

Proceeding of the Environmental Public Hearing of M/s. Hatti Gold Mines Ltd" Gonanagar Sand Block", Gonnagar village, Ramdurg Taluka, Belagavi District to establish Sand mining block of maximum capacity 73,504 TPA in Malaprabha river bed adjacent to Sy. No. 1 to 4,6,267, 266, 263(P), 264(P) with total area of 22.00 Acre (8.90 hector).

Date : 05-07-2022.

Time : 11.00 AM

Venue : Shri Balamuri Ganapati Temple, Sureban road, Gonnagar village, Ramdurg Tq, Belagavi District.

M/s. Hatti Gold Mines Ltd" Gonanagar Sand Block", (Sy No. 1 to 4, 6, 267, 266, 265, 263(P), 264(P),) Gonnagar village, Ramdurg Taluka, Belagavi District. Karnataka State, proposed Sand mining block of maximum capacity 73,504 TPA in Malaprabha river bed adjacent to Sy No. 1 to 4, 6, 267, 266, 265, 263(P), 264(P). In this regard Environmental Public Hearing was conducted on 05-07-2022 at 11.00 AM. The Proceedings of the environmental public hearing is as under:

Name & Address of the Proposed sand block	:	M/s. Hatti Gold Mines Ltd" Gonanagar Sand Block", Gonnagar village, Ramdurg Taluka, Belagavi District
Name of the Officers Present	:	Annexure - 1
Representatives of the Proposed Gonanagar Sand Block Present	:	Annexure - 2
Details of Public Participated	:	Annexure - 3
Details of publication arranged in the News Papers for public hearing	:	Annexure - 4
Power Point Presentation made in the Public hearing	:	Annexure - 5

As per the Notification issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India on 14.09.2006 and its subsequent amendment, it is a prerequisite for such project to conduct Environment public hearing prior to award of Environment Clearance Certificate. Accordingly, SEIAA, Govt of Karnataka has finalized the standards terms of Reference of the said project and informed M/s. Hatti Gold Mines Ltd to request KSPCB to conduct Environment public hearing. The project proponent vide letter Dated 12-02-2022 requested KSPCB to conduct public hearing. Hence the Environment Public Hearing is conducted near the project site by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate, Belagavi.

The project proponent has submitted the detailed EIA report and Executive Summary in Kannada and English to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board. As per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, the Karnataka State Pollution control Board gave the Press Notification 30 days in an advance. The advertisement to this effect was published in "Times of India" English daily news paper dated: 5-06-2022 and Kannada daily news paper "Kannad Prabha" and Local news paper "Vijay vani" news paper dated: 10-06-2022. The suggestions/ views, comments and objections from the interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at the project site likely to be affected by the proposed project were invited and project affected people could send their views either orally or in written or through email to Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/ Deputy commissioner, Belagavi, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee. So far no written suggestions/ views, comments and objections from the public were received.

The Environment public hearing was held on 05-07-2022 at 11.00 AM, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate, Belagavi District, Belagavi.

Sri Jagadeesh I H, Environmental Officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Belgaum-1 extended warm welcome to Sri Nitesh K Patil, Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate, Belagavi, and Sri Rajshekhar Puranik, ZSEO (I/c), Dharawad. He has also extended the welcome to all officials of the different Departments, representatives of the project, all surrounding villagers, public, media and environmentalists.

He briefly explained the need for Environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India and Environmental Public Hearing as per EIA Notification and explained the procedure of the Public hearing and about the project documents kept for the Public Hearing at Nine different offices. So far no written suggestions/ views, comments and objections from the public were received.

The Environmental Officer requested to the Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate, Belagavi and also the Presiding officer of the Environment Public Hearing to start the proceedings. Later instructed the Sand block mining representative and their consultants to make the presentation about the proposed project of M/s. Hatti Gold Mines Ltd" Gonanagar Sand Block", Gonnagar village, Ramdurg Taluka, Belagavi District, and District to the public.

Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner, Belagavi, instructed the Sand block mining representative and their consultants to make the presentation about the proposed project

The representative and Environment Consultant of M/s Hubert Enviro care systems Private limited, Chennai, for the project explained the environmental impacts and mitigation measures recommended for the proposed project of M/s. Hatti Gold Mines Ltd" Gonanagar Sand Block", Gonnagar village, Ramdurg Taluka, Belagavi District. The copy of the power point presentation is also enclosed with the proceedings vide **Annexure-5**.

