

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE SPONGE IRON PLANT BY INSTALLING 3x100 TPD DRI KILNS FOR ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION OF 90000 TPA SPONGE IRON, INSTALLATION OF FERRO ALLOY PLANT FOR PRODUCTION OF 36960 TPA FERRO MANGANESE BY INSTALLING 2X9 MVA SEAF AND 10 MW CAPTIVE POWER PLANT AT VILLAGE: GAJASHIMUL, PO AND PS JHARGRAM, DIST. PASHCHIM MEDINIPUR, WEST BENGAL PROPOSED BY M/S. RASHMI ISPAT LTD, HELD ON 06.04.2010 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE MEETING HALL OF PASCHIM MEDINIPUR COLLECTORATE AT MEDINIPUR, WEST BENGAL

M/S Rashmi Ishpat Limited, Gajashimul, P.O.& P.S. Jhargram, Pashchim Medinipur submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting a Public Hearing for the proposed DRI Plant and Captive Power Plant with Ferro alloy plant at village: Gajashimul, Dist. – West Midnapore, West Bengal. 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 06th April, 2010 at 12.00 noon in the Meeting Hall of Paschim Medinipur Collectorate Office, West Bengal. All the panel members were present in the hearing, Sri T.K. Mitra, Additional District Magistrate (Development), Pashchim Medinipur 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 Rashmi Ishpat Ltd. for setting up a DRI Plant and Captive Power Plant with Ferro alloy plant at village: Gajashimul. 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 Alope Chakraborty, Executive Officer, M/s. Rashmi Ishpat Limited, 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. The project includes proposal for setting up of Rotary kilns for production of sponge iron, Ferro alloy units and Captive Power Plant (CPP). The Captive Power plant (CPP) shall have waste heat recovery boilers and FBC boilers for char utilization. He has mentioned about their emission control proposal for each unit. He stressed on the need for inclusion of sponge iron units in integrated steel industries to meet the market demands and expressed his hope that the proposed unit shall improve the overall economic situation of that area. He has also confirmed that the local people shall be consulted in each stage of the projects and the

industry is planning for initiating social responsibility programmes like setting up vocational training institute, eye camp, recreational activity, plantation etc.

He further supplemented this technical presentation by confirming that the dolo char shall be 100% utilized in the FBC based boilers of proposed CPP, no wastewater shall be discharged outside the plant and the source of water would be bore well. He has also mentioned that they would generate employment for local people and take neighboring villagers into confidence in each stage of project.

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:

1. Sri Souren Patra, Jhargram 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.

2. Sri Hemanta Kumar Mahato, Member, Gajashimul G.P. mentioned about the bitter experience from the problems caused by existing sponge iron plants which polluted the surrounding area. He expressed concern about the chances of additional pollution burden from this proposed integrated steel industry with sponge iron units. He informed about the tendency of existing units to run the plant without emission control devices. He contradicted the claim of the Project Proponent about giving priority to local people while providing job opportunities. He has mentioned that the local people has faced acute water scarcity and the waste water coming out of the existing Sponge Iron unit is creating pollution to the local water resources like Meherar Bandh and local people has also faced critical health problem. He also mentioned that the schools situated within the proximity of 250 metres are getting thick layer of black dust causing serious health hazards to the children. The SC/ ST/ BPL people of the locality have been snatched of their lively-hood by way of destruction of the Sal/ Mohua forest of the locality who used to live on leaf making and selling it in the market. The high pollution is caused by the poor emission ESP efficiency of the existing Plants. He also contradicted the DATA furnished by PP.

Sri Mahato also submitted a written representation, on behalf of the people of Gajasimul village, to the Panel Body during the Public Hearing. He also opined that the proposal for expansion of the existing unit should not be considered any further and the existing operation should be monitored critically to prevent any further damage of the environment. The petition made part of the proceedings and enclosed.

