

**Proceeding of Environmental Public Hearing organized by HP State Pollution Control Board Una according to the provisions of EIA Notification No: S.O. 1533 (E) Dated: 14/09/2006 on the proposal submitted by Sh. Jasjit Singh Sidhu & Sh. Manmeet Singh Sidhu, Partners of M/s Himachal Chemicals & Silicate Works-II, VPO Bathu, Tehsil Haroli, Distt. Una (HP) for extraction of sand, stone and bajri @ 3,50,000 MT/year at Khasra Numbers 4, 6, 948, 950, 951, 944, 949, 960, 943, 8, 10, 939, 11, 12, 938, 937, 946, 947, 5, 933, 942, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110 & 1112 falling in Mauza & Mohal Bathri, Tehsil Haroli, Distt. Una (HP) over an area measuring 12-96-83 Hectares (Private Land, Hill Slope), on 28/07/2025 at 11:30 AM at Rajiv Gandhi Common Facility Center, VPO Bathu, Tehsil Haroli, Distt. Una (HP)**

Environmental Public Hearing on the proposal submitted by Sh. Jasjit Singh Sidhu & Sh. Manmeet Singh Sidhu, Partners of M/s Himachal Chemicals & Silicate Works-II, VPO Bathu, Tehsil Haroli, Distt. Una (HP) for extraction of sand, stone and bajri @ 3,50,000 MT/year at Khasra Numbers 4, 6, 948, 950, 951, 944, 949, 960, 943, 8, 10, 939, 11, 12, 938, 937, 946, 947, 5, 933, 942, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110 & 1112 falling in Mauza & Mohal Bathri, Tehsil Haroli, Distt. Una (HP) over an area measuring 12-96-83 Hectares (Private Land, Hill Slope), was organized by HP State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office Una on 28/07/2025 at 11:30 AM at the Rajiv Gandhi Common Facility Center, VPO Bathu, Tehsil Haroli, Distt. Una (HP). This public Hearing was organized by HP State Pollution Control Board under the Chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Una cum Chairman of Environmental Public Hearing, according to prescribed process of public Hearing.

In the Public Hearing, SDM Haroli, Mining Officer Una, RTO Una, Officers/Officials of various Departments of local Administration, Representatives of local Gram Panchayats and residents of local & nearby villages were also present. The attendance sheet of participants in the public hearing is enclosed as **Annex-I**.

First of all, Er. Praveen Kumar, Regional Officer, HP State Pollution Control Board Una, welcomed the Chairman, Officers/Officials of various Departments of local Administration, representative of Local Panchayats, Project Proponent & their Consultant and the Public. Thereafter he gave detailed information to the people present regarding organization of the Environmental Public Hearing and started the process of Environmental Public Hearing with the permission of ADC Una cum Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing.

Thereafter, the Regional Officer, HPSPCB Una requested the Consultant of the Project Proponent from M/s Chandigarh Pollution Testing Laboratory, Mohali (Punjab) to provide the detailed information of their proposed project for the extraction/collection of sand, stone & bajri to the public. After the detailed description of various aspects of proposed mining lease project given by the Consultant to the public, the Regional Officer, HP State Pollution Control Board Una asked the people present in the Environment Public Hearing to express their views, comments, suggestion and objections on the proposed mining project, without any fear and pressure from any corner.

Videography of the Public hearing was also conducted. Accordingly, the proceeding of the Environmental Public Hearing was recorded and the same is reproduced hereunder:

S. No.	Name and Address	Issues raised/Suggestions submitted	Reply of Issues raised/ Suggestions submitted
1.	Retired Subedar Shri	He said that the proposed mining project should be approved, because	