Mr. Raghava, Hatti Gold Mine, Raichur said that today's Gonnagar sand block has been given to the Hatti gold mines by the Government. According to the new sand policy 2020, new sand blocks should be operated by the Government of Karnataka and should not be given to any kind of private sector because sand should be made available at reasonable rate to the common people. A committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner to ensure that sand removal should be carried out in a scientific manner. In that committee, all government departments such as Forest Department, Irrigation Department, Public Works Department, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Mines and Geology Officers will be in that committee. They control the sand mining activity. You may think why they have chosen it to Hutti Gold Mines because it is an Government under taking company. The responsibility has been given to Hutti Gold Mines to operate all the sand blocks in North Karnataka by the Government. In this regard, an environmental public hearing of Gonnagar Sand Block No. 1 has been called today. The use of this project is that the public can no longer search, wait for the sand and the Government has made a well-established system for this. Just like how you are booking gas cylinders by sitting at home and the gas cylinder reaches your doorstep. Now the Government is making a system where you can book the sand also through online by using mobile. Similarly, the rate fixed for this is also very low i.e. Rs 700/- per ton. This is a program to supply as much sand as needed by everyone. So in addition to this, your village will get 25% of the royalty. The Gram Panchayat can

use this 25% royalty for the development of roads, toilets, street lights and drains. So from this project, the government will also get funds through royalty. Along with this, money is also coming to the Gram Panchayat and sand is also available to all the common people at the same price. So this will be a systematic sand mining program. Along with this sand mining, Hatti Gold Mines has also planned many projects for this village, including road development, drinking water, school buildings, etc. After discussing with the village panchayat, all these programs will be done by Hatti Gold Mines. The purpose of our meeting today is that all of you can express your views and opinions related to the sand block before the Hon'ble District Collector. From this project, as already mentioned, sand will be available to everyone and the Gram Panchayat will also get money and the government will also get money. The sand mining work will be carried out from 6 AM to 6 PM only and local people will be engaged. Along with it, Hatti Gold Mines will work on behalf of the Government, to provide sand to everyone. He requested villagers and Gram Panchayat members to extend co-operation to carry out this proposed sand mining activity by Hatti Gold Mines. After this, a study has been done by M/s Hubert Enviro Care Systems Pvt Ltd, Chennai and they will explain to you. After hearing the same, you can express your views and opinions related to the sand block before the Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner.

Honorable Deputy Commissioner: You have told that the project cost is 2,07,24,032/-, what all included in the project cost?

Mr. Raghava, Hatti Gold Mines: Sir in this project site, we will do fencing to protect the project site and also computerize the activities. The project cost also includes cost of machineries used for sand removal.

Honorable Deputy Commissioner: There is no information about 2 crores in this project report.

Anil Kumar, Deputy Manager, Hatti Gold Mines: The project cost includes cost of excavation, fencing of stock yard, office, security, data entry operator, computers and software sand mitra app. Altogether it is 2 crores.

Honorable Deputy Commissioner: The same details have not been submitted to Pollution Control Board and Mines and Geology Department. Are you fencing a stock yard or 22 acres?

Anil Kumar Deputy Manager Hatti Gold Mines: We will only fence the stock yard and sand will be disposed off from there. Anyone can buy sand from there.

Honorable Deputy Commissioner: Where will be your stock yard?

Anil Kumar Deputy Manager Hatti Gold Mines: The stock yard will be within one km away. We have decided to do it in the private land.

Honorable Deputy Commissioner: It is not mentioned in the project report.

Anil Kumar, Deputy Manager, Hatti Gold Mines: Taking private land, we give contracts to contractors and they do it under their purview. The contract will be given for the activity of shifting sand from the river to the stock yard.

Honorable Deputy Commissioner: So you will be giving the activity of shifting sand from the river to the stock yard to the contractor.

Anil Kumar Deputy Manager, Hatti Gold Mines: If there is government land, we could have maintained stock yards. If there is no government land, we will take private land on rent or lease basis. The sand will be dispatched from sand stock yard under the authority of Hatti Gold Mines.

Honorable Deputy Commissioner: From there you are dispatching sand through tenders or through any other way? then how are you providing sand to the common people because you are leaving after the meeting, then whom should be contacted by the public? According to your project report, you are appointing 15 staff, how they will do the work and whom should be contacted by the public to get a sand?

Anil Kumar Deputy Manager Hatti Gold Mines: We appoint an officer in stock yard and along with him a supervisor who gives complete information to the Government on daily basis. Data entry operator, security staff will be appointed. The tender has already been awarded and work will be started from November 2022. At the mining site, the pillars will be laid by the Department of Mines and Geology. The vehicles for sand removal will be engaged by the contractor. We only use our vehicles for office purpose. Contractors must be First Class or Second Class Contractors. They should have three years experience either in Public Works Department or sand mining. And the machines have to be given separately for each blocks. We have 42 blocks in six districts of Karnataka. Machines cannot be shifted from other blocks and engaged in some other blocks. At present 42 blocks in Karnataka are not under operation. Now the environmental public hearing for 41 blocks have been completed. In Koppal district, 01 block environmental public hearing is pending. And the tender process for 30 blocks is over. There is only one block proposed in Belagavi district.

Honorable Deputy Commissioner: How many vehicles will be engaged for 22 acres? There is a possibility of someone else coming and mining the sand, your working hours is only from 6 AM to 6 PM and the area you mine is 1.2 km in length. But during night time if someone else takes the sand, who will be responsible? You have proposed to keep only one security guard and he will not be able to take care of entire area. How much sand do you stock in stock yard of 01 acre? How to do online booking? In how much area you are supplying this sand? The permission issued is for how many hours? How are you transporting sand? For a common man, it is not possible to carry the sand in the GPS vehicle. Then how you are giving sand to them. Is your app booking is working now? What is rate per Km you have fixed for the vehicle. He asked them to explain in the environment public hearing.