3. Sri Manas Sarkar, Vill. Bamunmara, P.S. Rajabasa opposed the commencement of public hearing at Medinipur Sadar despite vehement public demand of holding the same at site of the plant. He mentioned that they are highly apprehensive about the performance of this sponge iron unit and the cumulative effect of pollutional load of other existing sponge iron units located within a radius of 2.5 KM. He also stated that the draft EIA study does not reflect the ground level scenario of the locality. The proposal for expansion is basically a proposal for further destruction, of water, land, animal and people of the area.

4. Sri Manoranjan Mahato, Jhargram mentioned that despite repeated public demand of the hearing at factory site at Gaja simul and suspension of the last hearing at Jhargram, how the public hearing could be held at Medinipur – at a long distance. He asked about the progress of work on water supply and expressed his apprehension that in absence of suitable surface water supply this proposed unit may abstract considerable amount of ground water which in turn shall create water crisis in neighboring village wells. The villagers are dependent on these wells in this heavily water scares region .He further added that the water of wells are being contaminated by the existing sponge iron unit. Water samples from six such wells of Jitusole were tested by IIT, Kharagpur and the results indicated that those water are not fit for human consumption. Under the circumstances, any further expansion of this existing unit should not be considered. He mentioned that the plant has employed only 28 workers and 2800 people of the locality cannot be subjected to sufferings of pollution for employment of 28 persons. He also requested further hearing at Gajasimul.

5. Shri Pradip Mahato, Vice President, AITUC, Jhargram Municipality, (6) Shri Khagen Jana, Jhargram, (7) Sri Sandip Mukherji, Jhargram AITUC member & worker of Jhargram Railway Siding, (8) Sk. Basiruddin, Jhargram, (9) Smt. Sonali Roy, Jhargram, (10) Sri Misrilal Thakur, CITU member, Jhargram, (11) Sri Tarun Maity, Manikpara, (12) Sri Gurupada Mondal (Local AITUC member), Jhargram and (13) Sri Sudipta Hota, Jhargram opined that industry without pollution is always welcome for development of the socio-economic condition of their villages.

14. Shri Niranjana Bera, Lodhasuli village, mentioned majority of the people present belong to affected villages – Lodhasuli/ Gajasimul/ Jitusol have come for peaceful hearing despite ‘Bundh’ called by the Maoist in the locality. The plant does not create adequate employment. Only 135 to 138 workers get opportunities. The resourceful water body of the locality – Meherer Bundh has turned into a “burning ghat” (Shmasan). He also told that agricultural lands are yielding low crops and Sal jungles are being destroyed around the sponge iron units due to dust pollution and disposal of solid waste in surrounding area and therefore, any industry causing pollution in the area will be totally opposed. He has categorically pointed out that the units even do not operate its emission control devices like ESP during night time.

15. Sri Bhuban Chandra Das, Gajasimul_village, mentioned that earlier the existing unit hardly engaged people from local villages.

16. Sri Debendra Nath Mahato, Gajashimul village & Secretary, Gajasimul Unnayan Samity, 17. Sri Jhantu Mahato, Lodhasuli village, 18. Smt. Kabita Das, Gajashimul village, 19. Smt. Arati Das, Gajashimul village, 20. Sri Barun Shit, Gajashimul village, 21. Mukta Mahato, Member of Self-help group, 22. Sri Ajit Mahato, Gul Bandhi, 23. Smt. Gangamuni Hembram, Gajasimul village mentioned about the present critical scenario of environmental pollution created by the existing Sponge Iron units and vehemently opposed the proposed expansion. They mentioned (i) Death of Night Guard from T.B. but without any assistance from the Plant Authority; (ii) Clandestine purchase of lands of primitive tribe (Lodha) by the Plant Authority; (iii) Mother’s apprehension over the health of the children due to pollution; (iv) Suspension of sports due to pollution of the ground; (v) Acute water scarcity in the locality and (vi) Still birth of domestic animals etc.

