

Proceedings of the Environmental Public Hearing towards the Iron Ore Mining of capacity 1.0 MMTPA over an extent of area 93.60 Hectares at M.L. No. 0014, Bedarabommanahalli, Hirekandavadi and other Villages of Chitradurga & Holalkere Taluk, Chitradurga District by Bhomman Iron Ore Mine of M/s. JSW Steel Limited.

Date: 29.03.2022 at 11.00 AM

Place: At the premises of Bhomman Iron Ore Mine, M. L. No. 0014 of M/s. JSW Steel Limited, Bedarabommanahalli Village, Chitradurga Taluk and District.

List of Officers Present:

Sl no	Name	Designation
1	Smt. Kavitha S. Mannikeri, I.A.S.,	Deputy Commissioner and Presiding Officer of Environmental Public Hearing Panel, Chitradurga
2	Sri Muralidhara B.S	Senior Environmental Officer, Zonal Office, KSPCB, Chitradurga
3	Sri E. Prakash	Environmental Officer and Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Panel, KSPCB, Chitradurga
4	Sri P R Manjunatha	Assistant Conservator of Forest, Forest Department, Chitradurga
5	Sri J H Sathyanarayana	Tahasildar, Chitradurga Taluk
6	Sri Rajesha P	Deputy Environmental Officer, Regional Office, KSPCB, Chitradurga
7	Sri Umapathi B N	Geologist, Department of Mines and Geology, Chitradurga

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I. List of project Proponent and Consultants present.

1. Sri Sunil Kumar Singh, Vice President (Mines) of M/s. JSW Steel Limited.
2. Sri Sanjay Handur, Head (P R) of M/s. JSW Steel Limited.
3. Sri Dr. Subhash Malli, Head (Environment) of M/s. JSW Steel Limited.
4. Sri Santhosh Kumar, Mines Manager of M/s. JSW Steel Limited.
5. Sri Muralidhar, Consultant to the Mines, M/s. ECO Men Laboratories Private, Limited.

II. List of Participants as per Attendance Register (Enclosed as Annexure-A).

Sri E Prakash, Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Chitradurga welcomed the Deputy Commissioner, Officials, Mining Authorities, Environmental Consultants, publics, Environmental groups and Media persons.

As per the guidelines stipulated in the EIA Notification, 2006, the Environmental Public Hearing was scheduled on 29.03.2022 and the same was published in leading news papers "Praja Vaani" (Kannada) and "The New Indian Express" (English) on 26.02.2022 and also published in Chitradurga District local News paper "Suddi Giduga" on 08.03.2022.

The Panchayath Development Officers of Bheemasamudra, Bhommanahalli, B-Durga Grama Panchayath's were apprised about public hearing required for the process to facilitate local residents, Environmentalist and the public who are directly or indirectly affected by the proposed project to submit their suggestions/objections/views/opinions/comments through E-mail/in writing to the presiding Officer of Environmental Public Hearing Panel (Deputy Commissioner, Chitradurga District)/ Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Chitradurga or orally during the time of public hearing.

The copy of the EIA draft report and Executive summary of the EIA report both in Kannada and English were placed at the following Offices for references to the general public and requested the said Offices to maintain the register by recording Suggestions/objections/views/opinions/comments of the general public.

1. Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chitradurga.
2. Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga.
3. Office of the Dept. of Industries and Commerce, Chitradurga.
4. Office of the Taluk Panchayath, Chitradurga Taluk.
5. Office of the Taluk Panchayath, Holalkere Taluk.

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6. Office of the Grama Panchayaths, Bheemasamudra and Bhommanahalli of Chitradurga Taluk.
7. Office of the Grama Panchayath, B-Durga of Holalkere Taluk.
8. The Regional Office, KSPCB, Chitradurga.
9. Help Desk, Board Office, KSPCB, Parisara Bhavan, Bengaluru.
10. Ministry of Environment and Forest, South Zone Office, Koramangala, Bengaluru.

It was brought to the notice of Presiding Officer that, till 28.03.2022 Total 8 written submissions received (5 at Regional Office, KSPCB, Chitradurga and 3 at Grama Panchayath Office, Bommanahalli) Enclosed as Annexure-B.

Sri E. Prakash, Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Chitradurga in his preamble said that, earlier Bhomman Iron Ore Mine was operating by M/s. Mineral Enterprises Limited under M L No. 2346 in the extent of Mine area 93.60 hectares for the EC (Environmental Clearance) obtained to the capacity of 1.0 MMTPA.

The said mining lease validity was expired on 31.03.2020 and after the said Mining block was subjected for auction, M/s. JSW Steel limited was declared as the preferred bidder and awarded the lease. As per the Govt. of Karnataka Vesting order dated: 01.07.2020, the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India as amended the MMDR Act, 1957 and introduced section 8B which provides for deemed extension of all valid rights, approvals, clearances, Licenses and like vested with the previous lessee for a period of two years to the new lessee and new lessee shall apply and obtain all necessary rights, approvals, clearances, licenses and the like within a period of two years from the date of grant of new lessee. Further for obtaining Environmental Clearance M/s. JSW Steel Limited have obtained Terms of Reference (TOR) from the State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Govt. of Karnataka vide no. SEIAA 410 MIN 2020, dated: 09.08.2021 and requested the Karnataka State pollution Control Board (KSPCB) on 10.12.2021 to conduct Environmental Public consultation/ Public Hearing.

