

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF M/s. CHENNAI UNITED METAL INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED, LOCATED AT SIRUPUZHALPETTAI AND GETNAMALLEE VILLAGES, GUMMIDIPOONDI TALUK, TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT**

**Date:** 03.09.2024

**Time:** 10.30 a.m.,

**Venue:** In front of the Industry.

**Present:**

1. Thiru A. Rajkumar, District Revenue Officer, Tiruvallur.
2. Thiru Ayush Gupta, Assistant Collector-Training, Tiruvallur.
3. Thiru P.S. Livingston, District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Gummidipoondi.

The List of Public and the representatives of the industry attended the Public Hearing is appended with this minutes.

The District Revenue Officer welcomed all the participants and commenced the meeting. He informed that the public can freely express their views, which would be recorded. Then the District Environmental Engineer informed that the Public Notices regarding the conduct of the Public Hearing were caused in the "The New Indian Express", English News Paper and "Dinathanthi", Tamil Daily, in their issue dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2024, and the copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, was made available in the public offices, as prescribed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, dated 14.09.2006, and the same was also mentioned in the Public Hearing Notice and also uploaded in the web portal of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, and stated that the Consultant for the Project will make a presentation on the salient features of the project, and then the Public can express their views, and any clarification sought, would be answered by the project consultant, and that all the views expressed would be recorded and videographed and send to the concerned authority and invited the consultant to make the presentation.

Thiru A Santhosh Kumar, of EHS360 Labs Private Limited, Chennai, and the EIA Consultant for the project made the presentation about the salient features of the proposed project on behalf of the industry. He informed that M/s. Chennai United Metal Industries Private Limited, proposed to enhance the production of the Mild

Steel Billets from the existing 23,720 MT/Year to 2,00,000 MT/year and the Steel Re-Rolled Products from the existing level of 61,200 MT/year to 2,00,000 MT/Year, at their Plant located at Sirupuzhalpettai and Getnamallee Villages of Gummidipoondi Taluk, in Tiruvallur District, having land area of 6.85 Hectares. The consultant informed that M/s. Chennai United Metal Industries Private Limited has obtained consent orders from Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board for the production of Re-Rolled Mild Steel products of 61,200 MT/Year on 10.08.2021 and subsequently applied for the consent orders for the establishment the production of Mild Steel Billets of 23,720 MT/Year on 01.06.2022 and obtained the Consent Orders for Establishment vide proceedings dated 18.06.2023 and subsequently obtained the Consent Orders for Operation for the above product vide proceedings dated 17.06.2023, with validity up to 31.03.2025. The Consultant informed that the industry, in compliance to S.O. No.: 3250(E), dated 20.07.2022 of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and its subsequent amendments, proposed to obtain Environmental Clearance for their Expansion under Item No.: 3 (a), of the Schedule of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, viz. Metallurgical Industries, and applied for Environmental Clearance under Category –B Project.

Then the Consultant briefed about the salient features of the project, such as Products manufactured, details of land, built-up area of the project, etc., and informed that the present water requirement is 87 KLD which would increase to 95 KLD on expansion and the fresh water requirement would increase from 84 KLD to 86KLD, and that the effluent generation would also increase from the existing 6.5 KLD to 12.5 KLD and the recycled water quantity would become 9 KLD from the current 3 KLD, and that the water requirement would be met through Panchayat sources. He indicated that the waste water generation of 2 KLD, before and after the expansion, would be disposed through Solar Evaporation Pans, and that the sewage would be handled through Septic Tank followed by Soak Pit arrangements. He informed that the Power requirement would increase from the existing 5000 KW to 24000 KW, which would be met from Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO). He indicated that there is one Diesel Generator of 500 KVA Capacity before and after expansion and that the compressor capacity after the expansion would be 20 HP and that the Diesel Requirement, during power shut down would becomes from the existing 250 Litres per month to 300 Litres per

month. As regards the requirement of coal for the reheating furnace, the consultant informed that its requirement would reduce from the existing 150 T/Month to 75 T/Month, since hot charging of billets in to the Re-rolling Mill would be followed after the expansion, and that the requirement for Oil and Grease will raise from the current 25 kgs/Year to 40 kgs/Year, and informed that the permanent workmen requirement would raise to 50 persons from the current 30 persons. While informing that the cost of the Project is Rs. 36.25 Crores, the consultant informed a sum of Rs.1.40 Crores is earmarked for Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and a sum of Rs.33.25 Lakhs allotted for Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER).