24. Sri Robin Mahato, Gen. Secy.- Pashchim Banga Bigyan Mancha and Chairman, Lodhasuli Samabay Samity mentioned that sports & games and other outdoor activities of little children have been stopped for the last three years due to heavy dust pollution created by the existing Sponge Iron units. He further told that the environmental condition of local school premises and local health centre got deteriorated due to uncontrolled dust emission from the existing units. Therefore, question of expansion of this unit does not arise at this stage.

25. Sri Dileswar Mahato, Gajasimul village & Member – Jhargram Panchayat Samity stated about the acute dust pollution created by the existing Sponge Iron units located in and around Jhargram area. He further apprehended that the cumulative pollutional load would be more severe in case of expansion of this unit (M/S Rashmi Ispat Ltd.).

26. Smt. Jharna Acharyya, Adibasi Banabasi Adhikar Mancha explained about the crisis being faced by the villagers who earn their bread & butter by collecting and selling of honey, mohua, sal leaves etc. because those items are being heavily damaged due to severe air pollution created by the existing sponge iron units.

Sri T.K. Mitra, Additional District Magistrate (Development), Pashchim Medinipur requested officials of the Pollution Control Board and also the representatives of M/S Rasmi Ispat Limited 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 informed that the particulate emission standard for sponge iron units have been brought down to 100 mg/Nm³ and Ferro Plant to 50 mg/Nm³. He also stated that as per the TOR provided by the MoEF, Government of India, all the sponge iron and other air polluting industries which are operating within 25 km of proposed plant should be clearly mentioned in EIA and the cumulative effect of all such units on ambient air quality has to be considered while carrying out modeling exercise. The names of units which are operating in and around the Gajashimul should also be included in EIA.

Sri Aloke Chakraborty, Executive Officer, M/s. Rashmi Ishpat Limited 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 will 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 T.K. Mitra, Additional District Magistrate (Development), Pashchim Medinipur & Chairman of the Public Hearing summed up the hearing which was attended by 136 (one hundred thirty-six) members of public, of them twenty-six members addressed the hearing, about ten residents of Jhargram welcomed the proposed expansion but with due regard to the pollution control measures. But the rest of the speakers who resided within the vicinity of the Steel plant viz. Gajashimul, Jitusol, Jualbhanga, Lodhasuli etc. vehemently opposed the proposed expansion on the grounds as cited by them and recorded in the in the proceedings

above. He assured the audience present that the deliberations presented by the speakers in the hearing will duly be recorded and forwarded to the appropriate authorities. The memorandum received by the panel members during public hearing and the VDO recording of the whole proceedings will also be sent to the appropriate authorities for their consideration

In find, Chairman concluded the hearing expressing his gratitude to the audience for their active participation and peaceful co-operation for successful completion of the public hearing.

Dr. T.K.Gupta
Chief Engineer (Planning)
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Sri T.K. Mitra
Additional District Magistrate (Development)
Pashchim Medinipur

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Memo No: -2N-52/2007(E)

Date:

To
Sri Dinesh Agarwal
M/s. Chiranjee Lal Mineral Industries
Bagandih, P.O.-Jhalda, Dist.-Purulia
Pin-723202

Sub: Re-submission of complete application for obtaining Environmental Clearance

from the SEIAA.

Sir,

This has reference to your application for the proposed Dolomite and Fire Clay/China Clay mining project at Jhalda, P.S.-Manbazar II, Dist.-Purulia, W.B. After careful review of the Form-I submitted by your unit at State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, it has been found that your application is incomplete and/or it needs clarification in Sl. Nos. 1.1, 1.4, 1.23, 2.3, 8.3 and 9.2. You are requested to submit the necessary details for the above mentioned Sl. Nos. at an earliest.

You may contact The Secretariat, SEAC at the Consent Cell, WBPCB for further clarification on the above mentioned subject.

Yours faithfully,

(DEBAL RAY)

Secretary, State Level Expert Appraisal Committee, West Bengal

