

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED INTEGRATED STEEL PLANT OF CAPACITY 2.0 MTPA (PROJECT INCLUDES PRODUCTION OF SPONGE IRON: 0.80 MTPA, PRODUCTION BY BLAST FURNACE: 1.20 MTPA, COKE OVEN PLANT OF CAPACITY: 0.50 MTPA, PELLET PLANT OF CAPACITY: 2.0 MTPA, SINTER PLANT OF 1.2 MTPA, STEEL MELTING SHOP OF 2.00 MTPA, COAL WASHERY OF 1.00 MTPA, LIME & DOLIME PLANT OF 2X300 TPA, OXYGEN PLANT OF 2X300 TPD, FERRO ALLOY PLANT OF 0.072 MTPA, ROLLING MILL OF 1.30 MTPA, ALLOY STEEL PLANT OF 0.70 MTPA ETC.) ALONGWITH COAL BASED POWER PLANT OF 2 X 250 MW AT MOUZA – HIJALGORA, PS – JAMURIA, DIST. – BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S RASHMI CEMENT LIMITED (STEEL & POWER DIVISION), HELD ON 03.08.2011 AT 11:30 HRS. AT “NAZRUL SATABARSHIKI MANCHA” AT JAMURIA UNDER JAMURIA MUNICIPALITY, DIST – BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL**

M/S Rashmi Cement Ltd. (Steel & Power Division) at Mouza – Hijalgora, PS – Jamuria, Dist – Burdwan, submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed Integrated Steel Plant of 2.0 MTPA (Project includes Sponge Iron Production: 0.80 MTPA, Production by Blast furnace: 1.20 MTPA, Coke Oven plant of capacity: 0.50 MTPA, Pellet Plant of capacity 2.0 MTPA, Sinter Plant:1.2 MTPA, Steel Melting Shop: 2.0 MTPA, Coal Washery: 1.0 MTPA, Lime & Dolime Plant: 2.x300 TPA, Oxygen Plant: 2x300 TPD, Ferro Alloy Plant: 0.072 MTPA, Rolling Mill:1.30 MTPA, Alloy Steel Plant: 0.70 MTPA etc.) alongwith coal based Power Plant of capacity: 2x250 MW. 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 the Public Hearing.

Accordingly, West Bengal Pollution Control Board after observing all formalities, held the Public Hearing on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2011 at 11.30 hrs. at “Nazrul Shatabarshiki Mancha” at Jamuria under Jamuria Municipality, Dist – Burdwan, West Bengal. All the panel members were present in the hearing, Sri Biswajit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol 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, West Bengal Pollution Control Board. He explained about the provisions of the above stated MoEF notification and also informed the audience about the draft proposal of M/S Rashmi Cement Ltd. (Steel & Power Division) for the proposed Integrated Steel Plant of 2.0 MTPA (Project includes Sponge Iron Production: 0.80 MTPA, Production by Blast furnace: 1.20 MTPA, Coke Oven plant of capacity: 0.50 MTPA, Pellet Plant of capacity 2.0 MTPA, Sinter Plant:1.2 MTPA, Steel Melting Shop: 2.0 MTPA, Coal Washery: 1.0 MTPA, Lime & Dolime Plant: 2.x300 TPA, Oxygen Plant: 2x300 TPD, Ferro Alloy Plant: 0.072 MTPA, Rolling Mill:1.30 MTPA, Alloy Steel Plant: 0.70 MTPA etc.) alongwith coal based Power Plant of capacity: 2x250 MW at Mouza – Hijalgora, PS – Jamuria, Dist – Burdwan, West Bengal.

Sri Biswajit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol 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.

Sri S.K.Patwari,M.D., M/s. Rashmi Cement Ltd. welcomed the delegates and the audience for being present in the public hearing and their representative made the technical presentation of the proposed project.

He narrated about the project details and the proposed pollution control devices through 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. He has pointed out that a brief description has already been circulated among the people present at hearing. He has mentioned about their emission control proposal for each unit. Categorically he has mentioned that the PM level from DRI would be less than 50 mg/Nm<sup>3</sup>. He has also confirmed that the local people shall be consulted in each stage of the project and the industry is planning for initiating social responsibility programmes like setting up vocational training institute, health camp, recreational activity, road development, plantation etc. He has also mentioned that it would generate employment for local people and take neighboring villagers into confidence in each stage of the project.

