

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED NEW OPENCAST COAL MINING PROJECT OF NAKRAKONDA 'B' OCP AT BANKOLA AREA, DIST.-BURDWAN, W.B. PROPOSED BY M/s. EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED 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 new opencast coal mining project of production capacity 1.5 million tones per annum at Bankola Area, Dist.-Burdwan, W.B. 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 14.30 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 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 Arindam Mondal, Vill-Joalbhanga welcomed the proposal of Nakrakonda 'B' OCP, an unit of ECL. However, he mentioned that existing condition of local roads is not good and he requested the project proponent to repair and maintain the existing local roads. He has also requested the ECL authorities to incorporate the name of Vill-Joalbhanga in the name of the project.

Sri Asim Mondal, Vill-Joalbhanga welcomed the proposed coal mining project of Nakrakonda 'B' OCP, an unit of ECL. However, he has requested the ECL authorities to look into the following issues.

- Inclusion of name of Vill-Joalbhanga into the name of project.
- Provision of adequate potable water supply in the local community.
- Repairing and maintenance of the local roads.
- Adequate precautionary measures should be taken to minimize the vibration during blasting operation. A survey for the existing local residential houses should be done by the project proponent before initiation of the project.

- Scientific plantation in consultation with local Panchayat and District Administration.

Sri Mritunjoy Mondal, Vill-Joalbhanga welcomed the proposed project of Nakrakonda 'B' OCP and mentioned that the ECL authorities should ensure provision of covered vehicles during transportation of coal.

Sri Shyamal Kumar Mondal, Vill-Joalbhanga also welcomed the proposed project and mentioned that the proposed project will create the employment opportunity for the local people. He requested the ECL authorities to engage the local people as much as possible.

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. Sri Tewari mentioned that after the life (4 years) of this project, there will be a water lagoon of area 15.66 Ha, which can be beneficial to the local villagers. They also 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