

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING WITH RESPECT TO M/S AGARWAL SPONGE AND ENERGY PVT LTD FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION OF EXISTING SPONGE IRON AND POWER PLANT BY INSTALLATION OF 1 X 350 TPD DRI KILN TO PRODUCE 1,05,000 TPA OF SPONGE IRON WITH 8 MW WHRB FACILITY, INDUCTION FURNACES OF 4 X 30 T TO PRODUCE 4,18,630 TPA OF BILLETS AND NARROW HOT STRIP MILL ON 4,00,000 TPA OF H. R. COILS/STRIPS AT SY NO 899/A, 899/B, 900, 902/B, 907/A, AND 907/B, KUDITINI VILLAGE, BALLARI TALUK AND DISTRICT (20 ACRES (8.09 HA) WITHIN EXISTING PREMISES AND ADDITIONAL LAND IS 24.09 ACRES (9.74 HA). TOTAL LAND OF 44.09 ACRES (17.84 HA) HELD ON 12-08-2022 AT 11:00 AM AT THE PROJECT SITE.

VENUE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING MEETING		Project Site: M/s Agarwal Sponge and Energy Private Limited, Sy No 899/A, 899/B, 900, 902/B, 907/A, 907/B, Kuditini Village, Ballari Taluk and District
DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE		DESIGNATION
1	Sri P. S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate	Chairperson
3	Dr. Doddashanaiah, Senior Environmental Officer (I/c) and Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Regional Office, Ballari.	Member Convener
Officers of KSPCB present:		
1	Sri Hanumanthappa H, Assistant Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Ballari District.	
Others Officers present:		
1	Sri Vishwanath H – Tashildhar – Ballari	
2	Sri Idayutullah – Village Accountant – Kuditini.	
Representatives present on behalf of M/s Agarwal Sponge and Energy Private Limited		
1.	Sri Manish Agarwal – General Manager	
2.	Sri Pradeep Kumar – General Manager	
3.	Sri Nagaraj – C.E.O	
4.	Sri Ravindran - AGM	
5.	Sri Sandeep M N – HR Manager	
6.	Sri J Jaikumar B – HR Manager	
7.	Sri Prabhudeep – AGM	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Copy of extract Register containing signatures of officials participated in the public hearing is enclosed as Annexure-1. 2. A copy of extract of registers containing addresses and signature of public participants are enclosed as Annexure-2. 		

PREAMBLE:-

The Project Proponent (M/s Agarwal Sponge and Energy Pvt Ltd) has proposed to undertake Expansion of existing Sponge Iron and Power Plant by installation of 1 x 350 TPD DRI Kiln to produce 1,05,000 TPA of Sponge Iron with 8 MW WHRB facility, Induction Furnaces of 4 x 30 T to produce 4,18,630 TPA of Billets and Narrow Hot Strip Mill on 4,00,000 TPA of H. R. Coils/Strips at Sy No 899/A, 899/B, 900, 902/B, 907/A, and 907/B, Kuditini Village, Ballari Taluk and District (20 Acres (8.09 Ha) within existing premises and additional land is 24.09 Acres (9.74 Ha). Total land of 44.09 Acres (17.84 Ha).

The project proponent is required to obtain Environmental Clearance as per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated 14.09.2006 (as amended till 01.12.2009) issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

As the proposed project schedule under EIA Notification 2006 and subsequent amendments made there on. As per the Notification, Environment Clearance is to be obtained from the Ministry of Environmental and Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

Accordingly, the Project Proponents have made an application to the Ministry of Environmental and Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in prescribed format. The Ministry of Environmental and Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) authorities after scrutiny of the application made by the project proponents, has issued Terms of Reference (TOR) vide letter No. F No. ~~MA~~J-11011/908/2007-IA.II(I) Dated 11-02-2020. As per the terms of reference issued, conducting of Public Hearing is mandatory.

In order to comply with the TOR, the project proponents have submitted Rapid Environment Impact Assessment(REIA) Report and Executive Summary both in Kannada and English prepared by M/s Pioneer Enviro Laboratories and Consultants Private Limited, Hyderabad to The Member Secretary, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Bangalore requesting to conduct the Environmental Public Hearing vide their letter dated 20-01-2022.