	Ved Prakash Singh Rana, Village Bathri, Tehsil Haroli, District Una (H.P.)	mining work is closed here and due to non-availability of mineral material, the construction work of houses etc. of the people is being obstructed.	
2.	Shri Mohit Singh Rana, Village Bathu, Tehsil Haroli, District Una (H.P.)	He said that the condition of the mining activities earlier carried out by the Project Proponent should be observed on the spot, where digging has been done up to 100–150 feet deep. Because of this, the condition of cultivable land has deteriorated and their houses are also filled with dust. He said that whatever lease the Project Proponent had earlier and the Government land also, they have completely dug it up. Attention to this is also necessary. Further, he also said that before considering the proposed project, the concerned department should inspect the mining area up to about 2 kilometers, so that it can be seen what situation has arisen due to earlier mining and what effect can be in future. This work is necessary to be done before granting permission to the project.	ADC and Hon'ble Chairman requested the gathered public that since this public hearing is only related to the specified khasra numbers of the proposed lease, therefore you should keep your views limited to this subject. Do not present issues unrelated to this matter. Please keep your objections or suggestions only in the context of the proposed lease land and the related works. If you have any other complaint or subject, it can be submitted separately for consideration after this public hearing. But as long as this public hearing is going on, the discussion should remain limited only to this subject.
3.	Shri K.K. Rana, Ex-Pradhan, Gram Panchayat Bathri, Tehsil Haroli, District Una (H.P.)	He said on the request of ADC Una that views in the public hearing should be kept only on the khasra numbers of the proposed lease, that the illegal mining which happened earlier in the area was done by the proponent of the proposed mining project itself. Therefore, the issue of mining activities carried out earlier is directly connected with the subject of this public hearing. He further said that every week news of illegal mining happening in this area keeps getting published in the newspapers. Whenever the administration is informed about these, the reply received is only like "will see, it will be done, or tell the concerned officer." According to him, this illegal mining is only possible with the connivance of the administration. Raising strong objections to the proposed mining projects, he said that	ADC Una again requested that please keep your views only related to the proposed lease and that other complaints will also be heard after this public hearing. Regarding the orders of the Hon'ble High Court, Himachal Pradesh, ADC Una clarified that it is not within the jurisdiction of this public hearing committee to make any comment on the orders of the Hon'ble Court. He requested that the present public keep their factual views limited only to the subject of this public hearing. On the matter of site inspection of the previous leases of the lease holder, ADC Una directed SDM Haroli and Mining Officer Una that they should inspect the site within seven days and



	<p>due to mining in them, the flow of water of the khad will move towards our village and as in the previous leases, pits of 100–100 feet deep were made, the same will happen in these leases also. He requested ADM Una and SDM Haroli to take out just 10 minutes and go to the spot themselves to see how the lease holder has mined. He emphasized that only illegal mining has happened here, and perhaps nowhere else so much illegal mining has taken place. He said that his concern is about public interest and the environment. He said how can the environment remain safe here when 100–100 feet deep pits are continuously being made by mining. In these pits, 4 deaths have already occurred in the past 5–6 years. He also said that the revenue received by the administration is not as much as the compensation that has to be given to the affected families. The lease holder assures the deceased family of compensation of 3–5 lakh rupees, but in reality, only 20,000 rupees are given. He clarified that the illegal mining issue he is raising has happened on the khasra numbers adjoining the proposed lease khasra numbers. He repeated that he also has objections to these proposed mining projects. He said that even in the previous public hearing he had requested the administration to inspect the site, but it was not done. Today again he requested that before approving the proposed leases, the site inspection of the old leases of the Project Proponent must be done. He informed that some people have also gone to the Hon'ble High Court in protest against this illegal mining and the Court has also accepted that illegal mining has happened in the area. Further, he said that the Hon'ble Court has ordered the District Judge to inspect the site and submit a report by 25.08.2025 regarding how deep the mining has been done. Finally, he said that as was said in the previous public hearing, before</p>	<p>submit its factual report in his office.</p>
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		finalizing the proposed leases, the problems of the villagers should be heard and site inspection of the old leases adjoining the proposed leases should be done. If the earlier mining is found to be as per Rules in inspection, then these leases can be approved, otherwise, if illegal mining is found, then the proposed leases should also not be approved.	
4	Shri Manjeet Rana, Village Bathu, Tehsil Haroli, District Una (H.P.)	<p>He said that the money which the Government spends, is it for the benefit of the miners? He told that inside village Kailua, a dam (channelization) has been constructed by the Government at a cost of lakhs of rupees, which at present is standing in a condition of collapse, and this dam (channelization) is located along the same khasra numbers for which permission is being taken.</p> <p>He said that if the concerned site is inspected, the situation will become clear. He told that the said dam (channelization) was built with the purpose of stopping water, but at the same place where this dam (channelization) is constructed, mining activities are being carried out.</p> <p>He said that the dam (channelization) has also been extended recently, but mining work has been carried out along with the dam (channelization), due to which it can collapse at any time. If this happens, the entire population of village Kailua will be affected and not a single house there will remain safe.</p>	ADC Una replied that your point has been noted and the officers of the Jal Shakti Department will be sent for site inspection.
5.	Shri Naresh Rana, Village Bathu, Tehsil Haroli, District Una (H.P.)	<p>He said that their purpose is not to oppose the mining lease, but when the Rules set by the Government are violated, then they oppose it. He said that everyone knows well whether the mining happening at present is according to the prescribed Rules or not. He said that if the Rule says that mining can only be up to 15 feet, then is the mining really being carried out only up to 15 feet?</p> <p>He asked the Administration that if a person has given his private land for mining, does it mean that he will act arbitrarily? Even if he has taken</p>	<p>The Consultant of the Project Proponent, replying on the issue of impact of mining activities on adjoining land, said that due to mining in the proposed mining lease, there will be no loss to the adjoining land because while carrying out mining in the proposed area, a buffer zone of about five-five meters will be left from all sides. In this way, no adverse effect will fall on the adjoining land.</p> <p>She further said regarding the</p>



