

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED FERRO ALLOYS PLANT FOR PRODUCTION OF 58,823 TPA FERRO MANGANESE, 44,891 TPA SILICO MANGANESE AND 18,954 TPA FERRO SILICON BY INSTALLING 3 X 9 MVA SUBMERGED ARC FURNACES AT MOUZA: NAKRAJORIA, P.S. SALANPUR, DIST. BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL, BY M/S HIRA IRON PVT. LTD. HELD ON 17.11.2011 AT 2:30 P.M. AT THE SALANPUR PANCHAYAT SAMITY MEETING HALL, DIST. BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL.

M/S Hira Iron Pvt. Ltd., Mouza – Nakraoria, PS - Salanpur, Dist. Burdwan submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting a Public Hearing for their proposed Ferro Alloys Plant by installing 3x9 MVA Submerged Arc Furnace (SAF) at Mouza – Nakraoria, PS - Salanpur, Dist. Burdwan, West Bengal for production of Fe-Mn (58,823 TPA), Si-Mn (44,891 TPA) and Fe-Si (18,954 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 2.30 P.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 Iron Pvt. Ltd. for their proposed Ferro alloy plant at Mouza- Nakraoria, 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 representative of M/S Hira Iron 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. The project proposal is for the proposed 3x9 MVA Ferro Alloys Plant for production of 58,823 TPA Ferro Manganese, 44,891 TPA Silico Manganese and 18,954 TPA Ferro Silicon. 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.

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 41KLD would be met up from Borewells. Waste water generated from different sources, after treatment/ settling will be utilised for dust suppression and green belt development. 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 Sachin Das, Dendua village mentioned about his bitter experience regarding indiscriminate creation of environmental pollution by other existing units in the locality and apprehended further degradation of environment due to the upcoming project.

Sri Shantanu Pal, Dendua welcomed the project as it will improve the socio-economic condition of the locality. He also enquired about the proposed plantation programme and measures to be taken for its survival.

Sri Prodyut Banerjee of village dendua expressed his apprehension that the discharged effluent of the industry may damage the nearby agricultural fields and enquired about its remedial measures.

Sri Biplab Das of village Dendua enquired about the employment scope of the local youths in the upcoming project. He, however, welcomed the project.

Sri Shasibhusan Gupta, G.M. (Project) of M/S Hira Iron Pvt. 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 at the public hearing. He suggested the PP to use underground water as minimum as possible. 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 also suggested to chalk out a master plan with the help of the local administration for better utilization of fund allocated for CSR activities. 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