

Proceedings of the Public Hearing held at the auditorium of Government Girls' High School, Adra, Dist – Purulia, West Bengal, on 06/09/2011 regarding the proposed 1320 MW (2x660 MW) Coal Based Thermal Power Plant at Vill – Adra (Manpura), near Adra Railway Station, PS & Tehsil – Kashipur, Dist – Purulia, West Bengal, proposed by Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) and M/s. NTPC Limited (as a joint venture project).

Ministry of Railways as a joint venture with M/s. NTPC Limited have proposed 1320 MW (2x660 MW) Coal Based Thermal Power Plant at Vill – Adra (Manpura), near Adra Railway Station, PS & Tehsil – Kashipur, Dist – Purulia, West Bengal. As per the provision of EIA Notification S. O. 1533 (E) dated 14.09.2006 of Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India and subsequent amendments they have requested the West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting the public hearing for the proposed 1320 MW (2x660 MW) Coal Based Thermal Power Plant at Vill – Adra (Manpura), Near Adra Railway Station, PS & Tehsil – Kashipur, Dist – Purulia, West Bengal.

Accordingly, the State Board after observing all formalities, arranged the Public Hearing with due support from the district administration on 06th September, 2011 at about 12:00 noon at the auditorium of Government Girls' High School, Adra, Dist – Purulia, West Bengal. The public hearing was presided over by Shri J. K. Aikat, Additional District Magistrate (Dev.), Purulia. List of the panel members and others present during the public hearing is enclosed with the hard copy.

The hearing started with a welcome note of Dr. T. K. Gupta, Chief Engineer (Planning), West Bengal Pollution Control Board who also introduced the all other panellists and explained the provisions of public hearing which are laid down in the above-mentioned MoEF Notification in connection to this draft proposal for setting up of 1320 MW (2x660 MW) Coal Based Thermal Power Plant at Vill – Adra (Manpura), Near Adra Railway Station, PS & Tehsil – Kashipur, Dist – Purulia, West Bengal.

Shri J. K. Aikat, Additional District Magistrate (Dev.), Purulia addressed the audience. In his short speech he mentioned that this kind of large thermal power plant is likely to bring socio-economic changes in the neighbourhood area because past experiences suggest that setting up of such a large power generating station usually leads to opening of new avenues for setting up supporting new ancillary businesses. Further, such developmental changes are also accompanied by social transitions and environmental impacts. He reminded the audience that there should also be conscious efforts by stakeholders to make these social transitions beneficial for all and also to

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ensure that the net environmental impacts remain positive during the construction as well as operation of thermal power plant. He then requested the project proponent to deliver their presentation.

On behalf of railways, Shri Sushil Kumar, Director Electrical Engineering (Power Supply), Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), informed the audience about the rationale behind the decision of the railways to venture in power sector.

Shri H. K. Nandi, AGM, Projects of M/s. NTPC Ltd. The partner for the JV project described the project proposal before the audience through a power point presentation. While describing the project proposal before the audience he emphasised that they would try to minimise the ash generation and would comply with 50mg/Nm³ particulate emission standard. He mentioned that there automatic ambient quality stations along with online emission system for the stacks shall be set up to continuously monitor the air quality. The total water requirement of the project would be to the tune of 3815 m³/hr. In his deliberation he mentioned that although this proposal of 1320 MW thermal power plant does not include any land acquisition / rehabilitation programme but arranging land for laying adequate water supply pipeline network is likely to incur such measures.

During discussion among the panel members and others present in the public hearing following issues / queries / suggestion with respect to the project emerged.

Almost all the speakers – (1) Hazari Bauri, Monpura, Metal Sahar (2) Ashwini Kumar Gupta, Adra, (3) Santosh Chatterjee, Manpura (Gagnabad), (4) Ankur Bauri, Adra, (5) Krishnendu Dubey, Arra, (6) Dr. Manoj Kumar, Adra, (7) Smt. Krishna Sarkar, Adra, (8) Sadhan Choudhury, Robori, Kashipur, (9) Suraj Chowhan, Adra, (10) Utam Malekar & Rina Prasad, Laldanga, Adra, (11) Rina Adhikari, Adra, have spoken in same tune. As per their deliberation poverty and unemployment are the two major causes of misery of the people of this particular region. The entire session was dominated by discussion and deliberation from the local people which suggest that there was strong interest amongst the attendants to set up the power plant in that area which they feel would

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be a tremendous boost to uplift their economical and social status through employment and livelihood generation. It was also deliberated by some of the speakers that they are willing to extend all kinds of support to the project proponent for setting up this power plant. Some of the speakers expected a clarification for the delay in rolling out of this plant which was announced last year. Apart from individual speakers there were slogans by the groups demanding setting up the power plant.

Shri Satyajit Chatterjee, Adra, mentioned that although like the all other speakers, he also supports the industrialisation but he expressed his worry about the fate of the thousands of migratory birds which usually visit the Sahebbandh of Adra along with the Sahebbandh of Purulia. Because the thermal power plant is being proposed to set up in a site very close to this large water body known as Sahebbandh, Adra, the path of migratory birds are likely to be affected.

Shri Souvik Sen, Adra, informed the audience that his personal experience suggests that the degree of environmental performance of any unit in the range is found to be 70% - 75% with respect to targets usually committed in the public hearing. He requested the project proponent to categorically specify the expected level of compliance for this proposed plant.

Additional District Magistrate, requested the project proponent to respond to the queries raised on the environmental issues.

The NTPC on behalf of the joint venture initiative with Ministry of Railway informed the audience that they are also overwhelmed by the positive response of the people present in hearing for early setting up of the thermal power plant. They assured that the preparatory background work for the project is under progress. They would try to achieve more than ninety nine percent efficiency in environmental sectors. They have also mentioned that direct as well as indirect employment will be generated through setting up of this thermal power plant in this particular region. The generation of employment (direct or indirect) are expected to bring positive socio-environmental changes in this particular area. They have mentioned that the NTPC has its own corporate guidelines for

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implementing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) proposals and M/s. NTPC Ltd. will implement CSR programmes as per the said guideline.

The ADM stated that, he is also deeply moved by positive response of the people present at the hearing. Considering hopes and aspirations among the people about this particular thermal power plant proposal, the district administration shall try to extend all kind of support and cooperation for such a project which is so strongly desired by the people. However, he requested the project proponent to resolve two significant issues:

1. *Ensuring compensatory forestation in an appropriate land parcel.* He requested the representative of the railways who were present in the public hearing including DRM, Adra, himself for extending their cooperation to earmark the suitable site, (may be in land of railways) for afforestation at an earliest opportunity, as it appeared that the general rule of one third area afforestation had not been followed in the present instance. He also suggested conducting a survey to determine the bio-diversity of the area so that the compensatory afforestation would take into account the different kinds of flora that would need replenishment to cause minimum harm to the ecosystem.
2. *Arranging land for laying out of the water supply pipe network and also setting up of a reservoir to meet the water storage demand for this particular thermal power plant.* To expedite the process of all out introduction of the erection of the plant, he suggested taking up of the water pipeline issue (either from Maithon or from Panchet) with concerned authorities at the earliest.

He assured the audience that the proceedings of this public hearing shall be duly forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India and expressed his gratitude to the audience for their generous participation in this public hearing.

Sd/-

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Dr. T. K. Gupta

Chief Engineer
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Jayanta Kumar Aikat

Additional District Magistrate (Dev.), Purulia
Government of West Bengal