

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE PRODUCTION CAPACITY AT THE OPEN CAST MINE FROM 0.41 MTPA TO 1.0 MTPA AND THE EXPANSION IN THE LEASE AREA FROM 114.91 HA TO 164.91 HA AT MOHANPUR OC MINE, SALANPUR AREA, DIST: BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S EASTERN COALFIELDS LTD. ON 18.11.2008 AT 12:30 HRS IN THE MEETING HALL OF SALANPUR PANCHAYAT SAMITY, SALANPUR, DISTRICT: BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL**

M/s Eastern Coalfields Ltd. submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed expansion of the production capacity at the open cast mine from 0.41 MTPA to 1.0 MTPA and the expansion in the lease area from 114.91 Ha to 164.91 Ha at Mohanpur OC mine, Salanpur area, Dist: Burdwan, 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 **18.11.2008 at 12:30 hrs** in the meeting hall of Salanpur Panchayat Samity, Salanpur, District: Burdwan, 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 requested Smt. S. Mahapatra, the Additional District Magistrate, Asansol to preside over the hearing. Smt. S. Mahapatra, the Additional District Magistrate, Asansol welcomed the audience & presided over the hearing. Then she requested the project proponent to deliver their presentation and requested the audience to raise their queries after the presentation.

Sri R. K. Sharma, Chief General Manager, Salanpur area of M/s Eastern Coalfields Ltd. welcomed the audience on behalf of the project proponent and explained the activity of the proposed expansion program. The technical representative of M/s ECL then presented the details of the project through PowerPoint presentation.

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

Sri Dipak Kr. Roy, Sri Dibendyu Narayan Roy, Sri Indranath Misra, Sri Uttam Sharma and Sri Santu Roy of local area mentioned that the authority of Mohanpur OCP, Salanpur area of M/s ECL is very poor in maintaining the environmental conditions of the local area. They are very much in favour of the new industrial activity including the mining operation, but they have requested the Project Proponent (PP) to take special care on air quality improvement, supply of drinking water in the neighbouring community, improvement of local road conditions, proper disposal and reclamation of OB sites and to extend support for medical treatments, both for the workers as well as nearby villagers.

Sri Rudra Shankar Roy, Debendra Nath Roy & Sri Biren Mukherjee opined that the ECL authority needs to take adequate measures for improvement of local environmental conditions. Sri Rudra Shankar Roy also mentioned categorically that the policy for coal mining operation in the area need to be revisited by the appropriate authority. They also expressed their anger at ECL for not having settled old land payment and job matters.

Sri Damodar Tewari and Sri Swarup Das mentioned that it is essential to have expansion of mining operations of Mohanpur OCP, but they have requested the PP to take adequate steps for improvement of local road conditions, extension of medical facilities in the local villages and steps for minimize the problem of air pollution and impact due to vibration during blasting in the nearby villages, particularly in Pahargora area.

(Contd.)

Sri Shymal Majumder, Saha-Sabhapati, Salanpur Panchayat Samity explained the need for more industrialization in this area without compromising with environmental problem. He has requested the PP to take the opinion of the local people while finalizing the EIA and EMP.

Sri Sankha Santra, BDO, Salanpur opined that the PP to implement the R&R policy in consultation with the local administration and the district authority. Moreover he has requested the local people present in the hearing to submit their opinion, if any, on environmental issues about the proposed expansion program within ten days in the local block office.

Sri R. K. Sharma, Chief General Manager, Salanpur area of M/s ECL on behalf of 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. The PP also mentioned that they will have the program of extension of corporate social responsibility and extend the R&R program in consultation with the local Panchayat and the district authority. Sri R. K. Sharma has also agreed to look into the following issues, specifically—

- 1) Pending R&R matters will be finalized within one month.
- 2) All commitments will be implemented including CSR and environmental Protection
- 3) Extension of medical facilities for the employees as well as local people.
- 4) Extension of support for improvement of local road conditions.
- 5) Provision of supplying drinking water supply in the adjoining community.

He has also assured that they would address all the issues mentioned above and incorporate the same while finalizing the EIA and EMP.

Smt. S. Mahapatra, the Additional District Magistrate, Asansol appreciated the concern of the local community and requested the PP to address and to take necessary measures at an earliest. The proposal presented by M/s Eastern Coalfields Ltd. during the public hearing and expressed her 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. She emphasized that the commitment made by the Project Proponent was to be kept in letter & spirit, and the welfare of the local people was primary. She also pointed out that ECL must take full responsibility of any effects of its project on the surrounding areas. She added that the R&R of the proposed shifting of the project-affected village must be done through a committee consisting of local people, administration and ECL.

In general, the public present in the hearing appreciated the need of more industrial activity including the mining project incorporating all the pollution control measures proposed by the Project Proponent.

Finally Smt. S. Mahapatra, the Additional District Magistrate, Asansol concluded the session with vote of thanks.

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

Sd/-  
Smt. S. Mahapatra  
The Additional District Magistrate, Asansol  
Government of West Bengal