

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE CAPACITY OF THE BELBAID UG MINE FROM 0.12 MTPA OF COAL TO 0.48 MTPA OF COAL AT KUNUSTORIA AREA, DIST: BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S EASTERN COALFIELDS LTD HELD ON 06.08.2009 AT 10:30 HRS IN THE MEETING HALL OF THE JAMURIA PANCHAYAT SAMITY, DIST: BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL

M/s Eastern Coalfields Ltd submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed expansion of the capacity of the Belbaid UG Mine from 0.12 MTPA of coal to 0.48 MTPA of coal at Kunustoria Area, Dist: Burdwan, 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 06.08.2009 at 10:30 hrs in the Meeting Hall of the Jamuria Panchayat Samity, Dist: Burdwan, 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 Dr. T. K. Gupta, Chief Engineer, WBPCB. He explained about the EIA notification. He requested Sri Biswajit Datta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol to preside over the hearing. Sri Biswajit Datta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol welcomed the audience & presided over the hearing. Then he 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, location, existing & proposed production, seams & pits details of the UG mine, land usage, no land acquisition, depillaring methods by sand stowing, anticipated impacts on environment, sampling locations, air quality modeling results for the core zone, air pollution control measures, air & water quality monitoring stations, treatment methods for industrial, domestic & mine effluents, usage of mine water, socio-economic impacts, corporate social responsibility, etc.

Sri Biswajit Datta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol requested the audience to raise their questions and/or opinions, if any.

Sri Shiv Sankar Prasad, Sri Mahendar Singh and Sri Ujjal Kr. Ghatak of village belbaid & Sri K. D. Ram of Parasea welcomed the expansion project. However, they have submitted the fact that there is the scarcity of safe drinking water in the area, conditions of the roads are very poor, and inadequate schooling & medical facilities. They requested to ECL authorities to initiate steps to address the above issues.

Smt. Sabitiri Rajwar & Sri Abid Hossain of village Belbaid & Smt. Durga Mondal of village Toposi welcomed the project. All of them have mentioned about poor road conditions & inadequate supply of drinking water. Smt. Durga Mondal also stated about low-voltage electric supply.

Sri Dhiraj Hazra, local MLA welcomed the proposed expansion and expected local development by the growth of ancillary industries. He stated that ECL participates in local development but could not do the maintenance. He stated that he has not observed water sprinkling to control fugitive emission during coal crushing at CHP. He insisted on intensive forestation and development of schools & roads.

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Dr. T. K. Gupta, Chief Engineer, WBPCB advised for the installation of efficient pollution control system & dry fog system for controlling the emissions from the mining area in the proposed expansion project. He also recommended the following points—

- For air quality measurement, parameters for bauxite, chromites & silica sand should be measures besides measuring SPM, RSPM, NOx.
- In layout map, greenbelt, CHP, stockyard, mine colony, buildings, roads, etc. should be shown clearly.
- 5000 KLD mine water should be used in stowing, dust suppression & agricultural use.
- ETP & STP should be constructed for treatment of Mine water & domestic effluent. Parameters for TDS, DO, TSS & PH should be measured for the treated effluent.
- 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.
- Treated effluent should be recycled to the maximum extent. Final disposal site of the excess treated effluent should be specified.
- Disaster management plan should be clearly spelt out.
- Mine closure plan with financial allocation & detailed R&R plan should be explained.

Smt. Jahanara Khan, Sabhapati, Jamuria Panchayat Samity has requested M/S ECL authorities to provide drinking water, good roads, medical facilities for local people. She also stressed on adequate plantation & covered transport of coal.

On behalf of the project proponent, Sri Alok Chatterjee, GM ECL 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. He has also mentioned that M/S ECL has taken a policy for setting up of water supply management system for their colonies in each colliery within their jurisdiction in next five years.

Sri Biswajit Datta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol appreciated the proposal taken by M/s Eastern Coalfields Ltd during the public hearing and expressed his hope that the expansion 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 self help groups & local panchayat may be involved to carry out plantation program. He suggested that M/S ECL would explore the possibilities of supply of treated water by arranging low cost water treatment system.

In general, the public present in the hearing welcomed the expansion project provided the PP incorporates all the pollution control measures proposed by the Project Proponent. Finally, Sri Biswajit Datta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol concluded the session with vote of thanks.

Sd/-
Dr. T. K. Gupta
Chief Engineer
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Sd/-
Sri Biswajit Datta,
Additional District Magistrate, Asansol
Government of West Bengal