

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED IMPORTED COAL BASED 2 X 660 MW SUPER CRITICAL THERMAL POWER PLANT, STAGE- 1 (SAGAR STPP) AT NAYACHAR ISLAND, DIST. – PURBA MEDINIPUR, WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S UNIVERSAL CRESCENT POWER PVT. LTD., HELD ON 04.01.2012 AT 12:30 P.M. AT NAYACHAR ISLAND, DIST. – PURBA MEDINIPUR, WEST BENGAL.

M/S Universal Crescent Power Pvt. Ltd. submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed Imported Coal Based 2 X 660 MW Super Critical Thermal Power Plant, Stage - 1 at Nayachar Island, Dist. – Purba Medinipur, West Bengal. As per the EIA Notification S.O. 1533 dated 14th September, 2006 of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, 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 04.01.2012 at 12:30 P.M. at Nayachar Island, Dist – Purba Medinipur, West Bengal. All the panel members were present in the hearing. Sri Molay Halder, Additional District Magistrate (General), Purba 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, West Bengal Pollution Control Board. He explained about the provisions of the above stated MoEF notification and also informed the audience about the draft proposal of M/S Universal Crescent Power Pvt. Ltd. for the proposed Imported Coal Based 2 X 660 MW Super Critical Thermal Power Plant at Nayachar Island, Dist. – Purba Medinipur, West Bengal.

Sri Molay Halder, Additional District Magistrate (General), Purba Medinipur welcomed all the participants present in the Public Hearing and also briefed the above MoEF notification. He then requested the Project Proponent to explain the details about the proposed project for discussion among the panel members and others present in the hearing.

Sri Pulak Chattopaddhay, Guniversal_crescent_p_heneral Manager of M/S Universal Crescent Power Pvt. Ltd. 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 mentioned about their emission control proposal for each unit. He has also confirmed that the local administration shall be consulted in each stage of the project and the industry is planning for initiating social responsibility programmes like Infrastructure development for fisher men village to resettle the project affected people, primary health check-up camp, vocational training centre, generation of employment scope for the local youths, supply of drinking water, sanitation and drainage facilities, construction of road network, providing medical facilities, construction of school, etc.

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:

Sri Banbehari Pal, Sabhapati Nayachar Matsajibi Sanstha told that the fishermen living at Nayachar Island apprehended that they may have to lose their land if the project comes. He told them not to be worried for that. He, however, welcomed the proposed project with all the commitments made by the PP during their presentation. He informed that they welcome the proposed Thermal Power Project alongwith infrastructural support and employment for local people. He has also requested the PP to discuss more details about the proposed project with the local public representative in future.

Sk. Dahar Box, Nayachar stated that they want environment-friendly industry at Nayachar and welcomed the proposed project with all the commitments made by the PP during this Public hearing. He also requested the PP for improvement of roads, arrangement for drinking water, health centre etc. as they are to carry drinking water in barrels from Nandigram or 24 Parganas and also pointed out that there is no primary health centre at Nayachar. He further requested the ADM (G), Purba Medinipur to take necessary steps for providing administrative help to the Nayachar people.

Sri B. Datta Gupta, Block Development Officer, Haldia informed the people living at Nayachar that the matter is under consideration of the administration.

Sri Madhusudan Dhara of village Lakhya, PS - Mahishadal has requested the project proponent to take adequate precautionary measures so that water & air are not polluted and human health, animals, plants are not affected. He requested the PP to provide conveyance facility for the people of Nayachar. He also placed his demand for providing employment to the local youths of each land loser family directly by the PP and not through the contractors.

Sri Basanta Mondal of vill Piyali, 24 Parganas (South) stated that they are residing at Nayachar Island for the last thirtyfive years but without having minimum amenities and any Government aid.

Sri Dhruba Gopal Dinda of Haldia Township opined that Nayachar Island is suitable for tourism, fishery, agriculture etc. He, however, welcomed the proposed power plant project as it will improve the socio-economic condition of the Nayachar people. He also suggested that the aforementioned projects like tourism, fishery may also be developed side by side at Nayachar..

Sk. Azam, Nayachar welcomed the proposed project. He told that he has been staying at Nayachar since 1987 and placed his demand to the administration that they should be given recognition as residents of Nayachar.

Sri Shyamal Kumar Adak, representative of the MP, Tamluk requested the audience to raise queries about the environmental issues only to the PP and the Government officials. He also requested the PP for improvement of roads and requested the administration to construct floating jetty to facilitate movement of the people residing at Nayachar.

Sri Subrata Mondal, Khejurtala, Nayachar requested the PP to provide electricity to every house of Nayachar.

Sri Sudhansu Sekhar Samanta of Haldia Township welcomed the project. He requested the administration to include the road development work in '100 days work programme'. He further requested that the Nayachar Island should be included in Panchayat.

Sri Tapan Pramanik, Khejurtala, Nayachar stated that they have been residing at Nayachar for the last twenty-five years and wanted to know about their fate if the power plant project comes there. He, however, welcomed the proposed project.

Sri Molay Halder, ADM (General), Purba Medinipur requested the representatives of M/S Universal Crescent Power Pvt. Ltd. to respond to the queries raised by the participants present in the public hearing.

Sri Pulak Chattopaddhay of M/S Universal Crescent Power Pvt. Ltd. thanked the audience present for their active participation in the public hearing and appreciated the various issues raised by different participants and welcomed their 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 would take all necessary measures to comply with the suggestions made in this public hearing. He had assured that all possible measures would be taken to prevent environmental hazard in the surrounding area due to the proposed project. He also committed that the social responsibility programme shall be taken up in consultation with local administration.

Sri Molay Halder, ADM (General), Purba Medinipur emphasized that all possible measures should be ensured by the Project Proponent towards the mitigation of all environmental problems and various issues raised by the people present in the hearing. He also stated that he would talk to the Chief Medical Officer, Purba Medinipur if Health camp can be arranged atleast twice a week at Nayachar. He further requested the PP to see if a temporary jetty can be made there. He told that the project is welcomed only after incorporation of all the pollution control measures and corporate social responsibility programmes proposed by the Project Proponent. He assured the audience that the proceedings of this public hearing shall be duly forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India and further expressed his gratitude to the audience for their active participation in this public hearing procedure.

Dr. T.K. Gupta,
Chief Engineer,
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Sri Molay Halder,
Additional District Magistrate (Gen),
Dist. – Purba Medinipur