

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED INTEGRATED STEEL PLANT (3.0 MTPA) AND CAPTIVE POWER PLANT (300 MW) BY M/s JSW BENGAL STEEL LTD AT GODAPIASAL, DIST.-PASCHIM MEDINIPUR, WEST BENGAL HELD ON 17.08.2007 AT THE OFFICE OF SALBONI BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, DIST.-PASCHIM MEDINIPUR, WEST BENGAL

M/s. JSW Bengal Steel Limited submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed Integrated Steel Plant (3.0 MTPA) and Captive Power Plant (300 MW) at Godapiasal, Dist.-Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal. As per the EIA notification S.O. 1533 dated 14th September, 2006 of the MoEF, Govt. of India, this type of projects require environmental clearance from the MoEF, Govt. of India after conducting Public Hearing.

Accordingly, WBPCB after observing all formalities arranged a Public Hearing on 17th August, 2007 at 12.00 Hrs. at the office of Salboni Block Development Officer, Dist.-Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal. All the panel members were present in the hearing. A large gathering was also present in the hearing. List of the panel members and the others present in the Public Hearing are enclosed with these minutes.

The hearing started with welcome note from Sri B. P. Barat, IAS, District Magistrate, and Collector Paschim Medinipur who presided over the hearing. Dr. T. K. Gupta, Senior Environmental Engineer and In-charge, Consent Cell, WBPCB explained about the provisions of the above stated MoEF notification. The DM then mentioned about the probable pollution problems from these types of industries and requested the project proponent to explain proposed project in details for the benefit of the panel members and the others present in the hearing. The DM also mentioned about necessity about conducting Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment (REIA) studies for such a large project and requested the proponent to appraise the audience present about findings of the REIA study and the environmental management plan.

Mr. B.Gupta CEO, JSW Bengal Steel Ltd, on behalf of proponent deliberated their proposal through a Power Point presentation. This presentation includes the likely environmental impacts arising out of the same as well as the proposed pollution abatement measures and about environmental management programme to be taken up them. He mentioned about the sources of the raw material like iron ore, coal, water for their proposed unit. It was clearly mentioned that the water will be sourced from the river Rupnarayan only. He proposed to take the social responsibilities and to comply with the corporate responsibilities which are charted for integrated steel and iron industries. It was proposed to operate the DRI kilns only if there is a requirement under specific circumstances. The DRI kiln exit gas and dolochar shall be utilized in Waste Heat Recovery boilers and FBC boilers for generation of power. Automatic ambient air quality stations shall be installed in consultation with the West Bengal Pollution Control Board in addition to the regular ambient air quality monitoring programme.

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 Ashok Kumar Mandal, Vill. – Kulpheni, P.S. – Salboni stated that it is learnt that M/s JSW Bengal Steel Project Ltd. is likely to setup educational facility in the locality. He enquired about the type of educational institutes which would be set up and whether all the residents of the locality shall be able to avail such facility of education in those institutions.

Sri Pariskar Mahata, Vill. – Asnasuli, P.S. – Salboni desired to know whether the JSW Bengal Steel would provide employment to one person per family of those farmers whose lands have been taken for the project and what is the definition of family for providing job to one person for each family. He also raised a question on whether the JSW Bengal Steel Ltd. will create infrastructure for development of sports and cultural facilities for the inhabitants of the locality. Sri, Pranabesh Mahato, Ramraidihhi also enquired about similar issue.

Sri Sukhdeb Mahata, Vill. – Srikrishnapur, P.S. – Salboni expressed his apprehension about losing the connecting road between two villages and the upstream water sources due to setting up of this project. He expressed his concern for improving the health services in this locality.

On behalf of the project proponent, Sri B. Gupta, CEO, JSW Bengal Steel appreciated the concern expressed by different participants and welcomed the suggestions. He informed the gathering the M/s JSW foundation is working to address these issues. They require skilled, semi skilled, unskilled manpower in the construction stage and would try to inventorise the manpower resources available in the locality with help of IIT, Khargpur and ICFAI. The vocational training shall be provided to different groups depending upon the capacity of the recipients. However he ensured a sizable number of direct jobs shall be created through this project. A medical support team will start working 24x7 hrs before the construction. Paramedical services shall be provided. He ensured alternate connecting roads shall be constructed by the proponent if the link road is lost due to the project activity. He ensured that the proponent would arrange to supply potable water in the neighborhood area. They have indicated that they will address all the above stated issues while finalizing the environmental management plan and wherever possible they will consider the issues immediately.

Sri. Parimal Manna, Jambedia, Sri, Binay Kumar Pal, Godapia shall, Sri Dasrath Hansda, Gaighata, Sri Bidyut Kumar Jana, Jambedia, Sri Alok Kumar Ganguli, Salboni, Debdulal Dey, Mandalkupi, Souvik Das, Jamberia, Sri Gour Gopal Mallick expressed similar concern on protection of nearby forest, future of adjacent cultivable lands, livelihood of tribal people, modalities of land transfer. The proponent was requested to create future job opportunity for womenfolk, possibilities for supplying water for irrigation in nearby agricultural lands and regular health checkups.

Mr. P.K.Roy, Senior Environment Officer, Department of Environment requested the proponent to enhance of green belt and proper management of water. He also requested to adopt best available technology for management of fugitive emission from the coke oven plant and its surrounding areas.

Sri Mrigen Maity, Midnapur thanked JSW Bengal Steel Bengal for open house discussion. However, he expressed his concern about the pollution from the 1000 MW power plant and any possible water crisis due to this project.

The project proponent clarified the power plant will be of 300 MW capacity. He again reiterated that water will be sourced from surface stream only. They have ensured that 33% of the land shall be used for forestation only. Direct as well as indirect jobs will be created for the local community. The rain water harvesting possibilities will be explored to the maximum extent. The entire blast furnace slag shall be used for the cement plant. Regular health check ups and environmental sanitation shall be ensured for local and external workers. One referral hospital shall be constructed in the proposed township.

The District Magistrate And collector, Paschim Medinipur emphasized that all possible measures should be ensured by the project proponent towards the mitigation of all environmental hazards and various points raised by the public present in the hearing. In general the public present in the hearing welcomed the project with all the pollution control measures proposed by the Project Proponent.

sd/-
(Dr. T. K. Gupta)
Senior Environmental Engineer &
Incharge – Consent Cell, WBPCB

sd/-
(B. P. Barat, IAS)
District Magistrate
Paschim Medinipur