

Proceedings of the public hearing conducted on 14.10.2014 in connection with the application filed by HPCL-Mittal Energy Limited for obtaining Environmental Clearance as required under the EIA notification dated 14.09.2006 for expansion of existing refinery from 9MMTPA to 11.25MMTPA Village Phullo khari, Tehsil Talwandi Sabo, District Bathinda, Punjab.

The following were present to supervise the proceedings:-

Dr. Basant Garg, IAS

Deputy Commissioner, Bathinda

Sh. Kulwant Singh, IAS

Sub Divisional Magistrate, Talwandi Sabo

Er. Rajiv Sharma

Environmental Engineer (Mega),
PPCB, Head Office, Patiala

Er. Joginder Singh

Environmental Engineer
PPCB, Regional Office, Bathinda

Er. Rajiv Sharma, Environmental Engineer (Mega), Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala welcomed the officers supervising and presiding over the hearing and people from adjoining towns/villages, who came to attend the public hearing of the project in connection with the application filed by M/s HPCL-Mittal Energy Limited, in the office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India, New Delhi for getting Environmental Clearance under EIA notification no. 1533 (E) dated 14.09.2006 for expansion of existing refinery from 9 MMTPA to 11.25 MMTPA Village Phullo khari, Tehsil Talwandi Sabo of District Bathinda, Punjab. He apprised the public present there about the requirement for conduct of the public hearing before deciding on the application filed by the industry for getting the said clearance for expansion of the refinery. He also brought into the notice of public that the industry has submitted copies of draft EIA report alongwith the Executive Summary of the same and a copy of each such document was placed in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Bathinda, The Chairman, Zila Parishad, Bathinda; The General Manager District Industrial Centre, Bathinda; The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Bathinda, Regional Office of MoEF at Chandigarh and PPCB Regional Office, Bathinda for access to the public and other stakeholders. He further brought out that a notice of public hearing was published in two prominent newspapers namely, The Tribune (English Daily) and Ajit (Punjabi Daily) on 11.09.2014 to make the public aware of the date, time & venue of the public hearing and about the places/offices where the public could access the draft EIA report and its Executive Summary report before the said hearing. Thereafter, he requested the representative of the industry to elaborate about the main features of the project and the draft EIA study report.

Mr. Krishan Tuteja, VP-Operations of HMEL, brought out the details of the proposed project before the public as under:

1. M/s Cholamandalam MS Risk Services Limited, a NABET accredited EIA consulting organization has undertaken the EIA study.
2. HPCL-Mittal Energy Limited (HMEL), has been operating a 9 MMTPA modern and environmental friendly petroleum refinery at village Phullo khari, Tehsil Talwandi Sabo of District Bathinda, Punjab. The refinery is built to help fulfill India's energy security needs. Given the strategic location of Bathinda, the refinery serves fuel requirements of the northern States of India.
3. The existing refinery was accorded Environmental Clearance by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) and also was granted consent to operate from the Punjab State Pollution Control Board under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and authorization for hazardous waste disposal. The existing refinery has been designed and is operating on good engineering and management practices and complying with all stipulated regulations and standards.
4. HMEL intends to augment the processing capacity of its Bathinda refinery by using in-built margins and by debottlenecking of limiting critical equipments with minimum hardware modifications. Also, it seeks to produce Bitumen and generate steam using coal/pet coke by addition of two new steam generators which will substitute the existing oil/gas fired boilers. Summary of the proposed debottlenecking/ Expansion project are outlined hereunder: (1). Debottlenecking of Refinery, augmentation of utilities and installation of 2x300 TPH mixed solid fuel fired Steam Generators to achieve crude processing capacity from 9 MMTPA to 11.25 MMTPA. (2). Installation of Bitumen Blowing Unit (BBU) of capacity 0.52 MMTPA, (3). Augmentation of necessary utilities such as cooling towers, DM plant etc. (4). Augmentation of Pollution Control facilities like SRU to meet the future requirements.
5. The proposed expansion activities will be undertaken within the existing refinery area and no additional land will be acquired. The overall water demand and total sulfur dioxide emissions from the facility during the post expansion scenario will be maintained below the stipulated level as per the earlier environmental clearance issued for the existing project.
6. Air Quality Management Plan - Due to the utilization of cleaner refinery fuel gas and fuel oil, significant reduction in SO₂ and NO_x emissions from heater and Captive Power Plant (CPP) will be envisaged from the current scenario after de-bottlenecking/expansion project. In case of proposed Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustion (CFBC) boilers, limestone injection based flue gas desulfurization system will be implemented in order to achieve 91% sulphur capture. Fly ash would be collected through Electrostatic Static Precipitators.

