

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED FERRO ALLOY PLANT FOR PRODUCTION OF 17720 TPA FERRO MANGANESE, 12116 TPA SILICO MANGANESE & 6000 TPA FERRO SILICON BY INSTALLING 2X9 MVA SUBMERGED ARC FURNACES AT MOUZA: MUKUNDPUR, VILLAGE & PO: RANIPUR, PS: MEJIA, DIST: BANKURA, WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S ANKUR URZA LIMITED HELD ON 10.03.2010 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE OPEN GROUND ON THE BANK OF JOREBRIDGE OVER NH-60 NEAR GOSWAMIGRAM UNDER RAMCHANDRAPUR GRAM PANCHAYAT, PO: SRIPAT-PURNIA, PS: MEJIA, DIST: BANKURA, WEST BENGAL.**

M/s Ankur Urza Limited submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed ferro alloy plant for production of 17720 TPA ferro manganese, 12116 TPA silico manganese & 6000 TPA ferro silicon by installing 2x9 MVA submerged arc furnaces at Mouza: Mukundpur, village & PO: Ranipur, PS: Mejia, Dist: Bankura, West Bengal. As per the EIA notification S.O. 1533(E) dated 14th September 2006 of the MoEF, Govt. of India, Environmental Clearance of the said project is required to be obtained after conducting Public Hearing.

Accordingly, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, in due consultation with district administration and after observing all formalities, organized the Public Hearing on 10.03.2010 at 12:00 noon in the open ground on the bank of Jorebridge over NH-60 near Goswamigram under Ramchandrapur Gram Panchayat, PO: Sripat-Purnia, PS: Mejia, Dist: Bankura, West Bengal,. 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 Sri S. Narayan, Senior Environmental Engineer, WBPCB. He explained about the EIA notification. He requested Sri Sukumar Das, Additional District Magistrate (G) Bankura, to preside over the hearing. Sri Sukumar Das, Additional District Magistrate (G) Bankura, welcomed the audience & presided over the hearing. He explained the reasons for selection of venue for public hearing at open Ground on the Bank of Jorebridge before the audience. Then the project proponent was requested to deliver their presentation and requested the audience to raise their queries after the presentation is over.

The industry representative welcomed the audience on behalf of the project proponent and introduced their technical representative of the project proponent. The technical representative explained the activity of the proposed unit through PowerPoint presentation. The project proponent, during his presentation, covered the topics about the project details, land & site details, process flow chart, plant layout, control measures for emission and solid wastes, ambient air quality, stack emission characteristics, occupational health services, corporate social responsibility, etc. He specifically mentioned that the capture efficiency of suction system shall be adequate. The industry shall take part in road development and maintenance work and explained their CSR system.

Sri Sukumar Das, Additional District Magistrate (G), Bankura requested the project proponent to explain about the scope of employment generation through their project proposal.

The project proponent mentioned that direct and indirect employment will be generated from the project. Although the skilled manpower is required for plant operation, local youths shall be absorbed in ancillary jobs. Skilled personnel, if available in the neighborhood, shall be considered with due priority.

Sri Sukumar Das, Additional District Magistrate (G), Bankura then requested the audience to raise their questions and/or opinions, if any.

Shri Shyamol Bhattacharjee, Goswamibagan requested to specify about the roles and responsibilities of the agencies involved for control of pollution.

Shree Uttam Kumar Bhuni, Ranipur, Shri Probodh Dey, Shri Pradip Banerjee, Ranipur mentioned that the project is welcome if this unit helps in local development and employment generation. However they expressed their apprehension that some units do not fulfill their commitments on the pollution control and opined that they would have no objection against the project if it complies with environmental norms.

Sri Jayattam Bhattacharjee, Goswamibagan stated that the dry area is facing a serious problem due to scarcity of water and increasing ground water abstraction by the industries.

Shri Gunamoy Mondal, Ranipur wanted to know about the newspaper where the notice has been published and expected environmental impact due to the project. He expressed his dissatisfaction about the insufficient publicity about the proposed hearing. He informed about the present status of existing ponds in the premises.

Shree Gopal Chandra Acharya of Ikra, Bankura enquired about provisions of law for water abstraction, scope of availing fresh water supply, using sprinklers to avoid fugitive emission during road transport. He requested to ensure bagfilter operation and greenbelt plantation for this project. He conveyed his best wishes for the project.

Sri S. Narayan, Senior Environmental Engineer, WBPCB clarified that primary responsibility of operating and maintaining the pollution control devices lies with the industry itself. Surveillance of environmental compliance is mandated duty of the WBPCB. He requested the local residents to come forward and take part in efforts for control of pollution. In case of noncompliance, the unit may be requested for necessary action followed by informing the same to local administration and the West Bengal Pollution Control Board.

Sri Sukumar Das, Additional District Magistrate (G), Bankura requested the project proponent to fulfill their commitments towards environment and requested to explore the scope of reuse of water and constitution of committee to monitor the performance of industry.

Dr. D.Maulik, Environmental Engineer, WBPCB advised for the installation of efficient air pollution control system, adequate suction system for controlling the tap-hole emission of arc furnaces to maintain the particulate emission level below 50mg/Nm<sup>3</sup>. She mentioned that ground water recharge is not permissible by the industries in the state of West Bengal. However the ponds can be used for rain water harvesting. She also insisted on the fact that, while finalizing the EIA and EMP, the project proponent should incorporate the outcomes of the opinions of the attendants of this public hearing as well as the following points noted earlier:

- The satellite imagery should be of good quality, as per the standard practice.
- Emission information from other units within 10 km from the project site should be included.
- Results of air quality prediction modeling should be included in EIA-EMP report considering the emissions from all the existing & proposed units within the study area.
- Impact of transportation of raw materials & fuels should be assessed.
- Measures for controlling the fugitive emission should be specified.
- Permission for the withdrawal of 15KLD groundwater should be obtained.
- Geo-hydrological status of the study area should be included.
- A clear plant layout map with the proper area breakup for green belt, rainwater harvesting area, plant & machineries area, raw material storage, etc.
- Disposal details of ferro-manganese slag & ferro silicon slag should be covered.
- Risk assessment & occupational health of the workers should be properly covered.
- Green belt should be at least 33% of the total project area.

Shri Swapan Pal, Paler Bandh reminded about close proximity of their village and stated that they want to join the monitoring committee.

Sri Sukumar Das, Additional District Magistrate (G), Bankura advised the project proponent to take local administration in consultation during formation of monitoring committee. He appreciated the proposal presented by M/s Ankur Urza Limited during the public hearing and expressed his hope that the project would be implemented as per the commitment made by the proponent and would be maintained in such a manner that the unit would comply with the environmental norms.

Mr.Dhiraj Thard, on behalf of unit assured that they would comply with particulate emission level below 50mg/Nm<sup>3</sup>, conserve ponds through rain water harvesting, ensure green belt plantation and local employment generation.

In general, the public present in the hearing welcomed the project provided the project proponent incorporates all the pollution control measures proposed by the Project Proponent. Finally, Sri Sukumar Das, Additional District Magistrate (G), Bankura concluded the session with vote of thanks.

Sd/-  
Sri S. Narayan,  
Senior Environmental Engineer  
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Sd/-  
Sri Sukumar Das,  
Additional District Magistrate (G), Bankura  
Government of West Bengal