Considering the request made by the project proponents, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Bangalore vide letter Dated 01-04-2022 requested the Deputy Commissioner, Ballari to render suitable date and time for conducting the Environmental Public Hearing.

Further The Deputy Commissioner has given the consent to conduct Environmental Public Hearing on 12-08-2022 at 11.00 am at the project site. The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board published Environmental Public Hearing meeting notice through paper notification in state level newspapers namely "Hosadigantha" (Kannada) and "Times of India" (English) on 12-07-2022 in the local Newspaper namely "E Namma Kannada Nadu" on 13-07-2022 by informing the public to submit their objections/suggestions /opinions/ if any with regard to the proposed project within 30 days. (Copies enclosed as **Annexure - 3**).

In continuation to the above, the Draft Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment Report and copies of the executive summary in Kannada and English were kept in the following places for the information of the public.



- Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Ballari District.
- Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayath, Ballari District.
- District Industries Centre, Ballari District.
- Tashildhar Office, Ballari District.
- Office of the Town Panchayat, Kuditini Village, Ballari Tq and District.
- Zonal Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ballari.
- Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ballari.
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, South Zone, No. E. 3/240, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E & F Wings, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560034.
- Help Desk, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Parisara Bhavana, Ground Floor, # 49, Church Street, Bangalore - 560001.

All the above departments have been informed about the environmental public meeting and also about the newspaper notification vide letter on 13-07-2022.

In addition, wide publicity was also rendered through public address system and distribution of handbills kept at surrounding villages (Veeniveerapura, Kuditini, Haraginadoni, Janekunte, Janekunte Tandha, Belagal and Belagal Thanda) of the proposed project area on 11-08-2022. (Photographs are enclosed as **Annexure - 4**).

Deputy Commissioner Ballari has issued the letter Dtd: 25-07-2022 to Sri P .S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari to conduct public hearing (The copy of letter is enclosed as **Annexure -5**).

After observing the statutory formalities as specified in the Notification, the environmental Public Hearing commenced on 12-08-2022 at 11.00 AM under the Chairmanship of Sri P. S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari at the proposed project site.

Proceedings of Public Hearing:-

Dr Doddashanaiah, Member Convener of the Public Hearing Committee, Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Ballari and Senior Environmental Officer (I/c), Zonal Office, Ballari welcomed Sri P .S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari. He also welcomed Government Officers, officers of the M/s Agarwal Sponge and Energy Private Limited, General public & press representatives and he informed the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. It was informed that the proposed Project Proponents have to obtain Environmental Clearance and also informed that all required procedure mentioned in the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006(as amended till 2009) before conducting public hearing have been followed with. Further he requested Sri P .S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari to chair the meeting and to conduct the process of public hearing.

Sri P. S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari has addressed the gathering and briefed about the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated 14.09.2006. He also informed that all the oral & written statements will be recorded in the proceedings in Kannada & English. Further, the chairperson of the Public Hearing Panel informed the project proponent to present the technical details of the proposed project.

Accordingly, on behalf of M/s Agarwal Sponge and Energy Private Limited, Sri Mahadev M/s Pioneer Enviro Laboratories and Consultants Private Limited, Hyderabad has explained the details with respect to Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment Report prepared by M/s Pioneer Enviro Laboratories and Consultants Private Limited, Hyderabad which is comprising of Study area Map, salient features of the site, land use details, infrastructure demands, rain water management, the environmental aspects viz., land, water, noise, environment, economic and financial status, environment management plan, environment management programme, income, expenditure and total environment management plan and briefed about the CSR activities through power point presentation.

After the presentation, The Chairperson of the Environmental Public hearing panel requested the public gathered at the meeting to express their views/opinions/objections/Suggestions if any and informed to restrict their views to environmental issues only.

