

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION OF COAL BED METHANE FROM 100 WELLS AT RANIGANJ COAL BLOCK, DIST.-BURDWAN, W.B. OF M/S. GREAT EASTERN ENERGY CORPORATION LIMITED HELD ON 27.02.2007 AT THE MEETING HALL OF RANIGANJ PANCHAYAT SAMITY, RANIGANJ, W.B.

M/s. Great Eastern Energy Corporation Limited submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board on 8th January, 2007 for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed exploration and production of Coal Bed Methane at Raniganj Coal Block, Distt.-Burdwan, W.B. 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 having public hearing.

Accordingly, WBPCB after observing all formalities, held a public hearing on 27th February, 2007 at 11.00 Hrs at Raniganj Block Office. All 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 the Mr. Subir Kr. Chatterjee, Additional District Magistrate (Development), Burdwan who presided over the hearing. Dr. T. K. Gupta, Senior Environmental Engineer and Incharge – Consent Cell, WBPCB explained about the provisions of the above stated MoEF notification. ADM requested the Project Proponent to explain the details about the proposed exploration and commercial production well project for the benefit of the panel members and other public present in the hearing.

Project Proponent then explained about the project, the likely environmental impacts arising out of the same as well as the proposed pollution abatement measures to be taken by them through power point presentation.

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:

Mr. Naren Roy, Mr. Uttam Chatterjee, Mr. Bipradas Nayek, Mr. Amiya Chattopadhyay have asked to the project proponent that whether the water arising out from the commercial well would be useful for agricultural purposes or not. They have also asked about the programme if any for utilization of CBM for use in domestic purposes. Mr. I. Aslam has enquired about the use and impact of CBM as auto fuel. Mr. Naren Roy has also enquired the programme for local area development.

Mr. Fakir Chandra Gupta has explained his experience for utilization of waste drilling water arising out from pilot wells. He has requested the project proponent to take adequate measures for proper treatment of waste water during the commercial production. Further he has specifically mentioned that project proponent should take sufficient measures for treatment of waste water so that it can be used for better yield in the neighbouring agricultural field.

Additional District Magistrate(Dev) and Shri P. K. Roy, Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal have enquired about the safety aspect of exploration and distribution of CBM.

On behalf of the project proponent Mr. V. K. Varshney have appreciated the concern expressed by different participants and welcome the suggestions. They have 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. The project proponent has also indicated that with the introduction of such commercial activities will reduce the emission of GHG, reduction in pollution in the automobile sector, industries, domestic sector and shall make the mining safer by way of demethanisation and water removal. They have also categorically mentioned that during the implementation of such projects all kind of safety measures will be considered as per the guidelines of CCOE, Nagpur and DGMS.

In general the public present in the hearing welcomed such project in this area and requested the project proponent for early commercialization and take steps for availability of CBM in the local market.

Additional District Magistrate (Development), Burdwan 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. He also welcome the project with all the pollution control and safety measures proposed by the Project Proponent.

Sd/-
Dr. T. K. Gupta
(Senior Environmental Engineer &
Incharge-Consent Cell ,WBPCB)

Sd/-
Subir Kr. Chatterjee
(Additional District Magistrate- Dev.)
Burdwan