

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING WITH RESPECT TO M/S THE SANDUR MANGANESE AND IRON ORES LIMITED FOR PROPOSED INCREASED IN IRON ORE PRODUCTION FROM EXISTING 1.60 MILLION TONS PER ANNUM TO 4.50 MILLION TONS PER ANNUM WITH TOTAL EXCAVATION OF 26.42 MILLION TONS PER ANNUM (IRON ORE ROM – 7.85 MTPA. MANGANESE ORE ROM – 1.34 MTPA, TOP SOIL 0.19 MTPA AND WASTE – 17.04 MTPA) ALONG WITH PROPOSED 7.0 MILLION TONS PER ANNUM ORE BENEFICATION PLANT, 0.15 MILLION TONS PER ANNUM CRUSHING AND SCREENING PLANT AND DOWNHILL CONVEYOR SYSTEM -1.2 KM FROM SMIOR KAMMATHURU IRON ORE MINE TO BMM SIDING AT SWAMIMALAI AND RAMANALMALAI FOREST BLOCKS AT DEOGIRI, SUBRAYANAHALLI, RAMGAD, AND KAMAMTHURU VILLAGES, SANDUR TALUK, BALLARI DISTRICT HELD ON 06-12-2022 AT 11:00 AM AT THE PROJECT SITE.

VENUE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING MEETING		Project Site: M/s The Sandur Manganese And Iron Ore's Limited, Devagiri Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District
DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE		DESIGNATION
1	Sri P. S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate	Chairperson
2	Dr. Doddashanaiah, Senior Environmental Officer (I/c) and Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Regional Office, Ballari.	Member Convener
Officers of KSPCB present:		
1	Sri Hanumanthappa H, Assistant Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Ballari District.	
2	Sri Ravi, Assistant Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Ballari District.	
Representatives present on behalf of M/s The Sandur Manganese And Iron Ore's Limited		
1.	Sri Abdul Saleem – Director (Mines).	
2.	Dr Nazeem Banu – Sr Manager Health Services.	
3.	Sri Shridhar P Hegde – General Manager Mines.	
4.	Sri Bheesmadebu Sahu – General Manager.	
5.	Sri Deepak Cukke Anil Kumar – Senior Manager.	
6.	Sri J M Prakash – Assistant General Manager.	
7.	Sri Rajesh M – Senior Manager - Geology	
8.	Sri Bacchalappa K- AGM Mines.	
<p>1. A Copy of extract Register containing signatures of officials participated in the public hearing is enclosed as Annexure-1.</p> <p>2. A copy of extract of registers containing addresses and signature of public participants are</p>		

enclosed as **Annexure-2.**

PREAMBLE:-

The Project Proponent had proposed to undertake proposed increased in Iron Ore Production from existing 1.60 Million Tons Per Annum to 4.50 Million Tons Per Annum with total excavation of 26.42 Million Tons Per Annum (Iron Ore ROM – 7.85 MTPA, Manganese Ore Rom – 1.34 MTPA, Top Soil 0.19 MTPA and Waste – 17.04 MTPA) along with proposed 7.0 Million Tons Per Annum Ore Beneficiation Plant, 0.15 Million Tons Per Annum Crushing And Screening Plant and Downhill Conveyor System -1.2 km from SMIORE Kammathuru Iron Ore Mine to BMM siding at Swamimalai And Ramanalmalai Forest Blocks at Deogiri, Subbrayanahalli, Ramgad, And Kamamthuru Villages, Sandur Taluk, Ballari 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 schedule under EIA Notification 2006 and subsequent amendments made there on. As per the Notification, Environment Clearance is to be obtained from the Ministry of Environmental and Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

Accordingly, the Project Proponents have made an application to the Ministry of Environmental and Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in prescribed format. The Ministry of Environmental and Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) authorities after scrutiny of the application made by the project proponents, has issued Terms of Reference (TOR) vide letter F No.IA-J-11015/45/2021-IA.II(M) Dated 14-01-2022. 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 Draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and Executive Summary both in Kannada and English prepared by M/s B. S. Envi-Tech(P) Ltd, Secundrabad – 500 017 to The Member Secretary, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Bangalore requesting to conduct the Environmental Public Hearing vide their letter dated 26-09-2022.