Accordingly, the public expressed their views/opinions/objections/Suggestions as below:-

1. **Shri K. Zameersab Karnataka Rakshana Vedike – President - Kudutini Village**
– Speaking on the occasion he said that when the people complained about dust pollution having bad effect on the health of the surrounding people, the intensity of dust pollution reduced only for a few days and then the industry reverted back to causing dust pollution. He said that there are many types of health problems caused by the operation of industries. He said they need both factories and their health, but no action has been taken to protect the environment. He said that there is no guarantee that the factory will do as it says. He informed to verify the dust deposition on the tree and plants in the neighboring region to assess the pollution level in the area. He appealed to protect the environment first and then establish the factory. He said to check the feasibility regarding establishment of factory thoroughly and then take a decision about it. He expressed his opposition to establishment of the factory.
2. **Shri Gangadhar - Gram Panchayat member - Haragindoni Village -** Speaking on the occasion he asked to provide employment to the local laborers. He appealed to protect the environment around the factory in accordance with the rules. He said there are advantages in starting the factory, but he informed the entrepreneurs to establish the factory in accordance with the rules.
3. **Shri Lokesh - Taluk President – Kudutini Gram Jai Karnataka Sangha -** Speaking on the occasion he said that the local people have got jobs from the said factory. He opined that due to the development of the factory, the laborers of the

surrounding villages; the owners of lorries and JCB vehicles will get jobs. He expressed the hope that the factory has already provided employment to the locals and will provide more employment to the locals in the future as well. He said that he supports the establishment of the factory.

4. **Shri Dodda Basavanagowda - Haragindoni Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that since 2013, he has been submitting petitions to the Pollution Control Board. He brought to the attention of the meeting that the Department of Health and Family Welfare had given a report in 2013 that the dust and fumes emitted by the factory caused lung-related diseases. The black dust caused by the operation of the factory is spread for a radius of about 2 km. He requested the authorities to thoroughly check/verify whether the conditions given at the time of starting the factory were complied with or not. He demanded to protect the health, cleanliness and land of farmers. He lamented that the department has failed to control the black dust emitted by the sponge iron industries. He said after the factory takes steps to control the pollution in an appropriate manner, the opinion of the public should be obtained and then the permission to start the factory should be given.
5. **Shri K. Raju - Karnataka Rakshane Vedike - President - Sandur** - Speaking on the occasion he said that there is no opposition to setting up a factory locally but the factory should provide basic facilities to the locals. In view of the health of the public of the surrounding villages, he told the factory to control the pollution caused by the factory and take care of workers health. He requested to provide facilities to the laborers, educated youth, lorry owners and farmers in the surrounding villages. He told to give employment to those who lost their land. He expressed his support to start the said project.
6. **Shri M. Satish - President of Bellary District Environment Protection Forum** - Speaking on the occasion he said that since last 30 years factories and mining companies have been established in Bellary district due to which the surrounding villages are developing economically, educationally and professionally. He said that pollution is creating an adverse situation and it should be controlled. He told the factory to install modern machinery to control fly ash and prevent black smoke emission. He requested that the electricity generated by the said factory be provided free of cost to the surrounding villages. He said that the funds earmarked for environmental protection should be managed in a proper manner and he requested to control the environmental pollution and maintain the ground water quality. He expressed his support to the said project.
7. **Shri. Satyanarayana Reddy - Environmentalist - Ballari** - Speaking on the occasion he said that it is the responsibility of The Pollution Control Board to protect the environment. He appealed to give employment to the local factory workers, laborers especially construction workers. He told them to give more priority in employment to the locals and indicated his support for setting up the factory.