Then the consultant displayed the maps showing places around 10 k.m. radius from the project site, satellite imagery for 1 k.m. radius, study area for 15 k.m. radius, master plan of the Plant, photographs showing the Plant are and other salient features of the site such as present land use, roadway etc. He informed that the present land use is industrial and that the site is fairly plain and the nearest Highway is Sathyavedu-Kavarapettai State Highways located adjacent to the project site, National Highways is Chennai to Jagarpuri National Highways located at 6.18 k.m., nearest Railways Station is Gummidipoondi, located at a distance of 6.72 k.m., nearest Airport is Chennai International Airport, located at a distance of 42.34 k.m., nearest habitation is Raja Kandigai located at a distance of 0.27 k.m., nearest town is Gummidipoondi located at a distance of 4.45 k.m., nearest Sea Port is Kamarajar Port Limited located at a distance of 30.99 k.m., nearest city is Chennai located at distance of 29.44 k.m.

The Consultant indicated that there is significant hill/hillock or valley is located within 15 kilometres of the project site and then listed the water bodies located within the study area and informed that the nearest water body is a pond located at a distance of 0.99 k.m., and the farthest water body is an Eri near Edakuppam, located at a distance of 14.36 k.m. While mentioning about the ecologically sensitive places located within the study area, the consultant informed that Pulicat Lake Birds Sanctuary is located at a distance of 12.70 k.m., stone caves are found in 6.9 k.m., distance, and listed the Reserve Forests located within a distance 15 k.m., from the project site, the study area, and informed that the nearest Reserve Forest is located at a distance of 0.99 k.m., and Vembedu Reserve Forest located at 14.51 k.m. and added that there is no feature that would cause natural calamity near the project site.

The Consultant informed that the raw materials required for the production of Mild Steel Billets viz. Mild Steel Scrap, Sponge Iron, Ferro Manganese and Ferro Silicon and the raw material for Re-Rolled Products is Mild Steel Billets, and mentioned about the requirement of each item, before and after expansion. Briefing about the production process, the consultant informed that the Mild Steel Scrap along with other raw materials, such as sponge iron would be melted in Induction Furnaces, to which the other metallurgical ingredients like Ferro Silicon and Ferro Manganese would be added, impurities removed as slag, molten metal collected in ladles, made in to Billets in Continuous Casting Machine, which would be then rolled to TMT Bars and other Structural in the Rolling Mill. Then the consultant presented the Water Balance diagram and informed that the total water requirement is 95 KLD of which the fresh water requirement is 86 KLD and the recycled water is 9 KLD.

The Consultant while presenting about the quality of air in the surrounding areas, indicated about the micro meteorology of the study area, such as wind speed, wind direction, humidity, and informed that during the study period, the predominant wind direction was East. He stated that the quality of the ambient air in eight locations were monitored, as per the guidelines of Central Pollution Control Board, and informed that the quality of the air in the monitoring locations are found to be within the standards prescribed. The Consultant informed that the level of particulates below 10 micron ( $PM_{10}$ ) during the study was ranging between 45.4 to 85.6 micrograms per cubic meter, as against the standard of 100 micrograms per cubic meter, the level of particulates below 10 micron ( $PM_{2.5}$ ) ranging between 24.5 to 48.0 micrograms per cubic meter, as against the standard of 60 micrograms per cubic meter, Sulphur Dioxide ( $SO_2$ ) ranging between 8.9 to 18.7 micrograms per cubic meter, as against the standard of 80 micrograms per cubic meter, and Oxides of Nitrogen ( $NO_x$ ) ranging between 20.3 to 38.6 micrograms per cubic meter, as against the standard of 80 micrograms per cubic meter, and that all the values are within the prescribed standards. Indicating the outcome of the studies on Noise levels in the study area, the consultant informed that the level of noise recorded in Industrial Area ranges between 44.2 db(A) and 54.9 db(A), in the residential areas the day time values ranges between 40.3 db(A) and 50.9 db(A) and the night time values ranged between 38.2 db(A) and 42.1db(A), which are all within the values prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board. Then the Consultant presented the outcome of the analysis of soil samples analysed in the study area and indicated the

observed levels of pH, Electrical Conductivity and the nutrients such as Phosphorous, Potassium and Nitrogen in the soil samples.

