

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED BIHARINATH UNDERGROUND COALMINE PROJECT OF CAPACITY 0.45 MMTPA OVER 1050 HA ML AREA NEAR THE SOUTHERN BANK OF RIVER DAMODAR AT THE BIHARINATH COAL BLOCK, ANANDPUR SECTOR, PS : SALTORA, DIST : BANKURA, WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S BANKURA DRI MINING MANUFACTURERS CO. PVT. LTD. HELD ON 13.01.2010 AT 12:00 HRS IN THE SALTORA BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, PS: SALTORA, DIST: BANKURA, WEST BENGAL.

M/s. Bankura DRI Mining Manufacturers Co. Pvt. Ltd. submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed Biharinath Underground Coalmine project of capacity 0.45 MMTPA over 1050 Ha ML area near the southern bank of river Damodar at the Biharinath Coal Block, Anandpur Sector, PS : Saltora, Dist : Bankura, 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 on **13.01.2010 at 12:00 hrs** in the Saltora Block Development Office, PS: Saltora, Dist: Bankura, West Bengal, after observing all the formalities. The 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.

Previously, the date of the public hearing was scheduled on 03.09.2009 maintaining all the formalities. The second date was scheduled on 04.12.2009 maintaining all the formalities, but was not conducted & was declared adjourned for the time being by the district administration due to the public demand for conducting the public hearing on a later date considering the crop harvesting season for the local people.

Subsequently the date, time & venue of the public hearing were notified in two local dailies with the recommendation of the district authority. The newspaper notifications have been published in "The Statesman" and "Ananda Bazar Patrika" on **12.12.2009**.

The hearing started with a welcome note from Dr. T. K. Gupta, Chief 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. Then Dr. T. K. Gupta, Chief Engineer, WBPCB 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 technical representative of the project proponent, during his presentation, covered the topics regarding the project details, topography, air & water qualities, baseline study, socio-economic conditions, air pollution control measures, land utilization & green belt development, environmental monitoring, investment on pollution control & corporate social responsibility, etc.

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

Sri Bankshi Dhar Chakraborty, representative of the local community welcomed the project and expected proper pollution control measures would be taken by the unit. He has expected local improvement like road development, local employment, medical, educational, drinking water facility, etc. He also mentioned that the local employment issue should be properly looked into during its development.

Sri Sushil Ganguly welcomed the project and mentioned about the scarcity of water in the locality. He has also expected local developments such as employment, medical & educational facility, etc. would be implemented in reality.

Sri Swarup Banerjee welcomed the project & advised the project proponent to assist solving local problems.

Dr. T. K. Gupta, Chief Engineer, WBPCB advised for the installation of efficient pollution control measures and 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—

- Local level monitoring committee should be formed to monitor the environmental parameters.
- Rain water harvesting scheme details should be mentioned with specific location in the layout map.
- The blasting during mining operation and the vibration should be controlled in such a manner that no disturbances are created at the nearby habitation. Adequate care should be taken during mining activity into avoid any kind of accidents or environmental disaster.
- Mine ventilation should be properly designed to avoid occupational health problems.
- The road should be paved for movement of vehicles within the project site to control fugitive emission.
- The mine water should be treated and neutralized before further reuse / discharge.
- The drainage should be adequately designed. Garland drains should be provided.
- Adequate green belt should be maintained. All care should be taken to arrest the fugitive emission.
- Adequate care should be taken to avoid any fugitive emission during coal handling and transfer.
- Top soil & OB dump management with standard OB dumping height should be done as per the standard practice.
- For air quality measurement, all relevant parameters should be measured.
- In layout map, OB dump zone, greenbelt, STP, CHP, Stockyard, workshop, mine colony, villages, etc. should be shown clearly.
- Permission from competent authority should be obtained for use of 0.12 MLD water from Damodar River.
- ETP & STP should be constructed and operated properly. Parameters for TDS, DO, TSS & PH should be measured for the treated effluent.
- Treated effluent should be recycled for other local usages.
- Closed conveyor system for transportation of coal is recommended. Measures should be taken for minimizing the fugitive emission during vehicular transport.
- Types & quantities of the explosives and safety measures taken during blasting should be clearly explained.
- Regular care should be taken so that mining operation could not affect the ecology of the adjoining forest lands.
- Mine closure plan with financial allocation & should be explained.
- R&R plan need to be considered as per prevailing government norms.

On behalf of the project proponent, Sri Shuvendu Bhattacharyya, Managing Director of the unit appreciated the issues raised during hearing mentioned above and assured that they would take all possible measures for maintaining the Environmental Norms. He has also assured that they would address all the issues mentioned above and incorporate the same while finalizing the EIA and EMP. He has also assured the local improvement, as expected.

Sri Ashok Sonthalia, Director of the unit assured that they would work as per the commitments along with the help of local people.

Sri Pradip Maji, member of Bamuntore Gram Panchayat welcomed the project & expected concrete roads & medical facilities development.

Sri Ujjal Kumar Mondal, Pradhan, Bamuntore Gram Panchayat welcomed the project & expected concrete roads development & drinking water arrangement for local community.

Smt. Mukul Mukherjee, Sabhapati, Saltora Panchayat Samity welcomed the project & expected local development.

Sri Sukumar Das, Additional District Magistrate (G), Bankura appreciated the proposal taken by M/s. Bankura DRI Mining Manufacturers Co. Pvt. Ltd. during the public hearing and expressed his hope that the proposed 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 opined that the local demands are quite logical and everybody present in the hearing has welcomed the project.

In general, the public present in the hearing welcomed the proposed project provided the PP 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/-
Dr. T. K. Gupta
Chief Engineer
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

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