Anil Kumar Deputy Manager Hatti Gold Mines: We will make the stock yard adjacent to the road. We stock 30 thousand tons of sand in 01 Acre. It can be sent anywhere in Karnataka at Rs.700/- per ton and people can book to get the sand from nearby blocks through the app. The permission for vehicles is from 6 AM to 6 PM. Sand is supplied through GPS vehicles and the number of those vehicles are reflected at the time of booking on Sand Mitra App and the rent is also displayed. These vehicles load sand from the nearest stock yard and supply it to whoever has booked. The rate is fixed by the nearest stock yard.

Honorable Deputy Commissioner informed that Hatti Gold Mines does not do this activity and they sub lease it to others. The public can express their for and against opinions about this proposed project and they should come nearer to the stage, express their opinion along with name, village.

Following are the views expressed by the public.

Mr. Parappa Jangwad. President, Gram Panchayat Gonnagar: Due to sub-contract, no farmer gets proper sand. Survey Nos. 1, 2 and 4, 263, 267, 266, as mentioned there, the Malaprabha river has now shifted its original route and is flowing in someone else land. The river is flowing in the private lands in Gonnagar village and requested for surveying the original route of the river. This company should mine only at the original route of the river and not in the agriculture land of us. We don't have any objection in the land owned by the Govt. The depth of the river also needs to be surveyed. Along with adjacent agriculture lands of us. There is a river on our north side, the fields are having rough stones. On our side, there is black cotton soil, during the flood, our fields are washed away and about 100 to 200 feet are damaged. The river is not flowing where the original route is located and my request is to identify the original route and then only sand mining can be carried out. By

giving it to sub-contractors, none of us will get proper sand. I request, it should be made available to all public and important thing is we need to have a survey first.

2.Ninganagowda Somanagowda Iranagowda, Gonnagar village: Now what our village elders have expressed, the same needs to be done on this government land. It looks like daylight robbery. Now they are not giving proper answers to the questions raised by you. Under this circumstance, we don't know anything about the contractor? Now load limit is from 5 to 40 tons. If the truck is loaded up to 40 tons, the roads will be damaged. As our elders said, how much is the government land? It should be surveyed first and then sand mining can be carried out. All the villagers have objection if the mining is carried out without conducting the survey.

Honorable Deputy Commissioner: We should talk only about sand mining. Apart from that, I will discuss with the elders after the public hearing and accept your applications. Again, if anyone wants to express their views, they should come closer to the stage and speak.

What steps have you taken regarding road improvement and what new plans have you made for the improvement of roads by Hutti Gold Mines? The existing road route is not so capable, what have you planned for it? And if your stock yard is 2 km away from the river, then you are sending vehicles from here to Belagavi district, Bagalkoti district and other places. Who will improve those roads?

Anil Kumar Deputy Manager Hatti Gold Mines: We have earmarked Rs 7 lakhs for the improvement of roads.

Honorable Deputy Commissioner: If 7 lakh rupees are allocated only for road improvement, then even 50 meters road will not be asphalted with that money.

3.Shivanagowda Basanagowda Patil, Gonnagar Village: The representatives of Ashoka Pattan said that they will build a bridge between Hiremulangi and Gonnagar. The boy named Shivappa Hullura has not been given the money for it till now. Later Yadawad informed they will give the money to him and so far not given the same.

Honorable Deputy Commissioner: Public Works Department will be verify the same . Only the matter related to sand mining should be discussed here.

4. Yogeesh Maruti Ghatage, Gonnagar village: Sand mining is mentioned in survey no. 263 and 264 i.e. due to sand mining in survey no. 263, 264, the river has diverted and 08 acres of land has been washed away. On the other side, barren land of 30 acres is existing. We have appealed to everyone, so far no action is initiated. We are not allowed to go from one agriculture land to other and the same needs to be rectified.

5. Siddu Halli, Gonnagar Villager: Sir, now you have asked a question to Hatti Gold Mines, when the tender will be valid? They said 4 days ago. Then asked about the last date, they replied the last date is 25th July. Now it is 5th July. This needs to be clarified.

Honorable Deputy Commissioner: Sand mining tenders have been called for the second time on 30th June. He questioned the Hatti Gold Mines authorities that why they are giving wrong information in this meeting?

You are also not expressing about road and C.S. R. activities. If 73 thousand tons of sand is removed, how much will be the royalty?

Mr. Raghava, Hatti Gold Mine: They have proposed Rs.2,94,016/- per year to CSR and Rs.82,896/-to CER. The royalty per ton is Rs 80.

Mr. Jagadish. I. H. Environmental Officers, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Belgaum-1 informed to the gathering that the opinions expressed by

the villagers are audio, video recorded and included in the proceedings and will be submitted to Head Office, Bengaluru.

The hearing concluded with vote of thanks.

Patil N.K.

**(Nitesh. K. Patil)
Deputy Commissioner &
District Magistrate & Environmental
Public Hearing Chairman, Belagavi**

