

Proceedings of the public hearing conducted on 14.03.2019 in connection with application filed by M/s Pioneer Industries Ltd., for obtaining environmental clearance under EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006 for expansion of its existing grain based distillery at Plot No. A-3, A-4, Industrial Growth Centre, Defence Road, V.P.O. Ranipur, Pathankot.

The following were present to supervise the proceedings:-

1. Sh. Rajeev Verma, PCS
Additional Deputy Commissioner,
Pathankot
2. Dr. Manohar Lal Chauhan,
Environmental Engineer (Mega)
Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala.
3. Er. Rantej Sharma,
Asstt. Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office, Batala.
4. Sh.Sukhpal Singh,
General Manager
District Industries Centre,
Batala.

Environmental Engineer (Mega), Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala welcomed the Supervising-cum-Presiding Officer and people from adjoining towns/villages, who came to attend the public hearing of this project for the expansion of the project at Plot No. A-3, A-4, Industrial Growth Centre, Defence Road, V.P.O. Ranipur, Pathankot. He informed that an application was filed by M/s Pioneer Industries Ltd., with the MoEF&CC, New Delhi for getting Environmental Clearance under EIA notification no. 1533 (E) dated 14.9.2006 for expansion of its existing grain based distillery from 125 KLPD to 200 KLPD by modifications of existing plant or setting up of another unit of 75 KLPD and to enhance the capacity of co-generation power plant from 3 MW to 9 MW in its existing premises located at Plot No. A-3, A-4, Industrial Growth Centre, Defence Road, V.P.O. Ranipur, Pathankot. After considering the application of the project proponent, the MoEF&CC, New Delhi had issued 'Terms of Reference' to the project proponent for

preparation of draft EIA study report. Now, the project proponent has submitted draft EIA report to the Punjab Pollution Control Board for conducting public hearing of the project as per the procedure prescribed in the EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006. Environmental Engineer (Mega) apprised the public present there about the requirement of conducting the public hearing before deciding the application filed by the project proponent for getting the said clearance for the said expansion at the said site. He also brought into the notice of public that a copy of the draft EIA report alongwith the executive summary of the same submitted by the project proponent to the office of Chairman, Zila Parishad, Pathankot; Deputy Commissioner, Pathankot; General Manager District Industries Centre, Pathankot; Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Chandigarh; Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board Regional Office, Pathankot 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) dated 08.02.2019 and daily 'Jagbani' (Punjabi) dated 08.02.2019 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 project proponent, who is the Environmental Consultant of industry to elaborate the main features of the project and the draft EIA study report.

Sh. Yashpal Jain of M/s Enviro Infra Solutions Pvt. Ltd., environmental consultant of the project proponent brought out the details of the proposed expansion project before the public as under:-

Ethanol is utilized in the chemical industry, for potable purposes and for mixing in the petrol as fuel. Keeping in view of the future requirements of ethanol, M/s Pioneer Industries Limited are planning to expand its existing grain-based distillery plant from 125 KLPD to 200 KLPD and co-generation of power from 3.0 MW to 9.0 MW. The expansion of the distillery plant will be done by either modification of existing plants or setting up another unit of 75 KLPD grain-based distillery unit. The proposed expansion will be done within the existing premises located at plot no. A-2(P), A-3 and A-4, Industrial Growth Center, Village Ranipur,

Defence Road, Tehsil and District Pathankot, Punjab. Pioneer Industries Limited are already having 44.747 acres of land at A-2(P), A-3 and A-4, Industrial Growth Center, Pathankot. The expansion project ensues a total capital investment of 52.50 crores on land development, buildings, plant and machinery. After commissioning, the industry would generate direct employment to around 100 people. Local manpower would be employed in the industry and no residential premises would be set up within the industry.

The distillery will use grains such as broken rice, maize, bajra, jowar and other starch containing grains etc. as basic raw material @ 2.5 kgs/liter of ethanol production. Besides this, processing chemicals would be used.

Pioneer Industries Ltd. are having existing 3 boilers of 25 TPH (1 nos.) and 12 TPH (2 nos.) capacity. The industry plans to install another boiler of 50 TPH capacity for steam requirements and co-generation of power @ 6.0 MW during the proposed expansion. The existing 2 no. of 12 TPH capacity boilers would be kept as standby. After expansion, the industry will require biomass/coal @ 500 MT/day.

