

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED FERRO ALLOY PLANT BY INSTALLATION OF 3x9 MVA SUBMERGED ARC FURNACE FOR PRODUCTION OF 55440 TPA OF FERRO-MANGANESE AND / OR 39600 TPA OF SILICO-MANGANESE AND / OR 19800 TPA OF FERRO-SILICON AT PLOT NO. 2666 (PART), JL NO. 24, PLASTO STEEL PARK (PHASE-II), MOUZA – GHUTGORIA, PS – BARJORA, DIST – BANKURA, WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S. AMIT FERRO-ALLOYS & STEELS PVT. LTD. HELD ON 15.02.2011 AT 11:30 A.M. AT THE SITE OF THE PROPOSED PLANT AT MOUZA – GHUTGORIA, PS – BARJORA, DIST– BANKURA, WEST BENGAL.

M/s. Amit Ferro-Alloys & Steels Pvt. Ltd. submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed Ferro Alloy Plant by installation of 3x9 MVA Submerged Arc Furnace for production of 55440 TPA of Ferro-Manganese and / or 39600 TPA of Silico-Manganese and / or 19800 TPA of Ferro-Silicon at Plot No. 2666 (part), JL no. 24, Plasto Steel Park (Phase-II), Mouza – Ghutgoria, PS – Barjora, Dist – Bankura, West Bengal. As per the EIA Notification S.O. 1533 dated 14th September 2006 of the MoEF, Govt. of India, and Environmental Clearance of the said project is required to be obtained after conducting Public Hearing.

Accordingly, West Bengal Pollution Control Board conducted the Public Hearing on 15.02.2011 at 11:30 hrs. in the site of the proposed plant at Mouza – Ghutgoria, PS – Barjora, Dist – Bankura, West Bengal, after observing all formalities. Panel members were present in the hearing. A considerable gathering was also present in the hearing. List of the panel members and the others present in the public hearing are enclosed.

The hearing started with a welcome note from Dr. Dipanjana Maulik, Environmental Engineer, WBPCB. She briefly explained the EIA notification and requested Sri Amit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate, Zilla Parishad (ZP), Bankura to preside over the hearing. Sri Amit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate (ZP), Bankura, welcomed the audience & presided over the hearing. He has explained that this public hearing has been arranged to understand the possible impact of the proposed unit and also the proposal to mitigate the same. He requested the project proponent to deliver their presentation and requested the audience to raise their queries and express their views and opinion about the proposal after the presentation.

The technical representative of the project proponent welcomed the audience on behalf of the project proponent and explained the activity of the proposed unit through Power Point presentation. The project proponent, during his presentation, covered the topics about the project details, site details, plant layout, raw materials requirement, manufacturing process flow chart, control measures for emission and solid wastes, ambient air quality, stack emission characteristics, EMP, Corporate Social Responsibility, etc.

Sri Amit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate (ZP), Bankura requested the audience to raise their questions and/or opinions, if any.

Sri Jitendranath Karmakar, Vill. Ghutgoria, welcomed the proposed project but expressed concern regarding inadequate plantation and depletion of groundwater in the area. He emphasized that the industrial development in the area should be planned in such a manner to ensure protection of forests in that area and adoption of adequate pollution control measures. He requested the unit to avoid ground water abstraction as the ground water abstraction has already affected the groundwater of this dry area.

Sri Prabir Mondal, Dr. Sarbani Mondal, and Sri Banmali Karmakar, Vill. Ghutgoria, welcomed the proposed project but expressed concern regarding inadequate infrastructural development e.g. roads, drainage, electrification, education etc. and depletion of groundwater in the area. They also requested for conservation of water and to stop

groundwater abstraction. Sri Karmakar also suggested that the upcoming industries should take sincere efforts to preserve the waterbodies and forestry in the area. Infact, the industry should take proactive measures to protect and create waterbodies and greenery in the locality, as the local community is concerned about the depleting groundwater resources in the area.

Sri Manoj Mukherjee, Teacher, Ghutgoria High School, stated they want industrialization. The people of Barjora have already co-operated with WBIDC and now in return, industrial development in the area should properly address the concerns of the local people regarding adequate community development in the area especially roads, water supply and power supply through proper implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility plan. He also requested the proponent to ensure employment of local people.

Shri Bipattaran Mandal, Ghutgoria categorically wanted to know the source of water for this plant. He also expressed concern regarding absence of proper sanitation facilities for the industrial workers, labours engaged in construction of new plants and the consequent environmental degradation and nuisance in the area.

Sri Asit Mondal and Sri Bablu Ghosh, Vill. Ghutgoria, expressed serious concerns regarding depletion of greenery and ground water resources in the area. Sri Asit Mondal strongly recommended that industrial development should not take place without ensuring adequate pollution control measures and alternative water source.

