

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED FERRO ALLOY PLANT BY INSTALLATION OF 2x9 MVA SUBMERGED ARC FURNACE FOR PRODUCTION OF 36960 TPA OF FERRO MANGANESE, 26400 TPA OF SILICO MANGANESE AND 13200 TPA OF FERRO SILICON AT MOUZA – SAHEBDIHI, PS – BARJORA, DIST – BANKURA, WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S. SATVIK ENTERPRISES LIMITED HELD ON 06.07.2011 AT 11:30 A.M. AT THE SITE OF THE PROPOSED PLANT AT MOUZA – SAHEBDIHI, PS – BARJORA, DIST – BANKURA, WEST BENGAL.

M/s. Satvik Enterprises Limited submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed Ferro Alloy Plant by installation of 2x9 MVA Submerged Arc Furnace for production of 36960 TPA of Ferro Manganese, 26400 TPA of Silico Manganese and 13200 TPA of Ferro Silicon at Mouza – Sahebdihi, PS – Barjora, Dist – Bankura, West Bengal. As per the EIA Notification S.O. 1533 (E) dated 14th September 2006 of the MoEF, Govt. of India, Environmental Clearance of the said project is required to be obtained after conducting Public Hearing.

Accordingly, West Bengal Pollution Control Board conducted the Public Hearing on 06.07.2011 at 11:30 hrs. at the site of the proposed plant at Mouza – Sahebdihi, PS – Barjora, Dist – Bankura, West Bengal, after observing all formalities. Panel members were present in the hearing. A considerable gathering was also present in the hearing. List of the panel members present in the public hearing are enclosed.

Sri Jayanta Kumar Maity, Additional District Magistrate (Dev), Bankura, welcomed the audience & presided over the hearing. He requested the project proponent to deliver their presentation and requested the audience to raise their queries after the presentation is over.

The technical representative of the project proponent welcomed the audience on behalf of the project proponent and explained the activity of the proposed unit through Power Point presentation. The project proponent, during his presentation, covered the topics about the project details, land & site details, plant layout, raw materials requirement, manufacturing process flow chart, control measures for emission and solid wastes, ambient air quality, stack emission characteristics, EMP, occupational health services, corporate social responsibility, etc.

Sri Jayanta Kumar Maity, Additional District Magistrate (Dev), Bankura requested the audience to raise their questions and/or opinions, if any.

1. Sri Nepal Chandra Ghosh, vill. Susunia, vehemently opposed the proposal for setting a industry in the village which is inherently polluting nature. He mentioned that few Sponge Iron and Ferro Alloy industries already exist in this mouza. The pollution from the existing industries is quite alarming and no action has been taken against them except imposition of pollution fine. He said that public hearing has been arranged intentionally during harvesting time so that villagers cannot remain present in this hearing.
2. Sri Kajal Baran Ghosh, vill. Susunia, expressed serious concern regarding health hazards of the local community due to pollution from existing industries. He mentioned that villagers will oppose this project even though concerned Gram Panchayat and Panchayat Samity have issued “No Objection” to the project proponent.
3. Sri Netai Singh, vill. Susunia, opposed the proposed project.

