

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION PROJECT FOR PRODUCTION OF 31,500 TPA FERRO MANGANESE, 22,500 TPA SILICO MANGANESE, 9,000 TPA FERRO SILICON AND 90,000 TPA MANGANESE ORE SINTER BY INSTALLING 2X7.5 MVA SUBMERGED ARC FURNACES AND 1X300 TPD SINTER PLANT AT MOUZA: NAKRAJORIA, P.S. SALANPUR, DIST. BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL, BY M/S IMPEX STEEL LIMITED, HELD ON 16.11.2011 AT 12:00 NOON AT THE SALANPUR PANCHAYAT SAMITY MEETING HALL, DIST. BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL.**

M/S Impex Steel Limited, Mouza – Nakrajoria, PS - Salanpur, Dist. Burdwan submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting a Public Hearing for their proposed expansion project by installing 2x7.5 MVA Submerged Arc Furnace (SAF) and 1x300 TPD Sinter Plant at Mouza – Nakrajoria, PS - Salanpur, Dist. Burdwan, West Bengal for production of Fe-Mn (31,500 TPA), Si-Mn (22,500 TPA), Fe-Si (9,000 TPA) and Mn Ore Sinter (90,000 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 16.11.2011 at 12:00 Noon. 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 Impex Steel Limited for their proposed expansion of Ferro alloy plant and installation of Sinter 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 Impex Steel Limited 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 plant by installing 2x7.5 MVA Ferro Alloys Plant and 1x300 TPD Sinter plant for production of 31,500 TPA Ferro Manganese, 22,500 TPA Silico Manganese, 9,500 TPA Ferro Silicon and 90,000 TPA Manganese Ore Sinter. He also informed that 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 camp, 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 45 KLD 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 Anjan Fouzdar , Asst. Environmental Engineer, WBPCB enquired whether the PP has obtained permission from the competent authority for sinking Borewells.

Sri Somdeep Ghosh, representative of M/S Impex Limited confirmed that they have already obtained permission from SWID for sinking Borewell for abstracting 40KLD of water.

Sri Biswajit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol told categorically that disposal of solid wastes in unidentified area is not permitted.

Sri Bimal Kumar Garai, Nakrajoria village and Sri Raja Mondal, Kalyaneswari village welcomed the proposed expansion project, provided the project proponent fulfills all their commitments made during the Public hearing.

Sri Prodyut Bannerji of village Dendua pointed out that the waste water discharged from the existing plant is destroying the adjacent agricultural fields. He requested the PP to take necessary measures so that no discharged effluent enters the agricultural fields.

Sri Uttam Barui of Dendua village apprehended further degradation of the environment due to the additional emission from the upcoming expansion project. He, however, welcomed the project if proper pollution control measures are adopted for expansion project.

Sri Utpal Datta, Bonbithi welcomed the project and requested the PP to arrange for supply of drinking water for the local villagers.

Sri Abhik Khan of village Kalyaneswari suggested that the proposed CSR activities should be spread over a 10 km radius area.

Sri Aloke Garai of village Jemari mentioned that the greeneries within and outside the factory premises are not properly maintained. He requested the PP to take initiative for the protection of the plants and ensure their survival.

Sri Shyamal Majumder, Sahasabhapati, Salanpur Panchayat Samity informed that a very high percentage of residents of Dendua village are BPL card holders, though a good number of industries are located in this area. He requested the PP to provide employment to the local youths as much as possible to improve the socio-economic condition of the locality.

Sri Joydeep Das, B.D.O., Salanpur Development Block welcomed the project as it will improve the socio-economic condition of the locality. He requested the project proponent to take necessary steps for proper utilization of fund allocated for CSR activities. He, however, suggested that a specific action plan should be made after consultation with the local administration for better utilization of the CSR fund and told that the administration would keep track on the progress of development work. He also mentioned that though a lot of industries are located in Dendua area, most of the people residing there are BPL card holder. He Requested the PP to consider the local youths for employment after providing necessary training for upgradation of their technical skill. Help of local ITIs may be taken for this purpose, he added. He further stated that supply of water through tankers by Panchayat Samity cannot be committed.

Sri Anil Goswami, G.M. (Project & Development) stated that industrial effluent will be reused after treatment and no effluent will be discharged outside the factory premises. He also stated that the PP will take initiative for extensive plantation program through the local Panchayat. He confirmed that they will 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 the 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 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 suggested the PP to store rain water by digging ponds and to take initiative for extensive plantation programme and also to take necessary steps for their survival. 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

