

**Minutes of the Environmental Public Hearing Held on 17.01.2017 At 11.00 AM at Project Site, Sy.No.2, Siddavaram Grampanchayat, Kota Mandal, SPSR Nellore District for the Proposal for Expansion of Silica Sand Mining Production Capacity from 8600 TPA To 204585 TPA in the Name & Style of M/s. Smt. Rama S. Mendon in an Extent of 52.76 Ha of the Land Located at Sy.No. 2, Siddavaram Grampanchayat, Kota Mandal, SPSR Nellore. District**

**M/s. Smt. Rama S. Mendon** has submitted a proposal for expansion to carry out silica sand mining production capacity from 8600 TPA to 204585 TPA in an extent of 52.76 Ha of land at Sy.No.2, Siddavaram Grampanchayat, Kota Mandal, SPSR Nellore District with an investment of Rs.145.0 Lakhs. The project proponent submitted an application with mining details duly following the stipulated procedure laid down in the EIA Notification, 2006 to the Ministry of Environmental, Forests & Climate Change, GOI. After scrutiny of the application, the MOEF & CC, GOI has issued letter of Terms of Reference (TORs) to the mining unit proponent and directed A.P. Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Nellore to conduct Environmental Public Hearing (EPH) with regard to the mining of **M/s. Smt. Rama S. Mendon** and to submit minutes of the proceedings to MOEF & CC, GOI as per procedure in vogue.

In compliance to provisions of EIA, Notification, 2006, the Environmental Engineer (EE), APPCB, RO, Nellore has issued Environmental Public Hearing (EPH) Notification on 14.12.2016, 30 days before the date of conduct of Public Hearing to be held on 17.01.2017 inviting the public to offer their comments, objections, views, clarifications and suggestions, if any, on the proposed silica sand mining production capacity from 8600 TPA to 204585 TPA at Sy.No.2, Siddavaram Grampanchayat, Kota Mandal, SPSR Nellore District by **M/s. Smt. Rama S. Mendon**. The Public Hearing Notification was published in Telugu daily newspaper 'Andhra Jyothi' and English daily Newspaper in 'The Hindu' on 14.12.2016. As per the date stated in EPH Notification, the present EPH was conducted on 17.01.2017 at 11.00 AM at project site, Sy.No.2, Siddavaram Grampanchayat, Kota Mandal, SPSR Nellore District under the Chairmanship of the Joint Collector, Nellore, nominee of the District Collector, SPSR Nellore District & Chairman of Environmental Public Hearing Panel.

The following members have attended :-

PANEL MEMBERS :

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Sri A.Md.Imtiaz, IAS       | Joint Collector, Nellore,<br>SPSR Nellore District<br>(Nominee of the District Collector<br>SPS Nellore District.) |
| 2. Sri M. Pramod Kumar Reddy. | Environmental Engineer,<br>A.P. Pollution Control Board,<br>Regional Office, SPS Nellore District.                 |
| <b>Special Invitee :</b>      |                                                                                                                    |
| 3. Sri V. Venkatasubbaiah     | Revenue Divisional Officer,<br>Gudur, SPSR Nellore District.                                                       |

PROJECT AUTHORITIES :

- |                         |                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Sri Pushparaj Shetty | Representative from M/s. Rama S Mendon                                                                              |
| 2. Sri A. Mohan         | Representative from M/s. Rama S Mendon                                                                              |
| 4. Sri U.S. Pandey      | Representative from M/s. Perfect Enviro<br>Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Environment<br>Consultancy of the proposed project. |

At the outset, the Environmental Engineer, APPCB, RO, Nellore has welcomed the public gathering of the Environmental Public Hearing and explained that **M/s. Smt. Rama S. Mendon** has submitted a proposal for expansion to carry out silica sand mining production capacity from 8600 TPA to 204585 TPA in an extent of 52.76 Ha of land at Sy.No.2, Siddavaram Grampanchayat, Kofa Mandal, SPSR Nellore District with an investment of Rs.145.0 Lakhs. The mining activity falls under EIA category of projects, for which Environmental Public Hearing (EPH) is a statutory pre-requisite mandate to be fulfilled to obtain public opinion on the mining activity to issue Environmental Clearance (EC) by MoE&F, GOI. He informed that the District Collector is the Chairman of the Public Hearing panel as per EIA Notification 2006. The Joint Collector, Nellore, Nominee of the Collector & District Magistrate, SPSR Nellore District will preside over today's EPH proceedings. In compliance to provisions of EIA, Notification, 2006, the Environmental Engineer, APPCB, RO, Nellore has issued Environmental Public

Hearing (EPH) Notification on 14.12.2016, 30 days before the date of conduct of Public Hearing to be held on 17.01.2017 inviting the public to offer their comments, objections, views, clarifications and suggestions if any, on the project proposal. The public are invited to freely express their views, as stated in the paper advertisements, which were published 30 days back. He also informed that whatever the opinion expressed by the public would be recorded in the form of video in addition to the written documentary evidence i.e. minutes of the public hearing proceedings and same would be submitted to MOEF & CC, GOI for consideration. It was also emphasized by the Environmental Engineer to the public that the EPH panel is not empowered to take any decision on the issue of permission to the mining activity in this public hearing meeting. He also requested the public to submit the representations during the public hearing, who are not able to express their views orally and the same would be forwarded to MoEF&CC for consideration.