4. Sri Santi Ghosh, vill. Susunia, mentioned that villagers do not want any inherently polluting industries like Sponge Iron and Ferro Alloy to be set up in this village. He expressed concern about water scarcity in the area due to water abstraction from ground water resource for industrial use.
5. Sri Muktinath Singh, vill. Susunia, stated that inherently polluting industries should not come up in the vicinity of human settlement. However, he welcomed pollution free industries.
6. Smt. Baby Ghosh, vill. Susunia, vehemently opposed the proposed project. She mentioned that pollution from industries is damaging child health. She also stated that the villagers shall resist polluting nature of industries at any cost.
7. Smt Sandhya Ghosh, vill. Susunia, Member, Barjora Panchayat Samity, mentioned that pollution from highly polluting industries like sponge iron is detrimental for children in the area. She also mentioned that Barjora Panchayat Samity has not consulted with all the members before issuing initial permission for the proposed project.
8. Sri Nayan Singh, vill. Susunia, resented that the public hearing of the proposed project was not well publicized. He stated that the existing pollution level from the existing sponge iron industries in the area is quite alarming and it was causing nuisance to public health of the local community. He mentioned that the villagers are strongly opposing this project, even though the Gram Panchayat and Panchayat Samity have issued initial permission to the project proponent. He affirmed that if this project gets clearance, the villagers would launch a violent movement. However, he welcomed industries having no pollution.
9. Sri Debabrata Ghosh, vill. Susunia, mentioned that there is already water scarcity in that area due to existing sponge iron industries. He stated that the existing industries have not complied with their commitments made in CSR and the assurances. He reaffirmed that the villagers would oppose this project at any cost.
10. Sri Jyotindranath Sen, vill. Hat Asuria, questioned the Sabhadhipati, Barjora Panchayat Samity regarding utilization of CSR fund of the existing industries. He stated that adequate greenery has not been developed in the area and the people are suffering from tremendous dust and smoke pollution. He expressed concern about the future of animal market in the area. He criticized the project proponent as the later did not mention the name of the village and Gram Panchayat in the presentation. He reiterated that the villagers shall oppose the proposed project even at the cost of life.
11. Sri Nilmadhav Gupta, vill. Hat Asuria, President, Trade Union, Durgapur Steel Plant, referred to an international seminar of the ILO, where serious concern was expressed about the pollution scenario in different Asian countries as well as India. He vehemently opposed the proposal for setting up of inherently polluting industries like Sponge Iron, Ferro Alloy, Blast Furnace etc. in Barjora Industrial Area. He accused the Sabhapati of local Panchayet Samity for trading of water for industrial use and assisting in flourishing inherently polluting industries in the area. He reiterated that Barjora is one of the most polluted areas in the country and industrial pollution in the area is causing health hazards among the local community. He emphasized that ESP, Dust Catcher etc. should be installed and operated properly for cleaning the flue gas. He stated that people have vowed to prevent further pollution from industries. However, he welcomed pollution free industries.
12. Sri Mahadev Singh, Barjora, reiterated that industry should not be set up against peoples' consent. He expressed concern regarding water scarcity in Barjora area and proposed that water supply for industrial purpose should be sourced from River Damodar. He expressed disappointment over the fact that no action has been taken against the long time demand for water supply from River Damodar. He mentioned that the existing pollution level should be monitored and the buffer area between the villages and industries should be prescribed by the Pollution Control Board. He further proposed that proper survey should be conducted and Master Plan should be prepared for Barjora block before giving permission for setting up of industries. He opined that since industries are not desired to be set up near human settlements, land should not be purchased by industrialists through mediators by any

means whatsoever. He also mentioned that there has been no adequate employment generation from existing industries of the area for local people. He stated that industrialization will be of no use, if it only generates pollution hazards, social resentment and agitation amongst local people.

13. Sri Alok Mukherjee, Barjora, mentioned that past experience shows commitments usually made by the project proponents during hearing are hardly complied with in reality. He emphasized that industries should be pollution free, otherwise local people will not be benefited due to industrial development. Water and power supply is required for industries, but industrial development should not aggravate water scarcity in the area. He expressed concern regarding insufficient local employment generation. He strongly recommended for more local employment generation, implementation of minimum wage for workers, protection of occupational health and safety of workers. He demanded for sufficient water supply in the area for human consumption. He also emphasized the need for health services including ambulance and hospital in the area.
14. Sri Sukhen Bid, Barjora, accused the existing industries for not fulfilling the CSR commitments for the local people. He emphasized that no development activities have been undertaken in the locality and no provision have been made for building hospitals, providing aid for local schools and poor students, providing training for local youth, supplying drinking water to villagers. He alleged the Gram Panchayat and Panchayat Samity for granting initial permission to the industry. However, he welcomed pollution free industry.
15. Sri Sudhanshu Sekhar Tiwari, Barjora, mentioned that there is severe resentment among the local people against pollution from industries. He stated that the people are suffering from water scarcity due to uncontrolled ground water abstraction for industrial purpose. He demanded for proper planning and water supply scheme from River Damodar for Barjora. He welcomed pollution free industry and overall development of the area. He proposed that adequate infrastructure should be developed for industrial growth in the area.
16. Anarul Sekh, Pradhan Hatasuria Gram Panchayat, clarified that only conditional NOC was given to the proponent for setting up of industry in strict compliance with environmental norms. He further stated that if the proponent fails to comply with the environmental standards, the NOC will stand invalid.

The people strongly protested against the proposed Ferro Alloy plant. There was tremendous agitation against setting up of polluting industries like Sponge Iron and Ferro Alloy plants in Barjora, Bankura. The people shouted slogans and organized demonstration with placards. They demanded that pollution cost and fines realized from the local industries should be utilized for development of the concerned area. They also asked for firm commitment from the concerned authorities that no further polluting industries shall be granted permission in the area. Moreover, those gathered in the public hearing refused to put their signature in the attendance register.

Dr. Somnath Narayan, Senior Environmental Engineer, WBPCB, informed the audience that pollution cost of non complying industries has already been sent to the District Administration. He also reiterated that the public opinion will be reported to the concerned authorities. Finally, Sri Jayanta Kumar Maity, Additional District Magistrate (Dev), Bankura concluded the session with vote of thanks.

Dr. Somnath Narayan,
Senior Environmental Engineer
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Sri Jayanta Kumar Maity,
Additional District Magistrate (Dev), Bankura
Government of West Bengal