Then the consultant presented the of the results of the surface water quality monitored and stated that the level of pH ranges between 6.94 to 7.75, Electrical Conductivity ranges between 402 mho/cm to 587 mho/cm, Dissolved Oxygen level ranges between 4.4 mg/L to 5.8 mg/L, Chemical Oxygen Demand ranges between 19.7 mg/L to 39.2 mg/L and that Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand ranges between 6.9 mg/L to 18.7 mg/L. He also stated that the results of the ground water samples monitored revealed that level of pH ranges between 6.83 to 7.94, total dissolved solids ranges between 296.8 mg/L to 546.4 mg/L, Chlorides level ranges between 186.4 mg/L to 306.4 mg/L, Sulphates ranges between 70.3.7 mg/L to 154.2 mg/L and that the quality is within the prescribed norms for drinking, as prescribed in IS:10500: 2002 for drinking waters.

The consultant informed that the quantity of sewage generated would remain at 2.0 KLD, even after the expansion, which is treated and disposed through Septic Tank followed by Soak Pit arrangements, and the effluent arising from Cooling water System would increase from 3.5 KLD to 9.5 KLD, which would be cooled and recycled, as being done, and that the effluent from Solar Evaporation pan would become 1.0 KLD, which would be disposed through Solar Evaporation Pans. As regards the solid wastes, the consultant informed that the quantities of non-industrial solid wastes generation after the proposed expansion shall become 13.5 kg/day of compostable solid waste and 9.0 kg/day of non-compostable solid waste and thereby 22.5 kg/day in total. It is also stated that in the case of industrial solid wastes, the quantity of Furnace Slag would be 17924 MT/Year, which would be utilized for filling of low lying areas, Continuous Casting Machine Mill Scale and Mis-Roll pieces of 17792 MT/Year would be disposed for recycling and ash of 1.5 MT/Year would be disposed to Brick Kilns. He also informed that the Hazardous Wastes such as Solar Evaporation Pan Residue, Used Oil and Waste Cotton arising from the cleaning of machineries would be disposed through common Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility.

While presenting the lay-out for Green Belt, the consultant informed that as per the Guidelines of Central Pollution Control Board, 33% of land area is assigned for the development of Green Belt, and that three rows of plantation, with a spacing of 2 m would be developed and that 1000 saplings would be planted during the

expansion, in addition to the existing 3840 trees and that a Capital Expenditure of Rs.10 lakhs is assigned for green Belt development and the recurring expenditure would be Rs.50,000/- per year. The consultant informed a sum of Rs.1.40 Crores is earmarked for Environmental Management Plan (EMP), as capital expenditure and the recurring expenditure would be Rs.13.20 Lakhs per year, a sum of Rs.21.00 lakhs earmarked for the year 2026-27, under Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) for works under Public health, Construction of toilets in schools, Solar Lighting arrangements, rejuvenation of water bodies etc., in the nearby villages and a sum of Rs.15.25 Lakhs assigned for the works that are sought in the Public Hearing/ as sought by Public.

Concluding his presentation, the consultant informed that the proposed project would fetch revenue to the Government, do not involve any resettlement or rehabilitation or land acquisition, workmen required would be drawn from local areas, people from the surrounding areas would be indirectly benefitted economically, fresh water requirement would be reduced by providing rain water harvesting measures, plant is located in non-planned area, anticipated pollution would be controlled by advanced air pollution control measures such as Bag filters and that there is no discharge of effluent from the industrial activity, Disaster Management Plan is prepared to meet out any eventuality, 2.25% of the profits would be utilized for the welfare of the surrounding people under Corporate Social Responsibility, that the proposed project would not have any adverse impact and hence requested to support the project.

Then the District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Gummidipoondi requested the Public to offer their views about the project and to state their name and area before expressing their views.

Thiru G.N. Ravi, President G.R. Kandigai Village Panchayat informed that he was not invited for the Public Hearing nor any documents furnished to him and that the village panchayat is not informed of the conduct of Public Hearing and stated that only a few people from the village is participating, and hence requested that the Public Hearing to be conducted again, after intimating the Panchayat people. The District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Gummidipoondi, responded saying that the Public Notice about the conduct of Public Hearing was caused on 03.08.2024, in two newspapers, and the documents in connection with the Public Hearing were made available at the six offices that is

prescribed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 dated 14.09.2006, including the office of the Gummidipoondi Panchayat Union.

Thiru Radha from Edur Village of Gummidipoondi Taluk stated that the melting of steel will result in the release of Dioxin which is a prime cause for respiratory diseases, and steel melting cannot be done without the release of Dioxin, informed that many people are affected in SIPCOT area and wanted to know what is the guarantee that the such things would not happen in this project. To this, the District Environmental Engineer interfered and stated that there is no literature to suggest that the steel melting plant is resulting in the emission of Dioxins, and dust is the major pollutant from steel melting plants and however, his view would be recorded and furnished to the concerned authority, so that the State Environmental Impact assessment Authority could examine this view also. He further added that local people are initially employed and however, they are subsequently replaced with North Indian workers - doing more work at low salary- without any security - and hence wanted that the employment opportunity be given to the local people.

