

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED 0.4 MMTPA ARDHAGRAM COAL MINING PROJECT AT MEJIA, DIST: BANKURA, WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S SOVA ISPAT LTD ON 05.08.2009 AT 12:00 NOON AT THE AMBIKANAGAR PRIMARY SCHOOL UNDER ARDHAGRAM GRAM PANCHAYAT, DIST: BANKURA, WEST BENGAL

M/s Sova Ispat Ltd submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed 0.4 MMTPA Ardhagram Coal Mining Project at Mejia, 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 05.08.2009 at 12:00 noon at the Ambikanagar Primary School under Ardhagram Gram Panchayat, 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. Bhattacharyya, Environmental Engineer, WBPCB. He explained about the EIA notification and requested Sri Gour Pada Sen, Additional District Magistrate, Bankura to preside over the hearing. Sri Gour Pada Sen, Additional District Magistrate, 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 on the project details, mining area of open cast & underground mines, location & boundaries, topographical maps, geological features, coal seams, baseline data, anticipated impacts on air, water, land, noise & ecology, environmental management plan, rehabilitation action plan, rehabilitation packages, safety management, land reclamation, environmental monitoring, green belt development, cost on environmental management, etc.

Sri Gour Pada Sen, the Additional District Magistrate, Bankura requested the audience to raise their questions and/or opinions, if any.

Sri Hemanta Kumar Chatterjee, Sri Shanti Badyakar, and Sri Pranab Ghosh of village Ardhagram requested for the provision of drinking water in the nearby villages.

Sri Chittaranjan Roy, Sri Biplab Mondal of village Ardhagram, and Sri Jayanta Mukherjee of village Raipara expected the implementation of all proposals as shown in the presentation. They have also demanded for medical facilities, good rehabilitation schemes, provision of drinking water, improvement of the primary health centre, playgrounds, and expected employment generation.

Sri Jadab Sarkar of village Dungjuria, Smt. Mitra Bouri & Sri Anup Chakraborty expected transparent employment policy. Sri Sarkar also requested the project proponent for providing training facilities to develop local skilled laborers. He has expected good road maintenance & transport system, adaptation of improved blasting techniques & effective measures of pollution control in consultation of various government departments.

Sri Kajal Pal, Sri Sukumar Ghosh & Sri Dibakar Bouri of village Ardhagram welcomed the project & expected the quick commissioning of the proposed mining project.

Sri Aditya Chatterjee & Sri Arabinda Chatterjee of village Ardhagram expected employment for the land – losers & good rehabilitation packages.

Sri Nimai Banerjee of village Ardhagram welcomed the project & expected the quick startup of the project. He suggested a committee consisting of the local villagers should be set up to interact with the management of the project proponent for the local development.

On behalf of the project proponent, Sri Subrata Mukherjee appreciated the issues raised during hearing mentioned above and assured that they would take all possible measures for maintaining the Environmental Norms. He has also assured that they would address all the issues mentioned above and incorporate the same while finalizing the EIA and EMP. He has also encouraged the audience to form a committee for the improvement of adjoining villages by developing medical facilities, schools, playgrounds, etc.

(Contd.)

Sri S. Bhattacharyya, Environmental Engineer, WBPCB advised for the installation of efficient pollution control system & dry fog system for controlling the emissions from the both of OC area & UG area in the proposed project. He has also recommended the following points—

- The blasting during mining operation and the vibration should be controlled in such a manner that no disturbances are created at the nearby habitation. As the project is proposed near the riverbank of Damodar, adequate care should be taken during mining activity to avoid any kind of accidents, environmental disaster.
- Mine ventilation should be properly designed to avoid occupational health problems.
- The road should be paved for movement of vehicles within the project site to control fugitive emission.
- No wastewater should be allowed to discharge in the river Damodar without treatment.
- The mine water should be treated and neutralized before further reuse / discharge.
- The drainage should be adequately designed. Garland drain should be provided.
- Adequate green belt should be maintained. All care should be taken to arrest the fugitive emission. The green belt area should be at least 33% of total project area.
- Adequate care should be taken to avoid any fugitive emission during coal handling and transfer.
- Permission from competent authority should be obtained for use of 453.5 KLD water from Damodar River.
- Regular care should be taken so that mining operation could not affect the ecology of the Junara RF and adjoining forest lands.

Sri Gour Pada Sen, the Additional District Magistrate, Bankura appreciated the proposal presented by M/s Sova Ispat 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. 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 Gour Pada Sen, Additional District Magistrate, Bankura concluded the session with vote of thanks.

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

Sd/-
Sri Gour Pada Sen,
Additional District Magistrate, Bankura
Government of West Bengal