

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED INCREASE OF THE PRODUCTION LEVEL OF PARASEA COLLIERY, EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED WITHOUT INCREASING THE LEASE AREA AT P.O.-PARASEA, P.S.-JAMURIA, DIST.-BURDWAN, W.B. HELD ON 20.07.2007 AT JAMURIA 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 from 675 TPD to 1200 TPD of Parasea Colliery at P.O.-Parasea, P.S.-Jamuria, 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 20th July, 2007 at 14.30 Hrs. at Jamuria Panchayat Samity Office. Panel members were present in the hearing. A large 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, Dist.-Burdwan who presided over the hearing. Dr. T. K. Gupta, Senior 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 expansion in Parasea 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, 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 Sajal Mondal, Karmadhyaksha, Burdwan Zilla Parishad has welcomed the expansion proposal of Parasea Colliery, an unit of E.C.L. However, he has requested the project proponent to look in to the following issues.

- Proper stowing need to be carried out to avoid of local subsidence.
- Health aspect of the Employees of the Collieries and surrounding areas.
- Provision of adequate potable water supply in the local community exploring the possibility from river Ajoy.
- Adequate ventilation need to be arranged in the underground mines.
- Provision of community education and Health Camp.
- Construction of new water bodies for supplying in the community and agriculture particularly during dry season.
- Scientific plantation in consultation with local Panchayat, District Administration.

Sri Sipai Ruidas, Member, Burdwan Zilla Parishad has appreciated the expansion programme of Parasea Colliery. But he has mentioned that E.C.L. authorities should follow

and act according to their commitment for better environmental situation particularly about land subsidence in the colliery area. He has categorically mentioned that the Parasea Colliery, an unit of E.C.L. should have well defined plan for sand stowing, regular maintenance of local roads, community potable water supply arrangement, development of primary and Secondary School, arrangements of mid-day meals among the school children and more plantation in the vacant land Parasea Colliery area.

Sri Subrata Sarkar, BDO, Jamuria has mentioned that the E.C.L. authorities should take care local water supply arrangements, avoidance of land subsidence and maintenance of local roads along with their proposed expansion programme.

Sri K. D. Ram, Secretary, CITU, Parasea Colliery, Sri S. P. Singh, Member, Parasea Gram Panchayat, Sri Bijoy Ghosh, Vice President, CITU, Parasea Colliery have welcomed the expansion proposal. They have also requested the PP to consider the arrangement for local water supply, maintenance of roads and development of new schools as a part of their social commitment.

Sri Samir Mondal, Sri Mahesh Ojha, Sri Raghunath Dey and Sri Shibnath Singh mentioned that the expansion of production of Parasea Colliery will improve the local socio economic condition. However, they have requested the project authorities to revamp the existing Kendriya Vidyalaya in Parasea and make arrangement for supply of safe drinking water in the local community.

On behalf of the project proponent Sri N. K. Tewari, Additional General Manager, Kunustoria Area 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 addressed adequately before finalizing the environmental management plan.

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 welcomed the project, incorporating the issues mentioned above by the Project Proponent.

Sd/-
Dr. T. K. Gupta
Sr. Environmental Engineer &
Incharge – Consent Cell, WBPCB

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