Now, the Bhomman Iron Ore Mine (M.L No. 0014) of M/s. JSW Steel Limited at Bedarabommanahalli, Hirekandavadi and other villages of Chitradurga and Holalkere Taluk, Chitradurga District has proposed to undertake Iron Ore Mining of capacity 1.0 MMTPA over an area of 93.60 hectare. The project proponent has to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) from State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Govt. of Karnataka as per the EIA Notification dated: 14.09.2006 and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing. Prior to the Environmental Public Hearing, the Presiding Officer/Chairman of the Panel i.e Deputy Commissioner called the unit authorities on 22.03.2022 for Technical Presentation through PPT on Environmental



issues. During Technical Presentation, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Project Authorities to add all required necessary measures including CSR activities in the final PPT presentation of the proposed project.

As per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006, the Public Hearing was conducted on 29.03.2022 at 11.00 AM at the premises of Bhomman Iron Ore Mine M L No. 0014 of M/s. JSW Steel Limited at Bedarabommanahalli village, Chitradurga Taluk and District under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner, Chitradurga District.

The Presiding Officer/Chairman informed the representative of Bhomman Iron Ore Mine of M/s. JSW Steel Limited to make power point presentation on the project including Environmental issues (Impact on Environment) and with measures. On behalf of proposed project, Sri Muralidhar., Consultant representing the M/s. Eco Men laboratories Private Limited, Lucknow (U. P) explained the public about the proposed to undertake Iron Ore Mining of capacity 1.0 MMTPA over an area of 93.60 hectares through Power Point Presentation. The Salient feature of the project, the Environmental base line data, present scenario of existing Environment in the project area, the impact of the project on the surrounding Environment, Environment Management Plan, Measures proposed to control/mitigate the Environmental Pollution and CSR activities. Further he has informed that, the activity will be carried out by taking all necessary Air/Water Pollution Control Measures. The hard copy of the presentations made in the Public Hearing is enclosed as **Annexure-C**.

The Presiding Officer/Chairman of the meeting informed the gathered public to express their views/opinions about the Mining project with respect to Environmental issues by submissions either in writing or orally one by one. During the time of Public Hearing, **twenty (20)** persons expressed their views orally and their views/opinion/suggestion regarding Mining project are summarized as below.

1. Sri. N Manjunath, Vice President, Gram Panchayath, Bommenahalli

He acknowledged the news paper publication issued regarding Environmental Public Hearing by KSPCB and has informed that, on behalf of GP Bommenahalli, they have publicise about the EPH to the Public and read out the grievances (2 representations duly signed by the members of the GP, Bommenahalli) submitted to the Region Office, KSPCB, Chitradurga on 25.03.2022.

He further added that, their village is about 2 to 3km from the mining area and transportation of ore by the trucks passing through villages causes air pollution and health problems to the villagers. He claimed that, ore transportation will damage their crops and health issues to the cattles. Also, mining activities causes ground water depletion and tank water pollution in the surrounding area. He quoted his remarks in against to the mining project.

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2. **Sri. Ramesh, Member, Gram Panchayath Bheemasamudra**

He raised the points that, JSW did not supply sufficient quantity of drinking water to Bheemasamudra villagers when required. Movement of Tippers/Trucks passing through the roadways nuisances to the local villagers and many have met with accident in the area. By the mining activities, surrounding villagers are facing health issues like Asthama, TB etc. The overall vehicular movement in the roads of the village are by ore transportation trucks of about 300 to 500 Nos. per day and urged the Deputy Commissioner and Tahasildars to monitor the situation in the village limit. Previously, M/s. BBH Mines have not obtained license from the Gram Panchayath he added. Further, he raised the voice on deforestation in the area by mining activities. He strongly objected the mining project on behalf of all Gram Panchayath Members.

3. **Sri. S Guruswami, Malappanahatti Village**

He remarked in favor of the mining project and he quoted that, earlier movement of tippers passing through this roadways were around 1000 numbers but now it has reduced to 200 to 300 trucks per day. He further added that, mining directly or indirectly benefits 1000 number of families of nearby villagers and if mining operations stops for any reason these families may get affected and it will really be very difficult to run their families after losing the jobs. The Environmental protection can be done by the following the conditions stipulated by the Pollution Control Board. Since, Chitradurga District is a dry land, the mining activities are the backbone to the publics in the area.

4. **Sri. D T Ramesh, Ex-President, Gram Panchayath B-Durga**

He put up conditions that company must run, but maximum employment in the mines should be given to nearby villages only. He urged to provide check dams, proper roads in the village limits and to properly enact the Environmental Protection measures.

