

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED 10 MW BIOMASS THERMAL POWER PLANT AT VILLAGE SHYAMPUR, GANGARAMPUR TALUK, DIST: DAKSHIN DINAJPUR, WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S ASTONFIELD RENEWABLE RESOURCES PVT. LTD. HELD ON 16.09.2009 AT 11:00 HRS AT "BANANI APARTMENT DEBKOTE BHAVAN" UNDER GANGARAMPUR MUNICIPALITY, DAKSHIN DINAJPUR, WEST BENGAL

M/s Astonfield Renewable Resources Pvt. Ltd. submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed 10 MW Biomass Thermal Power Plant at village Shyampur, Gangarampur Taluk, Dist: Dakshin Dinajpur, West Bengal. As per the EIA notification S.O. 1533 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 conducted the Public Hearing held on 16.09.2009 at 11:00 hrs at "Banani Apartment Debkote Bhavan" under Gangarampur Municipality, Dakshin Dinajpur, 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 Sri D. Sarkar, Senior Environmental Engineer, WBPCB. He explained about the EIA notification. He requested Sri Ashok Banerjee, District Magistrate, Dakshin Dinajpur to preside over the hearing. Sri Ashok Banerjee, District Magistrate, Dakshin Dinajpur presided over the hearing and requested the project proponent to deliver their presentation and requested the audience to raise their queries after the presentation is over.

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 PowerPoint presentation. The project proponent, during his presentation, covered the topics about the project details, site details, fuel details, use of 1587.6 KLD groundwater, solid waste management, air & noise pollution sources, transport management, corporate social responsibility, green belt development, rain water harvesting, investment of Rs. 300 lacs on environmental management, etc.

Sri Ashok Banerjee, District Magistrate, Dakshin Dinajpur requested the audience to raise their questions and/or opinions, if any.

Md. Jobed Ali Sarkar of village Chakrapanipur submitted the local problem regarding the scarcity of drinking water and wanted to know whether the project has any adverse effect on agriculture or not.

Md. Saiful Hossain of village Chakrapanipur wanted to know about the proposed abatement system for controlling fly ash to be generated from the activity and requested for local employment as much as possible in the proposed project.

Sri Birendranath Saha of village Shibbari welcomed the proposed project and requested that the project proponent should distribute the details about the project and the commitments made during public hearing through booklets in the local area. He also requested that the project proponent should inform about the possibility of generation of any bad odour from the proposed project.

Sri Babul Rahman of village Shyampur requested the project proponent to highlight the advantages & disadvantages of the proposed project.

Sri Tapas Majumder of village Gangarampur wanted to know whether the project proponent has any scheme of providing the industrial training for local unemployed youth to consider employment in the project.

Sri D. Sarkar, Senior Environmental Engineer, WBPCB advised for the installation of efficient air pollution control system for controlling the emissions from the proposed power plant. He 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—

- 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, as per ToR condition no 15.
- 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, as per ToR condition no 16.
- Impact of transportation of raw materials & fuels should be assessed.
- Measures for controlling the fugitive emission should be specified.
- All the APC devices specifications should be mentioned clearly.
- Percentages of the components in proximate & ultimate analysis for each type of fuel combination should be corrected & specified clearly.
- The land usage details within the project site should be clearly mentioned.
- The distances of the Madrasa & the health centre from the project site should be specified.
- The health status report of the local people should be based on real statistical information.
- Special precautions to be taken for storage & disposal of fly ash, typical from biomass fuel based boiler, should be explained.
- MoU for the proper disposal of the fly ash should be included in EIA-EMP report.
- Value of SO₂ as given in draft EIA report appears to be very high in comparison to most of the area of West Bengal. Fresh monitoring should be carried out through recognized laboratory to review the parameter once again other than monsoon season.

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. They have also assured that they would address all the issues mentioned above and incorporate the same while finalizing the EIA and EMP.

Sri Ashok Banerjee, District Magistrate, Dakshin Dinajpur appreciated the proposal taken by M/s Astonfield Renewable Resources Pvt. Ltd. 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. He mentioned that SWID has already made a survey in the area and proposal for drawl of groundwater by the project proponent will be considered maintaining the norms of concerned government department. He welcomed the proposed project mentioning that the project will be beneficial to the local people as well as for the state.

In general, the public present in the hearing welcomed the project provided the project proponent incorporates all the pollution control measures proposed. Finally, Sri Ashok Banerjee, District Magistrate, Dakshin Dinajpur concluded the session with vote of thanks.

Sd/-
Sri D. Sarkar,
Senior Environmental Engineer,
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Sd/-
Sri Ashok Banerjee,
District Magistrate, Dakshin Dinajpur
Government of West Bengal