

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED FERRO ALLOY PLANT FOR PRODUCTION OF 30000 TPA SILICO MANGANESE , 78000 TPA FERRO MANGANESE OR 90000 TPA FERRO CHROME BY INSTALLING 6X9 MVA SUBMERGED ARC FURNACES AND SINTER PLANT OF 279000 TPA AT MOUZA :ETHORA, VILLAGE & PO: SALANPUR, DIST: BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL, PROPOSED BY M/S VIKASH SMELTERS LIMITED HELD ON 05.04.2010 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE MEETING HALL OF SALANPUR PANCHAYAT SAMITY, DIST: BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL.

M/s Vikash Smelters Limited submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed ferro alloy plant for production of 30000 TPA silico manganese , 78000 TPA ferro manganese or 90000 TPA ferro chrome by installing 6x9 MVA submerged arc furnaces at Mouza: Ethora, Salanpur, Dist: Burdwan, West Bengal. As per the EIA notification S.O. 1533(E) 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, in due consultation with district administration and after observing all formalities, organized the Public Hearing on 05.04.2010 at 12:00 noon in the meeting hall of Salanpur Panchayat Samity, Dist: Burdwan, West Bengal, 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 Sr Biswajit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate (Asansol), to preside over the hearing. Sri Biswajit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate Asansol, welcomed the audience & presided over the hearing. Then the project proponent was requested to deliver their presentation and requested the audience to raise their queries after the presentation is over.

The industry representative welcomed the audience on behalf of the project proponent and introduced their technical representative of the project proponent. The technical representative 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 quality, stack emission characteristics, occupational health services, corporate social responsibility, etc. He specifically mentioned that the efficiency of suction system shall be adequate. The industry shall take part in road development and maintenance work as explained their CSR. He further mentioned that river Damodar is the source of water required for the proposed project. They also informed that the treated effluent will be recycled and there will be no discharge of effluent outside the factory premises. They will also provide RWH facility as per the guidelines of the state Pollution Control Board.

Sri Biswajit Dutta , Additional District Magistrate (Asansol) requested the project proponent to explain about the scope of employment generation through their project proposal.

The project proponent mentioned that direct and indirect employment will be generated from the project. Although the skilled manpower is required for plant operation, local youths shall be absorbed in ancillary jobs. Skilled personnel, if available in the neighborhood, shall be considered with due priority.

Sri Shymal Majumdar ,Saha Sabhapati , Salanpur Panchayat Samity congratulated everyone present in the public hearing. He requested the project proponent to fulfill the commitments made by them in the presentation especially for the implementation of the corporate social responsibilities.

Sri Biswajit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate (Asansole) then requested the audience to raise their questions and/or opinions, if any.

Shri Shyamapada Das of village - Ethora requested the project proponent to specify about the employment opportunities from the proposed project .He also requested the project proponent to explain the impact of air pollution in nearby village and if required the project proponent should reorganize the plant location.

Shri Keshabnath Mondal of Ethora mentioned that the project is welcome and enquired about the type of plantation to be made by the project proponent for abatement of air pollution.

Sri Dilip Bhattacharjee of village Ethora welcomed the project. He also wanted to know the expected date of commissioning of the proposed project and requested the project proponent to engaged local unemployed young persons.

Dr.T.K.Gupta, Chief Engineer, WBPCB clarified that primary responsibility of operating and maintaining the pollution control devices lies with the industry itself. Surveillance of environmental compliance is mandated duty of the WBPCB. He requested the local residents to come forward and take part in efforts for control of pollution. In case of noncompliance, the unit may be requested for necessary action followed by informing the same to local administration and the West Bengal Pollution Control Board.

Sri Biswajit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol requested the project proponent to fulfill their commitments towards environment and requested to explore the scope of reuse of water and constitution of committee to monitor the performance of industry.

Dr.T.K.Gupta, Chief Engineer, WBPCB advised for the installation of efficient air pollution control system, adequate suction system for controlling the taphole emission of arc furnaces to maintain the particulate emission level below 50mg/Nm³. He mentioned that ground water recharge is not permissible by the industries in the state of West Bengal. However the ponds can be used for rain water harvesting. He also insisted on the fact that, while finalizing the EIA and EMP, the project proponent should incorporate the outcomes of the opinions of the attendants of this public hearing as well as the following points :

- The satellite imagery should be of good quality, as per the standard practice.

- Emission information from other units within 10 km from the project site should be included.
- Results of air quality prediction modeling should be included in EIA/EMP report.
- The emissions from all the existing & proposed units within the study area.
- Impact of transportation of raw materials & fuels should be assessed.
- Measures for controlling the fugitive emission should be specified.
- The SAF s should be located away from the village side and the plant layout should be modified accordingly. A clear plant layout map with the proper area breakup for green belt, rainwater harvesting area, plant & machineries area, raw material storage, etc.
- Disposal details of ferrochrome slag should be covered.
- Risk assessment & occupational health of the workers should be properly covered.
- Green belt should be at least 33% of the total project area.

Sri Biswajit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate , Asansol advised the project proponent to take local administration in consultation during formation of local level monitoring committee. He appreciated the proposal presented by M/s Vikash Smelter Limited 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.

Mr.Dipankar Datta , on behalf of unit assured that they would comply with particulate emission level below 50mg/Nm³, conserve ponds through rain water harvesting, ensure green belt plantation and local employment generation.

In general, the public present in the hearing welcomed the project provided the project proponent 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