The manufacturing process involves different process steps in distillation process. The process will have following steps/operations;

- a)Grains receiving and storage
- b)Grains handling and milling
- c)Slurry preparation/liquefaction
- d)Fermentation
- e)Multi-pressure distillation
- f)Spirit storage

Utilities: After expansion, the industry will have the water treatment capacity of 1000 m³/day and cooling water capacity of 5000 m³/hour. Overall, the industry will consume around 1966 m³/day of ground water, after expansion.

Baseline Data: Environmental monitoring covering 10 kms. radius area was

conducted for the winter season from 1st January, 2018 to 31st March, 2018. Various environmental parameters such as ambient air quality, water quality, soil quality and noise levels were monitored. In addition, secondary information was collected for land area, socio-economic status, past meteorological conditions, etc.

Ambient air quality was monitored at 8 AAQM stations for respirable suspended particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x). During the study period, PM₁₀ concentrations have ranged from 40 to 71 µg/m³. PM_{2.5} concentrations have ranged from 18 to 37 µg/m³. SO₂ concentrations have ranged from 5.4 to 10.2 µg/m³. NO_x concentrations have ranged from 11.7 to 23.4 µg/m³.

Noise levels were recorded at 7 locations. The maximum day and night time values recorded were 69.2 dB(A) and 39.8 dB(A).

To assess the ground water quality of the study area, 8 no. of ground water samples were collected. The physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the ground water samples were found within the limits as specified in IS-10500:1991.

Quantification of significant impacts: To evaluate the impact of flue gas emissions computer modeling has been carried out using Gaussian Plume Dispersion Model (PTMTP) to verify the impact of flue gas emissions into the atmosphere and their effect on ground level. Accordingly, to the modeling, increase in SPM and SO₂ level due to the project would be less than 8 µg/m³ for SPM and less than 3.5 µg/m³ for SO₂. After expansion, the overall SPM and SO₂ concentration in the atmosphere would be within the permissible limits.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Wastewater generation and treatment: The operation of the project will result in wastewater generation of three types of effluent – Spent Wash, Process condensates and Effluent from misc. streams. Spent wash @ 1300 m³/day would be generated after the proposed expansion. The spent wash would be taken to the decanter where wet cake @ 300 MT/day would be separated and remaining thin slops @

1000 m³/day would be treated in a multi effect evaporation system. Condensates in the form of spent lees @ 300 m³/day and MEE condensate @ 775 m³/day would be generated after the proposed expansion. Out of the total generation of 1075 m³/day of condensates, 650 m³/day would be directly used in the liquefaction process and the rest 425 m³/day would be sent to the CPU for treatment and reuse in cooling tower makeup water. Besides the above-mentioned streams, effluent would be generated from misc. other streams such as – floor/fermenter washing effluent @ 25 m³/day, cooling towers blow down @ 50 m³/day, domestic effluent @ 13 m³/day, D.M. plant reject @ 40 m³/day and boiler blowdown @ 25 m³/day, after the proposed expansion unit. This effluent would be moderately polluted and after treatment in ETP would be used on land for irrigation purposes.

Air pollution: The industry plans to install an additional 50 TPH capacity fluidized bed boiler (FBC) for steam and additional power Co- generation of 6.0 MW for the proposed expansion of the distillery unit. The industry will install electrostatic precipitator as air pollution control system to control the combustion emissions from boiler furnace.

Solid waste : The plant facility will generate a maximum of 70 MT/day of ash after the expansion. Ash collected will be taken to an ash silo through a pneumatic conveying system. Ash silo will have the capacity of storage for 1 day of ash. The ash will be disposed off as soil conditioner by spreading it in the nearby agricultural fields or will be given to brick kiln for mixing in the brick earth for flyash bricks. The industry has around 5000 m² of land for ash storage purpose.

Green Belt Development : The industry would develop 33 % of the distillery area as green area consisting of parks, plantation etc. The green belt around the proposed plant shall help to arrest the effects of particulate matter and gaseous pollutants in the area besides playing a major role in environmental conservation efforts.

