

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED EXTRACTION OF 3.0 MILLION TPA OF COAL FROM KHAGRA-JOYDEV BLOCK OPEN CAST MINING PROJECT IN THE MOUZAS- DEBIPUR, JOPLAI, PALASHDANGA, JHIRUL, LOBA, BARARI, KOTA, KHOJ KAMALPUR AND KAMALPUR UNDER LOBA GRAM PANCHAYAT WITHIN DUBRAJPUR BLOCK, DISTRICT: BIRBHUM, WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S DVC EMTA COAL MINES LTD. ON 25.11.2008 AT 12:00 HRS IN THE MEETING HALL OF DISTRICT LAND & LAND REFORMS OFFICER, BIRBHUM, DISTRICT: BIRBHUM, WEST BENGAL

M/s DVC EMTA Coal Mines Ltd. submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the extraction of 3.0 million TPA of coal from Khagra-Joydev Block open cast mining project in the Mouzas- Debipur, Joplai, Palashdanga, Jhirul, Loba, Barari, Kota, Khoj Kamalpur and Kamalpur under Loba Gram Panchayat within Dubrajpur Block, District: Birbhum, 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 25.11.2008 at 12:00 hrs in the Meeting Hall of District Land & Land Reforms Officer, Birbhum, District: Birbhum, 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 Sri Asit Baran Nandi, the DLLRO & Additional District Magistrate, Birbhum to preside over the hearing. Sri Nandi, the DLLRO & Additional District Magistrate, Birbhum welcomed the audience & presided over the hearing. Then he requested the project proponent to deliver their presentation and requested the audience to raise their queries after the presentation.

The technical representative of M/s DVC EMTA Coal Mines Ltd. welcomed the audience on behalf of the project proponent and explained the activity of the proposed unit through PowerPoint presentation.

Sri Nandi, the DLLRO & Additional District Magistrate, Birbhum then requested the audience to raise their questions and to give their opinions, if any.

Sri Ujjal Ghosh, Narul Azim and Abdus Sattar welcomed such activity but they have requested the project proponent (PP) to look into the following issues-

- Disposal of over burden (OB) and the reclamation of the land to make the same area agriculturable.
- Availability of adequate drinking water supply in the nearby community.
- Proper disposal and treatment of mine-pit water.
- Adequate measures to avoid vibration, noise during blasting.
- Extension of provision of improvement of roads, electricity, drainage, water supply, education, etc. as apart of their corporate social responsibility.

Sri Sisir Rana requested the PP to inform about the time period for reclamation of land. He has also mentioned those sufficient plantation programs need to be considered. He has mentioned that all type of people within the project area need to be provided with adequate rehabilitation packages.

He has also proposed to make necessary arrangements for adequate storage of water in the nearby Hinglo Nalah in consultation with state Irrigation Department.

Sri Shyam Chand Ghosh & Sariful Rahman welcomed such project with a request to the PP to consider the proper Rehabilitation scheme for all affected people and as well as the worship places.

Sk. Saffi, Panchayat pradhan welcomed such project with a proposal to the PP that they should consider proper recording for all kind of people, presently living within the proposed project area, irrespective of their characteristics. Further he has also mentioned that the PP must take adequate measures for availability for sufficient water in the nearby areas during dry seasons.

Sri Sadhan Ghosh, Karmadakshya, industry & power, Birbhum Zilla Parishad appreciated the concern expressed by local people of the proposed project. He welcomed the proposed project with a request to the PP that they should consider and implement the suggestions of the local people and the commitment made by them.

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 like in consultation with the local Panchayat and the district authority. They have also assured that they would address all the issues mentioned above and incorporate the same while finalizing the EIA and EMP.

Sri Nandi, the DLLRO & Additional District Magistrate, Birbhum appreciated the proposal presented by M/s DVC EMTA Coal Mines Ltd. during the public hearing and expressed his 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. In general as the public present in the hearing welcome the project incorporating all the pollution control measures proposed by the Project Proponent. Finally Sri Nandi, the DLLRO & Additional District Magistrate, Birbhum concluded the session with vote of thanks.

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

Sd/-
Sri A. B. Nandi
The DLLRO & Additional District Magistrate, Birbhum
Government of West Bengal