

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED FERRO ALLOYS PLANT FOR PRODUCTION OF 36,960 TPA FERRO MANGANESE AND 26,400 TPA SILICO MANGANESE BY INSTALLING 2 X 9 MVA SUBMERGED ELECTRIC ARC FURNACES AT J.L. NO. 75 & 98, MOUZA: SAHEBDIHI & UTTAR BASUDEVPUR, P.S. BARJORA, DIST. BANKURA, WEST BENGAL PROPOSED BY M/S BORIS FERRO ALLOYS PVT. LTD. HELD ON 17.02.2011 AT 11:30 HRS. AT THE SITE OF THE PROPOSED PLANT AT MOUZA: SAHEBDIHI & UTTAR BASUDEVPUR, P.S. BARJORA, DIST. BANKURA, WEST BENGAL

M/S Boris Ferro Alloys Pvt. Ltd., P.S. Barjora, Dist. Bankura submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting a Public Hearing for the proposed 2x9 MVA Ferro Alloy plant at JL No. 75 & 98, Mouza- Sahebdihi and Uttar Basudevpur, PS- Barjora, Dist. Bankura, West Bengal. As per the EIA Notification S.O. 1533 dated 14th September, 2006 of the Ministry of Environment & Forest, Govt. of India, Environmental Clearance of the said project is required to be obtained from the MoEF, Govt. of India after conducting the Public Hearing.

Accordingly, West Bengal Pollution Control Board after observing all formalities, held the Public Hearing on 17.02.2011 at 11.30 Hrs. at the site of the of the proposed plant at Mouza- Sahebdihi & Uttar Basudevpur, PS- Barjora, Dist.- Bankura, West Bengal. All the panel members were present in the hearing. Smt. Antara Acharya, Additional District Magistrate (G), Bankura presided over the hearing. List of the panel members and the others present in the public hearing is enclosed.

The hearing started with a welcome note from Sri S. Narayan, Sr. Environmental Engineer, West Bengal Pollution Control Board. He explained about the provisions of the above stated MoEF notification and also informed the audience about the draft proposal of M/S Boris Ferro Alloys Pvt. Ltd. for setting up a Ferro alloy plant at Mouza- Sahebdihi and Uttar Basudevpur, PS- Barjora, Dist. Bankura.

Smt. Antara Acharya, Additional District Magistrate (G), Bankura then requested the project proponent to explain in details about the proposed project, giving emphasis on the environmental aspects in particular, for discussion among the panel members and others present in the hearing.

Sri Somdeep Ghosh, representative of the project proponent narrated about the project details and the proposed pollution control devices through Power Point presentation emphasizing on the likely environmental impacts arising out of the same as well as the proposed pollution abatement measures to be taken by them. The project proposal is for setting up of 2 x 9 MVA Ferro alloys plant for production of 36,960 TPA Ferro Manganese and 26,400 TPA Silico Manganese. He has confirmed that the local people shall be consulted in each stage of the project and the industry is planning for initiating social responsibility programmes like arrangement for vocational training facility, health camps, cultural and sporting activities, development of local schools, roads and other infrastructural facilities, drinking water facility, plantation etc.

He further supplemented this technical presentation by confirming that the fines collected /arrested at pollution control equipments will be recycled in the process, slag generated from production of Ferro-Manganese will be reused to produce Silico-Manganese and slag from Silico Manganese will be used for development of roads. He also informed that the water requirement of 20 KLD would be supplied by Barjora Panchayat Samity. Waste water generated from different sources, after treatment/ settling will be utilised for dust suppression and green belt development. He has also mentioned that they would generate employment for local people and take neighboring villagers into confidence in each stage of project.

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 Manik Boru of Ishanpur village mentioned about his bitter experience regarding indiscriminate creation of environmental pollution by other existing units in the locality. He further opined that the already existing industries have failed to fulfill their commitments regarding CSR like development of local roads, schools etc. However, he welcomed the up-coming project, provided the project proponent fulfills their commitments regarding CSR.

Sri Nilanjan Dasgupta of Hat Ashuria welcomed the project as it will improve the socio-economic condition of the locality. He requested the project proponent to take necessary measures to ensure adaptation of proper pollution control measures, proper utilization of amount allotted for CSR activities, safety and welfare of the

employees of the upcoming unit. He further requested the project proponent to initiate extensive plantation program through local Panchayat.

Sri Vivekananda Keora of Barjora stated that due to inadequate supply of water by Panchayat Samity, most of the industries in the locality abstract ground water in an indiscriminate manner. He expressed his apprehension that the proposed unit may also take the same course, which in turn shall create water crisis in neighboring village wells. The villagers are dependent on these wells in this heavily water scarce region. He further stated that local people have not been considered for employment as committed earlier by the existing units. He, however, welcomed the project with the proper implementation of the commitments made by the project proponent during this public hearing.

Shri Sardul Amin Mullick of Mandarmoni village welcomed the project with the proper implementation of the commitments made by the project proponent during this public hearing regarding air pollution control and CSR activities.

Shri Santa Ahmed Mondal of Hat Ashuria village pointed out the inconvenience faced by the local villagers due to indiscriminate abstraction and use of ground water by the industries located in this water scarce area. He requested the administration to put a ban on usage of underground water for industrial purposes. He requested the project proponent to provide employment to the local youths after giving them proper training. He further requested the project proponent to ensure proper implementation of CSR commitments through local administration.

Sri Sukhen Bit, resident of Barjora and member of Barjora Panchayat Samity appreciated the drive taken by the State Pollution Control Board against the erring industries of this locality in the recent past and subsequent closure of few of them, leading to considerable decrease in environmental pollution in the area. He pointed out the quantity of water supplied to the industries of the locality by the Barjora Panchayat Samity is not adequate and categorically objected to usage of ground water for industrial purposes in this water scarce area.

Sri Bostoganashvili Boris, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of M/s. Boris Ferro Alloys Pvt. Ltd. appreciated the various issues expressed by different participants and welcomed their suggestions. He stated that the project proponent will address all the issues raised in the public hearing during finalizing the environmental management plan. He confirmed that they will not abstract ground water without prior permission from competent authority and shall take all necessary measures to comply with the suggestions made in this public hearing. He also committed that the social responsibility programmes shall be taken up in consultation with local administration as well as the local people. He also made commitment that local people will be given priority for employment after providing necessary training.

Smt. Antara Acharya, Additional District Magistrate (G), Bankura emphasized that all possible measures should be ensured by the Project Proponent towards the mitigation of all environmental problems and various issues raised by the people present in the hearing. She has expressed her gratitude to the audience for their active participation in this public hearing procedure.

Sri S. Narayan,
Sr. Environmental Engineer,
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Smt. A. Acharya,
Additional District Magistrate (G),
Dist. Bankura