Sri Arup De, Vill. Ghutgoria, stated that although he fully agree with issues and concerns raised by the previous speakers, but he also liked to add that industrial development in the area has created employment opportunities for the local community, which has contributed in the overall development of the area at large. He congratulated the administration for taking regulatory action against the errant units. He requested the project proponent to ensure that their commitments regarding pollution control measures and developmental activities in the locality should be implemented properly. He strongly recommended for maximal local employment generation, proper wage for workers as per norms, protection of occupational health and safety of workers. He also demanded for sufficient water supply in the area, proper sanitation facilities and health services for the workers.

Sri Jadunath Roy, Sabhapati, Barjora Panchayat Samity, welcomed the proposed project and requested the project proponent to ensure continuous and efficient operation of air pollution control device during process activities and implementation of CSR. He reiterated that consistent environmental monitoring must be ensured. He also expressed concern regarding water crisis in the area and emphasized the need for adequate infrastructural development for setting up of industries. He expected that the existing piped water supply facility which was initially envisaged for lesser number of units, can be extended to all the industries in the area with proper augmentation of the existing capacity. He suggested that the infrastructural and community development planning like construction of roads etc. should be implemented with combined efforts of the industry, local administration and WBIDC. He further mentioned that pollution cost realized from the local industries would be utilized in the development of the concerned area especially for providing health services including ambulance.

Shri Barun Mondal, Ghutgoria, complained that this public hearing schedule was not well publicized and as per his personal views are concerned, he wanted to inform all concerned that no new unit should be permitted to Barjora, anymore as the area is already suffering due to emission problem and water scarcity.

The Additional District Magistrate (ZP) summarized and classified the issues raised by the people into two parts : pollution problem and infrastructure requirements. He requested the project proponent to comment on this issues.

The project proponent appreciated the issues raised during hearing mentioned above and assured that they would take all possible measures for maintaining the Environmental Norms. The unit representative stated that they would approach other plants for construction of road in a collaborative manner. They also informed that they are in the process to obtain surface water supply as a preferred choice. They assured that adequate sanitation facility shall be arranged for their plant. They have also assured that they would address all the issues mentioned above and incorporate the same while finalizing the EIA and EMP.

Dr. D. Maulik, Environmental Engineer, WBPCB, stated that, while finalizing the EIA and EMP, the PP should incorporate the outcomes of the opinions of the attendants of this public hearing. She further reiterated that–

- ❑ The emission standards for PM emission from process should be 50 mg/Nm³. The PM emission levels should be kept below 50 mg/Nm³ from the emission sources connected with APC devices.
- ❑ A dedicated system consisting of adequate suction system and the bag-filter should be provided at the SEAF to arrest the tap hole emission. A water cooled cover around the furnace and fume collector hood should be provided.

It has been clarified by the unit in response to her query that the unit would use piped water supply facility as soon as it is made available in the area by the concerned authority. As the unit has already obtained permission for groundwater abstraction till such time they have proposed to use groundwater.

The Additional District Magistrate (ZP) concluded that the major concern echoed in this public hearing is for the depleting ground water. He has mentioned that although, some proposals have been initiated to arrange surface water supply at Barjora, but in addition, the unit should come forward for rainwater harvesting to improve the groundwater condition of that area. He thus, emphasized the importance of Rainwater Harvesting storage ponds, creation of adequate Greenbelt. He mentioned that the entrepreneurs should comply with environmental standard through continuous operations of pollution control system and should keep provision of proper sanitation facilities within the industry premises. Wastewater should be treated before discharging it to outside. He opined that if wastewater treatment and management is not there in the project, then the unit should include it. The unit should engage local employment and proper sanitation should be ensured for its employees. The Additional District Magistrate also informed that a committee has been constituted for looking after developments of the industrial infrastructure and other related issues in the area under the chairmanship of SDO Bankura (Sadar). But he expressed serious concern about the proposed usage of underground water by the PP which is likely to cause drinking water crisis hence he suggested that the industry should find alternative source of water for industrial use instead of using underground water.

Sri Amit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate (ZP), Bankura, congratulated the audience for their active participation in the public hearing process and emphasized the need for continuous monitoring of environment management. He also welcomed industrial development in the area but requested the industries to ensure proper implementation of CSR commitments and compliance of environmental norms.

In general, the public present in the hearing welcomed the project provided the PP incorporates all the pollution control measures including the issue of underground water usage. Finally, Sri Amit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate (ZP), Bankura concluded the session with vote of thanks.

Sd/-
Sri Amit Dutta,
Additional District Magistrate (ZP), Bankura
Government of West Bengal

Sd/-
Dr. Dipanjana Maulik,
Environmental Engineer
West Bengal Pollution Control Board