Benefits : After the proposed expansion, the industry will spent Rs. 1.25 crores on social causes within the study area. Production of ethanol would help in meeting the requirements of petrol and will save the foreign exchange. People from nearby area

will directly/indirectly benefit from the project.

Thereafter, Environmental Engineer (Mega) 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 from time to time, the persons present at the venue may seek any information or clarifications on the proposed project from the project promoter and may also raise objections, if any. It was also brought into the notice of the persons present there that the information or clarifications or objections raised by them and reply given by the project proponent or his consultant will be recorded in the proceedings of the hearing, which will be sent to MoEF&CC, New Delhi, for further consideration. Accordingly, he requested the persons present in the hearing to seek information or clarifications or raise objections, if any on the project one by one after disclosing his/her name. He also informed that no 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 & address of the person	Detail of query/ statement / information / clarification sought by the person present	Reply of the query / statement / information / clarification given by the project proponent
1.	Sh. Narinder Sharma, r/o Pathankot	What will be manufactured in the factory?	Environmental Consultant of the company informed that the industry is planning to expand its existing grain-based distillery plant from 125 KLPD to 200 KLPD for manufacturing of ethanol and co-generation of power from 3.0 MW to 9.0 MW. The surplus power will be sent to PSPCL. The persons who put the question satisfied from the answer of the Environmental Consultant.

2.	Sh. Gurbhej Singh S/o Sh. Tarsem Singh, Ranipur, District Pathankot	He stated that he is residing 1.5 km away from the industry and there is lot of noise pollution from the industry during night. If the expansion has been made, then there will be more pollution. The industry has retrenched the workers already working in the industry. There will be no benefit from the project.	Environmental Consultant of the company informed that now we are sitting in the premises of the industry and there is no much noise pollution, then how there will be more noise pollution at night, affecting the village, which is 1.5 km away from the industry. He further informed that at present more than 200 local persons are working in the industry. In view of the problems faced by the people, the industry has provided bag house filter of latest technology as air pollution control device. The industry has provided online monitoring system for checking pollution from the industry, as per the requirement of Central Pollution Control Board. He also informed that all the norms as fixed by the Government are being complied with. He ensured that all the mandatory requirements for control of pollution will be complied with.
3.	Sh. Shakti Chand S/o Sh. Onkar Chand, Industrial Growth Centre, Pathankot	He stated that there is much pollution from the industry with which there is breathing problem to people. He further stated that the industry should not be expanded. He also informed that a case has been filed by the Environment Protection Committee in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for causing pollution by the industry, which is pending as yet. He further stated that the project should not	Environmental Consultant of the company informed that the matter is sub-judice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, as such, the Apex Court will decide the matter.

		operated and no expansion should be made at any cost.	
4.	Sh. Baldev Singh, (Retd Subedar) S/o Sh. Amar Singh, r/o Ranipur, Pathankot	He welcomed & thanked the officers come for conducting public hearing. He stated his land is at backside of the industry. He further stated as has been explained that all the arrangements have been carried for control of pollution from the industry, but when they put the clothes in open area for drying, their colour has been changed to black. He also informed that the gases are discharged by the industry at night and there is more pollution at night. He stated that there is lot of pollution from the industry in the area. He further stated that no employment has been provided to the local people and expansion should not be made. He further stated that the people should be satisfied first and thereafter the industry should be established. The industry has not provided any facility to the area. The industry has retrenched the local people working in the same. He also stated that earlier he was Supervisor in the industry. Earlier, there was no pollution and the environment was clean. He further informed that no decision has been taken by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as yet. The farmers are facing problems from the industry.	
5.	Sh. Parmod Khosla S/o Sh. Hakikat Rai Khosla,	He stated that there are two plots in the Industrial Growth Centre, Pathankot.	No need to give any comment. Many of the persons present in the public

