

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED INCREASE OF THE PRODUCTION LEVEL OF BANSRA U.G. COLLIERY, EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED WITHOUT INCREASING THE LEASE AREA AT P.O.-BANSRA, P.S.-RANIGANJ, DIST.-BURDWAN, W.B. HELD ON 20.07.2007 AT RANIGANJ PANCHAYAT SAMITY OFFICE, DIST.- BURDWAN, W.B.

M/s. Eastern Coalfields Limited submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed increase of the production level from 700 TPD to 1150 TPD of Bansra U.G. Colliery at P.O.-Bansra, P.S.-Raniganj, Dist.-Burdwan, W.B. As per the EIA notification S.O. 1533 dated 14th September, 2006 of the MoEF, Govt. of India, Environment Clearance of the said project is required to be obtained from the MoEF, Govt. of India after conducting public hearing.

Accordingly, WBPCB after observing all formalities, held a public hearing on 20th July, 2007 at 10.30 Hrs. at Raniganj Panchayat Samity Office. Panel members were present in the hearing. A large 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 Ms. S. Mahapatra, IAS, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol, Dist.-Burdwan who presided over the hearing. Dr. T. K. Gupta, Senior Environmental Engineer and Incharge-Consent Cell, WBPCB explained about the provisions of the above stated MoEF notification. ADM then requested the Project Proponent to explain the details about the proposed expansion proposal of underground coal mining project for the benefit of the panel members and other public present in the hearing.

Project Proponent then explained about the project by PowerPoint presentation, the likely environmental impacts arising out of the same as well as the proposed pollution abatement measures to be taken by them.

During the discussion the panel members and the others present in the public hearing made queries / suggestions with respect to the proposed project which are noted below:

Sri Haradhan Jha, M.L.A., Raniganj has welcomed the expansion proposal of Bansra Colliery, an unit of E.C.L. However, he has requested the project proponent to look in to the following issues.

- Proper stowing need to be carried out to avoid of local subsidence.
- Health aspect of the Employees of the Collieries and surrounding areas.
- Provision of adequate potable water supply in the local community.
- Adequate ventilation need to be arranged in the underground mines.
- Provision of community education and Health Camp.

Mrs. Saraju Banerjee, Savapati, Raniganj Panchayat Samity, has appreciated the expansion programme of Bansra Colliery. But she has mentioned that E.C.L. authorities should follow and act according to their commitment for better environmental situation particularly about land subsidence in the colliery area. She has categorically mentioned that the Bansra Colliery, an unit of E.C.L. should have well defied plan for sand stowing.

Sri Sajal Mondal, Karmadhyaksha (Health), Burdwan Zilla Parishad, welcomed the proposal for expansion with all the commitments made by the E.C.L. authorities.

Sri Omprakash, Sri Uday Ganguly and Sri Shyamapada Mondal of local areas welcomed such expansion proposal. They have requested that the Bansra Colliery should take all kind of measures for better environment including local area development.

Sri Sunil Mondal, Member of CITU, welcomed such proposal. However he has requested that the project authorities should undertake the afforestation programme, reclamation of the abandoned areas, treatment of waste water and to supply to the adjacent agricultural areas.

Sri U. B. Singh, Member of AITUC, also welcomed such proposal. He has also mentioned the potential of Bansra Coal Mines for additional production by adopting all kind of environmental measures.

On behalf of the project proponent Sri N. K. Tewari, Additional General Manager, Kunustoria Area has appreciated the concern expressed by the different participants and welcomed the suggestions. He informed that the issues raised by the various participants will be addressed adequately before finalizing the environmental management plan.

Additional District Magistrate, Asansol emphasized that all possible measures should be ensured by the project proponent towards the mitigation of all environmental hazards and various points raised by the public present in the Hearing. In general the public present in the Hearing welcomed the project, incorporating the issues mentioned above by the Project Proponent.

Sd/-
Dr. T. K. Gupta
Sr. Environmental Engineer &
Incharge – Consent Cell, WBPCB

Sd/-
Ms. S. Mahapatra, IAS
Additional District Magistrate
Asansol