After that he invited the Joint Collector, Nellore, Nominee of the District Collector, SPSR Nellore District to chair the proceedings of the public hearing and to address the gathering.

**Sri A.Md.Imtiaz, IAS, Joint Collector, Nellore, Nominee of the District Collector and the Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing panel** has welcomed the public Hearing gathering and informed that the Project Proponent obtained mine leases from the concerned Government Department for the lease period from 2005 – 2025 to carry out open cast silica sand mining. The proponent of the project has now applied for expansion project with increased production capacity from 8600 to 204585 MTPA, for which conducting of Environmental Public Hearing is a statutorily mandated process as laid down in the procedure mentioned in EIA Notification, 2006 issued by MOEF & CC, GOI to obtain public opinion from the surrounding villagers on the proposed expansion project of M/s. Smt. Rama S Mendon. He further informed that the public, who are not able to express their opinion in the EPH may lodge their written representations to the Environmental Engineer, APPCB, RO, Nellore. He further informed that any mining project, which engages machinery will cause some impact on the surrounding Environment and the technical details of the impact assessment study

incorporated with adequate mitigation measures suggested by the Environment Consultant are reflected in the Draft EIA report. Finally, he requested the public to freely express their opinion i.e. objections, apprehensions, suggestions etc. on the project.

Then the Joint Collector, SPSR Nellore District has requested the Project proponent to present technical details of the proposed project to the public for information.

Meanwhile, the public have shouted to stop the presentation from the Environmental Consultant and hence, the technical presentation from the project proponent could not be made to the public.

**Then the Joint Collector, Nellore, Nominee of the District Collector and the Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing panel** has invited public to express their opinion personally on the proposed project and informed that whatever their views, suggestions, apprehensions, objections and clarifications etc. if any, on the proposed project which would be recorded Audio, visually and in the form of written minutes of the proceedings of the Public Hearing and same would be sent to the Competent Authority for consideration while processing the EC application of the project proponent.

**Sri Krishnaiah, Ex-Sarpanch, Siddavaram Grampanchayat, Kota Mandal, SPSR Nellore District** – while speaking on the occasion, he informed that their village has been affected due to in depth mining of silica sand in local area causing for scarcity of drinking water & water for irrigation, drying up of the nearby sona kaluva. About 400 Acres of agricultural land is going to be dried up, as the silica sand miners are mining the silica sand by violating Rules & Regulations.

He also dug at indifferent attitude of local Mandal level officials, who filed criminal cases against them for questioning the injustice done to them. He represented to the District Administration to conduct an enquiry upon green cover, vegetation grown by the villagers for the past many years. He opposed the establishment of the proposed project for its ill-effect upon the livelihood & habitation.

**Sri Rayapu Surendra, R/o. Siddavaram Grampanchayat, Kota Mandal, SPSR Nellore District** – while speaking on the occasion, he informed that their village having about 500 families belonging to SC, ST & BC communities are solely depending on rain-fed crops viz., Ground Nut, Casurina & Cashew plantation etc. for their livelihoods, which will be affected due to the mining activity of the proposed project. Further, he informed that these barren lands have been made suitable for cultivation by soil reclamation methods in which the villagers are growing Ground Nut, Paddy & Cashew for many years and they will be deprived off drinking water facility, water for irrigation, which may result in migration of villagers, he feared. He also took exception to the insensitive attitude of the local officials averse to the public grievances and requested the District Authorities to be compassionate towards the villagers. He also brought the issue of in-depth mining done by M/s. Arrvee Mines, which is not complied with the stipulated guidelines issued by the Government for silica sand mines and requested to take necessary action against the mines Management.

**Sri K. Niranjan, R/o. Siddavaram Grampanchayat, Kota Mandal, SPSR Nellore District** – while opposing the proposed project, he stated that the good aesthetics of their erstwhile village Environment with clean Air & Water had been damaged due to the silica sand mining activities in the area and hence, the Public Health & Environment as-a-whole is in endangered position and he further stated that they could cultivate in this barren lands with new techniques learned over a period of years and requested the Government to issue pattas for their agriculture lands.