Thiru Jagankumar of Madharpakkam informed that the documents related to the Public Hearing are not made available at the G R Kandigai Panchayat Office, EIA Report is not complete, the EIA Report is not prepared in Tamil as stated in the Terms of Reference, EIA Report is available (in the portal) in Black and White and as such the same could not be viewed with clarity by zooming, monitoring stations mentioned could not be identified in the maps, the methodology/ procedure for the study is not followed as per the Guidelines of Central Pollution Control Board, study carried out/ monitoring locations fixed based on the predominant wind direction; not based on the population or the ecological sensitive places like Reserve Forests, etc., which is a major lacunae in the report. He added that in the report, the map showing the locations of study is adopted from the earlier report, that it is reported that the baseline study is reported to have carried out between March 2024 and May 2024, whereas the location map is adopted from the 2022 EIA Report, and the proposal was returned by MoEF&CC in 2022. He informed that in the EIA Report it is shown/ presented as if there is no expansion after July 2022, whereas the industry was expanded in 2023 and the production is going on, which was suppressed before the Central Expert Appraisal Committee, and affidavit filed, as if no expansion was carried out after July 2022, and thereby fact suppressed both by the Project Proponent and the Environmental Consultant. He pointed out that the same locations

in the earlier EIA report are adopted and that the directions of some monitoring locations are wrongly indicated-both in the earlier report and in the current report. On navigating the monitoring location mentioned in the report, Thiru Jagan Kumar informed that it shows the open terrace of a house, and he wondered as to how Ground water and Soil could be monitored at an Open Terrace, and added that no Forest Clearance of No Objection Certificate from Forest department is found to be obtained and appended in the report and no study about emergency evacuation is in the report and that material facts are suppressed. He added that the methodology for monitoring surface water not elaborated.

Thiru Jagan Kumar further stated that the report is stating that 290 industries are located in the study area and their locations are shown, but their cumulative impacts not studied. He further informed that the report states that there are 3840 trees present and the report also indicates the type of trees, whereas such number of trees are not available, certified compliance reports not furnished by the Project Proponent, report on the adequacy of ETP and STP not furnished as ordered by SEIAA/ SEIAC, report on Agriculture is not presented in the Report, information on habitations, is lacking in present population and population density, the EIA Report is copied from other sources, which is wrong, existing plant is operated without any Environmental Clearance, TNPCB granted Consent to establish on 18.06.2022, and that TNPCB granted Consent to Operate on 17.06.2023, after the Notification dated 20.07.2022, which is a gross violation of EIA Notification, 2006. As such, carrying out an EIA Study without any certified compliance report or Environmental Statement, is against the objectives of the EIA Notification, 2006, and operating the plant is violative of the Circulars of TNPCB issued in 2011 and 2021 and hence TNPCB has to withdraw the approvals and to take further action against the industry, present Public Hearing be cancelled, Public Hearing process done after a corrected EIA report and till such time, SEIAA shall not grant any approval for this project.

Thiru Purishothaman, nearby agriculturist liked to know as to whether any crop insurance is possible, for the crops affected by pollution.

Thiru Vendhan, Gummidipoondi questions as to why only polluting industries such as Power Plants, Steel plants are proposed in Gummidipoondi area, and no car manufacturing or computer assembly company or cell phone assembly as in Sri City, Andhra Pradesh is not proposed in Gummidipoondi area, which would be beneficial to the local people and that the types of industries proposed in and Gummidipoondi




would only cause pollution, and informed that from the discharges from industries in SIPCOT Industrial Complex, Gummidipoondi, Thamarai Eri got polluted, and this type of industries would only cause pollution and affect agriculture.

Thiru Rajesh, Guruva Raj Kandigai informed that the public are not aware of the conduct of the Public Hearing and hence the Public Hearing should be carried out again after properly informing the Public.

Thiru Sunandha Reddy, Environmentalist from Hyderabad informed that both development and environmental protection and safety are important, the problem of pollution, conflict could be averted by taking the responsibility of controlling water pollution, air pollution etc from industries be taken up by the Government. He added that unemployment is the major pollution and that around one crore people are coming to the employment market after completing their education, the Government Section, both Central and State is in position to give employment to only six lakhs persons and the remaining people are depending on Industrial Sector, and if the production of materials is not carried out locally, their prices would go up, and wanted that the time taken for granting Environmental Clearance shall be reduced, to ensure cost effectiveness to the Project Proponent and early employment opportunities.

