

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF FERRO ALLOYS PLANT FOR ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION OF 12,330 TPA FERRO MANGANESE AND 9,280 TPA SILICO MANGANESE BY INSTALLING 1 X 5.5 MVA SUBMERGED ARC FURNACES AT THE EXISTING PLANT PREMISES AT MOUZA: NAKRAJORIA, P.S. SALANPUR, DIST. BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL, BY M/S HIRA CONCAST LIMITED HELD ON 17.11.2011 AT 11:00 A.M. AT THE SALANPUR PANCHAYAT SAMITY MEETING HALL, DIST. BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL.

M/S Hira Concast Ltd., Mouza – Nakrajoria, PS - Salanpur, Dist. Burdwan submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting a Public Hearing for the proposed expansion of their Ferro Alloys Plant by installing 1x5.5 MVA Submerged Arc Furnace (SAF) at the existing plant premises at Mouza – Nakrajoria, PS - Salanpur, Dist. Burdwan, West Bengal for additional production of Fe-Mn (12,330 TPA) and Si-Mn (9,280 TPA). As per the EIA Notification S.O. 1533 dated 14th September, 2006 of the Ministry of Environment & Forest, 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 17.11.2011 at 11.00 A.M. at the Salanpur Panchayat Samity Meeting Hall, 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 Hira Concast Ltd. for expansion of their existing Ferro alloy plant at the existing plant premises at Mouza- Nakrajoria, PS- Salanpur, Dist. Burdwan. He then requested the project proponent to explain in details about the proposed project, giving emphasis on the environmental aspects in particular, for discussion among the panel members and others present in the hearing.

Sri Somdeep Ghosh, on behalf of M/S Hira Concast 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. The project proposal is for expansion of the existing Ferro Alloys Plant by installing 1x5.5 MVA Submerged Arc Furnace for additional production of 12,330 TPA Ferro Manganese and 9,280 TPA Silico Manganese. He has 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 cultural and sporting activities, development of local schools, roads and other infrastructural facilities, drinking water facility, primary health camps, plantation etc.

He further supplemented this technical presentation by confirming that the fines collected /arrested at pollution control equipments will be recycled in the process, slag generated from production of Ferro-Manganese will be reused to produce Silico-Manganese and slag from Silico Manganese will be used for development of roads. He also informed that the additional water requirement of 4 KLD would be met up from borewell and they have obtained permission from the competent authority for the same. Waste water generated from different sources, after treatment/ settling will be utilised for dust suppression and green belt development and no waste water will be discharged outside the premises. 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 Balaram Shaw of village Kalyaneswari welcomed the proposed expansion project. He requested the PP to take initiative for extensive plantation programme and also take necessary steps for their survival.

Sri Tapas Roy, Sonpur village welcomed the expansion project as it will improve the socio-economic condition of the locality. He requested the project proponent for improvement of roads and other infrastructural facilities of the locality as a part of their CSR programme.

Sri Ashis Seal of village Debipur requested the PP to provide employment to the local youths as far as possible. He, however, welcomed the project with the proper implementation of the commitments made by the project proponent during this public hearing.

Sri Sadhan Pal, Nakrajoria village stated that the waste water discharged from the existing plant is destroying the adjacent paddy fields. He requested the PP to take appropriate measures so that no effluent of the industry enters the paddy fields.

Sri Gautam Majhi and Sri Ujjal Adhikary of village Dendua pointed out that the local agricultural fields are being destroyed and water of ponds etc. are being contaminated by the dust emission through the stacks of the existing plant. He requested the PP to take appropriate measures to ensure adoption of proper pollution control measures.

Sri Biswajit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol stated that ponds/water body, if any within the 6.6 Acres of land, should be shown. He further told that recycling of liquid effluents/ storm water should also be shown with diagram and water retention capacity of ponds for Rain Water Harvesting shall be mentioned and incorporated in the final EIA report.

Sri Shyamal Majumder, Sahasabhupati, Salanpur Panchayat Samity thanks the PP and the local residents present in the public hearing. He expressed his bitter experience that the already existing industries have failed to fulfill their commitments regarding CSR like development of local roads, schools etc. However, he welcomed the proposed expansion project, provided the project proponent fulfills their commitments regarding CSR and comply with the environmental norms. He further requested the PP to take necessary measures so that no effluent is discharged outside the factory premises.

Sri Joydeep Das, B.D.O., Salanpur Development Block welcomed the project as it will improve the socio-economic condition of the locality. He suggested the project proponent to chalk out a plan involving the local administration, local bodies and the local people for better utilization of fund allocated for CSR activities. He, however, welcomed the proposed project with fulfillment of the commitments made by the PP regarding CSR and compliance with the environmental norms. He further assured to provide necessary help from the administration for implementation of CSR etc.

Sri Shasibhusan Gupta, G.M. (Project) of M/S Hira Concast Ltd. appreciated the various issues expressed by different participants and welcomed their suggestions. He stated that the project proponent will address all the issues raised in the public hearing during finalizing the environmental management plan. He confirmed that they will not abstract ground water without prior permission from competent authority and shall take all necessary measures to comply with the suggestions made in this public hearing. He also committed that the social responsibility programmes shall be taken up in consultation with local administration as well as the local people. He also made commitment that local people will be given priority for employment after providing necessary training.

Sri Biswajit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate, 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 public hearing. He further stated that the local administration and WBPCB will keep strict vigil on the industries to monitor whether they are fulfilling their commitments of CSR programme and complying the environmental norms. 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 Anjan Fouzdar,
Assistant Environmental Engineer,
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

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