**Sri Rayapu Nagaraju, R/o. Siddavaram Grampanchayat, Kota Mandal, SPSR Nellore District** – He informed that there are about 500 families belongs to SC, ST and BC communities in their village, which have been cultivating 400 Acres of land from the past many years. He expressed his concern on the loss of livelihood, resulting in the migration of their villagers, depletion of Ground Water levels. He demanded for restoration of 400 Acres coming under the proposed project area. He opposed the proposed project of M/s. Smt. Rama S Mendon.

**Sri M, Madhav, Ex Vice-president, R/o. Siddavaram Grampanchayat, Kota Mandal, SPSR Nellore District** – he expressed his grievances upon loss of livelihood of their villagers due to the proposed mining project, who are well versed to grow eucalyptus, cashew, casuarina plantations & other rain-fed crop in accordance with the soil nature. He also mentioned inundation of village roads in the rainy season, which has been caused by the silica sand mining and hence, he requested the Government not to issue any clearances to the proposed project, which is likely to affect livelihood & habitation of the village public, natural resources such as sona kaluvus & also cause for congestion to the heavy vehicular traffic & to the crowd at the time of Jatara, which would be held at temple of Kanupur village due to inadequate space for movement and hence, he rejected the project proposed.

**Sri Janardhan Reddy, Environmental activist, NGO, Nalgonda, Telangana state** – he poignantly emphasized the importance of industrial development coupled with sustainable Environment without causing any damage to the local farmers in the back drop of bi-furcation of united Andhra Pradesh.

**Sri Vijaya Reddy, Environmental activist, NGO, Nalgonda, Telangana state** – he has noted certain discrepancies in the draft EIA report submitted by the project proponent and made suggestions as follows on the proposed project of M/s. Rama S Mendon :-

- a) A discrepancy regarding production capacity mentioned in the banner as compared with that mentioned in the draft EIA report, which is to be corrected.
- b) To incorporate details pertaining to land use pattern, social demography of the study area, merits & demerits arising out of silica sand mining activity and the mitigation measures proposed are inadequate, which are to be corrected.
- c) No actual figures are not furnished in the Draft EIA Report regarding livelihood pattern of local villagers for the past 40 years.
- d) No specific green belt development details viz., type of tree species, extent etc. have not been incorporated in the Draft EIA Report.

Finally, he asked that the project proponent should submit with a full fledged EIA Report incorporated with the above said information.

In responding to the above, the EE, APPCB, RO, Nellore has clarified that as per the letter of TORs (Terms of References) issued by the MoEF&CC, GOI, the project proponent has submitted the Draft EIA Report, which may be subjected to corrections and then the final EIA report would be submitted to the MoEF&CC, GOI by incorporating all the relevant information sought by the public during Public Hearing. In this regard, EE, APPCB, RO, Nellore directed the Project Proponent to incorporate all the aforementioned information in the EIA report.


**Sri CH. Sailu, Environmental activist, NGO, Nalgonda, Telangana state** – he suggested the following for establishment of the proposed project :-


- a) Top priority to be given in employment opportunities to the locals only.
- b) Post mining green belt development measures to be taken up.
- c) Village infrastructure facilities such as hospital, library, drinking water facility etc. along with other developmental programmes are to be taken up by the project proponent to the villagers.

During the meeting, the public, who participated in the Environmental Public Hearing meeting have not consented to sign in the Attendance Register except those who spoke upon the occasion,.

Then the Environmental Engineer, APPCB, RO, Nellore has informed that the public participated in the meeting have expressed their opinion without any reservations on the project proposal of M/s. Rama S Mendon and the other public participants, who could not express their opinion out of fear may give written complaints at Regional Office, APPCB, Nellore and same would be forwarded to the Competent Authority for taking necessary action.

Finally, the Joint Collector, SPSR Nellore District & Nominee of the District Collector and Chairman of Environmental Public Hearing panel has informed that they received some written representations from the public and same would be forwarded to the Competent Authority along with the proceedings of the public opinion expressed in the Environmental Public Hearing in the form of Audio & visual recordings and also along with the written minutes of the public hearing would be forwarded to the Competent Authority for taking necessary action on the proposed expansion project of M/s. Rama S Mendon at Sy No.2 of Siddavaram Grampanchayat, Kota Mandal, SPSR Nellore District.

  
Environmental Engineer  
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,  
Regional Office, Nellore  
NELLORE.

  
Joint Collector & Additional District Magistrate  
Joint Collector, SPSR Nellore District  
SRI POTTI SRIRAMULU NELLORE  
Nominee of the District Collector,  
SPSR Nellore District