

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED CBM EXPLORATION PROJECT AT CBM BLOCK BB-CBM-2005/III, BIRBHUM, WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S BP EXPLORATION (ALPHA) LTD. HELD ON 19.08.2008 AT THE MEETING HALL OF DISTRICT LAND & LAND REFORMS OFFICER, BIRBHUM, SURI, DISTRICT: BIRBHUM, WEST BENGAL**

M/s BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd. submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed CBM Exploration Project at CBM Block BB-CBM-2005/III, Birbhumi, 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 after observing all formalities held the Public Hearing on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2008 at 12:00 hrs at the Meeting Hall of District Land & Land Reforms Officer, Birbhumi, Suri, District: Birbhumi, West Bengal. 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.

The hearing started with a welcome note from Dr. T.K. Gupta, Chief Engineer, WBPCB. He explained about the EIA notification and prospect of CBM exploration. He also requested Sri Asit Baran Nandi, the DLLRO & Additional District Magistrate, Birbhumi to preside over the hearing. Sri Asit Baran Nandi, the DLLRO & Additional District Magistrate, Birbhumi 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.

Mr. Nitin Shrimmankar, Director, M/s B P Exploration (Alpha) Limited welcomed the audience on behalf of the project proponent and explained the activity of the proposed unit through PowerPoint presentation. In the presentation, the project proponent covered the topics regarding the possibilities of CBM exploration through core holes and test wells, their proposed operations through four stages. During operation, they would maintain all environmental norms. They had also indicated that they would enter into a license agreement for the temporary use of the land and as per the consent of the District Authorities for carrying out the activities. They would make necessary arrangement for proper reclamation of the well sites. Further they mentioned that the treatment of wastewater and its disposal would be carried out as per the guidelines of MoEF and WBPCB. Proper disposal of drill mud would be arranged as per Hazardous Waste Management & Handling Rules. The core wells would be located beyond 100 m of any designated forest area as per the guidelines of District Forest Authority.

The ADM then requested the audience to raise their questions and to give their opinions, if any.

Sri Pranab Mondal, Village: Goala welcomed such activity but he requested the PP to explain about their plans regarding the restoration of the land and the compensation for mustard seeds and other local agricultural activities.

Sri A. Mannan, Deputy DLLRO, District Birbhumi asked the project proponent to explain about handling and disposal of wastewater, creation of vacuum, if any in the coal seam.

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Sri P. K. Roy, Senior Environment Officer, Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal welcomed the project and requested the project proponent to take necessary measures before disposal of waste water to any surface water body.

Sri Somnath Narayan, Senior Environmental Engineer asked the unit to explain about the management and disposal of drill mud.

Sri Somnath Mondal, Village North Kandiara asked the Project Proponent about employment opportunity of local villagers.

The project proponent appreciated the questions 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.

Sri Asit Baran Nandi, the DLLRO & Additional District Magistrate, Birbhum appreciated the proposal presented by M/s BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd. during the public hearing and expressed his hope that the 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. In general as the public present in the hearing welcome the project incorporating all the pollution control measures proposed by the Project Proponent. Finally Sri Asit Baran Nandi, the DLLRO & Additional District Magistrate, Birbhum concluded the session with vote of thanks.

<p style="text-align: center;">Dr. T. K. Gupta Chief Engineer, West Bengal Pollution Control Board</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sri Asit Baran Nandi The DLLRO &amp; Additional District Magistrate, Birbhum Government of West Bengal</p>
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