

**Minutes of the Public Hearing conducted for the Expansion of M/s. IndianOil LNG Private Limited, Ennore LNG Terminal, located within Kamarajar Port Limited, Kattupalli Village, Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur District**

**Date:** 17.11.2023

**Time:** 10.00 a.m.,

**Venue:** Kalaingar Community Hall, Athipattu.

**Present:**

1. Dr. T Prabhushankar, IAS, District Collector, Tiruvallur District
2. Er. P.S. Livingston, District Environmental Engineer, TamilNadu Pollution Control Board, Gummidipoondi.

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The list of participants of the Public Hearing, including the representatives of the Project is appended with this minute. The Public Hearing was presided by the District Collector, Tiruvallur District and assisted by the District Environmental Engineer, TamilNadu Pollution Control Board, Gummidipoondi.

The District Collector, Tiruvallur welcomed the public and the people representatives participated in the Public Hearing, including the Member of Legislative Assembly, Ponneri and informed that the Public Hearing is organized to get the views of the public on the proposed expansion of existing Ennore LNG Terminal of M/s. IndianOil LNG Private Limited from 5 Million Metric Tonnes per Annum (MMTPA) to 10 MMTPA, and even though the project is for ensuring clean energy, the views of the public near the project area need to be obtained, and the views expressed would be recorded, both as written minutes and video-recording, and communicated to the concerned authorities for taking an informed decision. Then the representative of the Project was asked to explain about the Project.

Thiru Dhakshinamurthy, Manager, Health, Safety and Environment ( HSE) of the industry made the presentation about proposed project. He informed that M/s. IndianOil LNG Private Limited located within Kamarajar Port Limited, with an installed capacity of 5 MMTPA is involved in import, storage and re-gasification of Liquefied Natural Gas, and in order to meet the fuel needs of Tamil Nadu and the nearby States since 2025, it is proposed to augment the capacity of the terminal from 5 MMTPA to 10 MMTPA. He indicated that the project is proposed at an estimated cost of Rs. 3400 Crores, to be implemented over 54 months, and that the

Environmental Clearance (EC) with Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Clearance are required from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the Terms of Reference for conducting Environmental Impact Assessment Studies was obtained on 09<sup>th</sup> September, 2021, and the Environmental Impact Assessment studies were carried out by Engineers India Limited. While indicating the location of the project, it was informed that the project site is located within Kamarajar Port Limited, that there is no wild-life/ bird sanctuary or any protected area or sensitive area is located around the Terminal, and the study found that there would not be any adverse impact to the environment.

While presenting the setting of the proposed project, it was informed that two new LNG storage tanks of 1,80,000 T Capacity, with the required ancillary infrastructure would be established and then presented the activity of the Terminal with a flow chart. He indicated that the LNG received in vessels is stored in storage tanks at  $-162^{\circ}\text{C}$ , which would be vaporised to Natural Gas, and then transported through Pipe Lines. It was also informed that the proposed project is to be established within the Kamarajar Port and as per the Environmental Impact Assessment Report there would be no adverse impact to the environment, that there is no Animal /Bird Sanctuary surrounding the proposed project and there are no endangered species in the project area. He added that the safety of the facility is ensured through gas detection and alarm system installed in the Terminal, the expansion project would be established in line with the international/ Indian codes and standards in terms of construction and safety, for the proposed expansion, no additional land is required since the proposed LNG storage tanks and the ancillary facilities would be located within the existing Terminal premises, the water required for this project construction is 10 cubic meter per hour, which would be met from the water generated from the process, the 12 MW power required for the proposed project would be met from the captive gas based power plant within the terminal, and there would not be any appreciable air pollution, as LNG is a clean fuel. It was pointed out that no liquid effluent would be generated from the Terminal, and as such there would not be any liquid effluent treatment plant.

Then Thiru Dhakshinamurthy briefed about the baseline environmental settings around the project area. He informed that the quality of air, ground water, surface water, environmental noise, soil and biological environment were studied around 10



kilometer radius in eight locations, and that the levels are well within the standards. He would further indicate that there is no endangered species or species listed as Red Category is found.

