

Proceedings of the Environmental Public Hearing in respect of M/s. Grasim Industries Limited, who proposed expansion of the Pulp Plant, VSF Plant, Sulphuric Acid Plant, Carbon Di-sulphide Plant and Captive Power Plant along with installation of New Excel Fibre Plant at Kumarapatnam Village, Ranebennur Taluk, Haveri District held on 17-04-2018.

- Venue : Balehalli Veerasimhasana Mangala Mantap,
Kodiyal Hospet, Kumarapatnam Village,
Ranebennur Taluk, Haveri District.
- Date : 17-04-2018
- Presided by : Dr. M.V. Venkatesh, IAS,
Deputy Commissioner & President
Environmental Public Hearing committee,
Haveri-dist.
- Officers Present : List enclosed as Annexure-1
- Representatives of the Project : List enclosed as Annexure-2
- Names of the Public Participants : List enclosed as Annexure-3
- Written objections / suggestions /
opinions received (739 Nos.) : List enclosed as Annexure-4
- Statement of issues raised by public
and the comments by the project
proponent : List enclosed as Annexure-5

Preamble:

M/s. Grasim Industries Limited, Kumarapatnam Village, Ranebennur Taluk, Haveri District has proposed expansion of the Pulp Plant (74,400 to 1,48,800 TPA), VSF Plant (87,600 TPA to 1,75,200 TPA), Sulphuric Acid Plant (75,110 TPA to 1,52,200 TPA), Carbon Di-sulphide Plant (14,365 TPA to 28,730 TPA) and Captive Power Plant (20 MW to 50 MW) along with installation of New Excel Fibre Plant (36,500 TPA) at Kumarapatnam Village, Ranebennur Taluk, Haveri District. According to Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification published on 14.09.2006 by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India, M/s Grasim Industries Limited, Kumarapatnam Village, Ranebennur Taluk, Haveri District shall obtain Environmental Clearance from MoEF for the project and it is mandatory to conduct Environmental Public Hearing at project site.

Accordingly, State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) - Karnataka, has issued Terms of Reference (ToR) vide letter No: SEIAA/12/IND 2016 dated 04.06.2016 for this project and directed Project proponent to request Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to conduct Environmental Public Hearing. In view of the above, the project proponents have prepared the Draft EIA report in Kannada and English including Executive summaries and requested the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board to conduct Environmental Public Hearing at site.

Based on the request of the project proponent and in accordance with the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006, Environmental Public Hearing was scheduled at Balehalli Veerasimhasana Mangala Mantap, Kodiyal Hospet, Kumarapatnam Village, Ranebennur Taluk, Haveri District.

Subsequent to this, Karnataka state pollution control board published about the Environmental public hearing in leading newspapers of Karnataka State viz., the Deccan Herald (English) and Vijaya Karnataka (Kannada) and also in local Janatha Vani (Kannada) on 17-03-2018 & Haveri local news paper "Kaurava"(Kannada) on 18-03-2018 regarding the project, inviting responses orally/ writing/ e-mail to Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/ Chairman, District Environmental Public Hearing committee, Haveri from the concerned persons having possible stake in the environmental aspects of the project or activity within 30 days from the date of publication of the notification.

Further, the draft EIA report and Executive Summary of the project both in Kannada and English were kept in the designated places such as Deputy Commissioners Office, Haveri, Chief Executive Office, Jilla Panchyath, Haveri, Joint Director- District Industry Centre, Haveri, Gram Panchayath, Kodiyala Hospet Village, Ranebennur Taluk, Haveri District, Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Davangere, MoEF (South zone Regional office), Bengaluru and Help Desk, KSPCB, Bengaluru for public reference.

The Environmental Public Hearing was conducted on 17-04-2018 at Balehalli Veerasimhasana Mangala Mantap, Kodiyala Hospet, Kumarapatnam Village, Ranebennur Taluk, Haveri District at 11-00 A.M. Shri. K. B. Kotresh, Environmental Officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Davangere extended warm welcome to Dr. M. V. Venkatesh IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Haveri. He also extended the welcome to Shri Parashuram IPS, Superintendent of Police, Haveri, Shri. C. D. Kumar, Senior Environment Officer, DO, KSPCB, Chitragurga, Shri Maheshwarappa, Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Haveri and other officers from Revenue department, Police department, 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, Environmental Public Hearing and procedure as per EIA Notification, and about the project documents kept for the Public reference / views at six different offices / locations. The Environmental Officer Shri. Kotresh requested Deputy Commissioner, Haveri to start the proceedings of the public hearing. With the permission of the Deputy Commissioner, the Environmental Officer informed the Industry representative and their

consultants to make the presentation on proposed project and briefly present the summary of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study before the public. Further, he requested the Deputy Commissioner to chair the meeting and to proceed further for public hearing.

Accordingly, the chairperson of the committee informed about the purpose of conducting public hearing and directed the concerned project authorities to give presentation on proposed project.