Considering the request made by the project proponents, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Bangalore vide letter Dated 15-10-2022 requested the Deputy Commissioner, Ballari to render suitable date and time for conducting the Environmental Public Hearing.

Further The Deputy Commissioner has given the consent to conduct Environmental Public Hearing on 06-12-2022 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 "Kannadaprabha" (Kannada) on 05-11-2022 and "The Hindu" (English) on 06-11-2022 in the local Newspaper namely "E Namma Kannada Nadu" on 06-11-2022 by informing the public to submit their objections/suggestions /opinions/ if any with regard to the proposed project within 30 days. (Copies enclosed as **Annexure - 3**).

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 information 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.
- Tashildhar Office, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District.
- Office of the Taluk Panchayat, Sandur.
- Office of the Gram Panchayat, Devagiri Village, Sandur Taluk.
- Office of the Gram Panchayat, Susheelnagara Village, Sandur Taluk.
- Zonal Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ballari.
- Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ballari.
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, South Zone, No. E. 3/240, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E & F Wings, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560034.
- Help Desk, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Parisara Bhavana, Ground Floor, # 49, Church Street, Bangalore - 560001.

All the above departments have been informed about the environmental public meeting and also about the newspaper notification vide letter on 09-11-2022.

In addition, wide publicity was also rendered through public address system and distribution of handbills kept at surrounding villages (Narasinghapura, Ranjithpur, Navalatti, Narayanapura, Devagiri, Subbrayanahalli, Kammathuru, Swamihalli, Tonasagiri, Yeshwanthnagar, Ankamanala, Susheelnagar and Ramagad Villages) of the proposed project area on 02-12-2022. (Photographs are enclosed as **Annexure - 4**).

Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner, Ballari has issued the letter Dtd:04-12-2022 to Sri P .S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari to conduct public hearing (The copy of letter is enclosed as **Annexure -5**).

After observing the statutory formalities as specified in the Notification, the environmental Public Hearing commenced on 06-12-2022 at 11.00 AM under the Chairmanship of Sri P. S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari at the proposed project site.

Proceedings of Public Hearing:-

Dr Doddashanaiah, Member Convener of the Public Hearing Committee, Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Ballari and Senior Environmental Officer (I/c), Zonal Office, Ballari welcomed Sri P .S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari. He also welcomed Government Officers, officers of the M/s The Sandur Manganese and Iron Ore's Limited, 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), Additional 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), Additional 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. He also informed that all the oral & written statements will be recorded in the proceedings in Kannada & English. 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 M/s The Sandur Manganese and Iron Ore's Limited, Sri Deepak Cukke Anil Kumar (Sr Manager - SMIORE) has explained the details with respect to Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment Report prepared by M/s B. S. Envi-Tech(P) Ltd, Secundrabad 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 briefed about the CSR activities 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. **Shri. Hulleshi - Devagiri Village** – Speaking on the occasion he said that the company has already implemented all the control measures shown in the report. He said SMIORE Company has provided all kinds of assistance and facilities to the local villagers. He said SMIORE Company is equivalent to second government. He said that he would not go to work in any other company even if other companies offered higher wages than SMIORE company. He said that he has been working in the said company for 30 years and wants to retire in the same company like his father and mother. He said that Devagiri village can be called 'Devaragiri' as the company helps its workers and their families to lead a happy life. He requested to give permission to SMIORE company to increase its production capacity and said it would be beneficial if the government approves it. He said giving permission for the said expansion will solve the local

unemployment problem. Hence he requested to give permission for the said project.