His remarks were in favor to the company.

5. **Sri. Govindraj, Hirekandvadi Village**

He requested to give employment to all the workers working earlier in MEL Mines and submitted written submission. His remarks were in favor to the company.

6. **Sri. Shivakumar, V Palya Village**

He put up the points that, mining activity may affect the Environment but only because of this, if mining stops, many people may lose their jobs and may cause unemployment. Also, the truck owners will lose their earnings and affects on payment of monthly EMIs. The company is regularly conducting health camps and providing ambulances to the villagers. Hence, mining activity shall not be stopped and he quoted his remarks in favour of the project.



7. **Sri. Indudharamurthy, Bheemasamudra**

He requested the JSW Management for job and informed that, he has approached the mining authorities many times but JSW has not considered. He also requested to consider the old MEL employees for employment in the project.

8. **Sri. PK Siddappa, Ex-Member, Hireguntanur Gram Panchayath**

He raised the issues for employment of local villagers on priority.

9. **Sri. Vishwanath, Hirekandvadi Village**

He claimed that there is no land within a radius of 2.5 to 3 km of Mines. For which, the public gathered in the meeting were strongly objected his point and the Deputy Commissioner has insisted him to submit his opinion in writing.

10. **Smt.Ganga (NGO) Prerana Sowharda Grameena Sangha**

She quoted her remarks in favour of the project and told that, commitments made by JSW foundation for assisting the financial support for home industrial products like Chikki (home made sweet) and it will generate self-employment for the local villagers. The company also provide financial help to the women's empowerment for training to the Tailoring etc.

11. **Sri. Bhairesh, Hirekandvadi Village**

He said that, project authorities have taken local tanks developments like de-silting, bunds strengthening in the area and he quoted his remarks in favour of project.

12. **Sri. Rajesh, Bhommenhalli**

He said that, the mining operation affects the agriculture activities and to the Environment, hence mining should not be carried.

He remarks in against the project.

13. **Sri. Gajendra, V.Palva Village**

He said that, now the transportation of ore by tippers is done with proper tarpaulin covering and in this area movement of tippers made in groups i.e. 5 to 6 tippers at a time along with escorting by the company vehicle in ahead. Hence dispatch transportation is not affecting to the local villagers and this system is being adopted from last 5years. The mining activity generates employment, so mining needs to be continued. He quoted his remark in favor of the project.

14. **Sri. G Nataraj, V.Palva Village**

He quoted that, the environment does not get affected due to mining operation, this will generates employment to the local villagers so mining must run. He admitted point in favor of company and also submitted his opinion in writing.

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15. Sri. Kariyappa, Nellikatte Village

He informed that, as mine operation affects agriculture so mining operation shall not be permitted. There are lot of Ore transport trucks movement the roads cause have not giving space to the other vehicle movements in the road and he requested for proper verification on issuing of license.

16. Sri. D B Kencveerappa V. Palva Village

He claimed that earlier points raised by Manjunath Bhommenahalli , previously he was in favor of mining operation but as now mining operation is going on smoothly in this area, now he is not saying anything.

17. Sri. Chethan, V.Palva Village

He pointed out the profit to the government in the terms of revenue and also generation of employment. He admitted point in favor of company and informed that, JSW is now helping the nearby villagers in all aspects in comparison to the earlier mining company.

18. Sri. Ajjayya, V.Palva Village

He pointed out around 250 employments have been generated among nearby villagers and 250 families directly are benefitted, so mine must run.

His Remarks was in favor of the project.

19. Sri. Kiran, Bhommenahalli

He pointed out that, within one-year company has generated so much of employment and in future more numbers of employments may generate and hence mine should run.

He quoted in favor of the project.

20. Sri. Kuri Nagaraj, Malappanahatti Village

He said that, the poor people will be helped by the company and the company must run. He quoted in favor the company.

After listening to the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner/Chairperson of the meeting has insisted the project representatives to conclude on public views.


Sri Sanjay Handur, Head (PR) of M/s. JSW Steel Limited

He assured the public gathering in the meeting that, they have noted all the issues raised in the meeting and requested the public to allow the project as they have started mining just 1 year back and necessary measures will be taken by the company and requested the public join the hands with the company to proceed further.

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During Public Hearing meeting, the Panel has received 190 written submissions (in which 184 are in Favour & 06 are against the project which includes the submission of Sri G H Thippareddy Hon'ble MLA, Chitradurga Constituency) which are enclosed as Annexure-D. Finally the Presiding Officer has informed the gathered public that, all the views, opinions, suggestions, concerns and grievances expressed here are noted and the entire program has been video recorded and same will be made into CD's and the proceedings of this meeting as it is will be sent to Government for further action.

Thereafter, the Environmental Public Hearing was concluded with vote of thanks and hence the Proceedings.


Deputy Commissioner and Presiding Officer of
Environmental Public Hearing Panel,
Chitradurga District