

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED FERRO ALLOY UNIT BY INSTALLATION OF 1 X 9 MVA SUBMERGED ARC FURNACE FOR PRODUCTION OF 21,450 TPA OF FERRO- MANGANESE AND / OR 14,700 TPA OF SILICO-MANGANESE AT VILLAGE – DEWANDIGHI, PALITPUR ROAD, PO – MIRZAPUR, SARAITIKAR GRAM PANCHAYAT, PS & DIST. – BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL PROPOSED BY M/S HIMSHILA FERRO ALLOYS (PVT.) LTD., HELD ON 21.07.2011 AT 11:30 A.M. AT THE MEETING HALL OF BURDWAN - 1 PANCHAYAT SAMITY, DIST – BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL

M/S Himshila Ferro Alloys (Pvt.) Ltd. submitted an application to the West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting a Public Hearing for the proposed Ferro Alloy unit by installation of 1 X 9 MVA Submerged Arc Furnace for production of 21,450 TPA of Ferro-Manganese and/or 14,700 TPA of Silico-Manganese at Village – Dewandighi, Palitpur Road, PO – Mirzapur, Saraitikar GP, PS & Dist. – Burdwan. 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 21st July, 2011 at 11.30 A.M. at the Meeting Hall of Burdwan - 1 Panchayat Samity, Dist – Burdwan, West Bengal. All the panel members were present in the hearing, Sri Biswajit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol 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 Sri Biswajit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol. He explained about the provisions of the above stated MoEF notification and also informed the audience about the draft proposal of M/S Himshila Ferro Alloys (Pvt.) Ltd. for the proposed 1 x 9 MVA Ferro Alloy Unit for production of 21,450 TPA of Fe-Mn and / or 14,700 TPA of Si-Mn at Vill.- Dewandighi, Palitpur Road, Saraitikar GP, PS & Dist. – Burdwan.

Sri Biswajit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol then requested the Project Proponent to explain in details about the proposed project for discussion among the panel members and others present in the hearing.

Sri S. Bhattacharjee, on behalf of M/S Himshila Ferro Alloys (Pvt.) Ltd, 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 Corporate Social Responsibility programme like supply of books, table/chair, and computer to local primary school, will arrange health check-up camp for their employees as well as the local villagers and provide Ambulance services for local people for emergency purpose.

He has also mentioned that they will assist local people in association with the Gram Panchayat for setting up of ancillary units by way of bank finance and technical guidance and generate employment for local people. They will provide financial assistance for repairing of local village roads through the Panchayat and will also set up library and sports facilities for the local people. He further assured that the neighboring villagers will be taken into confidence in each stage of this 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 Bharat Ranjan Das, Assistant Environmental Engineer, West Bengal Pollution Control Board pointed out that the procedure for arresting tap hole emission has not been clearly mentioned in the presentation and suggested the Project Proponent (PP) to provide a dedicated system consisting of adequate suction arrangement connected to Bag Filter with the sub-merged Arc Furnace to arrest the Tap-hole emission. He also enquired whether concurrence letter from the concerned Panchayat Samity has been received for supplying of water through tankers, as mentioned. Sri Das further suggested that the budgetary allocation for the CSR activities should be clearly mentioned.

Sri Archan Kumar Ghosh, Malkita village welcomed the proposed project. He, however, enquired about the impact of the pollution hazards due to the proposed Ferro-alloy plant on agricultural land and on human health.

Sri Jiban Krishna Ghosh of Malkita village requested the PP to take all possible measures to prevent further environmental degradation.

Sri Partha Banerjee, Rayan village, welcomed the upcoming project as it would benefit the socio-economic growth of the locality by creating direct/ indirect employment. He, however, requested the PP to consider the local people for employment.

Sri Chandrasekhar Sahana of village Mirzapur welcomed the project. He pointed out that the condition of roads of the local villages is very poor and requested the PP to take care of those roads. He further requested the PP to consider the land losers for employment.

Sri Anup Laha of Kamdanga village and Sri Manik Chandra Sahani of Mirzapur village welcomed the proposed project. They, however, expressed their apprehension regarding non-fulfillment of CSR commitments, as mentioned by the PP.

Sri Sujit Kumar Banerjee, Palitpur village, welcomed the upcoming project. He, however, requested the PP to duly consider the local people for employment.

Sri Swapan Kumar Sain of village Mirzapur, welcomed the project as it will be helpful in generating employment of the local people. He, however, requested the PP to duly consider the local villagers for employment and also to train the un-skilled labours for their technical up-gradation to match with their requirement. He also requested the PP to take appropriate measures to prevent further degradation of the environment and also to take care for the repair/ development of the village roads.

Sri Manas Chanda, village Mirzapur, requested the PP to consider the local villagers as well as the land losers for employment. He also requested the PP to take appropriate measures to prevent further degradation of the environment and to comply with the CSR commitments made by them

Sri Tapan Kumar Dey, village Palitpur apprehended that the adjacent paddy fields may be seriously affected by the discharged waste water of the proposed Ferro-alloy unit. He also pointed out that the village roads will be damaged due to movement of the heavily loaded trucks and requested the PP to take proactive preventive measures in these regards.

Sri Tarun Ghosh of village Malkita told that this was his first experience about Public Hearing. He has requested the PP to take appropriate pollution control measures so that the emission and discharged liquid effluent from the upcoming unit do not affect the adjacent agricultural lands. He further requested the PP to comply with the CSR commitments made by them.

Sri Jisu Tudu, Sahakari Sabhapati, Burdwan-1 Panchayat Samity, thanked the local habitants for creating a congenial environment for industrialization in the locality. He requested the PP to give priority to the local villagers as well as the land losers for employment. He also requested the PP to comply with the CSR commitments made by them. He ensured all sorts of logistic supports from the Panchayat Samity regarding extensive plantation in and around the locality. He also welcomed the project maintaining all environmental norms.

Sri Chinmoy Mondal, Director, M/S Himshila Ferro Alloys (Pvt.) Ltd appreciated the various issues expressed by different participants and welcomed the 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 have already obtained permission from the competent authority for abstraction of ground water and shall take all necessary measures to comply with the suggestions made in this public hearing. He also committed that the CSR program shall be taken up in consultation with the local administration.

Ms. Sumita Sengupta, Jt. B.D.O. and In-charge of B.D.O., Burdwan-1 Dev. Block ensured that the local administration will come up with all logistic help necessary for the project proponent to implement the proposed CSR activities. She requested the PP to initiate all such CSR activities with prior intimation to the local administration. She further requested the PP to stick to their commitments regarding pollution control measures in the proposed project.

Sri Biswajit Dutta, ADM, Asansol 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 program, Rain Water Harvesting and generation of new surface water sources in the locality, 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.

Sri Bharat Ranjan Das,
Assistant Environmental Engineer,
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Sri Biswajit Dutta,
Additional District Magistrate, Asansol,
Dist. Burdwan