

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED INCREASE OF THE PRODUCTION LEVEL OF NABAKAJORA COLLIERY, EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED WITHOUT INCREASING THE LEASE AREA AT P.O.-KAJORAGRAM, 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 to 1000 TPD of Nabakajora Colliery at P.O.-Kajoragram, P.S.-Andal, Dist.-Burdwan, W.B. As per the EIA notification S.O. 1533 dated 14th 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 23rd July, 2007 at 12.30 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 S. Chatterjee, Additional District Magistrate(Dev.), Burdwan who presided over the hearing. Sri Debashis Sarkar, Environmental Engineer, WBPCB explained about the provisions of the above stated MoEF notification. ADM then requested the Project Proponent to explain the details about the proposed underground coal mining project for the benefit of the panel members and other public present in the hearing.

Project Proponent then explained about the project by PowerPoint 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.

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 Shyamal Ganguly, local resident has welcomed the expansion proposal of Nabakajora Colliery, an unit of E.C.L. However, he has requested the project proponent to take programme for more plantation.

Sri Bijoy Shankar Singh, Secretary, CITU, Madhabpur Colliery welcomed the expansion proposal with proper implementation of all the propositions made by the E.C.L. authority.

Sri Rajendra Jasawara of Madhabpur Colliery area, has appreciated such expansion proposal of Nabakajora Colliery. But he also mentioned that the ECL authority should follow and act according to their commitments particularly in respect of proper sand stowing, adequate water sprinkling arrangements, repairing and maintenance of local roads.

Sri Ananta Chakraborty of village-Kajoragram welcomed the expansion proposal but he mentioned that the ECL authority should act according to their commitment for better environmental situation. He requested the Project Proponent to supply safe drinking water to local people and to make arrangements for water sprinkling on roads.

Sri S. Mukherjee, Sabhapati, Andal Panchayat Samity has welcomed the proposal for expansion of Nabakajora Colliery, an unit of ECL. However, he has requested the project proponent to look into the following issues.

- ECL authority should take necessary action for wide publicity about such Public Hearing in future.
- Improvement for repairing and maintenance of the local roads.
- Programmes for more plantation and maintenance of the same.
- Local area development.

Sri P. K. Barai, Scientist, WBPCB mentioned that selection of species for plantation should be done considering the climatic condition of the area and in consultation with the District administration and Forest department.

On behalf of the project proponent Sri S. R. Ojha, GM, Kajora 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 completely addressed before finalizing the environmental management plan.

Sri S. Chatterjee, Additional District Magistrate(Dev.), Burdwan mentioned that the ECL authority should take more initiatives for wide publication to the local residents about the Public Hearing. He also advised that ECL authority should prepare Power Point presentation in Bengali as well as Hindi for public hearing in future. He also 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