

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED INCREASE OF THE PRODUCTION LEVEL OF KHANDRA COLLIERY, EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED WITHOUT INCREASING THE LEASE AREA AT P.O.-UKHRA, P.S.-ANDAL, DIST.-BURDWAN, W.B. HELD ON 23.07.2007 AT ANDAL PANCHAYAT SAMITY OFFICE, DIST.-BURDWAN, W.B.**

M/s. Eastern Coalfields Limited submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed increase of the production level from 350 TPD to 1300 TPD of Khandra Colliery at P.O.-Ukhra, P.S.-Andal, Dist.-Burdwan, W.B. As per the EIA notification S.O. 1533 dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 of the MoEF, Govt. of India, Environment Clearance of the said project is required to be obtained from the MoEF, Govt. of India after conducting Public Hearing.

Accordingly, WBPCB after observing all formalities, held a Public Hearing on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2007 at 10.30 Hrs. at Andal Panchayat Samity office. Panel members were present in the hearing. A considerable gathering was also present in the hearing. List of the panel members and the others present in the public hearing are enclosed.

The hearing started with a welcome note from Sri Debashis Sarkar, Environmental Engineer, WBPCB. He explained about the provisions of the above stated MoEF notification and requested the Project Proponent to explain the details about the proposed underground coal mining project for the benefit of the panel members and others present in the hearing. Sri S. Chatterjee, Additional District Magistrate (Dev.), Burdwan presided over the Public Hearing.

Project Proponent then explained about the project by PowerPoint presentation, emphasizing the likely environmental impacts arising out of the same as well as the proposed pollution abatement measures to be taken by them.

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 Ram Narayan Mukherjee of Village-Khandra welcomed the expansion proposal of Khandra Colliery, an unit of ECL. However, he has requested the Project Proponent (PP) to look in to the following issues.

- Arrangements of adequate water sprinkling during movement of trucks.
- Proper stowing need to be carried out to avoid of local subsidence.
- Adequate care should be taken to minimize vibration during blasting operation.
- Provision of adequate potable water supply in the local community.

Sri Swapan Sarkar of Village-Khandra requested the PP to take programmes for more plantation in the vacant areas of ECL. He also requested ECL Authority to take adequate steps to minimize vibrations during blasting operation and arrangement of adequate water sprinkling to control fugitive dust emissions.

Sri Amar Bhattacharjee of Khandra area has mentioned that ECL authorities should provide potable drinking water to the local community. He requested ECL authority to provide coal as fuel to the local people at reasonable price.

Sri Uttam Sadhukhan and Mrs. Susama Acharya welcomed the proposal for expansion with all the commitments made by the E.C.L. authority.

Sri Debabrata Ghosal, Village-Khandra has mentioned that the ECL authority should have well defined plan for sand stowing. He requested the ECL authority to give more importance for local area development

Sri P. B. Sadhu of Khandra village welcomed such expansion proposal and requested the ECL authority to make a playground / park for the local residents.

On behalf of the project proponent Sri U. S. Tewary, CGM, Bankola Area, ECL has appreciated the concern expressed by the different participants and welcomed the suggestions. He informed that the issues raised by the various participants will be addressed adequately before finalizing the environmental management plan.

Additional District Magistrate(Dev.), Burdwan 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, incorporating the issues mentioned above by the Project Proponent.

Sd/-  
Debashis Sarkar  
Environmental Engineer  
WBPCB

Sd/-  
S. Chatterjee  
Additional District Magistrate (Dev.)  
Burdwan