	<p>economic benefit, but if due to the mining on his land, damage is caused to the lands of others, then people will not tolerate it.</p> <p>He gave an example that if a person plants a tree on the edge of his land and its leaves fall into the neighbor's field or house, the harm is caused to the other person. Similarly, if someone gives his land for mining and others suffer loss from it, then this will not be acceptable.</p> <p>He said that he had also told the Project Proponent the same thing in the morning that you carry out mining. The Project Proponent has contributed a lot to the development of Bathu village. Crushers have been running here for the last 50-60 years, and the village has benefited, along with many villagers getting employment. He also said that the villagers have always supported them. But the biggest problem is that the Rules prescribed for mining are not followed here. If the Rule is 15 feet, then pits 70 feet deep have been made.</p> <p>He asked how many years this lease is being given for and to what depth mining is allowed. Does the Administration check whether stone is being extracted only up to 6 meters or up to 100 feet?</p> <p>He further said that he knows that this project is on a hill slope, but in the plain area, due to mining, pits up to 100 feet deep are made. Is the role of the Government only limited to giving the lease, and then leaving it to the public to check whether the Rules are being followed or not?</p> <p>He also said that if the Project Proponent has bought 10-20 kanals of land for mining, then after extracting stone, the pits should be filled from time to time without waiting for the lease period to expire. If digging has been done in 5 kanals area, then it should be filled within 5 years. It should not be that these pits are filled only after 10 years when the lease period ends.</p> <p>He told that due to mining the groundwater level has fallen down to</p>	<p>impact on water, that no perennial surface water source exists in the said area, therefore there will be no possibility of flood.</p> <p>She also said that for prevention of soil erosion, garland drains will be constructed there, so that even if rainwater collects there, it will naturally recharge the groundwater.</p> <p>She said that this project relates to mining on a hill slope and mining work will be carried out by bench-wise method, in which each bench will be of 6 meters × 6 meters. She told that after environmental clearance is received for the mining lease, its compliance report is submitted every six months to the Competent Authorities. During this report, necessary tests of air and water are also conducted and from time to time the committee also inspects the lease area. She clarified that this report contains details of how much material was extracted and up to what depth work was done. The said report is sent to the Pollution Control Board and thereafter the committee also carries out physical inspection of the site.</p>
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		<p>100 feet. Earlier water was available at just 5 feet, but now even after digging 100 feet there is no water.</p> <p>He clarified that his objection is not limited to this area only, but the same situation is widely seen in the whole of Himachal Pradesh. He said that since you are the representatives of the Government, therefore this subject must be looked into seriously. Finally, he also said that what is wrong will always remain wrong, and they will always oppose it.</p>	
6	<p>Shri Kulwant Rai, Village Bathu, Tehsil Haroli, District Una (H.P.)</p>	<p>He said that in reference to the proposed mining projects, it is being stated that mining can only be done up to the prescribed depth as per Rules. He asked whether the Rule of mining up to a certain depth has already been made? Has the Project Proponent followed this Rule in its previous mining leases?</p> <p>He said that in the previous mining leases the provision of limited depth mining according to Rules was not followed, rather big deep pits were made by mining. He told that if the Administration wants, it can itself go to the lease area behind the community center and see these big pits. He also said that the Project Proponent has never re-filled soil in these pits.</p> <p>He said that the Administration grants lease to the leaseholder, but due to mining against the Rules in that lease area, the villagers have to suffer loss, even to the extent that the villagers suffer loss of life and property. He said that in these leases, mining should be only up to 3 meters depth as per provision, but here pits of 100–100 feet are made, in which the animals of the village fall and die. He said that no committee is made to investigate this loss.</p> <p>He further said that in the proposed mining project, many khasra numbers mentioned are such where mining has already been carried out earlier. He said that the Administration should call the Patwari–Kanungo to check these numbers and find out what their present condition is. He alleged that</p>	<p>ADC Una said that the mandate of this public hearing committee is only to evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed mining project. But the issues you are raising do not fall under the jurisdiction of this public hearing committee. He again requested the public that they keep their views confined only to the subject of this public hearing.</p>