	Industrial Growth Centre, Pathankot	With the development of industry, there will be opportunities of employment in the area. There is good environment in the area and the industrial area should be developed.	hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
6.	Sh. Vivek Chaudhary, r/o Pathankot	He stated that in the existing unit of the industry, the people of the local area are working. He wished that the industrial should grow. He further stated that the problem of pollution should be solved. He also stated that if the industries are coming in the industrial growth centre, then the same should be welcomed. He requested the public to support the industry.	Dr. M.L. Chauhan, Environmental Engineer (Mega) informed that as per the information provided by Asstt. Environmental Engineer of Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Batala, Dr. Babu Ram, Ex. Member Secretary and Officers from CPCB, monitored the industry in the year 2017 continuously 72 hours. Punjab Pollution Control Board has made mandatory for large scale units to install online monitoring system so as to monitor the industry online at Head Office level and at the level of CPCB. As informed by Asstt. Environmental Engineer of Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Batala, necessary action will be taken regarding noise pollution.
7.	Sh. Manish Vij, Ex. Sarpanch, Madhopur, Pathankot	He stated that the industry should be expanded as it will give employment. He further stated that 200-250 persons of local area are working in the industry. Some of the persons oppose for establishment of Pepsi project. He also stated that the problem of pollution should be solved.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
8.	Dr. Dinesh Sharma S/o Sh. Kedar Nath Sharma, Principal A.V.	He stated that he is glad to know for expansion of the industry. He further stated he is Principal of the College,	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way

	College, Pathankot	which is owned by the company and the people of the area have also given employment in the College. He also stated that the owners of the industry has got solemnized marriages of the girl children of the poor people. He further stated that the problems of the people are being heard by way of public hearing. He stated that the permission should be granted to the project for its expansion.	of clapping.
9.	Sh. Jagdish Singh S/o Sh. Darshan Singh, Village Mehra, Pathankot	He stated that the industry should be established and the expansion should be made in the Industrial Growth Centre.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
10.	Dr. Ramesh Kumar S/o Sh. Rattan Chand, Pathankot	He stated that he is working in the near vicinity of the industry under Corporate Social Responsibility of the industry and found that there is no major disease to the people of the area created by the industry.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
11.	Sh. Manish Kumar S/o Sh. Manohar Lal, r/o Dandwa, Pathankot	He stated that he is associated with the industry and run the business of transport. Permission should be granted to the project for its expansion.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
12.	Sh. Shingara Singh S/o Sh/ Sewa Singh, r/o Ranipur, Pathankot	He stated that it has been said that there is no major disease in the area, but he is facing lever disease, for which he is getting treatment from Ludhiana. He further stated that clothes put for drying the same in the open, the colour of them is converted into black.	
13.	Sh Binder Singh, r/o Pathankot	He stated that the industries is providing facilities to the people and It has been	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement

		informed that it is controlling pollution. For the establishment of the industry, the people of the area get the employment. The expansion of the industry should be made.	given by the speaker by way of clapping.
14.	Sh. Prashant Sharma S/o Sh. Vijay Sharma, r/o Pathankot	He stated that the expansion should be made.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
15.	Sh. Balbir Singh S/o Sh. Sarup Singh, r/o Bhanwara, Pathankot	He stated that there is no problem from the industry. Expansion of the industry should be made.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
16.	Sh. Parminderjit Singh, r/o Pathankot	He stated that in the public hearing, people are being listening. If the industry established, then there is few pollution from it. Pollution should be controlled and he wished that the industry will control the pollution. There is some pollution from industry for using fuel and the industry is discharging 20% ash contents. The industry is coming with new technology and thereafter there will be no pollution from the industry and only 3% ash contents will be discharged in the air. There is no solution to close down the unit. Pollution should be controlled. Agriculture & industries should be developed. He reiterated that the problem of ash contents will be solved very soon.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
17.	Sh. Gunraj Singh, Pathankot	He stated that he is supplying wood chips to the industry, with which the	

