

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION THROUGH PRODUCTIONS OF SILICO MANGANESE, FERRO MANGANESE AND FERRO CHROME BY INSTALLING THREE NOS OF SEAFs OF CAPACITY 9 MVA EACH, WITHIN THE EXISTING PLANT AT NACHAN ROAD, KAMALPUR, DURGAPUR, DIST: BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S SHARP FERRO ALLOYS LTD. ON 11.12.2008 AT 11:30 HRS IN THE DURGAPUR-FARIDPUR PANCHAYAT SAMITY OFFICE, LAUDOHA, DISTRICT: BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL

M/s Sharp Ferro Alloys Ltd. requested West Bengal Pollution Control Board to organise Public Hearing for the proposed expansion through productions of Silico manganese, Ferro manganese and Ferro chrome by installing three nos of Submerged Electric Arc Furnaces (SEAFs) of capacity 9 MVA each, within the existing plant at Nachan Road, Kamalpur, Durgapur, Dist: Burdwan, West Bengal. As per the EIA notification S.O. 1533 dated 14th September 2006 by 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 after observing all formalities arranged the Public Hearing on 11.12.2008 at 11:30 hrs in the Durgapur-Faridpur Panchayat Samity Office, Laudoha, District: Burdwan, West Bengal. 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 Dr. D. Maulik, Environmental Engineer, WBPCB. She explained the provisions of 14th September 2006 notification issued by MoEF, Government of India, and requested Sri Golak Chand Ghosh, the DLLRO & the Additional District Magistrate, Burdwan to preside over the hearing.

Sri Golak Chand Ghosh, the DLLRO & the Additional District Magistrate, Burdwan welcomed the audience & presided over the hearing. He reminded the audience about the need to ensure a balance between development and environment. He requested the project proponent to deliver their presentation and requested the audience to raise their queries after the presentation.

The technical representative of M/s Sharp Ferro Alloys Ltd. welcomed the audience on behalf of the project proponent and explained the activity of the proposed expansion unit through PowerPoint presentation. The project proponent has proposed to install 3x9 MVA SEAFs for production of Silico manganese, Ferro manganese and Ferro chrome. At present the unit is operating one 7.5 MVA SEAF and one 9 MVA SEAF for production of Silico manganese and Ferro manganese. No additional land is required for this proposed expansion. The project proponent proposed that adequate steps would be initiated for not disturbing the ecosystems of the nearby plantations and Nachan Dam area. They have informed that the work has been initiated for replacing the existing emission control systems consisting of ventury scrubbers by installation of bag filters to ensure environmental compliance. They would install bag filters for control of emission from these proposed SEAFs. They proposed to comply with 50mg/Nm³ emission standard and to ensure adequate suction for arresting fugitive emission. The solid waste from ferrochrome has been proposed to be sent to Common Waste Storage Treatment and Disposal Facility (CWSTDF). The proponent has proposed to take up specific plantation, emission-monitoring programme, occupational health hazard related measures etc.

The ADM then requested the audience to raise their questions and to give their opinions, if any.

...Contd.

Sri Himangshu Mandal, & Sri Jaydeep Bagdi of Village Kamalpur, mentioned that though expansion of industries is desired but the environmental compliance should be ensured. Local monitoring might be useful in such case. The unit must operate the pollution control devices. Shri Ramnath Sing, Raghunathpur mentioned about the damages caused at the road near industry due to heavy traffic movement. They agreed that the proponent should also take up corporate social responsibility programmes for plantation, widening and repairing of Nachan Road.

Sri Shubhrajit Chatterjee, Chairman, Borough I, Durgapur Nagar Nigam Committee also mentioned that proposed expansion is desired as this would create more jobs. However the compliance at existing unit should be ensured. He reinforced the statements made by the previous speaker for monitoring, and also for initiating corporate social responsibility programmes by project proponent for improvement of the road leading to the existing unit.

ADM requested the workers of the unit to share their views.

In response to the request from ADM Sri Banerwar Mandal and Shri Shyama Prasad Patra, mentioned that they want expansion for more employment generation and requested to consider improvement of existing medical facilities.

Sri Shubhrajit Chatterjee, Chairman, Borough I, Durgapur Nagar Nigam Committee once again welcomed the project and requested to introduce free health service camps as part of CSR.

Dr. D. Maulik, Environmental Engineer, WBPCB requested for ensuring adequate suction & control system for controlling the tap-hole emission from the SEAFs. Shri S Bhattacharya, Environmental Engineer, WBPCB requested to introduce rainwater harvesting.

The project proponent appreciated the issues raised during hearing mentioned above and assured that they would take all possible measures for maintaining the Environmental Norms. They have also assured that they would address all the issues mentioned above and incorporate the same while finalizing the EIA and EMP.

Sri Golak Chand Ghosh, the DLLRO & the Additional District Magistrate, Burdwan appreciated the proposal presented by M/s Sharp Ferro Alloys Ltd. during the public hearing. He advised the proponent to take necessary permissions from the competent authorities for abstraction of ground water. He also stressed the need of post project monitoring. However, he expressed his hope that the project would be implemented as per the commitment made by the proponent and would be maintained in such a manner that the unit would comply with the environmental norms. In general, the public present in the hearing welcomed the expansion proposal of the existing project. Finally Sri Golak Chand Ghosh, the DLLRO & the Additional District Magistrate, Burdwan concluded the session with vote of thanks.

Sd/-
Dr. D. Maulik
Environmental Engineer,
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Sd/-
Sri Golak Chand Ghosh
The DLLRO & Additional District Magistrate, Burdwan
Government of West Bengal