HMEL proposes to install a tall stack of 130 m height for the proposed boilers. Smokeless operations of the flare are being maintained. In addition to this, VOC emissions from the flanges, valves etc are regularly monitored by HMEL using Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) Program technique and the levels are maintained below the stipulated standards.

7. Water and Wastewater Management Plan – Due to the proposed expansion activity the water requirement will increase from current usage of 1902 m³/hr to 2420 m³/hr against the consented quantity of 3700 m³/hr. No additional water drawl permission is envisaged under the expansion project. Total wastewater generation from post expansion scenario will increase from current level of 380 m³/hr to 405 m³/hr whereas the existing wastewater treatment plant is capable of handling wastewater quantity of 500 m³/hr. The analytical test reports of the treated wastewater generated from the existing plant indicates that all the stipulated parameters are well within in the discharge standards. Entire treated wastewater from the wastewater treatment plant is utilized for green belt & irrigation and similar practices will be adopted in the post expansion facility. Cooling tower blow-down and boiler blow-down wastewater from the existing facility is treated in a reverse osmosis followed by de-mineralization plant in the existing facility and the treated wastewater is reused in the facility.
8. Solid and Hazardous Waste Management - Used oils and oil sludge from the effluent treatment plant will be stored in drums and placed at secured hazardous waste storage area and further disposed to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) authorized recycling vendors. Spent catalyst will either be sent to catalyst recyclers/manufacturers for recycling/ recovery of precious metals or sent to landfill area. Bio-remediation facility has been installed in the existing facility to treat oily sludge generated from the crude tanks. Ash envisaged from the proposed boilers will be disposed to cement manufacturing units.
9. A thick green belt covering an area of 380 acres have been developed within the refinery premises in which more than 2,00,000 saplings have already being planted so far which have reached matured level of growth.
10. For the development of the socio-economic conditions of the area, HMEL is actively participating by doing various activities like skill development, health camps and education programs under the CSR program. The proposed CSR program will be developed based on felt needs in the nearby areas and a budget of 2500 Lakhs has been earmarked towards various CSR activities to be undertaken over a period of 10 years.

Thereafter, Environmental Engineer brought into the notice of public present at the venue of hearing that as per the provisions of EIA notification dated 14.09.2006, as amended time to time, the persons present at the venue may seek any information or clarifications on the proposed expansion project from the project promoter. It was also brought into the notice of the persons present there that the information or clarifications sought by them and reply given by the project proponent will be recorded in the proceedings of the hearing, which will be sent to the Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi for further consideration. Accordingly, he requested the persons present in the hearing to seek information or clarifications on the project one by one. He also informed that no information / clarifications / comments / views / suggestions / objections on the project have been received from the public in writing by the Board, so far.

Thereupon, the detail of the information/ clarifications sought by the persons present at the venue of hearing and the reply given by the project proponent is as under:

Sr. No	Name of the person	Detail of query / statement / information / clarification sought by the person present at the venue of hearing.	Reply of the query / statement / information / clarification given by the project proponent
1.	Sh Surendar Dhalla Secretary, Rama Mandi	He welcomed the project and acknowledged the benefits because of the refinery in the nearby villages/local residents. He further requested H MEL to create a Special Cell, which shall include representatives of public to create awareness amongst the masses about adopting various occupations/ professions for their upliftment and financial sustainability. Projects should come up in the State and the refinery should be upgraded to make it hi-tech.	H MEL is committed to continue the youth skill development program under CSR activities.
2.	Sh. Sukhwinder Singh S/o Sh. Kaka Singh, r/o Village Raman, District Bathinda	He informed that 40 acres land of his family was acquired for setting up of refinery. At the time of land acquisition, we were assured that handsome compensation will be paid, employment will be generated for the public of this area and it will be a pollution free project with a lot of green cover. But,	No land acquisition was undertaken in 1998 as per the applicable regulations and guidelines. No further land acquisition is required for the current expansion project. Refinery operations require skilled and local qualified technical staff and hence wherever possible, qualified personnel have

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		<p>nothing such has happened as jobs are offered to outsiders from far off places such as Kerala and our educated youth are still jobless. Many of them are post graduate such as MCA and they have spent about 10 lacs on education of each child. He submitted a Curriculum Vitae of unemployed local youth, who has done MCA as a proof towards his contention.</p>	<p>been given opportunity in the direct / indirect employment. H MEL assured that service providers will employ local personnel for supporting activities such as horticulture etc.</p>
3.	<p>Sh. Kulwant Singh S/o Sh. Gurnam Singh, Village Ramasara, Ex. Member Panchayat.</p>	<p>He expressed that compensation paid to him for the land acquired for the project during 1998 was not satisfactory.</p> <p>While offering employment, preference is given to outsiders/migrant labour and even 2% of the total employment is not given to local residents. He wanted that priority shall be given to local people for employment.</p>	<p>The land acquisition was undertaken by Govt. of Punjab in the year 1998 as per the applicable regulations and guidelines. For the proposed expansion project, no additional land will be required and also not proposed to acquire any additional land. The expansion project will be implemented within the existing refinery area.</p> <p>Refinery operations, especially a new unit requires experienced and qualified technical staff and hence wherever possible, local personnel have been given opportunity in the direct/indirect employment. Currently around 20% of the direct employees belong to the state of Punjab. H MEL assured that they shall continue to encourage all their service providers to employ local personnel as far as possible. Currently local people constitute to about 50% of the total indirect employment.</p>

