

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF SPONGE IRON PLANT FROM CAPACITY 100 TPD TO 400 TPD AT NANDANPUR, P.S.-MEJIA, DIST.-BANKURA, WEST BENGAL PROPOSED BY M/s. DIVYA JYOTI SPONGE IRON PVT. LTD. HELD ON 13.02.2008 IN THE MEJIA HIGH SCHOOL, P.O. & P.S.-MEJIA, DIST.-BANKURA, WEST BENGAL**

M/s. Divya Jyoti Sponge Iron Pvt. Ltd. submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed expansion of Sponge Iron Plant from capacity 100 TPD to 400 TPD at Nandanpur, P.S.-Mejia, Dist.-Bankura, West Bengal. As per the EIA notification S.O. 1533 dated 14<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 at 12.00 Hrs in the Mejia High School, P.O. & P.S.-Mejia, Dist.-Bankura. 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 Mr. Gour Pada Sen, Additional District Magistrate (General), Bankura who presided over the hearing. Sri Debashis Sarkar, Environmental Engineer, 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 (PP) 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 expansion project which are noted below:

Sri Abhoy Prasad Chowdhury, Ex Teacher, Mejia High School emphasized on the regular operation and maintenance of the pollution control system to be adopted by the PP. He also shared his experience about the operation of various sponge iron industries situated in this area. He requested the project proponent to use the surface water instead of underground water and he mentioned that the pollution control norms should be complied strictly. However, he welcomed the proposed project maintaining environmental norms.

Sri Moloy Mukherjee, resident of Ardhagram, expressed about the problem of dust from the nearby sponge iron industries to the local ponds, nearby residence and schools. He requested the project proponent to maintain all the pollution control norms so that the nearby local people do not face any problem in future. He also emphasized the regular monitoring for the operation of the ESP. He mentioned that the PP should employ the local people to the possible extent in their factory.

Sri Lakhikanta Sarkar, resident of Tarapur village and Sri Bijoy Mondal, resident of Udyogpur, mentioned that they are facing scarcity of water during summer season and requested the PP to use surface water in their process. They also mentioned about the

dust problem as well as solid waste disposal problem in the nearby area due to operation of sponge iron units in the locality. They also welcomed the project considering all the environmental aspects.

Sri Avik Das, Block Development Officer, Mejia suggested that the local sponge iron units should spray water to the adjoining roads to minimize the dust problem.

Sri Dilip Kumar Agasty, Joint Secretary, Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal, suggested that the PP should provide personal protective equipments for the workers those who are working in the plant. He also suggested to improve the house keeping, water spraying and more plantations in and around the industry premises.

On behalf of the Project Proponent Sri Sunil Jain, Director, M/s. Divya Jyoti Sponge Iron Pvt. Ltd. has appreciated the issues expressed by the different participants and welcomed the suggestions. He stated that they are operating their air pollution control systems continuously and effectively. He stated that they have adopted rain water harvesting system to minimize the use of natural water. They are also using dry cooling system to minimize the water consumption. They will try their level best to employ the local people in their plant. He also mentioned that the plantation and the other pollution norms would be maintained as per the Govt. directives.

The Additional District Magistrate (General), Bankura 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/-  
Debashis Sarkar  
Environmental Engineer  
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

sd/-  
Gour Pada Sen  
Additional District Magistrate (General)  
Bankura