

Proceedings of the Public Hearing conducted on 12.03.2012 at 3.30 p.m. in connection with application filed by Department of Industries & Commerce, Govt. of Punjab, for obtaining environmental clearance under EIA Notification dated 14/9/2006 for the mining site at Village Dhanansu, Distt. Ludhiana (Area 17.8 Hectare), State Punjab.

The following were present to supervise the proceedings:-

1. **Sh. Gursewak Singh,**
Tehsildar, (East) on behalf of Deputy Commissioner,
Ludhiana
2. **Er. Tejinder Kumar**
Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office-III, Ludhiana
3. **Er. Raj kumar Goyal,**
Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office-IV, Ludhiana

Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office-4, Ludhiana welcomed the Supervising-cum-Presiding officer, other officers present on the dais and people from adjoining towns/villages, who came to attend the public hearing of the project. He informed that an application was filed by the General Manager, District Industries Centre-cum-Mining officer, Ludhiana in the office of the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Punjab, at Patiala for getting Environmental Clearance under EIA notification no. 1533 (E) dated 14.9.2006 to carry out mining of minor minerals from the Sutlej river bed in the revenue estate of Village Dhanansu, Distt. Ludhiana in an area of 17.8 hectares. After considering the application of the department, the said Authority had issued 'Terms of Reference' to the General Manager cum Mining officer, DIC for preparation of draft rapid EIA study report. Now, the department 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. He apprised the public present there about the requirement of conducting the public hearing before deciding the application filed by the Department for getting the said clearance for carrying out mining at the said site. He also brought into the notice of public that a copy of the draft rapid EIA report alongwith the Executive Summary of the same submitted by the industry to the Punjab Pollution Control Board was placed in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana; Zila Parishad, Ludhiana; General Manager District Industrial Centre, Ludhiana; Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana;

Regional Office of MoEF at Chandigarh; Regional Office-3, Punjab Pollution Control Board at Ludhiana 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 Indian Express' (English Daily) and in 'Punjabi Tribune' on 11.02.2012 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 General Manager, DIC, Ludhiana and representative of the M/s Grass Roots Research & Creation India (P) Ltd, Noida, who is the Environmental Consultant of Department of Industries & Commerce, to elaborate about the main features of the project and the draft EIA study report.

Sh. Vishav Bandhu, GM, DIC informed that there is about 44 acres of private land in the revenue estate of village Dhanashu, in which the mining of the minor minerals was being done since long back. He further informed that the sand strata in the said land area is the property of the Government and mining of the same will be done after obtaining environmental clearance under EIA Notification dated 14.9.2006.

Sh. Sahni of M/s Grass Roots Research & Creation India (P) Ltd, Noida brought out the details of the project before the public as under:

- 1) The development of the infrastructure is based upon the building materials such as sand and gravel for which controlled mining at the source is required. The Govt. of Punjab has to allot / earmark the various sites from which the mining of minerals has to be undertaken. Accordingly, this site is also one of such site, from where mining is to be carried out, hence, the environmental clearance is required.
- 2) PROJECT DESCRIPTION
 - A) The mining site of the project is in Hadbast (HB) of Village Dhanansu, Distt. Ludhiana, which is connected with State Highway as well as Railway Station.
 - (B) The total area of the proposed site is 17.8 hectare.
- 3) The land of the mining site will be with the State Government on lease. There will be approx. 5, 84,226 metric tonne of sand with UNFC code 111. The mining will be carried out by excavator of 1.1 cubic meter capacity. No drilling or blasting will be carried out at the site and the mining will be with simplest procedure of lifting the material and loading to the vehicles mechanically. The mining will be done with working depth of 3 m below ground level.
- 4) Baseline data has been collected with respect to land, water, air, ecological and noise within a radius of 10 km from the site.

5) Mitigation measures for different Environment parameters will be as under:

A) Air Environment: The only air pollution sources are the road transport network of the trucks. The dust suppression measures like water spraying will be done on the roads. Utmost care will be taken to prevent spillage from the trucks. Overloading will be prevented. Plantation activities along the roads will also reduce the impact of dust in the nearby villages.

B) Water Environment:

- There will be no degradation of water quality, Only natural flow of the river will be maintained.

C) Soil Environment:

- The mining will not effect in any way the quality of the soil as the level of the area lowered by the mining will be compensated by the flowing river, during rainy season.

D) Noise Environment: As the only impact is due to transportation of sand to the construction though village roads, emphasis will be given on the following points.