It was informed that considering the data collected during the baseline study, the impact during the construction as well as operational phase, over air, water, noise, land, biological and socio-economic environment are predicted, and it is found that during the construction phase, all impacts are within the project site only and that the project proponent would take measures to mitigate the same, such as using BS-VI standard fuel, conserving water, maintaining the vehicles and equipments in proper manner, avoiding congestion in vehicle movement, protecting the trees, properly managing the solid wastes, etc. In the positive side, it was informed that the project would generate employment opportunity to skilled and unskilled people, improve trade and socio-economic status of people. He indicated that during the construction of the first phase during 2015-2019, people from the surrounding villages were employed and that during its operational phase, 131 skilled personnel are employed. In the case of the impacts during the operational phase, it is informed that the predicted values are much lesser than the prescribed standards, the project proponents would take all measures to mitigate the adverse effects such as analyse the air quality, implement the water conservation measures, developing Green Belt by growing trees, etc. It was indicated that out of the total 158 acres of land, in the Terminal premises, Green Belt is developed in 42 acres of land. He pointed out that based on the studies conducted, the adverse impacts during construction phase and operational phase would be very minimal, and that the project would result in improvement of socio-economic status. Then Thiru Dakshinamoorthy briefed about the works executed under Corporate Environmental Responsibility during 2018 to 2022. He stated that a total sum of Rs. 3 crores was spent so far, of which Rs.1.5 Crores were spent through District Administration and the rest of Rs.1.5 Crores, through local panchayats. It was indicated that for the Environmental Management Plan, a sum of Rs. 40 Lakhs has been allocated for capital expenditure with Rs 14 Lakhs annual recurring cost.

The SHE Manager, while mentioning about the Risk Assessment Studies, informed that since the commissioning of the Terminal in 2019, there is no incidence of leakage or fire accident occurred till now, and across all LNG installations in India,

there is no major disaster since 2007, that the Terminal is established following all relevant National and International standards, terminal is following the standards prescribed by Oil Industries Safety Directorate (OISD), Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization(PESO), monitored by Central and State Government Authorities, and the same would be followed in the case of proposed facility also. He further informed that the potential risks are analyzed and the measures for mitigating the fire accidents and disasters are suggested, such as sensors for detecting leaks and fires, measures for isolating leakage portion, are going to be in place.

In the case of the study on Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, it is stated that the Institute of Remote Sensing (IRS) of Anna University carried out the study, and as per the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) the project area lies partly in CRZ-III area, to the tune of 1,12,338.32 sq.m., and an area of 4,07,454.69 sq.m. outside the CRZ area.

Before concluding the presentation, it was informed that the project would create the infrastructure to increase the usage of LNG from the current 6% to 15%, create direct and indirect employment opportunities to the local people, thereby improve their socio-economic condition, ensure the availability of LNG as feed stock/ fuel to thermal power plants, fertilizer industries and other industries, and the usage of LNG as fuel in thermal power plants as against the present fuel used of coal would result in reduction in air pollution. Then, the Public were requested to offer their views on the Project.

Thiru Karunakaran, Kattukuppam informed that Athipattu, Minjur and Ennore area are fishing hamlets and due to the operation of ports and Thermal Power Stations, the water bodies are polluted and became unfit for fishing and the operation of the unit has destroyed the agricultural lands of Athipattu, Minjur and Ennore areas. While informing that employment was not given to even a single person from Ennore, desired to know about the employment given to Ennore Village people and wanted that job opportunities be given to those villagers residing within 5 km distance from the Project area.



Thiru Raja, Kattupalli informed that the location of the project lies within Kattupalli Panchayat, and hence the Public Hearing should have been conducted at Kattupalli, and that conducting of public hearing at Athipattu was not communicated to the people of the Kattupalli Panchayat. To this District Environmental Engineer clarified that the venue for Public Hearing was chosen taking in to consideration, the availability of infrastructure to conduct the Public Hearing, even during un-favourable climatic conditions such as rain, that the Public Notices for the conduct of Public Hearing were made before 30 days in one English and Tamil Daily, the copy of the Public Notices were sent to the Kattupalli Panchayat, with a request to display the same in the Notice Board of the Panchayat.

