

Proceedings of the public hearing conducted on 28.12.2017 in connection with the application filed by M/s Rana Sugars Ltd., (Ethanol Division), for obtaining Environmental Clearance as required under the EIA notification dated 14.9.2006 for its proposed Ethanol Plant to be located at Village Butter Siviyan, Tehsil Baba Bakala, District Amritsar (Punjab).

The following were present to supervise the proceedings: -

1. Sh. Subhash Chander, PCS,
Addl. Deputy Commissioner (Gen),
Amritsar.
2. Er. Rajeev Sharma,
Environmental Engineer (Mega),
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Patiala.
3. Er. Harpal Singh,
Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office, Amritsar.

Environmental Engineer (Mega), Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala 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 in connection with the application filed by M/s Rana Sugars Ltd., (Ethanol Division), in the office of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi for getting Environmental Clearance under EIA notification no. 1533 (E) dated 14.9.2006 for its proposed molasses based ethanol plant for manufacturing of ethanol @ 60 KLPD and 3 MW co-generation power plant to be located in the revenue estate of Village Butter Siviyan, Tehsil Baba Bakala, District Amritsar. He appraised the public present there about the requirement of conducting the public hearing before deciding on the application filed by the industry for getting the said clearance for the proposed unit. He also brought into the notice of public that the industry has submitted copies of draft rapid EIA report alongwith the Executive Summary of the same and a copy of each such document was placed in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar; Chairman, Zila Parishad, Amritsar; General Manager, DIC, Amritsar; E.O. Nagar Panchayat Rayya, District Amritsar; Regional Office of MoEF at Chandigarh and Regional Office, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Amritsar

of the PPCB 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 Daily) and 'Ajit (Punjabi Daily) on 28.11.2017 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 industry to elaborate about the main features of the project and the draft EIA study report.

Environmental Consultant of M/s Rana Sugars Ltd., (Ethanol Division), brought out the details of the proposed project before the public as under:

M/s Rana Sugars Ltd. (Ethanol Division) has a proposal to set up a 60 KLD capacity ethanol plant. As per present policy of Govt. of India, this product will be mixed in petrol to be used as fuel in motor-cycles and cars. Approximately, Rs.70 Crores will be spent on the project by the project proponents. This plant will be set up in 25 acres of land and the land has already been acquired adjoining to the sugar mill. The most important factor for setting up of a ethanol plant is that it should be in close proximity to Sugar Mill. The main raw material for this project is molasses which is available from the sugar mill. The major advantage in setting up of this project at the proposed site will be that molasses will be available from their own adjoining sugar mill. To manufacture ethanol, very few chemicals are required and major raw material is molasses which will be used @ 270 TPD. The manufacturing process involves mixing of molasses with water and then digestion by bacterias called enzymes which converts sugar into alcohol. Thereafter, distillation by passing through Anhydrous alcohol converts it into absolute alcohol.

Wastewater is generated during the manufacturing process. These days technology has been developed to such an advanced stage that the wastewater is concentrated by passing through multiple effect evaporators (MEE). This concentrate is used as fuel in the boiler to be installed in the plant. A boiler

of 25 TPH capacity will be installed to generate steam in which 70% concentrated spent wash and remaining 30% coal will be used as fuel. To control the air pollution from boiler emissions, electrostatic precipitator will be installed as air pollution control device which is the most modern technology of the world to control suspended particulate matter.

Total water requirement for the project will be 550 KLD for which the project proponent has kept open both the proposals i.e. to use canal water as well as groundwater. To recharge the groundwater, rainwater harvesting and recharging will be adopted.

As per requirement, 3 months study to monitor water quality, air quality & other environmental parameters was carried out in the area. This study was conducted in the months of January, February & March, 2017. All the environmental parameters fall within standards prescribed by the Govt. of India. The study was also carried out to assess the impacts on air quality with the operations of boiler and observed that contribution @ $8 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for SPM and $3.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for SO_2 will be made, which if added to the baseline values monitored, will still be well within the prescribed norms.

As far as environment management plan is concerned, company will adopt zero liquid discharge. No wastewater will be discharged outside the premises and entire waste water will be reused.

As per Govt., it is mandatory to reserve 33% of the total land area as green area. Out of 25 acres land area, 7.5 acres of land will be developed as green belt and water will also be utilized on it.

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 14.9.2006, as amended from 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&CC for further consideration. Accordingly, he requested the

persons present in the hearing to seek information or clarifications on the project one by one. He also informed that no information / clarifications / 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 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. Udham Singh S/o Sh. Sadhu Singh, Village Gandra, Distt. Amritsar	1. What will be the benefits to the local people with the establishment of the project? 2. Whether employment will be given to the local population?	Preference will be given to the local public based on their qualifications & skills.
2.	Sh. Harjinder Singh So Sh. Sohan Singh, Nambardar Village Mehandiwal, District Amritsar	What will be the benefit to the farmers with the establishment of the project?	With the establishment of this project, sugar mill will be more economically viable and cash flow will increase. With the increased cash flow, the payments to the farmers for sugarcane will be made well in time.
3.	Sh. Gurmit Singh S/o Sh. Surain Singh, r/o Village Bhandal Bet, District Amritsar	How the wastewater will be treated and how it will not be discharged outside the premises of the factory?	Multiple Effect Evaporator will be installed for treatment of the wastewater. 70% concentrated spent wash & remaining 30% coal will be used as fuel in boiler. Boiler ash will be provided free of cost to the public.

Thereafter, Addl. Deputy Commissioner (Gen), Amritsar asked the project proponent as to how the implementation of environment management plan and monitoring of the environmental parameters will be ensured. To this, Environmental Consultant of the project proponent clarified that after the grant of environmental clearance by the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, the monitoring of compliance of its conditions will be ensured by Punjab Pollution Control Board. Also, Punjab Pollution Control Board will grant consents to operate to the project under the provisions of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Besides, six monthly self monitoring compliance reports will be submitted by the project proponent. Moreover, the Central Pollution Control Board in case of certain highly polluting industries has made it mandatory to install online monitoring devices and results can be monitored online.

Addl. Deputy Commissioner (Gen), Amritsar further asked the public present about the existing groundwater quality of the area as the sugar mill is already operating for the last many years and whether any contamination such as change in colour of the groundwater etc. has been noticed which may have occurred with the discharge of wastewater by the sugar mill. To this observation, Sh. Ranjit Singh S/o Sh. Sarabjit Singh, r/o Village Arjan Manga stated that groundwater has not been contaminated with the wastewater discharge of sugar mill.

Addl. Deputy Commissioner (Gen), Amritsar informed the public present that in case any problem of environmental degradation or pollution being caused with the operations of any industrial unit is noticed, public can file a complaint with the Regional Office Amritsar of Punjab Pollution Control Board as well as to the District Administration.

Environmental Engineer (Mega) further requested the persons present at the venue of hearing that if anyone else wants to seek any information/ clarification on the proposed project, but no one came forward.

Thereafter, he requested the persons present in the hearing to confirm, by raising their hands, as to whether they are in favour of proposed plan of the company at this site. In response to this, about 95% of the persons present at the venue of public hearing raised their hands in favour of proposed plan of the Company. This public hearing was attended by 122 persons.

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

(Harpal Singh)
Env. Engineer,
PPCB, Regional Office,
Amritsar

(Rajeev Sharma)
Env. Engineer (Mega)
PPCB, Patiala

(Subhash Chander) PCS,
Addl. Deputy Commissioner (Gen),
Amritsar