		problem of ash contents from the industry will be solved.	
18.	Sh. Satnam Singh S/o Sh. Karam Singh, r/o Kahnuwal, Pathankot	He stated that he is associated with the industry for the last 19 years. The industry should grow.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
19.	Sh. Bikram Singh, Pathankot	He stated that he has industrial unit in the Industrial Growth Centre, Pathankot. This is a good industrial unit. The industry should be expanded.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
20.	Sh. Sudhir Kumar, r/o Pathankot	He stated that direct and indirect employment will be generated with the expansion of the industry. As such, expansion of the industry should be made.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
21.	Sh. Ashwani Kumar, r/o Village Bhanwal, Pathankot	He stated that he is associated with the industry for the last 15 years. With the establishment of the industry, the area has been developed. He further stated that the industry is going to provided latest technology to control the pollution. He also stated that the problems of the people should be redressed. Industry should be expanded.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
22.	Sh. Shakti Chand S/o Sh. Onkar Chand, Industrial Growth Centre, Pathankot	He stated that the industry should not be expanded as it is creating highly pollution in the area. He further stated that in this Industrial Growth Centre, no large scale unit can be established.	Sh. Sukhpal Singh, General Manager, District Industries Centre, Batala informed that as per policy of the Government, any unit of small, medium or large can be established in this Industrial Growth Centre.
23.	Sh. Karan Sharma S/o Sh. Sudesh Sharma, r/o Pathankot	He stated that the permission to the industry should be given very soon so that the people of the area can get employment.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.

24.	Sh. Asha Rani, r/o Pathankot	She stated that earlier her position was very bad, but now she is serving in the factory with which she & her family are in good position.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping. Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
25.	Sh. Kuldip Singh, r/o Pathankot	He stated that he is associated with the industry for the last 18 years. He further stated that the industry should grow.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
26.	Sh. Kewal Krishan S/o Sh. Girdhari Lal, r/o Pathankot	He stated that he is transporter and associated with the industry. People of the area get the employment from the industry. Permission should be granted to the Industry.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
27.	Ms. Simran Kaur, r/o Pathankot	She stated that the industries are established in Ludhiana and outside the Punjab. Youths have to go outside Punjab for employment. Expansion of the industry should be made so as to get the job by the youths.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
28.	Sh. Baldev Singh, (Retd Subedar) S/o Sh. Amar Singh, r/o Ranipur, Pathankot	He thanked all the people present in the public hearing. He stated that the industry should be expanded, but the employment should be given to the affected persons.	
29.	Sh. Roop Singh S/o Sh. Munshi Ram, Ranipur, Pathankot	He stated that the industry should be expanded.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
30.	Sh. Bikramjit Singh, r/o District Hoshiarpur	He stated that he is farmer and he is supplying fuel to the industry. The industry should grow, but the pollution control norms	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.

		should be met with. There are strict laws, as such, the industries are complying with.	
31.	Sh. Muna Lal, r/o Pathankot	He stated that he is transporter and associated with the industry. He further stated that 40-50 persons are working with him. The industry should be expanded.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
32.	Sh. Harish Kumar S/o Sh. Jagdish Mittal, Pathankot	He stated that he is transporter and is associated with the industry. 15-20 persons have got the employment from him.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.
33.	Sh. Harmanjit Singh, Representative FICCI	He stated that he was representative in the meeting of Stubble Burning. He further stated that if the industry use the farm residue as fuel, then the problem of stubble burning in the Punjab will reduce to some extent.	Many of the persons present in the public hearing responded the statement given by the speaker by way of clapping.

In the end, Managing Director of the Company informed that the problem of the people regarding air pollution is genuine to some extent, this problem is not from the industry, but it is problem of handling of rice husk during the transportation. This problem will be tackled 100%. The company has proposed to provide new boiler in which rice straw will be used as fuel and air pollution control device of latest technology will be provided, with which air pollution will be reduced. He further stated that some people/workers in the industry were going to constitute Trade Union and they were not allowed to do so, but they were not agree to do. As such, they were retrenched from the industry. He also stated that in the Himachal Pradesh more incentives are being provided for establishment of the industry, but still they prefer to expand the unit in this Industrial Growth Centre. The genuine problems as faced by the public will be solved properly. He ensured that after the expansion of the industry, there will be no pollution problem from the industry.

Then the Environmental Engineer (Mega), Punjab Pollution Control Board requested the public, that if anyone else want to ask any more question about the proposed expansion project, he may come forward, but no one came forward. The public hearing was attended by 151 persons.

The public hearing ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

(Rantej Sharma)
Asstt. Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office,
Batala

(Dr. Manohar Lal Chauhan)
Environmental Engineer (Mega)
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Patiala.

(Rajeev Verma), PCS
Addl. Deputy Commissioner,
Pathankot