8. **Smt. Manjula - Social Worker - Chitradurga** - Speaking on the occasion she wished owner of Agarwal Sponge Factory all the best. She said that the locals were facing a lot of problems due to dust and it should be eradicated. She opined that large number of locals will get employment by starting the factory. She appealed to establish the factory using modern technology, give employment to locals on priority and preserve the surrounding environment.
9. **Shri. Rudra - Haragindoni Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that they are in need of employment and it will be beneficial if the factory starts.
10. **Shri Raju - Building Labor Union - President - Bellary** - Speaking on the occasion he opined that there is no problem in establishing the factory and said that permission can be given.
11. **Shri. Tippeswamy - Haragindoni Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that there is no problem in setting up the factory and requested to give him employment in the factory.
12. **Shri. Pampapati - Haragindoni Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that there is no problem in setting up the factory and requested to give him employment in the factory.
13. **Shri. B.V. Reddy - Environmentalist** - Speaking on the occasion he opined to solve the problems/problems arising from operating the industry a coordination committee consisting of owners and local leaders should be formed to better utilization of CSR funds for the development of their villages. He welcomed the project saying that the establishment of the industry would provide employment to the locals.
14. **Shri. Sunanda Reddy - Environmentalist** - Speaking on the occasion he congratulated the consultant who had prepared the project on behalf of the company by studying the ground water level, air, water, soil survey's and prepared the EIA report. He suggested while preparing the EIA report in future it would be better if they collect and study information about the yield of agricultural crops, information about the quality of ground water and local health index within the radius of 10 Km from the project site. He said the above subject matter is very important and requested to consider them while preparing their project. He suggested planting the medicinal plants and implementing the rain water harvesting system. He opined to form a coordination committee consisting of owners and local leaders to better utilization of CSR funds for the development of surrounding villages. He requested to give permission to establish the proposed project.

15. **Shri. B. Venkateshulu - Social Worker** - Speaking on the occasion he said that employment will be generated for the locals by starting the factory. He welcomed the proposed project.
16. **Shri. Mahesh - Veniveerapura Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that there is no objection to establishing the factory but there is no hospital in his village and requested to start a hospital on behalf of the company. He appealed to give employment to women in the said factory.
17. **Shri. Shekhar - Haragindoni Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that the factory had given employment to the workers from other state and local employees are sent out. He requested them to stop it immediately and give employment to locals. He said if the local people are not given jobs, it will be a problem for the company and informed to not let this happen and to give employment to the local people in large numbers and facilitate them.
18. **Shri. Mantareddy - Veniveerapura Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that they have no objection to establishing the factory. He said the factory has already given employment to the locals and requested more jobs to be given to the public of the surrounding villages.
19. **Shri. Bharamappa - Janekunte Village** - Speaking on the occasion he requested that the factory should be established as the locals are making a living from the factory.
20. **Shri. M. Anand - Veniveerapura Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said they don't have any problem for establishing the factory or not given employment after establishing the factory, but he appealed to the owners not to create health problems for the people of the surrounding villages. He expressed regret that no factory has worked towards protecting the environment. He said if there is good environment, then there will be good health. Hence, he said that the system which is involved in destroying the environment should be fixed first. He requested to provide 9% jobs to the locals after setting up the factory. He instructed the factory owners to take measures to protect the health of the locals and to give employment to the locals on priority. He requested to study the situation thoroughly and then allow the factory to start.
21. **Smt. Geeta - Ballari** - Speaking on the occasion she said that there is an advantage in starting Agarwal factory. she appealed to give jobs to locals on priority.
22. **Shri. Sudarshan - Hyderabad** - Speaking on the occasion he said that company should operate without harming the environment and employment should be given to local people. He appealed not to employ child labor in the factory. He appealed to the factory owners to use the CSR grant for the development of local villages.

