

**Proceedings of the Public Hearing conducted on 06.03.2009 for grant of environmental clearance to M/s N.V. Distilleries & Breweries (P) Ltd., for the establishment of grain/molasses based distillery of 120 KLPD, Malt Spirit Plant of 5 KLPD and co-generation power plant of 10 MW at Village Sandharshi, Tehsil Rajpura, District Patiala (Punjab).**

The following were present to supervise the proceedings:-

1. Sh. H.S. Pabla, PCS,  
Addl. Deputy Commissioner (Development),  
Patiala.
2. S. Gurtej Singh, PCS,  
Sub Divisional Magistrate, Rajpura,  
District Patiala.
3. Dr. Babu Ram,  
Member Secretary,  
Punjab Pollution Control Board  
Patiala
4. Er. Pawan Garg,  
Senior Environmental Engineer,  
Punjab Pollution Control Board  
Patiala
5. Er. Samarjit Kumar Goyal,  
Environmental Engineer,  
Punjab Pollution Control Board,  
Regional Office, Patiala
6. Er. Rajiv Garg,  
Environmental Engineer,  
Punjab Pollution Control Board,  
Head Office, Patiala.

Sh. Samarjit Kumar Goyal, Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala welcomed the panel members and people from adjoining Towns/Villages who came to attend the public hearing for the establishment of grain/molasses based distillery of 120 KLPD capacity, Malt Spirit Plant of 5 KLPD and co-generation power plant of 10 MW at Village Sandharshi, Tehsil Rajpura, District Patiala (Punjab) by M/s N.V. Distilleries & Breweries (P) Ltd. He apprised the public about the requirement of conducting the public hearing before grant of environmental clearance as per the provisions of EIA notification no.1533 (E) dtd.14.9.2006 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India, New Delhi. Thereafter, he

requested the representative of the industry to elaborate the main features of the project and the EIA study report.

However, before the presentation of the details of the project and EIA study report by the representative of the Company, the Presiding Officer Sh. H.S. Pabla, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Dev.), Patiala wanted to know about the environmental safeguards to be provided by the project proponent for the prevention and control of pollution and protection of the environment. The queries raised by the Presiding Officer and the replies given by the consultant of the project proponent are as under:

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Reply</b>
1.	How much employment will be generated by the project?	About 250 people will be required, out of which only 10% will be technical & other skilled people and rest of the 90% employees will be semi skilled and unskilled persons, which will be taken from the local population.
2.	What will be the arrangements to control ash and the gases such as oxides of nitrogen (NOx), Sulphur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ) and Carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) ?	To control particulate matter in the boiler emissions, air pollution control device (APCD) of state of the art technology namely Electro Static Precipitator (ESP) will be installed so as to bring down the suspended particulate matter in the boiler emissions much below the prescribed standards of 150 mg/Nm <sup>3</sup> . The fly ash collected in the APCD will be used for filling the low lying areas within the site and it can also be taken by the farmers because it is a good soil conditioner. The site being much below the road level, the fly ash to be generated in 5-7 years can be used for leveling the site by mixing it with the soil. For the control of carbon dioxide, generated from the fermentors, water scrubber will be provided. Stack height of 150 ft. will be provided for the discharge of SO <sub>2</sub> and NOx emissions from the boiler furnace.
3.	What will be the raw materials and from where these will be procured?	Mainly grains such as broken rice, damaged wheat, jawar, bajra, maize etc. and molasses will be the raw material. Grains will be procured from the nearby areas and Govt. agencies. Molasses will be taken from the Sugar Mills as and when available.

4.	Whether the cattle feed produced as a bye-product be given to the local people free of cost or at a discounted price?	The cattle feed will be given to the local people at concessional rates.
5.	How much green area/green belt will be developed? Whether it will include grass, shrubs or some tree plantation also?	As per the stipulation of Ministry of Environment & Forests, 33% of the total project area i.e. about 8 acres out of the 25 acres will be developed as greenbelt which will include shrubs and trees of suitable varieties.

