

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED CBM EXPLORATORY DRILLING IN RANIGANJ (NORTH) CBM BLOCK, DIST.-BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL PROPOSED BY M/s. OIL & NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LIMITED HELD ON 12.10.2007 AT DURGAPUR- FARIDPUR PANCHAYAT SAMITY OFFICE, LAUDOHA, DIST.-BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL**

M/s. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed CBM exploratory drilling in Raniganj (North) CBM Block, Dist.-Burdwan, 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 Public Hearing.

Accordingly, West Bengal Pollution Control Board after observing all formalities, hold the Public Hearing on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2007 at 11.00 Hrs at Durgapur-Faridpur Panchayat Samity Office, Laudoha, Dist.-Burdwan. 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, Asansol who presided over the hearing. Sri Debashis Sarkar, Environmental Engineer, 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 project for discussion among the panel members and others present in the hearing.

The Project Proponent then explained about the project details by Power Point 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:

Shri Annada Ghanty, a resident from village Rangamati welcomed the proposed project of scientific exploration of coal bed Methane as they have already experienced with the natural emission of such gas at Maheshpur village area.

Shri Uday Ruidas, a resident of Laudoha village stressed upon wide public awareness about the project of Coal bed Methane and requested the project proponent to explore the possibility of such gas for domestic use in the local area.

Shri Ranjit Das of Ichapur Bhatkhala village enquired about the socio economic development of the surrounding area due to the proposed project and likely impact on environment during full-fledged operation of the project.

Shri Baban Gorai of Ichapur village welcomed the proposed project and enquired whether there is any possibility of emitting poisonous gas from the proposed activity.

Shri Ashok Kumar Ganguly of Ichapur village suggested that the project proponent should distribute publicity material involving local Panchayat in the nearby villages about the proposed project.

Shri P. K. Roy, Senior Environment Officer, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal welcomed the proposed project and enquired about Terms Of Reference (TOR) of the proposed project, the draft EIA report should have included the TOR for public hearing and also immission - rose diagram for better public understanding. He also suggested Diesel Generator Sets proposed to be used in the project should be provided with proper acoustic enclosures as per guidelines. He also suggested that the flaring stack height should be 30 mtrs. instead of 15 mtrs from GL as proposed.

On behalf of the Project Proponent Shri P. N. Hajra, Block Manager, M/s. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., (ONGC) have appreciated the various issues expressed by the different participants and welcomed the suggestions. He indicated that they will address all the above stated issues adequately while finalizing the Environmental Management Plan.

The Additional District Magistrate, Asansol 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 welcome the project incorporating with all the pollution control measures proposed by the Project Proponent.

Sd/-  
Debashis Sarkar  
Environmental Engineer  
WBPCB

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