		<p>permission is taken on these numbers, while actual mining is carried out elsewhere. He raised the question whether the Administration later checks on which number mining is being carried out.</p> <p>He said that earlier also the Administration has given leases and due to the mining in those leases, much loss has happened in the village. He repeated that the children and animals of the villagers have died. No committee comes to investigate this and neither are they heard. He said that even if this lease is given, here also pits of 100–100 feet will be dug.</p> <p>He alleged that administrative officers come and in connivance with the Project Proponent cover up the matters, and the poor villagers are not heard. He asked whether the administration will later check how deep the Project Proponent has dug.</p> <p>He finally said that mining work should be done only according to the Rules, as prescribed by the Government, and no kind of illegal mining should be allowed.</p>	
7.	Shri Kuldeep Singh, Village Bathu, Tehsil Haroli, District Una (H.P.)	<p>He told that the khasra numbers related to the proposed lease belong to private owners. He further said that even in the previous public hearing he had stated that the road from Kailua to Bathri is about one kilometer, but due to the collapse of the dam (channelization), now the children of the village have to take a detour of about six kilometers to go to school.</p> <p>He also said that more than one year has passed since the drinking water supply pipeline from Bathri to Kailua village broke, but neither anyone paid attention to it nor was it repaired.</p> <p>He requested the administration that the problems of the general public should also be heard seriously and if people are in trouble then their hearing should be ensured. Finally, he said that mining is going on in the area, but the administration should also go to the site and see what the actual situation has become due to mining.</p>	
8.	Shri Ram Prakash,	He said that he has no objection to the	