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		<p>Due to movement of trucks through the village roads, the approach road to village is in bad shape and 2-3 deaths have already occurred due to this. No help has been offered by refinery.</p> <p>Due to pollution caused by the refinery, groundwater has got polluted and crops often get damaged further. Due to air pollution especially heavy smoke emitted by refinery during night times, which engulfs whole area, it is very difficult to breathe.</p> <p>Due to laying of pipe line, fertile agriculture land of farmers has got spoiled and no compensation has been paid by the refinery.</p> <p>Issues raised by Gram Panchayat Ram Sara is not being redressed by the refinery and also submitted a written complaint in this regard (copy attached).</p>	<p>80% of the finished products from the refinery are transported through pipeline and railways. Due to utilization of pet-coke as boiler fuel under expansion project, the vehicular traffic movement on the roads will remain unchanged. H MEL will coordinate with local public administration/traffic police department to encourage the transporters to use highway instead of village road.</p> <p>H MEL has installed and is operating a dedicated STP within the refinery and no sewage is being disposed outside the plant premises as on date.</p>
4.	Sh. Bir Devinder Singh, Ex. Sarpanch Village Kanakwal, Ex. Chairman Market Committee, Raman	He informed that 1400 acres of land of his village (maximum area of any village) was acquired for setting up of refinery. No help as claimed by the refinery such providing lap-tops, education to children etc. has ever come to his village. Odour problem also needs to be controlled. He requested that preference should be given to his village	H MEL is committed to continue the CSR activities in the areas based on the need based assessment done under the EIA study.

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		<p>while offering employment as most of the land (1400 acres) covered under this project has been acquired from his village. He also requested that during wheat season atleast one fire brigade should be stationed at the main gate to control the situation in case of any eventuality. He further informed that all kind of other help whenever contacted is offered by the refinery and he is in favour of the expansion.</p>	
5.	Mr. Kaur Singh S/o Sh. Dalbara Singh, Ex. President, M.C. Rama Mandi.	<p>He reiterated all the problems told by the earlier speakers. He demanded that civil hospital Rama Mandi which has virtually been reduced to a dispensary be adopted by the refinery for its proper functioning. He suggested that refinery should train the youth of the area to generate employment opportunities. He further stated he supports the expansion and ancillary units should be encouraged by providing benefits such as tax exemption etc. He thanked for organizing the public hearing in transparent manner.</p>	<p>H MEL is committed to continue the CSR activities in the areas based on the need based assessment done under the EIA study.</p>
6.	Mr. Dharmender Singh, r/o Village Sekhu	<p>He agreed with the difficulties reported by the public and stated that issues need to be redressed. However, expansion should be encouraged. Even more expansion should be planned and undertaken after taking care of pollution and other problems of residents. He further stated that with the coming up of refinery opportunities of employment to the local people has been increased and general development of the area has</p>	<p>H MEL thanked for welcoming the project.</p>

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		also taken place. He also stated that refinery should organize camps for training of the youth.	
7.	Sh. Ajit Singh S/o Sh. Rajinder Singh, Village Kanakwal	He stated that his village is situated at 50 yards distance from the project site and due to high pollution caused by the refinery, the whole village is disturbed and is ready to shift to another safer place. He requested that shifting of entire village be arranged as safety is at risk. About 100 persons raised their hands in his support.	Deputy Commissioner, Bathinda has informed that the matter is under consideration of Govt.
8.	Sh. Baldev Singh S/o Sh. Piara Singh, Village Phullokhari	He stated that with the coming up of refinery, they have got only air pollution and odour problem and nothing else. All the assurances by project proponent as well as State Govt. have not been fulfilled. He further stated that the residents are ready to give more land for expansion but requested to get the village shifted to a safer place. He also brought and displayed the splinted pieces which were found in the agricultural land after the recent blast in the refinery.	H MEL has implemented various robust pollution control systems and also environmental management plans in the existing facility and about Rs. 1500/- Cr was spent on various environmental management programs in the existing facility. The refinery is complying with all regulations, emissions and discharge standards. Compliance letter was issued by MoEF, Regional office, Chandigarh. The refinery was designed and built and is operated as per the good engineering practices and applicable guidelines. Robust safety systems are in place.
9.	Sh. Manjeet Singh, S/o Sh. Ram Singh, Naujwan Ekta Club, Village Giana	He informed that due to high pollution caused by the refinery, diseases are spreading in the area. He requested H MEL to extend financial/medical facilities to the residents and adopt one of the hospitals located at Rama Mandi, Talwandi Sabo or Damdama Sahib. He	This will be considered under the CSR program as per the need based assessment study.

