

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED FERRO ALLOY PLANT FOR PRODUCTION OF 22600 TPA FERRO MANGANESE OR 17400 TPA SILICO MANGANESE OR 7600 TPA FERRO SILICON BY INSTALLING 1X9 MVA SAF AT MOUZA: UTTAR BASUDEVPUR, PS: BARJORA, DIST: BANKURA, WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S SHREE AMBEY ISPAT PVT. LTD HELD ON 30.11.2009 AT 11:00 HRS IN THE COMMUNITY HALL OF THE BARJORA PANCHAYAT SAMITY, PO & PS: BARJORA, DIST: BANKURA, WEST BENGAL

M/s Shree Ambey Ispat Pvt. Ltd submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed ferro alloy plant for production of 22600 TPA ferro manganese or 17400 TPA silico manganese or 7600 TPA ferro silicon by installing 1x9 MVA SAF at Mouza: Uttar Basudevpur, PS: Barjora, Dist: Bankura, 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 after conducting Public Hearing.

Accordingly, West Bengal Pollution Control Board conducted the Public Hearing on 30.11.2009 at 11:00 hrs in the Community Hall of the Barjora Panchayat Samity, PO & 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 and the others present in the public hearing are enclosed.

The hearing started with a welcome note from Sri S. Narayan, Senior Environmental Engineer, WBPCB. He explained about the EIA notification. He requested Sri Sukumar Das, Additional District Magistrate (G), Bankura to preside over the hearing. Sri Sukumar Das, Additional District Magistrate (G), Bankura welcomed the audience & presided over the hearing. Then 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 PowerPoint presentation. The project proponent, during his presentation, covered the topics about the project details, land & site details, process flow chart, plant layout, control measures for emission and solid wastes, ambient air qualities, stack emission characteristics, occupational health services, corporate social responsibility, etc.

Sri Sukumar Das, Additional District Magistrate (G), Bankura requested the audience to raise their questions and/or opinions, if any.

Sri Vivekananda Keora of village Barjora and Sri Baneswar Gupta of Hat-Asuria submitted that the industrialization has helped local development but some units do not obey the commitment on the pollution control. The local road conditions have become poor due to heavy transportation load of the industries. The dry area is facing a serious problem due to scarcity of water and he requested the administration to arrange alternative sources of water for the industrial use. He has also expected some local development like new hospital setup, road development, vocational training school, forestation program, arrangements for ambulance, river water supply, etc. Sri Baneswar Gupta also advised for the consultation with sponge iron units on the local issues.

Md. Sadur Amin Mullick of village Mandarbani, Sri Tapan Bollu, Sri Alok Mukherjee of village Barjora and Sri Tapas Mondal of village Sonamukhi expected industry setup with proper pollution control measures. They insisted on the continuous operation of APC devices for the local sponge iron units, proper salary structure for the employees, priority of local people as the employee and local development using the funds allocated for CSR by the units.

Sri Mahadeb Singha of village Dhansol, submitted the scarcity of ground water in the locality and expected the implementation of strict regulation from competent authority on groundwater usage. He has requested WBPCB to utilize the funds generated from the pollution cost of the defaulter polluting units.

Sri Sukhen Bit, Sri Pradip Pandey, Sri Gopal Dey of village Barjora and Sri Nayan Das of village Kharai expressed their concerns on local industrial pollution, appointment of external labors and local development issues.

Sri Sudhanshu Sekhar Tewari, Zilla President, Trinamool Congress & Sri Ashok Banerjee expected the setup of a local WBPCB office in Barjora for the close monitoring of the local polluting industries. They have also expected the setup of big industries instead of small ones for the rapid local development and other types of industries except the sponge iron & ferro alloy units.

The Pradhan of the Hat-Asuria Gram Panchayat welcomed the industries with proper pollution control measures. He remarked that the benefits of local people are always the top priority.

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After the opinion of above mentioned speakers, a group of people submitted that the sources of the agitation of local villagers are mainly the local sponge iron units, which are polluting the air & water of the villages under the four gram panchayats, namely Hat-Asuria, Saharjora, Barjora & Ghutgoria in such an extent that the place has become unsuitable for human habitation.

From their agitation & remarks, the following points have come up—

- 1) The major source of agitation of the local people is the severe pollution generated by four local sponge iron units and all the local people have specified the names of the units. These are M/s Rishabh Sponge Ltd., M/s M.B. Ispat Corporation Ltd., M/s Govinda Impex Ltd. and M/s Sen Ferro Alloys Pvt. Ltd.
- 2) The agitated local people wanted to know that why the regulatory actions have not been taken yet against these four sponge iron units. They expressed their annoyance over the issue that the State Pollution Control Board must take immediate stern regulatory action against above mentioned sponge iron units those are operating violating the conditions as laid down in their respective Consent to Operate order issued by the State Pollution Control Board. They stated that in future they would not allow to stage public hearing on environment point of view of any industrial unit proposed to be situated under Barjora Panchayat Samity unless existing errant sponge iron units are brought within regulatory norms by the State Pollution Control Board.

Sri S. Narayan, Senior Environmental Engineer, WBPCB advised for the installation of efficient air pollution control system & Side suction systems for controlling the emissions from the Submerged arc furnace. He also insisted on the fact that, while finalizing the EIA and EMP, the PP should incorporate the outcomes of the opinions of the attendants of this public hearing as well as the following points—

- The cumulative impact on air quality considering the simultaneous proposed similar activities in adjacent premises should be included in final EIA-EMP.
- Prior permission from competent authority for water is required
- Measures for controlling the fugitive emission during the tapping should be specified
- Green belt development should be done in consultation with the State Forest Department over at least 33% of the project area
- Adequate side suction systems for the submerged arc furnace should be installed
- Air cooling of the hot gas is recommended before feeding the gas to the bag house.
- Bags of the bag should be of high resistivity for better performance.
- Pulsing system of the bag house should be 'on & offline system', instead of online one for better performance.

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 Sukumar Das, Additional District Magistrate (G), Bankura appreciated the proposal taken by M/s Shree Ambey Ispat Pvt. Ltd during the public hearing and 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.

Sri Sukumar Das, Additional District Magistrate (G), Bankura has advised WBPCB that, proper implementation of pollution control measures for the existing sponge iron units and ferro-alloy units within the district has to be ensured. For this project proponent, the set pre-condition of abiding by the pollution control norms is required to be ensured and has to be monitored in the follow up.

In general, the public present in the hearing welcomed the project provided the PP incorporates all the pollution control measures proposed by the Project Proponent. Finally, Sri Sukumar Das, Additional District Magistrate (G), Bankura concluded the session with vote of thanks.

Sd/-
Sri S. Narayan,
Senior Environmental Engineer
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Sd/-
Sri Sukumar Das
Additional District Magistrate (G), Bankura
Government of West Bengal