

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON 05-01-2021 AT 11.00 AM WITH RESPECT TO WHITE QUARTZ MINE OF SMT P SARASABAI AT SY NO 30, BELGAL VILLAGE, BALLARI TALUK AND DISTRICT FOR ITS PROPOSED WHITE QUARTZ MINE WITH CAPACITY 36,225 TONS PER ANNUM IN AN AREA OF 18.33 HECTARES.

VENUE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING MEETING		Project Site: White Quartz Mines of Smt P Sarasabai, , Sy No 30, Belagal , Ballari Taluk and District
DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE		DESIGNATION
1	Sri P .S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Assistant Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari District	Chairperson
2	Sri K Raju, Senior Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Zonal Office, Ballari District	Member
3	Sri P. K. Umashankar, Environmental Officer, KSPCB, RO Ballari.	Member Convener
Officers of KSPCB present:		
1	Sri G R Kiran Kumar, Deputy Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Ballari District.	
2	Sri Pavan S, Assistant Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Ballari District.	
3	Sri Hanumanthappa H, Assistant Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Ballari District.	
Others Officers present:		
1	Sri E Shrinivas. Revenue Inspector, Ballari taluk and District.	
2.	Sri Mounesh, Village Accountant Belagal Village, Ballari taluk and District.	
Representatives present on behalf of White Quartz Mine of Smt P Sarasabai;		
1.	Smt Sarasabai, Owner	
2.	Sri R Chandra Naik, Partner	
3.	Sri. S Prakash - Partner	
4.	Sri Sanjeev – Partner	
5.	Sri S P Madhusudhan, Partner	
6.	Sri C Mohan - Partner	
<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:-

White Quartz Mine of Smt Sarasabai has proposed for extraction of white Quartz with Capacity 36,225 Tons Per Annum in an area of 18.33 Hectares at Sy No 30, Belagal Thanda Village, Ballari Taluk and District.

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 is classified under B 1 the schedule under EIA notification 2006 and amendments there on. As per the Notification, Environment Clearance is to be obtained from the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka (SEIAA) constituted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

Accordingly, the project proponents have made an application to the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority in prescribed format. The State Level Expert Appraisal Committee comes under the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority after scrutiny of the application made by the project proponents, has issued Terms of Reference (TOR) vide letter No. SEIAA 374 MIN 2019 dated 21-12-2019. 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 Horizon Ventures, Bengaluru to the Member Secretary, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Bangalore requesting to conduct the Environmental Public Hearing vide their letter dated 12-05-2020.

Considering the request made by the project proponents, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Bangalore vide letter Dated 19-06-2020 requested the Deputy Commissioner, Ballari to render suitable date and time for conducting the Environmental Public Hearing.

Further, The Deputy Commissioner, Ballari has issued letter to the Assistant Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari District to conduct Environmental Public Hearing copy enclosed as **Annexure-3**. Accordingly the Assistant Deputy Commissioner has given the consent to conduct Environmental Public Hearing on 05-01-2021 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 Vijayavani (Kannada) and The New Indian Express (English) on 05-12-2020 & in the local Newspaper namely "E Namma Kannada Nadu" on 07-12-2020 by informing the public to submit their objections/suggestions /opinions/ if any with regard to the proposed project within 30 days.

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 perusal 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.
- Office of the Gram Panchayat, Belagal Village, Ballari Taluk and District.
- Zonal Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ballari.
- Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ballari.
- SEIAA Karnataka (Ecology and Environment), Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment, M.S. Building, Bangalore.
- Help Desk, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Parisara Bhavana, Church Street, Bangalore.

In addition, wide publicity was also rendered through public address system and distribution of handbills kept at local Grama Panchayat Office (Belagal Village) and surrounding villages (Belagal, Belgal Thanda, Janekunte, Janekunte Thanda, Haraginadoni) of the proposed project area on 02-01-2021. Photographs are enclosed as **Annexure-6**.

After observing the statutory formalities as specified in the Notification, the Environmental Public Hearing commenced on 05-01-2021 at 11.00 AM under the

Chairmanship of the Assistant Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari at the proposed project site.

Proceedings of Public Hearing:

Sri. P K Umashankar, Member Convener of the Public Hearing Committee and Environmental Office, KSPCB, Ballari welcomed Sri P. S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Assistant Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari District & Sri K.Raju, Senior Environmental Officer, Zonal Office, Ballari. He also welcomed Government Officers, officers of the White Quartz Mine of Smt P Sarasabai, 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), Assistant 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), Assistant 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. 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 White Quartz Mine of Smt P Sarasabai, Sri Sachin, Environmental Consultant M/s. Venture Horizons, Bangalore has explained the details with respect to Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment Report 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 CSR activities proposed 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) **Sri Gopinayaka, Janakunte, Thanda village**- he said that the proper use of available resources will help in development of the country. Continuing, He said that with reference to the Five Year action Plan the first five-year plan gave priority to the agriculture sector. He further said that in the second five-year plan, industries were given priority. He further reiterated that with proper utilization of resources will help in development of the country. Local people have been employed and will also get employment due to the proposed project and also the Local Panchyath will also get the revenue for development. He welcomed the project saying that they should give priority for safeguard of the environment by encouraging plantation.
- 2) **Shri Babu Siddalingappa Janakunte village**, he said that farmers of the surrounding five villages in the vicinity of the project should be given priority. He also urged to give employment to the surrounding 5 villagers and dust compensation. He further said that the mining permission shall be given after facilitating the farmers.
- 3) **Shri H. Jammanagowda B. Bellagallu village**, he said that near to the project site he is growing curry leaves plants in his own land and it is being destroyed by the dust pollution due to mining activity. He requested to shift the mining project to some other location. He added that previously in the area water was available in borewells at about 90 to 110 feet, but Now due to the mining activity there is water shortage in the surrounding agricultural land borewells. He said that due to mining activity, which creates vibration is hampering the agricultural activity. The mining authorities have not listened to the problems of the farmer and the mining activity should not harm the environment, hence he opposed the project.
- 4) **Shri Shankrappa, Janakunte village**, said that the dust from mining activity has fallen into the high school premises in the village located just 200 meters from the mining area. The concerned authorities were requested to clear the dust from the premises; no action had been

taken so far in this regard. Continuing, he said they have not provided any infrastructure facility in their village; they have not distributed any books or bags. He said that he will provide his consent only if the demands of the people from the nearing 5 villages are met and the infrastructure in these villages are developed.