	Village Bathu, Tehsil Haroli, District Una (H.P.)	<p>work being done by the Government. However, after the mining work starts, proper attention is not given to it. Neither water sprinkling is done nor the pits are filled, due to which dust pollution spreads throughout the village.</p> <p>He requested the administration to ensure that the work in the mining leases is carried out strictly according to the mining Rules so that the local people do not face any inconvenience.</p>	
9.	Shri Rakesh Kumar, Village Bathu, Tehsil Haroli, District Una (H.P.)	<p>He stated that mining has been taking place in this area for the last 40 years. This mining was once considered a "goldmine" for our village, from which the Project Proponent and miners earned huge profits. Before mining began, villagers depended on this khad; our cattle grazed there, and the surkande grass growing in the khad was used to make roofs for our houses. However, due to continuous mining, the villagers have suffered heavy losses.</p> <p>He questioned the Project Proponent, asking what development work they have undertaken for the village and what contribution they have made so far. He said that if the main road and streets of Bathu village are surveyed, it will be seen how badly they are damaged, whereas minerals extracted from here have been used to build roads as far as Jagraon, Hoshiarpur, Mukerian, and Dasuya in Punjab.</p> <p>He further said that it was claimed that villagers would get cheaper bajri (gravel) due to mining in the village, but he contradicted this by stating that for constructing his own house, he had to purchase bajri from crushers in Haroli and Pallari-Bhalan (Punjab). He added that the village has not benefitted in any way from these crushers; rather, it has only suffered losses, and therefore, these crushers should be shut down.</p> <p>Highlighting the damages caused by mining, he mentioned that even the administration had witnessed the destruction caused by floods last year in the Preetika factory, where the</p>	



Handwritten signature in blue ink.

	<p>Bathu petrol pump was saved with great difficulty.</p> <p>He said miners have earned immense wealth, but the village has been ruined due to mining. He requested the administration to stop this mining and allow the village to exist as it was earlier.</p> <p>He alleged that the Project Proponent has not planted even a single tree from the first lease till now. This fact, he said, can be verified on the spot. Due to excessive excavation, the pits have become deeper than the Bhakra Dam. If the administration has any doubt about what villagers are stating, it should visit the site for verification.</p> <p>He reiterated that the village has gained nothing from the crushers except that a few people got daily wage work. On the contrary, crushers have caused heavy pollution, dust clouds spread in the air, and villagers are forced to breathe dust even inside their houses, including at night.</p> <p>He narrated that 40–50 years ago, before mining, there used to be large orchards and trees in the village. But now, due to mining, the entire village has turned into a plain field, and not a single tree is visible. Neither the miners nor the villagers carried out any plantation. Even if some trees were planted, stray cattle roaming in the village destroyed them.</p> <p>He emphasized that the condition of the village was better before mining. The areas where mining is now taking place were once grazing grounds for cattle. People used to sustain themselves by selling surplus milk after meeting their own needs. But now, due to mining, animal husbandry has become impossible, and keeping cattle in the village is no longer viable.</p> <p>He said that if the administration wishes, it can hand over the entire village for mining, but Bathu village should be resettled elsewhere and villagers compensated with land, similar to the rehabilitation of Bhakra Dam ousters in Hisar (Haryana) in 1946.</p> <p>Referring again to the flood damage of</p>	
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		<p>last year, he said the administration should conduct a survey of the lower part of the village to assess how much population will be affected by mining. Villagers have spent heavily on constructing their houses, but with ongoing mining, the entire village will eventually be washed away into the khad, reaching Ropar.</p> <p>He reiterated that the village has not benefitted in any way from mining. Villagers earlier brought bajri from outside and will continue to do so in the future, while gravel from this village is being supplied across Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. Therefore, he appealed to the administration to completely stop mining. He stressed that the villagers are not in favor of mining.</p> <p>He also opposed the argument that mining can be carried out on private land at the will of the landowner. By way of example, he said if the owner of an adjacent vacant plot were to excavate 50 feet deep, it would endanger his house, which is not justifiable. Hence, he strongly opposed the proposed mining project and urged the administration not to grant permission for it and to stop mining completely in the village.</p>	
10.	Mr. Ankur Rana, Village Bathu, Tehsil Haroli, District Una (H.P.)	<p>He said that a crusher has been installed in the village, and the villagers welcome it. However, he raised the question that the Rules and conditions being read out here, which are written in the documents, have they been made available to the villagers? Does anyone here have a copy of them? Is it not necessary that this information be provided to the villagers through the Gram Panchayat or any other medium, especially since most villagers are not educated enough to know where to obtain this information themselves? Therefore, he demanded that copies of these documents/Rules must be made available.</p> <p>He further said that it should also be clarified whether the Project Proponent had followed the prescribed standards</p>	<p>The Consultant of the Project Proponent informed that copies of the summary report of the proposed mining project have been made available here for the public. In addition, once the date of the public hearing is announced, the draft EIA/EMP report along with its summary is also uploaded on the website of the State Pollution Control Board, where any interested person can view it. She also stated that these reports had already been sent to the concerned Gram Panchayats.</p> <p>The Consultant further informed that a three-month baseline study of the area was carried out, during which all</p>