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		<p>further stated that training is not imparted to the youth of the area and requested H MEL to impart industrial training to the technical students from the local villages. He further stated that the contractor is not paying the full amount to the workers as allotted by the refinery but nobody speaks in this regard fearing his sacking. Gram Panchayat Giana also submitted a written representation in this regard, copy attached.</p>	
10.	Sh. Balbir Singh, S/o Sh. Nachatar Singh, Ex. Sarpanch Village Hassu	<p>He stated chimney of the refinery is only 1/2 km from his house and expressed that sometimes smell is observed in the nearby areas, which needs to be redressed. He further stated that though his village falls in Haryana territory, however, with the coming up of refinery heavy traffic has increased on the roads and there is no improvement in the road infrastructure.</p>	<p>H MEL has implemented various robust pollution control systems and also environmental management plans in the existing facility.</p> <p>H MEL will facilitate villagers to take up this matter with Sirsa District authorities.</p>
11.	Sh. Kuldeep Singh, S/o Sh. Iqbal Singh, Village Kanakwal	<p>He raised the issue of shifting of Village Kanakwal and informed that the matter is hanging fire for the last two years. He further stated that Chief Minister, Punjab had assured that 55 acres of land is being acquired for the shifting of the village and wanted to know its current status. He also stated that it is true that people of the area are getting employment due to coming up of refinery. However, pollution especially odour and noise pollution is effecting the entire village. Moreover, Village Kanakwal is the last village of State of Punjab and Railway crossing gate remains closed for longer durations causing</p>	<p>Deputy Commissioner has informed that the matter is under consideration of Govt.</p> <p>H MEL has implemented various robust pollution control systems and also environmental management plans in the existing facility.</p>

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		hardship to the area residents.	
12.	Sh. Surjit Singh S/o Sh. Kartar Singh, Ex. Serviceman, Village Ramasara	<p>He informed that:</p> <p>(i) Approach road to his village is a narrow road and heavy traffic of refinery is creating difficulties to the smooth flow of traffic and widening of approach road is not being completed by the refinery.</p> <p>(ii) Requested the refinery to open a school in his village and offered land for the purpose.</p> <p>He thanked the refinery for organizing English speaking courses for the girls of the area and other skill development programmes like sewing training etc. under Corporate Social Responsibility programmes.</p>	H MEL will also take up the matter with traffic authorities.
13.	Sh. Jaswinder Singh Nambardar, Village Ramasara	<p>He informed that the Govt. irrigation water course has been damaged by the project proponent but not repaired. Further, speeding vehicles of the refinery employees cause accidents at Naurang Chowk, but their request for putting up barricades at the sites has not been accepted by the refinery, though they have put up barricades at the main entrance of their township. Further, it was informed that due to heavy air pollution caused by the refinery, sometimes it is cloud formation type of condition in the area and medical camps organized by the refinery are not serving any purpose and are a meager eye wash.</p>	<p>H MEL committed to support the PWD (Irrigation Branch) for implementing the suggestion.</p> <p>The refinery was designed and built and is operated as per the good engineering practices and applicable guidelines. Robust safety systems are in place.</p>

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Besides above, a written representation has been received in the office of Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala on 10.10.2014 from the residents of Village Rattangarh Kanakwal, District Bathinda opposing the proposed expansion of the refinery. It has been stated that due to coming up of refinery pollution levels have increased manifolds in the area, which has affected the general public, animals, birds, vegetations & environment on the area and public of the area is suffering due to various dangerous diseases such as asthma, allergy etc. It has further stated that Punjab Govt. has assured the villagers that problem will be redressed by shifting the village Rattangarh Kanakwal to some other place. It has been further stated that Punjab Pollution Control Board has not taken necessary action to control the pollution during the past.

Environmental Engineer (Mega) further requested the persons present at the venue of hearing that if anyone else wants to seek any information/clarification on the proposed project, but no one came forward.

Dr. Basant Garg, IAS, DC, Bathinda thanked all the villagers for their enthusiastic participation and patience in ensuring the smooth, fair and transparent conducting of public hearing.

The hearing ended with vote of thanks to the Supervisor-Cum-Presiding Officer and the public present in the hearing.

Sd/-
(Rajiv Sharma)
Env. Engineer,
PPCB, Head Office
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Sd/-
(Joginder Singh)
Env. Engineer,
PPCB, Regional Office,
Bathinda

Sd/-
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Deputy Commissioner,
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