Industry representative Dr. Rajesh Bhat, Deputy General Manager (Environment) explained briefly that M/s.Grasim Industries Ltd., (GIL) of Aditya Birla group established in 25th August 1947. Today GIL has got plants in Nagda (Madhya Pradesh), Harihar (Karnataka), Karach and Vilayat (Gujarat). In Harihar it has two plants viz, M/s.Harihar Polyfibres (HPF) & Grasilene Division (GRD).The HPF is the first indigenous rayon grade pulp plant to produce pulp based on oxygen bleaching using the eucalyptus trees. The HPF was established in 1971 with a present production capacity of 6,200 TPM. The Grasilene Division was established in 1977 with capacity of 14,600 TPA of VSF & Captive power of 2.2 MW. Today GRD produces 87,600 TPA of VSF, 75,110 TPA of Sulphuric Acid, Carbon Di-sulphide of 14,365 TPA, Sodium Sulphate recovery of 69,025 TPA and captive power plant of 20 MW. During 2010-15 the VSF consumption as grown at a CAGR of 11% globally and the same is expected to continue at the same rate. In India too it is expected that VSF demanded to grow at the rate 11% during 2015 to 2020. To meet the vision set for textile and apparel industry by honourable Prime Minister, there will be requirement of adequate raw material which cotton alone cannot meet due to limitation of land for growing the crop.

Hence, the demand of fibres for textile industry will need to be met by MMF and VSF. As per consumer's preference for comfort, fashion wear and casuals, viscose is emerging as the fibre of choice. This provides opportunities for Indian textile industries to grow and supply to international brands.

Presently the unit caters to the requirement of South Indian Market. If the unit doesn't meet increasing market demand then VSF will be bought from north India or from foreign countries which will increase transport, fuel consumption and thus negative impact on environment. Hence, by increasing the VSF production, the overall fuel consumption used for transportation and increased carbon footprints can be reduced.

Expansion of the pulp plant has been proposed to meet the additional requirement of pulp in the VSF plant else the pulp has to be imported from foreign countries. Therefore the industry has proposed to expand its pulp plant, VSF plant, Sulphuric Acid plant, Carbon-Di sulphide plant & Captive power plant along with installation of new excel fibre plant in Kumarapatnam Village, Ranebennur Taluk, Haveri District.

Further, the chairmen of the committee informed the general public to express their views, opinions and objections, if any about the said proposed project.

Gists of the views expressed by the public during the Public Hearing after completion of the presentation on the proposed project are as follows:

1. Athani Veeranna, Resident of Davangere

He expressed that this expansion project will help to generate more employment, improve financial status of surrounding people and increase the revenue to the State. Hence let us all support the expansion of project proposed by Grasim.

2. Father Antony Peter, Resident of Harihar

He expressed that industry has explained about improvement in environment protection and employment generation through this project. Hence he fully supports the expansion of project proposed by Grasim.

3. Mahesh Nagappa, Resident of Harihar

He expressed - he is happy to see that Grasim is proposing for expansion. Today many industries are getting closed. Therefore, even though Grasim is so old in this area, efforts put by them to expand is commendable. They are proposing to reduce environment pollution and generate jobs through this project hence let us all welcome this project. He requested Grasim management to consider local farmers, farmers' children and poor people for employment in the company.

4. H. K. Nagabhushan, Grasilene Employees' Union President

He expressed that through expansion employment opportunity will improve hence we all must support the project.

5. Iranna Halageri, Farmers' Union, Makanur

He expressed that many of the people from Nalvagal, Kodyial & Kavalettu have given their land during the inception of the factory in 1969. Their children are need to be considered for job opportunities. Therefore, industry must consider the local people from these villages while recruitment. Let us all maintain the decorum of the public hearing and everyone will get chance to express views. First preference must be given to these villages while providing the employment. With this condition we all support the project expansion proposed by Grasim.

6. Ningappa H. Hallelleppanavar, Resident of Nalvagal Village

He expressed that he is a retired employee of the factory. He worked for almost 40 years in the factory. He urged the Grasim Company to take forward the proposal of village shifting which is long pending. He said, there is no problem in Grasim expansion however, the company must listen to the people's problems. Nalvagal village shifting should be on top agenda in the proposed expansion.

- 7. Kariyappa Maliger, Resident of Kodiyal Hospet Village**
He expressed that his village has seen lot of improvements w.r.t. education, employment and living standards of the people. There is support for the project, however, Company must give preference to local people to give job opportunities in the upcoming project.
- 8. Nagaraj Halleppanavar, Resident of Nalvagal Village**
He expressed, today our Prime Minister is requesting foreign countries to invest in India. But Grasim being an Indian company is investing more in India only and in our village. Today Indian economy depends on Industrialization. We all will grow if industry grows. Our villages such as Nalvagal, Kodiyal, Kavalettu, Nadiharalahalli, Hirebidri etc. will get more employment opportunity due to expansion. Hence let us all support the expansion project.
- 9. Shri. Basavaraj Deshikendra Swamiji, Irani**
He expressed that with mutual support, understanding and love let us all maintain the peace and understand each other in a better way. Grasim is going to invest on environmental improvement, which is really very good. We must support the company for the benefits of the society and nation. Both company management & public must sit together and solve their issues. However, public must support the project.
- 10. Shri. Prasannanand Swamiji, Maharshi Valmiki Peeth, Rajanahalli**
He expressed that today in India, population is a big challenge due to which unemployment is increasing. Hence industrial development is a must. He requested Grasim management to consider local people for employment in the industry. He said industry must expand with a proper care on protecting air & water and surrounding environment. Hence let us all support the industrial development and this project.
- 11. Shri. Marigowdaswami, Resident of Kodiyal Hospet**
He requested the company to solve unemployment problems in the surrounding villages as far as possible. He urged that everybody must support the project as expansion of the industry can solve unemployment problems.
- 12. Shri. Punyakoti Swamiji, Kodiyal Hospet**
He suggested Grasim to consider the local youths for employment irrespective of their educational background. He also, urged that industry must take back 25 dismissed employees, which will help their family and they will be with factory. However, let us all support the expansion with a request to Grasim management to engage more local people and make them happy.

