getting cane payment they have to wait for 2-3 months.
- The management has to take loans from bankers for clearing the cane payments.
- The implementation of the proposed project will help to improve the financial status of the company. So that payments will be remitted in time.
- They are expecting higher rate for sugarcane.
- Before concluding his views, he expressed his sincere thanks to Deputy Commissioner, Bagalkot for his concern to environmental protection and for his commitment to the welfare & development of the surrounding villages.

• **Shri. Hanamant Dundappa Devanavar of Sunag village**

- He expressed his confidence on promise of Sri R S Patil, Sr. GM (C&A) of Gem Sugars Ltd, for his commitment that, the company will take all the precautionary measures to mitigate the environmental pollution.
- It will adopt the best available technologies to control the emissions generated during the operation of the plant.
- It will ensure the zero discharge from the plant which ensures that, there will be no contamination of the water bodies during the process.
- In view of the above, he expressed his overwhelming view for the upcoming project.

• **Shri. Dyavanagouda Patil of Arakeri village,**

- He conveyed his gratitude to Deputy Commissioner of Bagalkot, Environmental Officer and all participants gathered in the meeting.



- He informed that, most of the points were already discussed here; there are no further issues left to discuss.
 - The management has given assurance that, there won't be Air, Water, Soil and noise pollution during operation in nearby villages i.e., Arakeri, Shiraguppi, Katarki, Kundargi & Janamatti.
 - The management committed to implement all the welfare in the surrounding villages.
 - For the proposed project there is no objection / problem from the public.
 - There are expecting good cane price from the management.
- **Shri. Shankar Hugar of Arakeri village,**
 - He sought the clarification from the Environmental Officer of the KSPCB Bagalkot over the complaint lodged against the industry for uncontrolled suspended particulate matter emission from the chimney affecting severely on the agricultural fields, drinking water sources and eatables.
 - In this regards, so far not received any replay from Board, please inform the reasons for the delay.
 - For this any enquiry has been made or not and what action Board has initiated against the industry.
 - For which Environmental Officer replied that, after the receipt of the complaint this office conducted stack & AAQM monitoring thrice. Issued show cause notice for the exceeding the stipulated limits. The detailed inspection report with analysis report submitted to Board to called for the personal hearing for non compliances observed.
 - Management submitted their explanation that one cell in ESP has failed and in running condition it cannot be repaired so they requested to rectify the same in off season.
 - Now it is repaired the same will be inspected during current crushing season (i.e., 2013-14) Board will initiate action if it is not working properly during this season.
 - In this regard one person asked the information under R.T.I. Board submitted full details to him.
 - He requested that, from the proposed project human health in particular & environment in general should not be affected at any cost.
 - He opined that, at the time of getting the due clearances, the project proponents will give promises & assurances that, they will adopt best available technologies and sophisticated equipments to prevent Water, Air, Noise and Soil pollution.
 - The regulatory authorities should strictly monitor status of the water, air, soil pollution control measures and equipments.
 - If the Systems do not work, they will be affected. So he requested the management not to give any room for such eventualities in future.
 - Mr. R S Patil, Sr. GM (C&A) has accepted that due to some mechanical problem in Boiler suspended particulate matters have affected the surrounding villages at particular period.
 - He assured that, they have spent Rs 30lakhs for repairs and maintain ace of the ESP. It rectified now. The same will not be repeated in coming days from the existing plant & also from upcoming new project too.



- He promised the public that he will adhere for the assurances given; the stack & Ambient Air Quality results will be maintained well below the stipulated norms.

- **Sri M M Kori, Environmental Consultant, of the proposed project,**

1. He informed that, around 4, 80,000 liter of spent wash is generated from the proposed project. By evaporation 40% of water removed in evaporator as condensate water. This condensate water will be treated along with spent lee in condensate polishing unit. This treated water is reused completely in the process. The remaining concentrated spent wash burnt in the boiler as a fuel with coal. Hence there is zero discharge from the industry.
2. The fly ash from the boiler will be separated in the cyclostomes/ESP and dust freed gases will be let out through the chimney at 60 meter height above ground level. The other gases will be prevented by adopting the wet scrubbers. The Air pollution control system will be adopted as per the stipulated norms of the MoEF & pollution control Board.
3. Most of the distilleries adopted the Bio composing manure method, due to which there are possibilities of water and Air getting polluted.
4. But this company adopted most advanced & modern latest technology, where the spent is concentrated in evaporator and burned in the boiler as a fuel and the condensate water of evaporator after treatment will be reused in the process. There will be zero discharge from the unit. There are no chances of getting Air and water bodies' pollution in and around the villages.
5. Regarding steps taken for development of green belt. He informed that already 6000 to 8000 plants were planted inside the sugar factory. Out of 242 acres the management has decided for 33% reserved for green belt around the factory. Further the management has proposed to plant 10000 to 15000 plants around the factory in 3 years.
6. Assured the public and the villagers that, due to establishment of the proposed project, will not affect the health of the people and the existing environment of the surrounding villages

- **SRI MANOJ JAIN, I A S, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, BAGALKOT HAS SUMMED UP THE PROCEEDINGS AFTER PERUSING THE DOCUMENTATION, LISTENING TO THE PUBLIC AND RECORDING, WHAT IS IN PUBLIC INTEREST AS UNDER,**

1. The demands, views, grievances & suggestions submitted by of the local people in the public hearing meeting will be viewed seriously.
2. Undertake stringent dust control measures & dust suppression systems to combat the dust emissions generated during the operations. The emission levels in the surrounding areas shall be maintained well below the stipulated standards.
3. KSPCB shall ensure that the project proponents adopt the best available technologies in prevention & control of the emissions. The stack & Ambient Air Quality monitoring values are to be maintained within the stipulated standards.
4. The check dams are to be provided wherever required for conservation of the soil.
5. The study in the area shall be conducted to improve the fertility of the agricultural fields
6. Rain water harvesting and water shed management plan should be implemented.