5) **Shri Nagaraja Naik Belagallu Thanda**, he urged that the mining owners should give first priority to the local people. He said that due to mining activity the government will get royalty and in turn villages will also get funds. He also urged that the mining authority shall take measures to increase the ground water level in the project area, he further requested to minimize the noise generated during the mining activity and improve the environment by planting more trees.

6) **Mr. B.V. Reddy Environmentalist, Ballari** he said that the mine owners should form a committee which shall include the local chiefs/leaders to address the problems arising out of mining activity. Further he said that mining activity will create employment and the mining authorities should organize health camps regularly for the benefit of the locals. He informed the mining authorities shall make arrangement for water sprinkling and to develop green belt around the mining area by planting large number of saplings with regular maintenance. He welcome the project.

7) **Sri Veerupaksha, B.Belagallu village**, said that the local people have not benefited from the industrial activity. The industrialists have misused Belagal village in the pretext of development. Further, the mining authorities are not giving dust compensation. He further added that the mining workers are given only minimum wage and there has been no increase in their wages. He also pointed out that local farmers and students have not benefited from the project.

8) **Mr. Kannenaik, Farmers' Association President, Belagallu Thanda**, requested that the Contract system currently in use in the industry to be canceled. Responding to this, the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ballari said that the discussion should be limited to the mining activity and the issue of sponge iron should not be discussed. He also addressed the

public to discuss their grievances/problems related to the village in the public grievances meeting.

9) **Sri Nagaraja Naik Belagallu Thanda**, said he has a video about the industries creating the pollution problem & he wanted to display the same. Responding to this Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ballari interrupted him and informed him to speak about the mining issues, Mr. Nagaraja Naik concluded saying that he had no information on the proposed project.

10) **Shri Govind Naik, lawyer Belugallu Thanda**, said that the mining activity of the pebble / quartz stone in the region would provide work for many families around this area. He also said that the mining of pebble / quartz stones would bring revenue to the government in form of royalty. He requested that the Environment Public Hearing to be conducted in Belgal Village, instead of project site. He concluded saying that he has no objection for the said project.

11) **Sri Sankara Naik, Retired Superintendent, Department of Sericulture, Ballari** Speaking on the occasion, he said that due to the COVID-19 pandemic the present economic system of our country is in disarray and by giving support to such small scale mining projects will give a boost to the economy. He said that the industry should be given clearance and he welcomes the project.

12) **Shri Siddesha N. Yurajapuram Village, Sandur Taluk**, said that the project would not cause any harm to the environment. He said the unemployment problem could be solved by the proposed project. He requested that locals be given first priority, then employees from any other state. He requested the mining authorities to provide educational activities, sports facilities and also providing infrastructure facilities to the locals. He said that he welcomed the project.

13) **Shri Ramu Naik, District President of Sant Sevalal Sangha, Belagallu Thanda**, he said that the project will provide more employment for the locals. He said that mining authorities should utilize the mining development fund for solving local issues. He welcomed the project, saying that he would also take proactive action in this regards.

14) **Sri Nagaraja, Rampur village, Molukalmooru Taluk**, he said that mining will provide employment to the locals. He further said that mining activity in the region will create jobs for

the local people, and the local people would not migrate to other regions for jobs. Since the project is for mining of pebble / quartz stone, there is very less pollution and risk of environment pollution. He said he welcomed the project.

15) Sri Nagaraja Naik, Belagallu Thanda speaking for the 2nd time he stated that about 100 to 150 people have migrated to other regions for cutting of sugarcane. If the said project is allowed then they will get employment locally. He concluded saying that mining authorities shall be provided clearance for mining.


16) Mr Somashekargowda, he said that due to mining activity in the area the adjacent fields where curry leaves plant are damaged. Further he said that there is shortage of water in the borewells of the surrounding agricultural lands. Therefore, he requested to analyze the pros and cons of mining activity before granting permission for the mining activity.

The Chairman of the public Hearing Sri P S Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Assistant Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari in his presidential address informed to the public that, the Project Proponent has already submitted a letter to the Deputy Commissioner vide letter dated:05-11-2020 committing that they will invest Rupees 10,00,000/- per Annum for the CSR activities. The copy of the letter is enclosed as **Annexure-5**. 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 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.



(K. RAJU)

Senior Environmental Officer(I/c),
KSPCB, Zonal Office,
Ballari



(P. S. MANJUNATHA. KAS.(Sr.Scale))
Assistant 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. Approval Letter issued from Deputy Commissioner, Ballari dtd: 13-11-2020 issued to the Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Ballari to conduct the public hearing **Annexure-3**.
4. Written statement/objection (43 No's) from public is enclosed as **Annexure-4**.
5. The copy of the letter submitted by the Project Proponent to Deputy Commissioner dated:05-11-2020 regarding CSR activities is enclosed as **Annexure-5**.
6. The photographs of public announcement through loud speakers and Hand bills on 02-01-2021 are 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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