

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED OPEN CAST COAL MINING PROJECT OF M/S. DVC EMTA COAL MINES LIMITED AT BARJORA (NORTH) BLOCK, DIST.-BANKURA, W.B. HELD ON 20.04.2007 IN THE BARJORA PANCHAYAT SAMITY COMMUNITY HALL, P.O.-BARJORA, DIST.- BANKURA, W.B.**

M/s. DVC Emta Coal Mines Limited submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed open cast coal mining project at Barjora (North) Block, Dist.-Bankura, W.B. 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 having public hearing.

Accordingly, WBPCB after observing all formalities, held a public hearing on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2007 at 11.00 Hrs. Panel members were present in the hearing. A large 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 Tanmay Kumar Mitra, Additional District Magistrate (Gen), Bankura who presided over the hearing. Sri Debashis Sarkar, Environmental Engineer, WBPCB explained about the provisions of the above stated MoEF notification. ADM requested the Project Proponent to explain the details about the proposed open cast coal mining project for the benefit of the panel members and other public present in the hearing.

Project Proponent then explained about the project by power point presentation, 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 the others present in the public hearing made queries / suggestions with respect to the proposed project which are noted below:

Sri P. K. Roy, Senior Environment Officer, Dept. of Environment, Govt. of west Bengal made some queries about the incorporation of various points mentioned in the Terms of Reference (TOR) of MOEF, Govt. of India to the draft EIA/EMP reports submitted by the unit which are noted below:

- Land use plan have not given in details for post and pre project.
- Impacts on marginal land owners & land less labourers.
- Details of R&R Plan.
- Diversion of Tartora Nala, as well as its flow rate, cross sectional area, etc. & its impacts.
- Impact of movement of vehicles including loading & unloading, facilities for truckers & others labourers.
- Risk analysis for storage & handling of various explosives to be used for blasting.
- Details scheme for rain water harvesting.
- Details of STP for colony.
- Present stage of clearance for diversion of forest land & details of compensatory afforestation.

Sri Roy also pointed out that the front page in the draft EIA/EMP report of the said project mentioned that the said report is meant for the Govt. Officials and internal use for the

organization, not to be communicated / circulated to the outsiders. This should be made available for all as per the said notification.

The storage of O.B. for the initial period of six years will be retained even after 22 years of the project life which is not accepted.

Sri Phatik Dawn, resident of Baguli Mouza welcomed the proposed project and requested the project proponent (PP) to look into the involvement of local people particularly who will be losing their land into the project.

Sri Narayan Chandra Khan, Secretary & Sri Dwijapada Khan, President, Manohar Gram Bhoomi Swadhikar Raksha Committee submitted a written prayer to WBPCB on 19.04.2007. They have discussed the contents of various points of the said letter in the public hearing and requested the PP and the Govt. authorities to consider their prayer. The said prayer is enclosed with these proceedings.

Ms. Tinku Mondal, Pradhan, Barjora Gram Panchayat mentioned a proposal to the PP to consider for underground coal mining instead of proposed open cast mining if possible. She requested to involve the local affected people more during finalization of R&R plan.

Sri Alok Mukherjee, Upa-pradhan, Barjora G.P., Sri Asutosh Mukherjee, Khandari G.P. Sri Sukhen Bid, Barjora welcomed the proposed project maintaining the appropriate pollution abatement measures. They also requested the PP to provide proper roads, schools, supply of safe drinking water and appropriate pricing of land. They also stressed upon restoration of religious places within the proposed mining area.

On behalf of the project proponent Sri N. C. Mukherjee have appreciated the concern expressed by different participants and welcome the suggestions. They indicated that they will address all the above stated issues while finalizing the environmental management plan and wherever possible they will consider the issues immediately. He has also mentioned that they have already engaged a local NGO to study the socio economic condition of the area. He has also mentioned that before finalization of the R&R plan they will form a committee involving the representatives of the land looser, house looser, & other Govt. Departments. They will also arrange vocational training for the local affected people to engage into their project. He also mentioned that about 60% of the acquired land will be reclaimed and to be transferred to the appropriate authority for further use as agricultural land with suitable irrigation facility.

Additional District Magistrate (Gen), 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  
WBPCB

Sd/-  
Tanmay Kumar Mitra  
Additional District Magistrate (Gen)  
Bankura