Thereafter, Sh. Yash Pal Jain, Consultant of the Company brought out the salient features of the project and the Rapid Environment Impact Assessment (REIA) Study Report before the public as under:

- This is a project for the manufacturing of Alcohol @ 120 KLPD alongwith Malt Spirit Plant of 5 KLPD and Co-generation power plant of 10 MW capacity. Out of this 10 MW of power, 3 MW will be consumed for capital use and 7 MW will be given to the Punjab State Electricity Board.
- Alcohol will mainly be produced from the grains such as broken rice, damaged wheat, maize etc. Molasses will also be used as and when available.
- Rapid EIA study was carried out for three months in March, April & May, 2008 to monitor the ambient air quality alongwith surface and ground water quality, noise levels etc. within 10 km radius of the project site. The study shows that the water quality is good in the area and the air pollutants such as SPM, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> are also within the prescribed standards.
- For the project, water @ 3000 to 3500 KLPD will be used. About 50% of it will be used as make up water in the cooling towers.
- Spent wash to be generated from the process of molasses based distillation will be concentrated and incinerated in the boiler and there will be zero discharge of spent wash. Earlier the distilleries were treating this spent wash and using it for ferti-irrigation or preparing bio-compost by mixing it with press mud. However, these technologies have not been found very successful and now the CPCB has prescribed concentration and incineration as the only methodology for the disposal of the molasses based spent wash.
- The grain based spent wash will be converted into cattle feed by centrifugal and multiple effect evaporator. The cattle feed so produced will be sold to the local people at concessional rates.
- Regarding employment, he informed that only 10% of the total employees will be technical and scientific people and rest of the 90% will be semi and unskilled employees which will be taken from the local population.
- The fly ash generated from the coal as fuel will be given to the cement plants. But the fly ash generated from the burning of rice husk, cannot be used in cement

manufacturing due to its high silica contents. So, it will be used for land fill in a scientific manner. However, it can also be used as a soil conditioner by the farmers due to its high porosity and mineral values.

- Electro Static Precipitator (ESP), which is a state of art air pollution control technology, will be installed to control air pollution to be generated from the boiler. No smoke will be visible from the boiler chimney.
- There will be no odour problem as all the processes will be carried out in the closed vessels and equipments.
- Out of the total project area of 25 acres, the plant will be installed in the 10 acres only and rest of the land will be used for developing green belt.

Thereafter, Er. Samarjit Kumar Goyal, requested the public present in the hearing to give their comments/views/ suggestions/objections on the project one by one:-

Following are the queries/ views/ suggestions/objections of the people and replies given by the consultant of the Company:-

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Name of the person</b>	<b>Questions/ queries/objections/ statements of the person</b>	<b>Reply / clarification given by the company/ panel member</b>
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1.	Sh. Harvinder Singh, Kami Kalan, Ex. Zila Parishad Member, Patiala	<p>i) The distillery existing in Banur is causing lot of odour problem and nuisance for the public in the vicinity. The wastewater from this distillery is discharged into the drain now and then. Whether the same will be the situation in the present distillery also and it is apprehended that they will also dug a drain to discharge their wastewater and damage our crops because people are using the water from the drains for irrigating their crops as the ground water is not easily available and is also not fit for irrigation.</p> <p>ii) Whether smoke coming out of the 150 ft. chimney will not cause pollution in the area?</p>	<p>i) As already informed, there will be no discharge of wastewater outside the premises of the project as whole of the spent wash will be either burnt in the incinerator boiler or will be converted into cattle feed.</p> <p>Electro Static Precipitator (ESP) will be installed as air pollution control device to control suspended particulate matter in the boiler emissions and there will be no visible smoke coming out from the chimney.</p>
2.	Sh. Sarabjit Singh Sidhu, President Lok Bhalai Party, Patiala	<p>i) The Banur distillery is causing lot of nuisance in the area. Punjab Pollution Control Board has not taken any action against the Banur Distillery. The same type of problem will be faced by the people of this area with the setting up of this distillery.</p> <p>ii) The fly ash generated from the factories in</p>	<p>Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board informed that the Banur Distillery was established about 20 years back and at that time there was no zero discharge technology but even that distillery has made lot of improvements. However, further directions are being issued to it for making it a zero discharge distillery in a time bound manner. The proposed distillery project is a zero discharge distillery with latest technology. 25% of the</p>

