

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED 2 X 300 MW COAL BASED THERMAL POWER PROJECT AT HALDIA, DIST.-PURBA MEDINIPUR, WEST BENGAL PROPOSED BY M/s. CESC LIMITED HELD ON 19.12.2007 AT THE OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, HALDIA, DIST.-PURBA MEDINIPUR, WEST BENGAL

M/s. CESC Limited submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed 2 x 300 MW coal based Thermal Power Project at Haldia, Dist.-Purba Medinipur, 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 from the MoEF, Govt. of India after conducting the Public Hearing.

Accordingly, West Bengal Pollution Control Board after observing all formalities, held a Public Hearing on 19th December, 2007 at 12.00 Hrs at the office of Additional District Magistrate, Haldia, Dist.-Purba Medinipur. 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 welcome note from Sri Srikumar Taraphder, WBCS(Exe), Additional District Magistrate, Haldia who presided over the hearing. Dr. T. K. Gupta, Senior Environmental Engineer and In-charge – Consent Cell, WBPCB explained about the provisions of the above stated MoEF notification. The ADM then requested the Project Proponent to explain the details about the proposed project for discussion among the panel members and others present in the hearing.

The Project Proponent then explained about the project details emphasizing on 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 others present in the public hearing made queries / suggestions in connection with the proposed project which are noted below:

Sri Subal Bera, Savapati, Haldia Panchayat Samity welcomed the proposed Thermal Power Plant of M/s. CESC Ltd. He mentioned that besides the new employment generation, the proposed project would help to grow more industries in Haldia. He also categorically mentioned that the project proponent should maintain all the pollution control measures for better environmental management. He also requested that the project proponent should take adequate steps for fly ash management.

Sri A. Dolui, Karmadhakshya, Purba Medinipur Zilla Parishad looking after Small Scale Industry & Power Department in the areas welcomed and discussed the necessity of such project for industrial development. He mentioned that this type of project would improve the socio-economic condition of the local area. He also requested the project proponent to strictly adhere to the commitments made during Public Hearing for better environmental management.

Sri S. B. Chowdhury, BDO, Haldia Block & Sri M. Chowdhury, BDO, Sutahata Block welcomed the project and discussed about the necessity of such public hearing involving the local people. They have requested the project proponent to ensure the better ash management and water management.

Sri P. Hazra, GM, Haldia DIC welcomed the project and he has mentioned that with the implementation of such project the scope for secondary employment would also be increased.

Sri G. Chakraborty, Spl. Officer, Haldia Development Authority emphasized that the new power project would help for better employment and the development of local economic condition. However, he has requested the project proponent to introduce modern technology both for energy generation as well as its environment management.

Sri S. Dutta, local resident emphasized on Corporate Social Responsibility and employment opportunity due to this new power project.

Mrs. L. Deb & Sri K. Bera, local residents welcomed such new power project. However, they have requested the project proponent to look into the following issues while finalizing the E M P:

- Coal transportation and handling.
- Water Management.
- Ash management.
- Plantation & development of greeneries.
- Development of local roads, education and health.

Sri P K Roy, Sr. Env. Officer, Dept. of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal requested the project proponent to look into the better dispersion of air pollutants considering the mixing height particularly during winter season.

On behalf of the Project Proponent Sri R K Mukherjee, DGM (Project), M/s. CESC Limited has appreciated the issues expressed by the different participants and welcomed the suggestions. He stated that the problem of air pollution, water pollution, ash management, water management would be adequately addressed while finalizing the EIA/EMP for such projects. He has also categorically mentioned that best available technology will be considered in each step of implementation of the project. He has mentioned that they will adopt the concept of zero discharge and will provide a minimum of 33% of the total area for greeneries. He has also mentioned that the project proponent will take programme for more plantation not only within the plant premises but also in the neighboring areas in consultation with the District Authorities.

The Additional District Magistrate, Haldia 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 welcome the project incorporating with all the pollution control measures proposed by the Project Proponent.

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

Sd/-
Srikumar Taraphder
Additional District Magistrate, Haldia
Dist.-Purba Medinipur