- 23. Shri. Arun Kumar - Haragindoni Village** - Speaking on the occasion he requested to give a job in the industry as he was in need of employment.
- 24. Shri. R. Sivaram Reddy - Former President - Belgal Gram Panchayat** - Speaking on the occasion he said that he has no objection to expanding the Agarwal factory. He told to grow and maintain 33% of the area under green belt within the factory premises. He told them to pay attention to the health of the public. He opined that permission can be given to establish the factory.
- 25. Shri. Rajanna - Haragindoni Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that there is no objection to establish the factory and permission can be given to the said factory.
- 26. Shri. H. Manjunath - Haragindoni Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that by establishing of the sponge iron factory, jobs will be created and there is no problem from it. He told that the project has support from the villagers of Haraginadoni.
- 27. Shri. Anjenaya Nagenahalli - Ranibennur** - Speaking on the occasion he informed that he is submitting a written letter in support of the factory for the proposed increase in production of sponge iron industry.
- 28. Shri. Lakshana - Harginadoni Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that the factory is needed.
- 29. Shri. Adimurthy - Veniveerapur Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that the people of his village were fired and not considered for employment. He said there is no objection to starting the factory. He appealed to the factory to protect the environment and provide employment to the locals.
- 30. Shri. Manju - Karnataka Rakshana Vedike - Secretary - Kudutini Village** - Speaking on the occasion he asked to give clarification about the extent to which locals will be employed in the factory.
- 31. Shri. Mukesh - Grama Panchayat Member - Haraginadoni Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that if the establishment of the proposed factory will benefit the residents of the surrounding villages then the factory should be allowed to established.
- 32. Shri. Sudhakar - Haraginadoni Village** - Speaking on the occasion he requested for the establishment of proposed factory.
- 33. Shri. Doddabasappa - Gram Panchayat Member - Janekunte Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that there is no problem in establishing the factory. He appealed to give employment to the residents of surrounding villages.


34. Shri. Shekarappa - Janekunte Village - Speaking on the occasion he said that there is no problem in establishing the factory. He appealed to give employment to the locals and to control the dust emission from the factory.


35. Shri. Jagadish - Grama Panchayat Member – Veniveerapur Village - Speaking on the occasion he requested the officials to advise the entrepreneurs to run the factory without causing any health problems to the villagers. He asked them to take care of the environment. He requested to develop the surrounding villages using the CSR grant. He said the development of 33% of area under green belt should be taken seriously and green belt should be developed around the factory. He requested to arrange buses for school children and provide drinking water facility to his village. He requested to give jobs to locals on priority. He told not to conduct public meeting just for namesake and asked the entrepreneurs to actually implement the control measures and development works mentioned in the project report. He expressed his support for the said project.

36. Shri. K. Shivaraj - Haraginadoni Village - Speaking on the occasion he said that there is no problem in establishing the factory. He appealed to provide employment to the local residents of the surrounding villages.

The Chairman of the public Hearing Sri P. S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari District in his presidential address informed to the public that, No decisions will be made in the Public hearing, all the oral and written statements will be recorded in the Proceedings in Kannada and English. The same will be forwarded to the Member Secretary, Karnataka state Pollution Control Board, Bangalore along with photographs (taken during public hearing is enclosed as **Annexure-7**) and Video (Documents enclosed as **Annexure-8**) so as to forward the same to the competent Authority for further necessary action.


He rendered vote of thanks for gathering and the Public Hearing is completed.



Dr DODDASHANAI AH
Senior Environmental Officer (I/c).
KSPCB, Zonal Office,
Ballari


Sri P. S. MANJUNATHA (KAS.(Sr. Scale)
Additional Deputy Commissioner &
Additional District Magistrate,
Ballari

ANNEXURE

1. A Copy of extract Register containing signatures of officials participated in the public hearing is enclosed as **Annexure-1**.
2. A copy of extract of registers containing addresses and signature of public participants are enclosed as **Annexure-2**.
3. The Newspaper advertisement in the leading state level newspapers Kannada (Hosadigantha – 12-07-2022) and English (Times of India – 12-07-2022) and also local newspaper (E-namma Kannada nadu – 13-07-2022) regarding public hearing is enclosed as **Annexure – 3**.
4. The photographs of public announcement through loud speakers and distribution of Hand bills on 11-08-2022 are enclosed as **Annexure-4**.
5. Approval letter Dtd:25-07-2022 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Ballari to the Additional Deputy Commissioner and Additional District Magistrate Ballari to conduct the Environmental Public Hearing is enclosed as **Annexure -5**.
6. **40** No's of written statement/objection received directly from the public during public hearing and **12** No's of written statement/objection received at Regional Office, Ballari is enclosed as **Annexure-6**.
7. The photographs taken during the Public Hearing Proceedings is enclosed as **Annexure-7**.
8. The CD's containing Audio and Video on public hearing proceedings is enclosed as **Annexure-8**.


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