

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED ALUMINIUM SMELTER UNIT WITH CAPACITY 6.5 LAKHS TPA AND 1500 MW CPP AT BIDANBAGH UNIT, MOUZA: JEMERI, P.S. RANIGANJ, VILLAGE: BIDANBAGH, DISTRICT: BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S VEDANTA ALUMINIUM LTD HELD ON 09.09.2009 AT 11:30 HRS AT THE MEETING HALL OF RANIGANJ PANCHAYAT SAMITY, DIST: BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL

M/s Vedanta Aluminium Ltd submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed Aluminium smelter unit with capacity 6.5 lakhs TPA and 1500 MW CPP at Bidanbagh unit, Mouza: Jemeri, P.S. Raniganj, village: Bidanbagh, District: Burdwan, 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 09.09.2009 at 11:30 hrs at the Meeting Hall of Raniganj Panchayat Samity, Dist: Burdwan, 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 Dr. T. K. Gupta, Chief Engineer, WBPCB. He explained about the EIA notification. He requested Sri Biswajit Datta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol to preside over the hearing. Sri Biswajit Datta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol welcome the audience & presided over the hearing. He also briefed the audience about the modalities of the public hearing and requested the gathering for restricting the discussion on environmental issues only. He requested the project proponent to deliver their presentation and requested the audience to raise their queries once the presentation is over.

The technical representatives of the project proponent welcome the audience on behalf of the project team and explained the activity of the proposed unit through PowerPoint presentation. The project proponent, during the presentation mentioned that the capacity of the proposed aluminium smelter is 6.5 LTPA and the capacity of the proposed captive power plant is 1500 MW (2x 600 MW and 1x300MW). They also mentioned the baseline data, process flow sheet, probable impact on air quality, overall environmental management approach and C.S.R. programmes.

Dr. T. K. Gupta, Chief Engineer, WBPCB advised for the installation of efficient pollution control system for controlling the emissions in the proposed project. He has mentioned that

- Layout plan of the proposed project to be submitted.
- Area should be earmarked for ensuring 33% green belt.
- Considering the water demand rain water harvesting should be designed in more detail.
- The status of possession of land for the proposed activity should be clearly mentioned.
- The thermal power plant and its fly ash management should be as per the CREP guidelines
- Fugitive emission generated from crushing & screening should be controlled as far as practicable.
- Disposal of fly ash should be ensured as per MOEF norms .
- The financial commitment for C.S.R. should be mentioned .
- Regular and efficient operations of pollution control devices should be ensured .On line opacity meters should be installed in thermal power plants.
- The hazardous waste management should be proposed as per the provisions of HW Rules.

Sri Biswajit Datta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol mentioned that C.S.R. should be executed in consultation with local bodies. It should be done in a participatory approach to maximize the benefit of the target group. Then he requested the audience to raise their questions and/or opinions, if any.

Sri Sadhan Mishra, Jemeri wanted to know about the mode of land purchase, ownership of M/s. Vedanta Aluminium Ltd, detail proposal of the project proponent for pollution control, environmental management and scope of employment generation. He expressed his dissatisfaction on present ongoing demolishing activities at Balco township.

Sri Piyush Kanti Goswami, Advocate, ECL mentioned the project is being proposed near coal mine area and the project proponent must ensure that Coal mining shall not be affected by setting up of this industry .

Sri Ragunath Kora, Tirat, Sri Keshab Prasad Yadab, Bidhanbag, Sri Bapi Banerjee, Jemeri also reiterated some of the issues raised by Sri Mishra such as ownership of M/s.VAL, status of approval for this project and issues related to ECL activity.

Sri Kaliram Mukherjee, Jemeri and Sri Malay Chkraborty, Jemeri stated that though miking was done about the hearing but they were not properly informed that the public hearing is on environmental issues only. However, they have participated in the meeting and requested M/s.VAL to consider the employment opportunity in their proposed project for the local community irrespective of any age. They have also requested the PP to abide by all environmental norms.

Sri Prosenjit Chandra, Beliabathan, Sri Paresh Mondal, Tirat, Sri Bappaditty Goswami student, Sri Sibhu Hembrom requested the PP to inform about the scope of employment generation through this project, training opportunity for both skilled and unskilled personnel among the local community.

Sri Bipul Banerjee, J K Nagar and Sri Sayantan Mukherjee also requested the PP to address the environmental issues in more detail. Sri Banerjee also wanted to know about the resettlement of project affected persons (PAP) and Sri Mukherjee submitted his written observations.

Sri Ujjal Banerjee, Jemeri, welcome the project and requested to expedite the process of setting up the industry. He informed that M/s. VAL has initiated the health service but it should be further expanded to meet the demand.

Sri Deepak Mukherjee also opined for expanding the health services and requested to ensure water availability and environmental compliance.

Sri Haradhan Roy, MLA welcome the industry and he expressed his hope that adequate pollution control systems shall be installed to contain environmental pollution. He requested to maintain transparency in employment generation and arranging infrastructural facilities.

Sri Biswajit Datta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol requested the PP to specify the availability of land, land utilization pattern with detail layout plan, purchase policy, proposal for obtaining water supply, coal transport and storage, fly ash management, scope of employment generation and requested the PP to interact with ECL representatives to sort out land issues if any.

Dr. T. K. Gupta, Chief Engineer, WBPCB advised the ECL representative to consult the EIA/EMP report for further details on project location. He requested the PP to address all the issues in final EIA/EMP report. He also suggested that a local level monitoring committee should be formed for ensuring regular environmental compliance.

On behalf of the project proponent, Sri P. Bhattacharya and Sri Khusro responded to the issues raised by the people present at the hearing. They informed that 269 acres of land are in possession of M/s.VAL and they are in process of obtaining additional land. They appreciated the issues raised during hearing mentioned above and assured that they would take all possible measures for maintaining the Environmental Norms. They have mentioned that financial allotment for C.S.R. is Rs. 1 crore for the current financial year. Local level committee shall be formed to oversee the environmental aspects. It is expected that about 2000 employment shall be generated during full-fledged operation of the plant. They have also assured that they would address all the issues mentioned above and incorporate the same while finalizing the EIA and EMP.

Sri Biswajit Datta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol appreciated the proposal taken by M/s Vedanta Aluminium 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 Biswajit Datta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol concluded the session with vote of thanks.

Sd/-
Dr. T. K. Gupta
Chief Engineer
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Sd/-
Sri Biswajit Datta,
Additional District Magistrate, Asansol
Government of West Bengal