- 13. Koteppa Mylammanavar, Resident of Navagal Village**
He urged about of shifting of Navagal village and employment opportunity only for Nalvagal village.
- 14. Nagappa Barki, Resident of Kavalettu Village**
He told that we all support the project but employment opportunity must be given to Kavalettu village also. Like other villages in Kavalettu village also youth need employment.
- 15. Chandrashekar, Resident of Kodiyal Hospet**
He expressed that we all support the project but company must take around 40 numbers of unemployed youth of Kodiyal village.
- 16. Vijay Kaikad, resident of Nalvagal Village**
He expressed that we all support the project but employment must be given to local residents.
- 17. Jagadeesh Sangannavar, Resident of Hirebidri Village**
He expressed that they all support the project and also request the Grasim company to consider our village youths for the jobs.
- 18. Koteppa Mylammanavar, Resident of Navagal Village**
He expressed that company has not done any improvement in Navagal village, they have not given jobs to village youths. Let company expand, we don't have objection but we strongly request company to solve our problems related to unemployment and welfare facilities in village.
- 19. Smt. Iramma Gadi, Resident of Nalvagal Village and Kodiyal Gram panchayat member**
She expressed that we all support the project.
- 20. Bheemappa Kudupali, Resident of Nadiharalahalli**
He expressed that Grasim must take youth from our villages viz. Nadiharalahalli & Hulikatti for the jobs. We all support the expansion of project.
- 21. Arun Kumbar, Resident of Kodiyal Hospet**
He expressed that today everybody and every village will grow if industry grows. But Grasim must take the employees based on examinations and merit. He supported the project.
- 22. Smt. Chandrakala Heggappanavar, Resident of Kodiyal Hospet**
She expressed that everyone must support the project as the expansion will generate employment and improve finance status.

- 23. Vivekanand Swamy, Resident of Harihar**
He welcomed the decision taken by Grasim to expand its units. He told Harihar today is in deep trouble due to shutdown of Mysore Kirloskar factory and therefore, people must support Grasim requested both Grasim management & DC to consider local people for the jobs.
- 24. Paramesh Chinnannanavar, Resident of Nalvagal**
He told that we will permit Grasim to expand only if they shift the Nalvagal village.
- 25. Kotrappa Megalagere, Resident of Waderayanahalli**
He expressed that many people are depending on Grasim in our village. Many are benefitted due to Grasim Industries in our village. We always support Grasim expansion without any demand.
- 26. Shivamurthy Channagowdar, Resident of Nalvagal Village**
He said that company has made lot of injustice to Navagal village. They have not shifted the village so far. They have considered villagers other than Nalvagal while taking people for employment last time. We don't tolerate this. We continue to demand that Grasim must take people from Nalvagal village for jobs.
- 27. Revannasiddappa, Resident of Harihar**
He said that majority of the people gathered here are demanding for consideration of local people for the job in Grasim factory. Even he too requested the Grasim management that preference must be given to local people while recruiting for jobs in the factory. He also said, today there is no factory in Harihar & its surrounding and therefore, we all must support the expansion project of Grasim.
- 28. Sediyaappa, Resident of Kavalettu**
He said that we all support Grasim expansion because Grasim always supported us.
- 29. Smt. Sheela B. Kurubar, Resident of Nalvagal Village**
She said that everyone in the surrounding villages viz, Nalvagal, Kavalettu, Kodyal, Nadiharalahalli is benefitted in terms of better education, health and employment due to Grasim Industries. She requested Grasim management to consider the local people for the jobs in the project. She supported the project.

The Deputy Commissioner at the end expressed that opportunity has been given to majority of the people representing surrounding villages to express their views. The views & opinions expressed by people have been noted down. He informed the gathering that

such of the people who still wish to express their views about the expansion may submit their views in written form either at Tahasildar's office or at Deputy Commissioner's office before 5:00 pm on 17.4.18. With this he concluded the public hearing. The written views submitted by the public are enclosed as **Annexure-4**.

Further, the opinions/suggestions expressed by the public will be sent to Government for further action. The proceedings of environmental public hearing along with Video and photographs will be submitted to concerned authority for further action with the help of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board.



Dr. M.V. Venkatesh, IAS
Deputy Commissioner &
President-District Environmental
Public Hearing committee, Haveri