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:

Sk. Ashraful Haque of Hijalgora village, welcomed the proposed project with all the commitments made by the PP during their presentation. He informed that they want the industry along with infrastructural support and employment for local people. He also apprehended that the proposed Integrated Steel Plant may cause serious environmental degradation and requested the PP to take appropriate abatement measures in this regard. He also submitted a petition on behalf of the local people during the public hearing , which is attached.

Sri Asish Kumar Bandopadhyay of Jamuria Block Congress committee apprehended serious environmental pollution from process activities of proposed Integrated Steel Plant. He also expressed concern about the pollution due to dust deposition on water bodies in & around Jamuria due to operation of existing sponge iron units. He, however, welcomed the project, ensuring no further environmental hazards.

Sri Sukhendu Bikas Ghosal & Sk. Rakibul of village Hijalgora welcomed the proposed project as it would benefit the socio-economic growth of the locality by creating direct/indirect employment. They also requested the project proponent to consider employment for local people and to develop local infrastructure i.e. school , playground etc.

Sri Niranjana Mondal of village Hijalgora apprehended pollutional hazards from the upcoming unit as they have very bitter experience about the existing sponge iron units at Jamuria , i.e. of high dust emission and choking of rivulets with sponge iron dusts . He suggested the PP to consider the proposal of gas based sponge iron units instead of the conventional coal based units. He welcomed the project maintaining all environmental norms and complying all the commitments made by the PP . However they expressed their concern regarding indiscriminate depletion of ground water. They requested the ADM, Asansol to take necessary action to arrange for water supply from river Ajay to their locality. He also requested the project proponent to ensure proper pollution control measures in the upcoming project and to initiate serious effort regarding extensive plantation in and around their unit. He further requested the ADM, Asansol to constitute a monitoring committee involving local administration, WBPCB and local people to monitor the compliance status of environmental norms by the industries located in and around Hijalgarh area.

Sk. Kazi Abdul Sukur of village Hijalgora requested the PP to take appropriate pollution control measures for the proposed unit as they have very bitter experience of environmental hazards from the existing sponge iron units at Jamuria. He also requested the PP to consider employment for local people .

Sri Tapas Chakraborty, Sabhapati, Block Trinamool Congress, Jamuria – II thanked the local habitants for creating a congenial environment for industrialization in the locality. He also expressed his concern about serious environmental hazards created by the existing sponge iron units and requested the PP to ensure proper pollution control measures in the upcoming project & to initiate serious effort regarding extensive plantation in and around their unit. He also welcomed the proposed project maintaining all environmental norms.

Sri Goutam Bhattacharjee of village Hijalgora requested the Authorities to visit the local villages to oversee the environmental degradation due to the existing sponge iron units at Jamuria. He however welcomed proposed project maintaining all environmental norms.

Sri Biswajit Dutta, ADM, Asansol requested officials of the Pollution Control Board and also the representatives of M/S Rashmi Cement Ltd. to respond to villagers queries.

Dr. T.K.Gupta, Chief Engineer, WBPCB described the potential of pollution from such industries and emphasized the need for installation of appropriate pollution control technologies. He also requested the ADM, Asansol to constitute a monitoring team involving the local people and administration to oversee the environmental situation on regular basis.

Sri S.K.Patwari , MD of M/s. Rashmi Cement Ltd appreciated the various issues expressed by different participants and welcomed the suggestions. He stated that the PP will address all the issues raised in the public hearing during finalizing the environmental management plan. He confirmed that they would not abstract ground water without prior permission from competent authority and shall take all necessary measures to comply with the suggestions made in this public hearing. He also committed that the social responsibility program shall be taken up in consultation with local administration.

Sri Biswajit Dutta, ADM, Asansol emphasized that all possible measures should be ensured by the Project Proponent towards the mitigation of all environmental problems and various issues raised by the people present in the hearing. He further requested the PP to incorporate proposal for extensive plantation program, Rain Water Harvesting and generation of new surface water sources in the locality, in the final EIA report. The project is welcomed only after incorporation of all the pollution control measures and corporate social responsibility programmes proposed by the Project Proponent. He assured the audience that the proceedings of this public hearing shall be duly forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India and further expressed his gratitude to the audience for their active participation in this public hearing procedure.

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Dr. T.K. Gupta,  
Chief Engineer  
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

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Sri Biswajit Dutta,  
Additional District Magistrate, Asansol  
Dist. Burdwan