

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED INCREASE OF PRODUCTION LEVEL OF KUMARDIHI-B COLLIERY, EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED WITHOUT INCREASING THE LEASE AREA AT BANKOLA AREA, P.O.-UKHRA, P.S.-PANDABESWAR, DIST.-BURDWAN, W.B. HELD ON 25.07.2007 AT PANDABESWAR PANCHAYAT SAMITY OFFICE, DIST.- BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL.

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 265 TPD to 1400 TPD of Kumardihi-B Colliery at Bankola Area, P.O.-Ukhra, P.S.-Pandabeswar, Dist.-Burdwan, West Bengal. As per the EIA notification S.O. 1533 dated 14th September, 2006 of the MoEF, Govt. of India, Environmental 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 25th July, 2007 at 11.00 Hrs. at Pandabeswar Panchayat Samity office. The 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 Ms. S. Mahapatra, IAS, Additional District Magistrate(ADM), Asansol, Dist.-Burdwan who presided over the Hearing. Sri Prabir Kumar Barai, Scientist, WBPCB explained about the provisions of the above stated MoEF notification. The ADM then requested the Project Proponent to explain the details about the proposed expansion proposal of underground coal mining project for discussion among the panel members and other public present in the hearing.

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

During 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 Shyamal Kumar Mondal and Sri Arindam Mondal, Vill-Joalbhanga welcomed the proposed expansion proposal of Kumardihi-B Colliery, an unit of ECL with all the commitments made by the ECL authorities.

Sri Asim Mondal, Vill-Joalbhanga welcomed the proposed expansion project of Kumardihi-B Colliery and mentioned a proposal to form a monitoring team for checking compliance of various environmental norms.

Sri Kamdev Pal, Vill-Bhatmora also welcomed the proposed expansion project. He mentioned that the proposed expansion will create employment opportunity for the local villagers.

Sri Mritunjoy Mondal, Vill-Joalbhanga welcomed the expansion proposal of Kumardihi-B Colliery, an unit of ECL. However, he has requested the project proponent to look in to the following issues.

- Provision of adequate potable water supply in the local community.
- Arrangement of programmes for more plantation in the local area.
- Care should be taken for repairing and maintenance of local roads.
- Provision of adequate drainage system.

Sri Prabir Kumar Barai, Scientist, WBPCB requested the ECL authorities for provision of water sprinkling arrangements on the road during transportation of heavy vehicles. He also mentioned that during plantation programme selection of species should be made considering the climate condition and in consultation with the District Administration.

On behalf of the Project Proponent Sri U. S. Tewari, CGM, Bankola Area and Sri A. Chatterjee, GM (Civil & Environment) have 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.

The Additional District Magistrate, Asansol emphasized that all possible measures should be ensured by the project proponent towards 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/-
Prabir Kumar Barai
Scientist, WBPCB

Sd/-
Ms. S. Mahapatra, IAS
Additional District Magistrate, Asansol