The District Environmental Engineer summed up the proceedings of the meeting to the participants and thanked every-one for their co-operation for the smooth conduct of the Public Hearing.

The meeting came to an end.

  
District Environmental Engineer,  
TamilNadu Pollution Control Board,  
Gummidipoondi.

  
District Revenue Officer,  
s/h Tiruvallur,

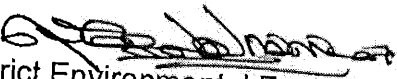
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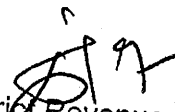
The Member Secretary,  
State Environmental Impact Assessment  
Authority for Tamil Nadu (SEIAA-TN),  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Panagal Maligai,  
No.: 1, Jennis Road, Saidapet,  
Chennai - 600 015.



STATEMENT OF ISSUES RAISED AND RESPONSE OF THE PROJECT PROPONENT IN THE PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF M/s. CHENNAI UNITED METAL INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED, LOCATED AT SIRUPUZHALPETTAI & GETNAMALLEE VILLAGES, GUMMIDIPOONDI TALUK, TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT ON 03.09.2024.

S. No.	Issues raised	Response
1	EIA Report not prepared in the local language, viz. Tamil,	---
2	How could Ground Water assessed in a location, which is the open terrace of a House?	---
3	Documents related to the conduct of Public Hearing such as EIA Report etc., not available in G R kandigai Village Panchayat.	Information on the conduct of Public Hearing was published in two dailies, wherein the information regarding the conduct of Public Hearing along with the information about the availability of required documents in the Public offices prescribed in the EIA Notification, 2006 dated 14.09.2006, including the office of the Gummidipoondi Panchayat Union.


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

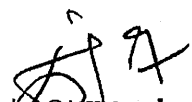
  
District Revenue Officer,  
Tiruvallur.



திருவள்ளூர் மாவட்டம், கும்மிடிப்பூண்டி வட்டம், சிறுபழல்பேட்டை மற்றும்  
 கெட்டணமல்லி கிராமங்களில் அமைந்துள்ள தி/ள்.சென்னை யுனைடெட் மெட்டல்  
 இண்டஸ்ட்ரீஸ் பிரைவேட் லிமிடெட் தொழிற்சாலையின் விரிவாக்கம் குறித்து  
 03/09/2024 அன்று நடைபெற்ற பொதுமக்கள் கருத்து கேட்பு கூட்டத்தில்  
 எழுப்பப்பட்ட பிரச்சனைகள் மற்றும் அதற்கான விளக்கங்கள்

வ. எண்.	எழுப்பப்பட்ட பிரச்சனை	விளக்கம்
1	சுற்றுச்சூழல் தாக்க மதிப்பீடு அறிக்கை உள்ளூர் மொழியில், அதாவது தமிழில் தயாரிக்கப்படவில்லை.	...
2	ஒரு வீட்டின் திறந்தவெளி மொட்டை மாடி என்னும் இடத்தில் எவ்வாறு நிலத்தடி நீர் ஆய்வு மேற்கொள்ள இயலும்?	...
3	பொதுமக்கள் கருத்து கேட்பு கூட்டம் தொடர்பான ஆவணங்களான சுற்றுச்சூழல் தாக்க மதிப்பீடு அறிக்கை போன்றவை G.R.கண்டிகை கிராம பஞ்சாயத்து அலுவலகத்தில் கிடைக்கப் பெறவில்லை	பொதுமக்கள் கருத்து கேட்பு கூட்டம் நடத்தப்படுவது தொடர்பான செய்தியானது இரண்டு செய்தித்தாள்களில் வெளியிடப்பட்டது. இவ்வறிவிப்பில் பொதுமக்கள் கருத்து கேட்பு கூட்டம் தொடர்பான ஆவணங்கள் அனைத்தும், 14.09.2006 நாளிட்ட சுற்றுச்சூழல் தாக்க மதிப்பீடு அறிக்கை 2006-ல் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்ட கும்மிடிப்பூண்டி ஊராட்சி ஒன்றிய அலுவலகம் உள்ளிட்ட பொது அலுவலகங்களில் கிடைக்கும்படி மக்கள் பார்வைக்கு வைக்கப்பட்டிருந்ததும் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டது.

  
 மாவட்ட சுற்றுச்சூழல் பொறியாளர்,  
 தமிழ்நாடு மாசு கட்டுப்பாடு வாரியம்,  
 கும்மிடிப்பூண்டி

  
 மாவட்ட வருவாய் அலுவலர்,  
 14 திருவள்ளூர்

