

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED STRETCH OF HIGHWAYS THROUGH DISTRICT JALPAIGURI FOR WIDENING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE EXISTING SINGLE/2 LANE TO 4/6 LANE OF NH-31C FROM ASSAM-WEST BORDER TO GAIRKATTA SECTION (KM 225.00 TO KM 145.00) ON NH-31C, VARIATION ALONG ALTERNATIVE ALIGNMENT OF EW CORRIDOR FALAKATA (KM 741.00) ON NH-31 TO SALSABARI ON NH-31C (KM 228.00) (TOTAL LENGTH 51.309 KM) IN THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S. NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY OF INDIA, HELD ON 29.07.2008 AT ALIPURDUAR-I PANCHAYAT SAMITY OFFICE AT PASKELGURI (NEAR BABURHAT), PS - ALIPURDUAR, DIST. - JALPAIGURI, WEST BENGAL**

M/s. National Highway Authority of India submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting a Public Hearing for the proposed stretch of highways through Dist. Jalpaiguri for widening and improvement of the existing single/2 lane to 4/6 lane of NH-31C from Assam-West border to Gairkatta section (km 225.00 to km 145.00) on NH-31C, variation along alternative alignment of EW corridor Falakata (km 741.00) on NH-31 to Salsabari on NH-31C (km 228.00) (total length 51.309 km) in the state of West Bengal. As per the EIA Notification S.O. 1533 dated 14<sup>th</sup> 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 the Public Hearing.

Accordingly, West Bengal Pollution Control Board after observing all formalities, held the Public Hearing on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2008 at 12.00 hrs. at Alipurduar-I Panchayat Samity Office at Paskelguri (near Baburhat), PS - Alipurduar, Dist. - Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. All the panel members were present in the hearing. Shri S. Dutta Additional, District Magistrate, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri presided over the hearing. List of the panel members and the others present in the public hearing is enclosed.

The hearing started with a welcome note from Dr. T. K. Gupta, Chief Engineer, WBPCB. He explained about the provisions of the above stated MoEF Notification and also informed the audience about the draft proposal of M/s National Highway Authority of India. The Project Proponent was then asked to explain the details about the proposed project for discussion among the panel members and others present in the hearing.

Sri P. Mishra, Manager & the Consultant of M/s. National Highway Authority of India, narrated about the project details and the proposed pollution control measures emphasizing on the likely environmental impacts arising out of the same as well as the proposed pollution abatement measures to be considered 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:

Smt Bimala Singha Roy Sabhapati, Alipurduar, Block-I, Panchayat Samity, welcomed the proposed project with all the commitments made by the PP during their presentation. She mentioned that the proposed project is an urgent need but the project proponent should take necessary steps for addressing the concern local people towards better environmental measures and R&R issues.

Shri Jiban Roy of Baburhat, Shri S.R. Ghosh of Alipurduar, Shri Haren Das of Ghargharia requested the project proponent to provide more information about the environmental scenario on completion of the project. They have also mentioned that the project proponent need to address the R&R issues holistically. Mr. Ghosh however submitted a written memorandum which is also enclosed.

Sri J. S. Roy, Shri. Joydeb Roy & Shri N.R. Biswas welcomed such project but they also mentioned that the project authority should extend and comply with the 'Corporate Social Responsibility', they also mentioned that proper settlement of R & R issues need to be addressed by the Project Proponent.

Sri. P. K. Roy, Deptt. Of Environment, Govt of W.B., requested the project proponent to explore the possibility of providing noise barriers near hospitals and educational institute.

Mr. P. Mishra of NHAI, appreciated the various issues expressed by different participants and welcomed the suggestions. He indicated that the PP will address all the above stated issues while finalizing the environmental management plan. He confirmed that they will address the R&R issues as per NHAI norms and in consultation with district authority and the State Government. He also committed that the social responsibility program shall be taken up in consultation with local administration.

Mr. S. Dutta, ADM, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, emphasized that all possible measures should be ensured by the Project Proponent towards the mitigation of all environmental problems and various points raised by the public present in the hearing. The project is welcome with a request that the Project Proponent should address issues mentioned above raised during public hearing. ADM, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, also assured the public that all the memorandum submitted by the local people about this proposal shall be duly forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India.

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sd/-  
(Dr. T. K. Gupta)  
Chief Engineer - I,  
WBPCB

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sd/-  
( Susanta Dutta )  
Additional District Magistrate,  
Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri,  
Government of West Bengal