		<p>during the previous lease period or not. With reference to pollution, he asked whether noise and air pollution testing has ever been conducted in this area. If yes, then when was it done, where is the report, and has it been provided to the villagers?</p> <p>He said that if environmental testing is done from time to time, prior information about it should be given to the villagers so that they may also be present at the site and ensure that the Rules are actually being followed. He also asked how many trees the Project Proponent has planted so far.</p> <p>In conclusion, he stated that he does not object to mining activity, but it is necessary that all Rules are strictly followed. He also requested that the villagers should benefit from the mining activity, and that advance notice of every environmental monitoring in the future must be given to all villagers.</p>	<p>parameters related to air pollution were tested, and all results were found to be within the prescribed limits. The detailed information regarding the sampling sites and the period of sampling has been included in the draft report.</p> <p>The Hon'ble ADC-cum-Chairman directed that a copy of the summary report of the proposed mining project be provided to the said person, and further stated that if any other person requires it, they may obtain it from the Consultant.</p>
11.	Mrs. Anupam Rana, Pradhan, Gram Panchayat Bathri, Tehsil Haroli, District Una (H.P.)	<p>She stated that the Consultant had already clarified earlier that all mining-related Rules are being duly followed by the Project Proponent in the course of the mining operations. She further mentioned that the land on which the proposed mining project is to be carried out is privately owned land, and no one can graze their cattle on private land without permission.</p> <p>She further said that many people are employed at the crusher due to the mining activity. Whenever the villagers require sand, gravel, or other construction material, the Project Proponent makes it available to them and has never refused to provide it. In addition, sand and gravel are also provided free of cost to poor villagers. She stated that since the mining is being carried out on private land, no one should object to it. Finally, she said that she has no objection to the proposed project.</p>	
12.	Mrs. Surekha Rana, Pradhan, Gram Panchayat Bathu, Tehsil Haroli, District Una (H.P.)	<p>She stated that a public hearing had already been held two days earlier regarding the proposed mining projects of the Project Proponent, similar to the one being conducted today. She</p>	



clarified that the land of all these proposed mining leases falls within Village Bathri, and not a single khasra number belongs to Village Bathu.

She acknowledged that it is natural for pits to form in the lease area due to mining, but emphasized that proper filling of these pits is necessary. She said that the Project Proponent had already been instructed earlier to fill all such pits with soil and carry out plantation so that the land could be strengthened by the roots.

She mentioned that some people of Bathu village had sold their land for mining, and when the Panchayat came to know, they intervened and got the mining stopped by asking the crusher owners and instructed them to fill the pits with soil. She made it clear that if villagers do not want mining, they should not sell their land, because once land is sold, mining is naturally bound to happen.

She also said that last year's floods had caused damage in the area, but the impact was mainly on Bathri. One of the causes of the floods was the Indian Oil pipeline passing through Bathri. Additionally, the road constructed towards Kailua also aggravated the flood situation. She suggested that if mining is to be carried out upstream, the dam (channelization) constructed in Kailua should be extended so that rainwater flows directly towards the bridge instead of spreading into the villages of Bathu or Bathri.

Referring to the road being constructed towards Kailua, she informed that funds for this work had already been sanctioned, but the work was left incomplete midway. She assured that the work would be resumed soon by laying gravel on the road.

She requested the Project Proponent to construct a boundary wall around the Government land adjacent to the community center and develop it into a playground. She also suggested that the roads used by tractors transporting mining material from Village Gurpalah should be paved.