		<p>the area is causing nuisance during the transportation by trolleys.</p> <p>iii) Ground water is already in scarcity in the area. Huge quantity of ground water will be extracted by this distillery which will further reduce the ground water.</p> <p>iv) The cattle feed produced from the project will not be good for the health of animals thus the quality of the milk from the animals will also be adversely affected.</p> <p>v) Not much of the employment will be generated as the modern plants are very high tech and computerized. So, very small number of employees will be required. Moreover, the emoluments given to the unskilled labour will be very less i.e. in the range of Rs.1000-1500 per month.</p> <p>vi) Already there are number of liquor vends in the area and the people of Punjab</p>	<p>project cost will be used for environmental pollution control and no water will be discharged out of the premises. If the industry is found violating the conditions, the Board is at liberty to take action even to close down the industry under the provisions of pollution control laws. So, there is no need to be apprehensive. Wastewater generated from the bottle washing which will not be much contaminated, will also be adequately treated and used for plantation within the premises.</p> <p>The issue did not relate to the environmental pollution control, therefore, it was not replied.</p>
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		<p>are already consuming lot of liquor. Therefore, no more distillery should be allowed and some other type of industry should be established.</p> <p>In the end he vehemently opposed the establishment of the proposed distillery project.</p>	
3.	Sh. Sukhdarshan Singh, Village Meon, Ex. Chairman	<p>He stated that the State Govt. is encouraging industrialization to improve the economic condition by way of generating various types of taxes and duties. The money so generated is used for development of the State. So, we want this project should come up here. As regards the pollution, the technologies have changed over the time e.g. previously lot of noise was generated from the DG sets but now with the coming up of silent DG sets no noise is felt even in the near vicinity of the generator. Regarding the employment of local people, we will press upon the project proponents to give employment to the local people.</p>	No reply required
4.	Sh. Rachhpal Singh Nanhera, Member Panchayat	<p>He stated that he was a part of the delegation comprising of the local people who visited a similar distillery project of this Company in Naraingarh (Haryana). There was very clean environment in the industry and no pollution was seen inside as well as out side the industry. They had made enquiries from the nearby people also who informed that no nuisance is felt from this industry.</p>	No reply required

5.	Sh. Surinder Singh Sarpanch, Village Sandharshi	He stated that earlier they had also same apprehensions about the pollution from the industry but he alongwith 8-10 persons, visited the Naraingarh (Haryana) distillery of the company and found no pollution in and around the factory. No one complained about any nuisance from the factory. We suppose that the proposed distillery will be of the same kind and will bring development to the area. In the end he supported establishment of the distillery at the proposed site.	No reply required
6.	Sh. Paramjit Singh, Member Panchayat Sandharshi	He stated that the people of the Village including Sarpanch have passed resolution against the establishment of this distillery, but now the same people are favouring the industry. I was also pressurized and even threatened to support the project. But I strongly oppose the project.	No reply required
7	Sh. Fauj Inder Singh Mukhmailpur, Member Zila Parishad and Member District Planning & Development Board.	He stated that they have pursued with the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister for development of the area and we are thankful to the project proponents who have selected their area to put up this project. A deputation of 8-10 people was sent to the existing distillery of the Company at Naraingarh (Haryana) and they have found it operating satisfactorily without any pollution problem. The Banur factory is very old and now the latest technologies for such projects with no pollution problem, are available. The 10 MW electricity generated from the project will help in improving the situation of electricity in the State to some extent. He advised the people and	No reply required

		the farmers of the area not to burn wheat and rice straw (agro remains) in open fields which is causing lot of air pollution. He further advised the people that they should not oppose the project in apprehension. If there will be any problem later on, action can be taken under the pollution control laws by the Punjab Pollution Control Board.	
8	Sh. Baldev Singh, Village Sandharshi, Member, Gurdwara Parbhandhak Committee	He stated that they strongly support the project at the proposed site.	No reply required

Besides the above mentioned oral views, the written representation was also given by the people, wherein, they have opposed the establishment of the distillery project on the following grounds (copy of the compliant is enclosed at Annexure-A):

1. With the coming up of the factory there will be pollution in the area.
2. This distillery project will hurt the religious sentiments of the people living in the area.
3. There are two historical Gurdwaras in the area.
4. There will be increase in the number of people consuming liquor in the area.
5. It will ruin the future of women and children of the area.
6. It will increase incidents of violence.

Er. Samarjit Kumar Goyal requested the public if any one else want to ask any question about the proposed project but no one came forward. Thereafter, he requested the public present in the hearing to confirm by raising their hands as to whether they approve the establishment of the distillery project including installation of co-generation power plant project at this site. In response to this, more than 90% of the people present in the public hearing raised their hands for giving consent to the establishment of the proposed project.

The panel members observed that most of the participants in the public hearing have no objection for setting up of the proposed project at the present site, provided the company will comply with the provisions of law for control of environmental pollution as per the commitments made in the Environmental Impact Assessment study report.

The hearing ended with vote of thanks to all the panel members and the public present in the hearing.

Sd/-

**H.S. Pabla**

**Additional Deputy Commissioner (Dev.),**

**Patiala.**