

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF STEEL PLANT (CONSISTING OF MINI BLAST FURNACE – 1X350 M³, SINTER PLANT – 1X36 M², STEEL MELTING SHOP – ELECTRIC ARC FURNACE OF CAPACITY 1X70 T WITH LADLE FURNACE 1X70 T, BILLET CASTER – 1X4 STRAND AND CCM, FERRO ALLOYS PLANT – 2X9 MVA, ROLLING MILL – 0.45 MTPA, INDUCTION FURNACE – 2X10 T WITH BILLET CASTER, CAPTIVE POWER PLANT OF CAPACITY 10 MW: 7 MW FROM BF GAS & 3 MW FROM AFBC) AT TULSIBERIA ROAD, VILL – KULGACHIA, PS – ULUBERIA, MOUZA – SREERAMPUR, DIST – HOWRAH, WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S. SHRI BADRINARAIN ALLOYS & STEELS LIMITED HELD ON 24.11.2011 AT 11:30 A.M. AT THE TULSHIBERIA GRAM PANCHAYAT MEETING HALL, DIST – HOWRAH, WEST BENGAL.

M/s. Shri Badrinarain Alloys & Steels Limited submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed expansion of Steel Plant (consisting of Mini Blast Furnace – 1x350 m³, Sinter Plant – 1x36 m², Steel Melting Shop – Electric Arc Furnace of capacity 1x70 T with Ladle Furnace 1x70 T, Billet Caster – 1x4 Strand and CCM, Ferro Alloys Plant – 2x9 MVA, Rolling Mill – 0.45 MTPA, Induction Furnace – 2x10 T with Billet Caster, Captive Power Plant of capacity 10 MW : 7 MW from BF gas & 3 MW from AFBC) at Tulsiberia Road, Vill – Kulgachia, PS – Uluberia, Mouza – Sreerampur, Dist – Howrah, West Bengal. As per the EIA Notification S.O. 1533 (E) 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 (WBPCB) conducted the Public Hearing on 24.11.2011 at 11:30 hrs. an the Tulshiberia Gram Panchayat Meeting Hall, Dist – Howrah, 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.

Dr. T. K. Gupta, Chief Engineer (Planning), WBPCB welcomed all present in the hearing. He informed the audience about the modalities of public hearing and provision of public hearing procedure laid down in EIA Notification by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Government of India, from time to time. He requested Shri Jyotishman Chattopadhyay, Additional District Magistrate (Dev.), Dist – Howrah to preside over the public hearing.

Shri Jyotishman Chattopadhyay, Additional District Magistrate (Dev.), Dist – Howrah informed the audience that after necessary paper notification, additional publicity arrangement was also done for this proposed public hearing through miking in surrounding locality and distribution of leaflets. The unit has proposed expansion of their existing factory. The expansion would likely to increase the waste generation which would eventually affect the environment. He stated that in this public hearing the members present would like to understand the extent of environmental impacts due to this public hearing. The unit has mentioned that the incremental impact due to this proposed expansion would be insignificant in terms of emission and solid waste generation. However the members present in the public hearing would also try to understand the measures which are being

proposed to minimise the environmental impacts in the surrounding area. He, then requested the project proponent to deliver their powerpoint presentation.

Mr. Avinash Chandra Gupta, Managing Director of M/s. Shri Badrinarain Alloys & Steel Limited stated that the unit is operating in this particular area since 1996 and the expansion has been proposed which would be presented before the audience for their comments and the view.

Shri S. Sanyal, representative of M/s. Shri Badrinarain Alloys & Steel Limited deliberated their presentation on the proposed expansion proposal for expansion of Steel Plant (consisting of Mini Blast Furnace – 1x350 m³, Sinter Plant – 1x36 m², Steel Melting Shop – Electric Arc Furnace of capacity 1x70 T with Ladle Furnace 1x70 T, Billet Caster – 1x4 Strand and CCM, Ferro Alloys Plant – 2x9 MVA, Rolling Mill – 0.45 MTPA, Induction Furnace – 2x10 T with Billet Caster, Captive Power Plant of capacity 10 MW: 7 MW from BF gas & 3 MW from AFBC) at Tulsiberia Road, Vill – Kulgachia, PS – Uluberia, Mouza – Sreerampur, Dist – Howrah, West Bengal. He informed that they have adequate land area in their possession for carrying out this expansion and no additional land acquisition is necessary for this proposed expansion. He described the proposed effluent treatment plant and emission control systems in brief. On query by Dr. T. K. Gupta, Chief Engineer (Planning), WBPCB, the unit representative clarified that the 3 MW AFBC boiler shall be one coal based boiler only. This additional 3 MW generated by AFBC boiler would meet their inhouse energy demand. He also clarified that during prediction of air quality after expansion, the emission from 3 MW coal fired boiler has been considered with other existing and proposed emission sources.

