

**Proceedings for the Public Hearing held on 17.03.2021 at District Administration Complex, Jalandhar in connection with application filed by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for obtaining Environmental Clearance as required under EIA Notification dated 14/9/2006 (amended thereof) for Development of Punjab Section from km 15.200 to km 29.100 of Amritsar-Bathinda Greenfield Highway (starts near SultanpurLodhi (village Tiba) and terminate at Bathinda, nearSangatKalan for a total length of 155.00 km)**

The following were present to supervise and conduct the proceedings:-

1. Sh. Jasbir Singh,  
Additional Deputy Commissioner (G),  
Jalandhar
2. Er. Kuldip Singh  
Environmental Engineer,  
Punjab Pollution Control Board,  
Regional office, Jalandhar
3. Er. Guneet Sethi,  
Environmental Engineer (under posting),  
Punjab Pollution Control Board
4. Sh. Yashpal Singh Jadon  
Project Director, NHAI, Jalandhar
5. Sh. Syed Aslam Naqvi  
Environmental Engineer, LASAPvt. Ltd
6. Sh. Inderjit Singh Mavi  
Project Coordinator, LASA Pvt. Ltd

National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has submitted an application to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt of India, New Delhi for granting Environmental Clearance under EIA notification no. 1533 dated 14.09.2006 for Development of Punjab Section from km 15.200 to km 29.100 of Amritsar-Bathinda Greenfield Highway (starts nearSultanpurLodhi (village Tiba) and terminate at Bathinda, nearSangatKalan for a total length of 155km). A stretch of 13.900 km of the proposed highway passes through 12 villages of Jalandhar District, Punjab.

However, before deciding the application filed by the project proponent for getting the said clearance for implementation of the proposed project, a public hearing was fixed at BDPO Office Campus, Lohia Khas on 21.01.2021 under the Chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (G) Jalandhar. A notice of public hearing was published in two prominent newspaper namely, "The Hindustan Times" (English Daily) and Ajit (Punjabi Daily) on 21.12.2020 to make the public aware of the date, time and 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. NHAI had submitted copies of the draft EIA report along with the executive summary of the same and a copy of each such document was placed in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Zila Parishad, General Manager, District Industries Centre, Regional office of MoEF & CC at Chandigarh and Regional office of the PPCB, Jalandhar for access to the public and other stakeholders. However, the same couldn't be conducted due to law and order problem because of agitation by attendees against farm laws. Therefore, public hearing was postponed and proceedings regarding environmental clearance remain in-conclusive.

However, due to the ongoing agitations by farmers, the protest became loud at the venue on 21-1-2021. There was apprehension of Law and order situation because of the speeches and slogans shouted by the farmers at the venue. Therefore, the public hearing was postponed by the Presiding Officers. Thus, the proceedings regarding the environmental clearance remained inconclusive.

Thereafter, another public hearing was fixed on 17.03.2021 at 11.00 am by the PPCB at District Administration Complex, Jalandhar. The notice of the public hearing was published again in two

prominent newspapers namely, "The Hindustan Times" (English Daily) and "Ajit" (Punjabi Daily) on 11.03.2021 to make the public aware of the date, time and venue of the public hearing.

At the stipulated venue, preparations for holding the public hearing were being made by the project proponent/DPR Consultant on 17.03.2021 at 11:00 am, around 50 attendees gathered in open area inside District Administration Complex, Jalandhar. However all the attendees refused to enter the hall where arrangement of public hearing was done. Attendees were intimated that public hearing is being conducted to take their suggestion regarding environmental issues concerned with construction and operation of highway. However, attendees raised the issue that compensation being given for land is quite on a lower side and demanded higher compensation for land being acquired. One of the attendees raised issue that vehicles passing through this highway will cause noise pollution. In reply to which project proponent replied that to control noise pollution, monitoring stations will be provided and noise barriers will be constructed wherever required. Apart from this, no other environmental related issue was raised by the attendees. Moreover, attendees demanded that the Govt. of India should take back 3 agriculture reform laws recently enacted by the Government.

The farmers did not mark their presence in the attendance register. It was again requested by the project proponent to farmers to give their comments/observations regarding environmental issues concerning the proposed highway, but they declined. The participants have not raised any project specific environmental issues in the hearing apart from issue of noise pollution to which reply was given by the project proponent. Participants have demanded that no meeting with District Administration with regard to acquisition of land will be done until their demand of higher compensation is accepted. Therefore, further appropriate action for Environmental Clearance may be taken please.

  
Er. Kuldip Singh  
EE (PPCB),  
R.O, Jalandhar

  
Sh. Jasbir Singh  
Additional Deputy Commissioner (G),  
Jalandhar