

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED 2 X 660 MW RAGHUNATHPUR THERMAL POWER PROJECT, STAGE – II AT RAGHUNATHPUR, DIST. – PURULIA, WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION, HELD ON 29.06.2011 AT 12:00 HRS. AT THE COMMUNITY HALL OF THE RAGHUNATHPUR - 1 PANCHAYAT SAMITY AT RAGHUNATHPUR, DIST – PURULIA, WEST BENGAL

M/S Damodar Valley Corporation submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed 2 X 660 MW Raghunathpur Thermal Power Project, Stage – II at Raghunathpur, Dist. – Purulia, 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 the Public Hearing on 29th June, 2011 at 12:00 at the Community Hall of the Raghunathpur - 1 Panchayat Samity at Raghunathpur, Dist – Purulia, West Bengal. All the panel members were present in the hearing, Sri J.K. Aikat, Additional District Magistrate (Development), Purulia 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 Dr.T K.Gupta,, Chief 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 Damodar Valley Corporation for the proposed 2 X 660 MW Raghunathpur Thermal Power Project, Stage – II at Raghunathpur, Dist. – Purulia, West Bengal.

Sri J.K. Aikat, Additional District Magistrate (Development), Purulia 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.

Sri Arunava Mitra , Superintendent .Engineer, M/S Damodar Valley Corporation 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. He has pointed out that a brief description has already been circulated among the people present at hearing. He has mentioned about their emission control proposal for each unit. He has also 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 construction of health care center & mobile unit, schools, library, community centre, roads, deep tube-wells, recreation club, play ground etc.. 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 Sumit Kumar Mishra of village Pabra, welcomed the proposed project with all the commitments made by the PP during their presentation. He informed that they welcome the proposed Thermal Power Project alongwith infrastructural support and employment for local people.

Sri Nityananda Maji, Naragoria village has asked how the local people will be benefited by the proposed project. He also expressed his concern regarding indiscriminate withdrawal of ground water by the industries in the adjacent area leading to serious water scarcity in the locality. He also apprehended that the proposed Thermal Power Project may cause serious environmental degradation and requested the PP to take appropriate abatement measures in this regard.

Sri Anjan Mani of village Pabra has requested the project proponent to take adequate precautionary measure to prevent pollution from ash pond and also enquired about the plantation programme and its maintenance.

Sri Hazari Bauri of Raghunathpur -1 wanted to know how far the impact of air pollution due to fly ash may take place. He also asked about utilization of fly ash and sources of water required for the proposed project. He, however, welcomed the project, ensuring no further environmental degradation.

Sri Chunilal Majhi of village Durmut wanted to know the percentage of local people of proposed project area attending the public hearing. He further requested the PP to inform them about their role if the PP doesn't fulfill their commitment.

Sri Debjit Banerjee, resident of Durmut village wanted to know how many land losers were present in the public hearing.

Sri Asutosh Banerjee of Dumdumi village enquired about the maintenance of greenaries programme taken by the PP.

Sri Saurav Rai of Chanda village requested the PP to include the steps taken for improvement of agricultural activity of nearby villages in the CSR.

Sri Nirmal Maji, Naragoria village expressed his concern about adverse effect of fly ash on surrounding agricultural lands due to the proposed Thermal Power project and requested the PP to take appropriate measures for prevention of the same.

Sri Subhas Bauri of Raghunathpur wanted to know how air pollution due to transportation of coal can be minimized and what medical facilities will be available for the local people.

Sri Mahendra Hasnda of Bandubi village has mentioned that due to operation of sponge iron plants, the overall environment of Neturia area has been severely degraded and also expressed his

apprehension about serious environmental pollution from process activities of the proposed Thermal Power Plant.

Md Ansari of village Naragoria has requested the PP for proper implementation of CSR programme and to give stress on local healthcare, water supply and road development work.

Sri Swapan Mitra of Raghunathpur has asked the PP to specify the surrounding area to be affected due to dispersion of fly ash from the chimney of the proposed project.

Sri Raghunath Halder of Raghunathpur has asked whether the land losers will be benefited from the proposed project. He also wanted to know about the ash disposal facility to be provided and the holding capacity of ash ponds for storage of pond ash. He further pointed out about air pollution due to movement of old vehicles in the project area and asked the PP whether the vehicles plying adhere to the emission norms.

Sri J.K. Aikat, ADM (Development), Purulia requested the officials of the Pollution Control Board and also the representatives of M/S Damodar Valley Corporation to respond to the queries raised by the participants present in the public hearing.

Dr. T.K.Gupta, Chief Engineer, WBPCB described the potential of pollution from such Thermal Power Plant and emphasized the need for installation of appropriate pollution control technologies. He further requested the ADM (Development) to constitute a monitoring committee involving local administration, WBPCB and local people to monitor the compliance status of environmental norms by the industries located in and around Raghunathpur area.

Sri Arunava Mitra , Superintendent Engineer, M/S Damodar Valley Corporation appreciated the various issues raised by different participants and welcomed their suggestions. He stated that the PP will address all the issues raised in the public hearing during finalizing the environmental management plan. He confirmed that they would take all necessary measures to comply with the suggestions made in this public hearing. He also committed that the social responsibility programme shall be taken up in consultation with local administration.

Sri Pallab Roy, Chief Engineer, M/S Damodar Valley Corporation had thanked the audience present for their active participation in the public hearing. He had assured that all possible measures would be taken to prevent environmental hazard in the surrounding area due to the proposed project.

Sri J. K. Aikat, ADM (Development), Purulia 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. He further requested the PP to incorporate proposal for extensive plantation programme, Rain Water Harvesting and to give more stress on fulfillment of Corporate Social Responsibility especially setting up of a new health care facility for the local people, in the final EIA report. The project is welcomed only after incorporation of all the pollution control measures and corporate social responsibility

programmes proposed by the Project Proponent. He assured the audience that the proceedings of this public hearing shall be duly forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India and further expressed his gratitude to the audience for their active participation in this public hearing procedure.

Dr. T.K. Gupta,
Chief Engineer
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Sri J. K. Aikat,
Additional District Magistrate (Dev),
Dist. Purulia