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7. He informed that the Company will provide employment, education, health facilities and other amenities as promised by them and in case of any violations shall be viewed seriously and appropriate action shall be taken.
 8. The natural course of water flow will not be diverted/disturbed/change at any cost. Due precautions will be taken for the free flow of the stored water during monsoon.
 9. The company will ensure the zero discharge from the plant which ensures that, there will be no contamination of the water bodies during the process.
 10. The company will undertake socio-economic development schemes and programs in the surrounding villages.
 11. The Deputy Commissioner clarified that the project cost is Rs.70 corers. 5% of the same, i.e. Rs.3.5 corers will be allocated in phased manner for CSR and time bound action plan for implementing towards health, education, Infrastructure and social economic development and for the development of greenbelt in phased manner, will be submitted by the Company. The implementation of the same will be monitored by DC. This should be a commitment and proper compliance should be ensured.
 12. As per the Terms of Reference Company should follow the norms as per time bound program. This should be a commitment and proper compliance should be ensured
 13. He indicated that a system has been laid down for all the Companies who will comply with the same without any deviation.
 14. The company should implement & complete the following Enterprise Social Responsibility plans within five years without fail.
 - a. Construction of women's community toilets (5numbers) in five villages at the total cost of Rs 65lakhs with 3 year maintenance by company.
 - b. Drinking water facility, (R O water purification with Storage) in villages at the total cost of Rs 35lakhs with maintenance.
 - c. Anganwadi development programs (Providing utensils, Vessels, mats and digital weighing machines) at the total cost of Rs 25lakhs.
 - d. Infrastructure for Rudra Bhoomi for nearby villages at the total cost of Rs 15lakhs.
 - e. Women's welfare & awareness schemes (Distribution of sanitary napkins to adolescent girls and pregnant women) at the total cost of Rs 10lakhs.
 - f. Establishment of school with continuous up gradation (Construction of classrooms, infrastructure, lab, computers etc) at the total cost of Rs 200lakhs.
 15. The CSR costing should be as per actual and should not include a separate line item, etc for deliberate buffering to take care of inflation in the CSR time bound action plan submitted. Also, wherever explicitly increase in contribution or execution has been delineated with regards to inflation year on year on a compounding bases, this has to be scrupulously followed and in this CSR should not include existing item/Assets. The action plan includes implementation after public hearing report submission date.
 16. Panchayat Tax agreement with Gram Panchayat to be reviewed in line with Panchayat Raj Act. New agreement to be put in place from April 1st 2011 in consultation with CEO, ZP and Gram Panchayat President as per Section 202 of KPR Act.



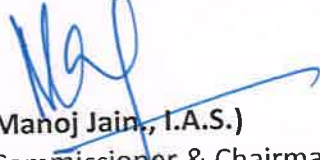
17. As per the Terms of Reference Company should follow the norms as per time bound ⁶⁵⁷ program. This should be a commitment and proper compliance should be ensured
18. He indicated that a system has been laid down for all the Companies who will comply with the same without any deviation.
19. Financial assistance of Rs. 15000/- per month through Jilla Arogeya Samiti to be provided for the nearest Primary Health Center to hire services of specialist Doctors, or for treating ailments of patients or enhancing infrastructure with an increase of 10% every year on a compounding basis until the factory exists from 1st jan 2014
20. An amount Rs 25,000/- per month through Jilla Arogeya Samiti to be remitted to the Bilagi Taluka Hospital for hiring specialist, or for buying medicines or equipment or for upgrading infrastructure with an increase of 10% every year on a compounding basis until the factory exists from 1st jan 2014.
21. Plantation of trees in factory and nearby areas – 10000 sampling per year over next 5 years and maintain the green belt, and maintain the trees in association with Gram Panchayat and Forest department.
22. The emissions discharges from both point and non point sources generated during the operation should not affect the reserve forest at any point of time.
23. The company will ensure the zero discharge from the plant which ensures that, there will be no contamination of the back water & other water bodies during the process.

The Deputy Commissioner and Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, Bagalkot, while addressing the meeting said that the appeals, suggestions, complaints and grievances of the Public have been recorded through the audio and video and the same would be made into CDs and the proceedings of the meeting, as it is, would be sent to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for further action.

After hearing the above discussions, the Chairman informed that based on the remarks and views received from the public, who have attended the environmental public hearing, the recommendations will be sent to Government of India while considering permission to proposed projects with conditions that the project proponents shall take all precautionary measures during the establishment and operation of the Unit by following guidelines / norms / conditions / directions / standards stipulated by Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India and other competent authorities.

The detailed CSR activity action plan submitted by the Gem Sugars Limited, Enclosed as Annexure-03

The meeting was concluded with a Vote of Thanks.


(Manoj Jain, I.A.S.)
Deputy Commissioner & Chairman
Environmental Public Hearing Committee
Bagalkot, Karnataka