Thiru Kumaravel, Ennore informed that the company has to furnish the details of 48 people to whom job opportunities were provided from Ennore, the explosion of the tanks would be fatal to the surrounding people, there are records of such incidents in America, pipeline is passing through the water-bodies, any damage to pipelines could not be found, wastes are disposed in to river, project would cause pollution and hence should not be permitted.

Tmt Dhanalakshmi Kadali, Union Councilor, Kattupalli stated that the project is located in Kattupalli Village; but the Public hearing for the expansion is conducted at Athipattu, she came to know about the public hearing was known only in the morning through their whatsapp group and it was not properly communicated to the public of Kattupalli. She added that in the earlier Public Hearing for the existing facility, it was assured that the livelihood, economic condition and job opportunities of local people would improve, which are not fulfilled. The District Environmental Engineer again explained the reason for conducting the Public Hearing at Athipattu.

Thiru Dili Babu, Kalanji stated that the information regarding Public hearing of the proposed project was not intimated to their village and said that their villages are fertile areas and as various projects established in that area has lead to cutting of trees and natural resources were destroyed, causing damage to the ecosystem of Buckingham Canal, ash from power plants are affecting the agricultural yield, causes skin diseases, and hence requested to take a decision keeping these in mind.

Thiru Nandhan, Athipattu stated that the operation of the industries located in the surrounding areas are discharging ash and coal dust in the atmosphere and Athipattu is the most affected area by the surrounding industries. He added that

because of the ash and coal dust emission, the rain water got contaminated, and ground water became salty.

Thiru Venkatesh, Ennore Kuppam fishermen hamlet stated that the pipeline for the project is laid over water bodies, which will affect the livelihood of the fisherman, the Ennore area is an air pollution area, this project is having the potential threat of accidents and due to the release of Methane gas health of the Public affected, the information/data in the report are not correct, the areas are wrongly projected as Salty Marsh and permission for industries obtained, permanent job opportunities are not given to local people; instead they are employed as contract labourers, conducting of public hearing is not adequately publicized.

Thiru Karthik, Athipattu recalled the oil spillage occurred from a ship, some four years ago, and as such the project would enhance the possibility of some mishaps, and hence the project should be stopped. He added that only temporary/contract jobs are given and permanent jobs are not given to the local people. He opined that Athipattu is the gateway to Port and the works that are done under CSR is of sub-standard quality.

Thiru Sundar, welcomed the project and requested to give suitable permanent job to the skilled youngsters of their Village.

Thiru Kathirvel, President, Kattupalli Panchayat informed that only 17 persons were given job and not 48, as furnished during the presentation. He thanked the District Administration and the nearby industries for the support extended during Covid pandemic, thanked the Project proponent in improving the road, requested that the Tsumami houses be improved to permanent RCC structured houses and requested to finalize the percentage of employment to be allotted for the villagers of Kattupalli and other nearby villages.

Thiru Sethuraman, Vice President, Athipattu Panchayath informed that Athipattu and the nearby villages are surrounded by polluting industries, and hence requested a control room of TamiNadu Pollution Control Board, to monitor the pollution level in Athipattu is to be established, which the public are demanding for a long period, and hence requested the same to be established. He added that, IOCL LNG has executed many schemes under CSR Fund, the number of jobs given to Athipattu is not correct, permanent jobs, at least 30 to the youth and women of Athipattu village, be given.



Thiru Prakash, Atthipattu welcomed the project and requested to give suitable permanent jobs opportunity to the skilled youngsters of their Village, informed that jobs are given only during construction phase and not given during operational phase and requested that the project proponent to indicate the job opportunities by the proposed project.

Thiru Tamilarasan, Atthipattu, welcomed the project, as the same would create employment opportunities. He pointed out the proposed employment potential is not mentioned and that projects like school building play ground etc to be chosen under CSR and pointed out the proposed employment potential is not mentioned. The Project proponent replied that this project requires a preparation phase of a minimum of 3 years from the date of approval from the Board, and once the project is started, permanent jobs will be advertised through new papers and given to eligible candidates.

Thiru Panchatcharam, Atthipattu, welcomed the project, as the same would create employment opportunities. He indicated that the vehicular movement in Athipattu, carrying fly ash, coal, etc, plying through Athipattu, and as such the pollution levels are high, and hence the industries should be made to improve their Green Belt.