The Chief Engineer (Planning) recommended that the issues raised by the State Board in letter dated 30.08.2011 should be complied in final EIA. Observing the baseline air quality scenario, Dr. Gupta, Chief Engineer (Planning) pointed out that the RPM level is already very high within the factory premises and they should address the situation immediately.

The unit representative explained that the frequent transport movement in the National Highway may also have contributed to the background RPM level. However, the unit assured that they would take appropriate steps to bring down the RPM concentration. The unit confirmed that no groundwater will be abstracted for their proposed industrial expansion. They have already submitted application to the Irrigation & Waterways Department for permission for use of surface water.

The Chief Engineer (Planning), also reminded the project proponent that apart from maintaining the three tire peripheral greenbelt, the project proponent should design the plant in such a manner that the inherently noise polluting activities should be located away from the plant boundary to avoid the disturbances in the surrounding habitat. The unit agreed to this proposal.

The Additional District Magistrate (Dev.), Dist – Howrah and the Chief Engineer (Planning), WBPCB insisted the project proponent to declare the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) with time bound financial commitment.

The Chief Engineer (Planning) informed the audience that at present MoEF, Government of India is imposing condition for use of 5% (five percent) of total investment as CSR @ 1% (one percent) investment per annum for 5 (five) years.

The Additional District Magistrate (Dev.), Howrah wanted to know that-

- a) what would be the percentage of local recruits in the proposed expansion;
- b) what would be the objective of the proposed skill development programme;
- c) what would be the details of the health facility programme.

The project proponent during discussion with Additional District Magistrate (Dev.), Dist – Howrah, stated that local unemployed youths would be provided job opportunities in the unskilled sector.

As regards the CSR commitment is concerned, Mr. Avinash Chandra Gupta, Managing Director of M/s. Shri Badrinarain Alloys & Steel Limited on behalf of the company agree to the CSR commitment and mentioned that earlier also they have contributed to the Tulsiberia Gram Panchayat building improvement work.

The Additional District Magistrate (Dev.), Dist – Howrah, have requested the audience to raise their views and opinion about the project.

Shri Madan Mondal, Pradhan, Tulsiberia Gram Panchayat mentioned that the factory is running in this area for couple of years. The incremental environmental impact due to the proposed expansion should be minimised with adequate pollution control devices. The adequacy of the proposed pollution control device should be assessed by the experts. However, from the real life experiences in different situation, the villagers know that the emission and wastewater discharge usually affect the paddy fields. The project proponent should take necessary steps to ensure zero industrial discharges. They avoid any emission deposition on the surrounding paddy fields as the industrialization is taking place in a very fertile part of the state where earlier the agriculture was considered to be the principle livelihood option. The farmers-turned-land-loosers should be provided adequate job opportunities atleast in the unskilled sections to solve the looming livelihood crisis. This particular factory has already contributed in development of Gram Panchayat building but additional support is sought for school building development, road construction, water supply and setting up of cultural centres. The suitable salary structure should be proposed for different types of labour working under the contractor and the Panchayat.

Mr. Avinash Chandra Gupta, Managing Director of M/s. Shri Badrinarain Alloys & Steel Limited agreed that they would provide training to the interested groups. However, as the operators would have to work in a ambient condition with high temperature inside the steel factory, the people should have prior understanding to adopt to this situation. He stated that they would not discharge the wastewater and would practice 100% recycling. They would keep a provision of 33% greenbelt plantation. Modern ESP and other appropriate emission control system would be installed and would be operated inside the plant. The CSR shall be extended as discussed in the public hearing.

The Chief Engineer (Planning), also proposed that a committee should be constituted to continue the local level monitoring which would complement the surveillance programme of West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB). The committee would consist of representatives of the neighbourhood residents, industrial representatives and the administrative officers and would monitor the progress of greenbelt plantation and CSR activities. In case of any pollution problem in the surrounding area, the Panchayat Pradhan may report the case through the BDO to the State Pollution Control Board. The regional officers of Pollution Control Board shall also take part in such endeavour.

The Additional District Magistrate (Dev.), Dist – Howrah stated that the Pradhan, Tulsiberia Gram Panchayat may also submit the report to him which would be duly forwarded to the WBPCB for necessary action. The Pradhan ensured that a list of all the industries which are operating in that area, shall be provided to the concerned authorities. The Additional District Magistrate (Dev.), Howrah concluded that the responsibility of the project proponent to the queries made / issues raised in the public hearing was apparently satisfactory. However, the progress of the work should be regularly monitored and in case the development is done in environmentally complaint manner and the CSR commitments are fulfilled then the proposed expansion is welcome. Finally, Shri Jyotishman Chattopadhyay, Additional District Magistrate (Dev.), Dist – Howrah concluded the session with vote of thanks.

Sd/-

Dr. Tapas Kr. Gupta
Chief Engineer
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Sd/-

Shri Jyotishman Chattopadhyay,
Additional District Magistrate (Dev.), Howrah
Government of West Bengal