She highlighted that the crusher units



and factories operating here have provided significant benefits to the area. Many locals are employed in stone crushers. Additionally, due to the presence of factories, demand for rental houses has increased, shops have opened, and local businesses have flourished. She admitted that while there are certain disadvantages, the benefits are also evident.

She reiterated that the Project Proponent must fill all pits formed due to mining with soil and plant trees on them. She emphasized that the soil excavated during mining should not be given to locals, as some people take it for free and then sell it further. Hence, this soil must be used only for filling the pits.

She further clarified that the Project Proponent provides bajri (gravel) to the Panchayat at the rate of ₹1000 per trolley, and villagers also get it at the same rate through slips issued by the Pradhan or Ward Panch. She once again stressed that all proposed khasra numbers are situated in Village Bathri, and not even one is from Bathu.

She informed that the Project Proponent had already leveled the pits in Kailua village by filling them with soil. She again urged that pits must be filled and trees planted over them to prevent any possible damage.

She said that whenever any poor villager asks for help, the Project Proponent never refuses. Even when children seek support for sports tournaments, the Project Proponent provides assistance generously. She added that the Project Proponent actively contributes to every village program, such as wrestling events (dangals), and the extent of their contribution is even greater than that of the factories.

She emphasized that the Project Proponent must ensure that the village does not suffer any damage from mining and that the suggested works, such as the construction of a boundary wall for the playground and the road work in Village Gurpalah, are completed on time. She also demanded



		<p>that solar lights be installed in the village and that the road work in Kailua, which is currently stalled, should be resumed immediately, from the very next day.</p> <p>She reiterated that whenever any poor villager seeks help, the Project Proponent never denies it. The children also receive generous support for their sports tournaments. She once again highlighted that the Project Proponent actively participates in every village program, such as dangals, and their contribution is greater than that of the factories.</p> <p>Finally, she emphasized again that the Project Proponent must ensure no harm comes to the village from mining and that the works suggested, such as the boundary wall for the playground, the road in Gurpalah, the installation of solar lights, and the completion of the Kailua road, must all be carried out in a timely manner.</p>	
13.	Mrs. Rekha, Village Bathu, Tehsil Haroli, District Una (H.P.)	<p>She informed that mining activities in the area have been closed for one year. She said that those opposing the Project Proponent's crushers are not clarifying how many people are employed there, whose families are entirely dependent on the wages earned from these units.</p> <p>She specifically mentioned that the Project Proponent is regularly paying a monthly salary to a widow of the village, whose husband was employed at the said crusher and has since passed away. Similarly, on any program or social requirement organized in the village, financial assistance is also provided by the Project Proponent. This fact can also be verified from the village Pradhan.</p> <p>She further said that the supply of gravel from outside areas costs approximately ₹5000 per trolley, while at the Project Proponent's stone crusher this material is available at only ₹1000 per trolley, and all villagers avail of this facility, with receipts issued by the Panchayat.</p> <p>She also mentioned that during the devastating floods in the Mandi region,</p>	<p>The Consultant of the Project Proponent responded that the suggestions and comments given by you have been noted.</p> <p>The ADC and the Hon'ble Chairman requested the attendees that their views, comments, and objections should remain limited only to the proposed mining lease.</p>



		<p>heavy losses occurred even though no crusher was located there. In the same way, it is unjustified to blame the crusher for the problems of Bathu area. According to her, those opposing want the crushers to be closed, but if that happens, will the opponents pay the wages of the laborers working there?</p> <p>In conclusion, she once again urged that, in relation to the crusher, this fact shall also be noted that the Project Proponent is regularly making monthly payments to the widow woman of the village.</p>	
14.	Mrs. Dimple, Village Bathu, Tehsil Haroli, District Una (H.P.)	<p>She stated that the situation being witnessed here reflects both sides of the matter. On one hand, it is said that the project is providing employment to people, while on the other hand, some people are facing losses. Therefore, both sides are correct in their own place.</p> <p>She said that one person mentioned that the area is being harmed. The Hon'ble ADC also clarified that views should be expressed only with reference to the proposed khasra numbers. However, if the surrounding areas are also being affected, then that too can be discussed. She further stated that although no khasra number from village Kailua is included in this project, effects are still being observed there, which need to be addressed.</p> <p>She said that one person gave an appropriate suggestion that if a lease is granted for 10 years, it should not mean that the entire area will only be refilled after 10 years. Whether the lease is for 10 years or 5 years, the refilling work should be carried out simultaneously so that people do not face difficulties and large numbers of people do not gather to protest.</p> <p>She said that difficulties exist on both sides — employment is being generated, but losses are also occurring. This matter should be seriously considered and a solution found, otherwise the dispute will intensify. She further said that many commitments are made in such projects, but often they are not</p>	