Thiru Venkatesh, Ennore wanted that the job opportunities for the proposed project, indicating casual labour and permanent worker should be worked out as per Government norms.

Thiru Ravi, Chairman, Minjur Panchayat Union reported that because of this expansion, there will not be any increase in pollution and the concern is only safety. He added that the major pollution in the area is mainly due to the power plants operating with coal, and once their fuel is converted to Gas, the air pollution levels in that area would be reduced. He opined that organizing Public Hearing without informing Katupalli villagers is not correct and that the details of the job provided which is presented by the Project proponent is not accurate. He wanted that permanent employment opportunities be given to locals and that a skill development center to be started in this area to increase the employability of the local youth.

Thiru Vadivelu, Athipattu welcomed the project and requested to give suitable permanent job opportunity to the skilled youth and more CSR works to be carried

out to the villages. He also requested for a control room of TNPCB at Athipattu to monitor the pollution level.

Thiru. Abubackkar, Councilor, Minjur Town Panchayat, informed that Minjur Town Panchayat is the worst affected area by pollution and vehicles carrying fly-ash, and due to pollution caused by the industries located nearby resulted in lungs related ailments. He further stated that this public hearing is not properly informed and should have conducted at Kattupalli. He wanted that the Lorries carrying ash are to be completely covered to prevent the spreading of Ash. He remarked that there is no transparency in handling the CSR fund.

Thiru Durai Chandrasekar, Member of Legislative Assembly, Ponneri Constituency informed that even though the project poses a safety concern to the public, public are not vehemently opposing, since they know at the end, project would be cleared. He added that the socio-economic development could be achieved only with employment, and therefore all the possible employment opportunities be given only to the local people, including women. He pointed out CSR is a statutory obligation on the part of industries, and therefore the project proponent cannot claim CSR as a goodwill to the village; but, providing the employment opportunities fully to the locals alone would ensure their compensation against the pollution caused to the people.

Thiru Udhaya Kumar, Kattupalli Kuppam informed that the area is already polluted, and the industries are luring public with employment opportunities, and that none of the project is for the welfare of the public.

Thiru Dhakshinamurthy, Manager (SHE), IOLPL responded the queries raised by the Public. He informed that during the construction stage of Phase-I, employment was given to 150 persons, of whom 48 persons are from Ennore, for which records are available, that can be verified. As regards the safety of the Project, he pointed out LNG is much safer than LPG, and that LNG is stored at  $-162^{\circ}$  C, once exposed to ambient condition, it solidifies as ice, and once the same is vaporized and then exposed to atmosphere, the same dissipates in air. He explained the safety measures in the storage tanks with 3 wall arrangement, with 1 m thick RCC outer wall, 1 m thick Perlite layer and then the inner 9% Nickel Stainless Steel Tank for holding LNG and that the Regasification facilities are designed and constructed as per International and National guidelines, conveyance pipeline is without flanges, all



systems are having facilities to isolate the area, in the event of any leakage, the Facility is provided with 160 numbers of LNG detectors, 260 Hydrocarbon Detectors and 110 Flame Detectors, and they are synchronized to the control room and any leakage is detected, the flow would be cut-off, and there is very very remote possibility of leakage, and as such the Terminal would be very safe, as in the past. He further added that the commencement of the project would take at least two years, and therefore the manpower requirement would be estimated at that time only and assured that the local people would be given employment, when the expansion project commences, and this could be taken as the assurance of the company in this regard.


The District Environmental Engineer, TamilNadu Pollution Control Board, summed up the proceedings of the Public Hearing.

Four written representations are received of which one is connected with the providing of TNPCB control room at Athipattu and the remaining three are connected to this Project.

District Collector, indicated the issues raised by the Public, and assured that they would be addressed and thanked everyone for participating in the Public Hearing and offering the remarks.

The Public Hearing came to an end.

  
District Environmental Engineer,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
Gummidipoondi.

  
District Collector,  
Tiruvallur.

To  
The Director (IA),  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,  
Paryavaran Bhawan, Lodhi Road.  
New Delhi-110 003.