

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE EXPANSION PROJECT OF M/s. INDIAN OIL CORPORATION LIMITED AT P.O. – HALDIA OIL REFINERY, DIST. PURBA MEDINIPUR, PIN-721 606 HELD ON 27TH OCTOBER, 2006 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER, HALDIA REGIONAL OFFICE OF WBPCB AT SUPER MARKET BUILDING, DURGACHAK, HALDIA, DIST. PURBA MEDINIPUR

M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Limited has submitted a proposal for enhancement of the capacity of existing Resid Fluidised Catalytic Cracking Unit (RFCCU) from 0.7 MMTPA to 1.0 MMTPA at Haldia Refinery, Haldia, Dist. Purba Medinipur. The location of the revamp project would be within the premises of the existing plant at Haldia Refinery, P.O. – Haldia Oil Refinery, Purba Medinipur, Pin-721 606, West Bengal.

The meeting started with a welcome note from Dr. T. K. Gupta, Senior Environmental Engineer & In Charge - Consent Cell, WBPCB. He explained about the provisions of EIA and the public hearing notification of Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India. He also explained about the provisions of EIA and the public hearing of the new notifications of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India dated 14th September, 2006. He requested the project proponent to make a presentation about their project for the benefit of the panel members and other public present in the hearing. He also requested that questions should be associated with the proposed project and should be environment related

Project proponent (PP) then explained about the proposed project, the likely environmental impacts arising out of the same as well as the proposed pollution abatement measures.

During the discussion panel members and the others present in the public hearing made suggestions / queries with respect to the proposed project, which are given below:

Shri Animesh Chatterjee

1. Shri Chatterjee welcomed Haldia Refinery's proposal for RFCCU Revamp project and he said that he has gone through the Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment as well. Haldia Refinery has earned a reputation in the region with their age-old business. The recent cyclonic storm has uprooted some trees in IOC Haldia Township. He requested Haldia Refinery to plant more trees.
2. Shri Chatterjee has also made the queries about air pollution and disposal of waste water.

Reply by representatives of M/s Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

The PP informed that tree plantation will be done to replace the losses incurred by the recent heavy storm. They will also plant trees in the empty spaces and will increase plantation. They mentioned that few months back in the presence of local MP, Haldia Refinery have distributed saplings to the people of Haldia belt. The PP informed that

flue gas scrubbing unit (BELCO technology) takes care to minimise air pollution. Besides the unit has already installed Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station which measures the various environmental parameters continuously and also stated that effluent water is discharged to river Hooghly after treatment in ETP and compliance with regulatory standard as prescribed by WBPCB.

Shri Satugopal Bhattacharjee

1. Shri Bhattacharjee welcomed the RFCCU Revamp project and he also stated that all the queries he had in his mind have been replied by the PP. He also stated that he is very happy on the continuous growth of Haldia Refinery and appreciated the business culture of Haldia Refinery in the region.
2. He raised his apprehension that the quantity of fish in the river is decreasing. He wanted to know whether IOC is responsible in any way.

Reply by representatives of M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

The Project Proponent stated that WBPCB is regularly monitoring the quality of their discharged effluent. They mentioned that they have full fledged ETP which is operating continuously and they are discharging their effluent following MINAS standard.

Shri K K Kar

He stated that IOCL's step is praise worthy. They have done a lot about environmental protection. He requested them to consider many good projects like this one.

Reply by representatives of M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

The PP informed that they will try to excel in their business.

Shri Shyamal Mondal

1. Shri Mondal stated that IOCL have been continuously doing commendable job at Haldia. He has expressed that the proposed revamping of RFCCU will be beneficial for Haldia as a whole. He proposed that all the Municipal wards of Haldia belt must be covered by greenery. IOCL has already been doing extensive works for community development. I request them to continue with the work.
2. IOCL can consider giving technical training to the children of the local people of the area. Shri Mondal also wanted to know regarding additional employment, if any.
3. He raised the problem of LPG tankers standing on the HPL link road. He requested IOCL to come forward for solving the problem.

Reply by representatives of M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

The PP explained their effort to educate the school children in environment front by conducting training for the school children. They also explained that this is a revamp project within the existing RFCCU, accordingly no additional employment will be made by the Haldia Refinery directly. However, indirect employment will be generated.

Shri Subal Bera

Shri Bera welcomed the project and wished IOCL shall carry their flag still further high. Importance may be given on plantation in the local areas. Care must be taken to avoid air pollution.

Reply by representatives of M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

The PP thanked Shri Bera for his comments and agreed to strengthen their pollution measures.

Shri Debal Roy

Shri Roy thanked the Panel Members and the gathering for giving their valuable time to be present in the hearing. He found through the deliberations of others that the image of Haldia Refinery is very bright in the minds of the people of Haldia belt and also to the Panel Members. This shows that beside being a responsible industry, they are also discharging other social responsibilities to the people of this region. From the presentation and discussion he observed that they follow the standard environment specifications, so there is no doubt in the minds of the Members of the Panel. Local people demanded more greenery. Pollution is reduced immensely by plantation. I am glad that PP has agreed to expand the greenery. He requested PP not only to plant trees but also nurture them. Finally, such a bright image of an industry amongst the local people is a very rare phenomenon. He requested Haldia Refinery to keep up the bright image in the future as well.

Dr. T. K. Gupta

Dr. Gupta informed the panel members and others present in the public hearing that the proceedings will be sent to the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India for their consideration.

In general, the Panel Members and others present in the Public Hearing overwhelmingly welcomed the project with all the pollution abatement measures proposed to be undertaken along with this project.

Sd/-

(Dr. T. K. Gupta)

Sr. Environmental Engineer & In charge - Consent Cell
West Bengal Pollution Control Board