		<p>fulfilled. If commitments are complied with from time to time, situations of conflict will not arise.</p> <p>She stated that there are families present here whose livelihood depends on working at the crusher and they are worried about their future, while some people are worried due to the losses caused. According to her, the demands of both groups should be resolved.</p> <p>She said that whether the crusher continues or not, no one should suffer losses. The villagers' animals graze in the area, and they are not aware of whose land it is. She also mentioned that accidents have occurred in this area and animals have died, so a concrete solution to this problem must be found.</p> <p>She concluded by saying that if the crusher does not shut down and at the same time an appropriate solution is implemented, then there will be no problem. What is necessary is that the commitments made should also be fulfilled, only then will disputes not arise.</p>	
15.	Mr. Ashwani Kumar, Vice Pradhan, Gram Panchayat Bathu, Tehsil Haroli, District Una (H.P.)	<p>He said that everyone is talking about the Project Proponent not carrying out plantation, whereas the reality is that about 6,000 saplings have been planted by them. The situation cannot be clarified merely by discussions; it will only become clear when the site is inspected to see where trees have been planted and where they have not.</p> <p>He further stated that the water in the Khad is flowing at the same place where it used to flow earlier. For the past forty years, water has been flowing there, and the Project Proponent has not created pits at that location — the khad already existed there. Naturally, if water comes from upstream, its level will go downwards.</p> <p>He explained that the mining project under discussion will be carried out is Hill Slope, and when the slope is cut, its level will naturally come down. It is not that the level will go down below that of the village. The cutting will be done in a phased manner, and thus the level of the hill will become even.</p>	



		<p>He clarified that immediate plantation in this process is not possible. First, the area will be leveled, and only then trees will be planted. Planting trees directly on the upper portion of the hill is not possible because mining work has to be carried out there first. Therefore, it is not the case that plantation will be done after 2 years of mining and then mining will resume after plantation. Instead, plantation can only be undertaken after completion of the mining activity and leveling of the area, which will take about 5 to 7 years.</p> <p>He also mentioned that plantation has already been done by the Project Proponent, and in addition, they are also assisting the villagers in other ways. They provide sports equipment to the children of the village and extend support in meeting various requirements of the village.</p>	
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During the course of the public hearing and the program, the following written communications were received:

1. Letter received from Mr. Suresh Sharma, President, Mark Zone Industries Association, Haroli, in which a request has been made for a stringent technical evaluation by experts and the competent authority, as well as for preventive measures to ensure the safety of the industrial area, since more than 100 industries are located in the vicinity of the proposed mining leases.

As per the opinion of the local public, present in the Env. Public Hearing Programme, maximum people are in favour of the proposed mining project.

During the program, groups of attendees became engaged in arguments among themselves. The Administrative Officers repeatedly urged them not to indulge in such arguments and clarified that if anyone had an objection or suggestion, they should present it in an orderly manner by addressing the Chairperson of the public hearing. However, despite these repeated appeals, the participants continued to argue among themselves. Consequently, in view of the situation, the undersigned announced the conclusion of the public hearing program and reiterated that if any person wished to submit an objection or suggestion, the same could also be submitted in writing.

**Mahendra Pal Gurjar**  
**Additional Deputy Commissioner**  
**Una, Distt. Una (HP)**