2. **Shri. M. Satish – President - Environment Protection Forum** - Speaking on the occasion he opined that SMIORE Company has a history of its own and it has been 400 years since the company was started. He told the meeting that Sri Siddojirao was the builder of the company. He said that the company has been operating with stability since its inception till now without any compromise. He said SMIORE Company is working to protect the environment without violating any rules related to the environment. He said he is extending his support on behalf of all the organizations for the proposed expansion project. He welcomed the project.
3. **Shri A. Pakiraswamy - Vijayanagara District** - Speaking on the occasion he requested to accept the proposal submitted by SMIORE Company to increase its production capacity and to give permission to start the said project.
4. **Smt. Swarnalatha – President - Gram Panchayat – Devgiri Village** - Speaking on the occasion she said that large number of employment opportunities will be available from the said project. She said that the company has arranged transportation facility for the school students of her village. She said that they have given jobs to the residents of her village in the company and helped them in maintaining their families. She said that SMIORE Company has developed the village by building schools and temples in Devagiri village. She appealed to give permission to SMIORE Company to increase its production capacity.
5. **Shri. B. K. Manjunath** - Speaking on the occasion he said that he needs to learn how to manage a family from SMIORE Company. He said that the company has facilitated the education of the children of its workers. He said the owner of the SMIORE Company have built polytechnic college for the benefit of the local students in Yashwantnagar village and the students who studied there are working at various places in the country and abroad. He said that the company has been distributing food grains to its workers since its inception till now. He appealed to give permission to allow for increasing its capacity as the company has helped the locals in every way.
6. **Shri. Malagi B. Pennappa - Kammathuru Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that SMIORE Company has gifted lands (Inamu) to the locals. He expressed his regret that the farmers were facing a lot of problems due to the government rules during the survey settlement for the lands given by the royal family. He said that before the survey settlement of the lands in the village, the land of the farmers was given to the capitalists without their consent. He opined that SMIORE Company has survived due to its good deeds. He said that about



1400 acres of agricultural land belonging to the tribals of his village are registered in the name of NMDC company, which should be stopped immediately and title deeds should be distributed to the farmers who are cultivating it. He said the ore washing plant required lot of water and requested not to drill borewells in the mine area for water. He appealed to the company to use natural resources sparingly. He appealed to give more employment to the locals.

7. **Shri. Chandrappa - Narayanpura Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that SMIORE company has provided transport system for the benefit of the students of his village since 2009 till now. He said that the company has constructed about 300 toilets in his village. He said that he fully agrees with the said project to increase its production capacity.
8. **Shri. Suryaprakash - Yashwantnagar Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that SMIORE Company has been doing good works which will benefit all the villages of Sandur Taluk. He said the women of the villages have benefitted a lot since the SMIORE Company has built toilets in the surrounding villages. He said SMIORE Company has been helping in the development of local villages for a long period of time. He appealed to grant permission to increase its production capacity.
9. **Shri. Bhumesh - Yerabnahalli Gram Panchayat Member** - Speaking on the occasion he requested to give permission to SMIORE Mining Company on priority. He said that since the said mining company has done several development works for the surrounding villages, the villagers and company are living in cooperation every day. He said local educated youths are at home without jobs and appealed to provide employment to such unemployed youths. He appealed to the factory to provide basic facilities like CC roads and drainage system to the villages. He requested to give permission for the said project.
10. **Shri. N Onkarappa - Swamihalli Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that the SMIORE Company has cooperated by leveling the land of Swamihalli Village. He said that the school of Swamihalli village has been developed. He said the company which has helped them should scale to great heights. He requested to give unconditional permission to the company to increase its production capacity.
11. **Shri. Anand Rao Y.J. - Grama Panchayat Member** - Speaking on the occasion he said that SMIORE Company has employed 94% of locals so far. He said the company has expressed hope that 99% jobs will be given to locals in the near future. He said during COVID time SMIORE Company has efficiently provided all kinds of facilities to the locals. He said the company has facilitated the locals



in building houses and in education. He requested to allow the company to increase its production capacity.

12. **Shri. Yariswamy- President of Lorry Owners' Association – Kammathuru –** Speaking on the occasion he said that he has no objection for allowing the company to increase its production capacity. He asked to declare Kammaturu village as adopted village and appealed to provide permanent jobs to the people of his village in large numbers.
13. **Shri. Yallappa - Kammatturu Village -** Speaking on the occasion he requested to give permission to SMIORE Company. He said that the company has provided basic facilities like transport, education, road construction and health care facilities to his village. He appealed to provide more number of jobs to the residents of his village.
14. **Shri. H. Bharamappa - Narayanpur Village -** Speaking on the occasion he requested to provide more number of jobs to Narayanpura village. He requested to give permission for the company to increase its production capacity.
15. **Shri. Hanumanthappa - Head Master –SMIORE High School -** Speaking on the occasion he said that it is an aided high school and SMIORE Company has provided all the privileges to the school. He said that the company has provided free accommodation to the school teachers. He said that about 235 students are studying in his school and the company is helping all the students. He requested to give permission to SMIORE Company to increase its production capacity.
16. **Shri. Anand Bellary - District Miners' Association - Sandur -** Speaking on the occasion he said that he has no objection to give permission to SMIORE Company to increase production. He opined that SMIORE company was like 'Kamadhenu'(Which benefits all) to the people of Sandur. He said that the company has benefited the locals socially, culturally and educationally. He requested to grant permission for the proposed project.
17. **Shri. Mallesh – Kammatturu Village -** Speaking on the occasion he said that SMIORE Company has benefited his village in every way. He requested the company to do more development work for Kammatturu village in future. He expressed his consent to the said project.
18. **Shri. Sivaprakash - Tonsagere Village -** Speaking on the occasion he alleged that SMIORE Company has provided little benefits to his village. He said they have not given dust compensation to the farmers of his village. He appealed to provide jobs in large numbers to his villagers. He requested the company to build roads to his village and to develop the village cemetery.