- Minimum use of Horns at the village area.
- Timely maintenance of vehicles and their silencers to minimize vibration and sound.
- Phasing out of old and worn out trucks.
- Provision of green belts along the road networks.
- Care will be taken to produce minimum sound during loading.

E) Social Aspects

- River channel will be controlled and protection of banks will lead to safety of adjoining agricultural land.
- Employment will be generated, hence improvement of socio-economic aspects of the area.

6) Budget for Implementation of Environmental Management Plan

S. No	Items	Cost to be incurred (in Lac/annum)
1.	Air quality monitoring	0.29
2.	Water quality	0.21
3.	Ambient Noise level	0.06
4.	Soil Quality	0.10
5.	Socio Economic condition of local population, physical survey	0.04
6.	Manpower of environmental cell	0.17
	Total	0.87

Thereafter, Environmental Engineer brought into the notice of public present at the venue of hearing that as per the provisions of EIA notification dated 14.9.2006, as amended time to time, the persons present at the venue may seek any information or clarifications on the 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 **MoEF** for further consideration. Accordingly, he requested the persons present in the hearing to seek information or clarifications on the project one by one.

Thereupon, the detail of the information/ clarifications raised by the persons present at the venue of hearing and the reply given by the consultant of the industry / 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. Tarsem Singh Khassi (Secretary, Sand Labor Union)	At this location, sand is being lifted for the last 40-50 years and no loss to environment or property has been noticed till date, due to it. I request that in the process of mining of sand, local labor may be employed, which will act as a tool to reduce unemployment in this area.	No comment
2.	S. Jaswinder Singh(Ex. Member Block Samiti, Dhanansu)	It is a fact that when sand is dug out from the fertile land, then the level of the said area is lowered due to which problem of water logging can occur, which may affect the yield of the crops. Then in such situation the farmers will have to approach to the revenue authorities to get financial compensation. The revenue authorities after adopting proper procedure, may have to pay financial compensation to the affected farmers. Then in such situation, there will financial burden	No comment

		on the Government, as such, mining of minor minerals should not be allowed at site.	
3.	S. Sher Singh Vill. Dhanansu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is apprehended that the mining of minor mineral may affect the fertility of the land. • The Nivodya Vidyala School is located very near to the proposed site of the project and in this school many students are studying from the various districts of the State. Due to mining of minor minerals, water logging may occur at this site, which will become a breeding place for flies & mosquitoes. Thus, it will become a source of nuisance for the students of the said school. So, I request that no mining should be carried out near the school. 	It was informed by the GM/DIC that no Mining will be carried out near the Nivodya Vidyalya School since the mining will only be done from the private land.
4.	S. Pal Singh, Dhanansu	Near the mining site, my agricultural land is located. There is no work relating to mining of sand in the area due to which the labour of the area is not in a position to earn their livelihood. So, I am in favour of starting mining of minor minerals at this site.	No comment
5.	S. Sukhwinder Singh, Dhanansu	I am in favour of starting mining of minor minerals at this site.	No comment
6.	S. Malkit Singh Sarpanch Vill. Bhukar	Mining of minerals should be done, but the level of the ground may be maintained.	No comment
7.	S. Angrej Pal Singh, Vill. Bhukri	The mining of minor minerals has already been done surrounding to my agricultural land due to which the level of the mined area has been lowered. Now, the erosion of top soil of my	No comment

		agricultural land has been taken place with surface run-off due its higher level than the surrounding area. So the mining may be done but the equal level should be maintained.	
8.	S. Balwinder Singh, Vill. Chhoti Bhukri	Mining of sand in the adjoining area has caused me a loss to the tune of Rs. 1.0 crore due to erosion of top fertile soil of my agricultural fields,as such, the Govt should pay the financial compensation to me for the said loss.	No comment
9.	S. Amar singh, Vill. Dhanansu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I requested that the leveling of the entire area should be done immediately, from where mining of minor minerals has been carried. • Fly ash of the industries should be filled in the already mined area. 	No comment

Then the Environmental Engineer requested the public, that if any one else want to ask any more question about the proposed project, but no one came forward. The public hearing was attended by 90 no. of people. The still photography and videography of the public hearing was also done and copies of the same are enclosed herewith.

S. Jaswinder singh ,Ex. Block Samiti Member and others submitted their views in writing and a copy of the same is enclosed herewith as Annexure-I.

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

(R.K Goyal) Env. Engineer, PPCB. Regional office-IV, Ludhiana	(Tejinder Kumar) Env. Engineer, PPCB. Regional office-3, Ludhiana	(Gursewak Singh) Tehsildar, Ludhiana.
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