19. **Shri. Raju Palegar – President – Karnataka Rakshana Vedike – Sandur -** Speaking on the occasion he said that SMIORE Company has provided basic facilities to surrounding 9 villages. He requested to provide more privileges to the local villages in future. He said that compared to other mining companies in Sandur region SMIORE Company have provided more facilities to their workers. He said that even when the company was shut down for a year during CORONA pandemic the company paid salary to their workers. He said that all the unions would support the SMIORE company proposal to increase its production capacity. He appealed to give permission for the said project.
20. **Smt. Manjula - Gyana Seva Kendra - Chitradurga -** Speaking on the occasion she said that SMIORE Company has provided all kinds of amenities to the surrounding villages and the company remains in the minds of the locals forever. She requested the company to provide more facilities for the locals in future. She hoped that the company would grow and help in the betterment of the local villages. She wished company good luck for the proposed project.
21. **Shri. B. V. Reddy – Environmentalist – Bellary -** Speaking on the occasion he requested to give approval to the proposal of the SMIORE Company to increase its production capacity.
22. **Shri. Sunandareddy - Environmentalist -** Speaking on the occasion he wished the management of SMIORE Company good luck. He appealed to the officials to recommend the Ministry of Environment to give unconditional approval to the said project. He said the company has applied to the government to obtain Environmental Clearance and he requested the government to complete all the processes within 90 days and issue the Environmental Clearance to the company. He said that the company has developed a large area under green belt. he requested to give permission for the said project.
23. **Smt. Geetha Ballari -** Speaking on the occasion she said that by increasing the production capacity the company will generated jobs for Diploma and ITI Holders. She said that she wishes everyone good luck.
24. **Shri. Nazim Sheikh - Devagiri Village -** Speaking on the occasion he said that there is no problem due to operation of mines by SMIORE company. He appealed to the company to give large number of jobs to his villagers.
25. **Shri. Venkatesh - Subarayanahalli -** Speaking on the occasion he said that SMIORE Company has benefited his village in every way. He appealed to allow the company to increase its production capacity as it was providing employment to the locals.



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The Chairman of the public Hearing Sri P. S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari District in his presidential address informed to the public that, 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, Bangalore 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.



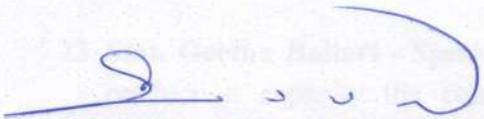
Dr DODDASHANAI AH
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KSPCB, Zonal Office,
Ballari



Sri P. S. MANJUNATHA (KAS.(Sr. Scale)
Additional 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. The Newspaper advertisement in the leading state level newspapers Kannada (Kannadaprabha – 05-11-2022) and English (The Hindu – 06-11-2022) and also local newspaper (E-namma Kannada nadu – 06-11-2022) regarding public hearing is enclosed as **Annexure – 3.**
4. The photographs of public announcement through loud speakers and distribution of Hand bills on 02-12-2022 are enclosed as **Annexure-4.**
5. Approval letter Dtd:04-12-2022 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Ballari to the Additional Deputy Commissioner and Additional District Magistrate Ballari to conduct the Environmental Public Hearing is enclosed as **Annexure -5.**
6. 251 No's of written statement/objection received directly from the public during public hearing and 37 No's of written statement/objection received at Regional Office, Ballari is 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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