

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF STEEL PLANT AT MADHUKUNDA, DIST.-PURULIA, WEST BENGAL PROPOSED BY M/s. VISION SPONGE IRON PVT. LTD. HELD ON 15.02.2008 IN THE MEETING HALL OF THE OFFICE OF THE SANTURI PANCHAYET SAMITY / DEV. BLOCK AT TALBERIA, DIST.-PURULIA, WEST BENGAL

M/s. Vision Sponge Iron Pvt. Ltd. submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed expansion of Steel Plant at Madhukunda, Dist.-Purulia, 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 from the MoEF, Govt. of India after conducting the Public Hearing.

Accordingly, West Bengal Pollution Control Board after observing all formalities held a Public Hearing on 15th February, 2008 at 12.00 Hrs in the Meeting Hall of the office of the Santuri Panchayet Samity / Dev. Block at Talberia, Dist.-Purulia. The 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 welcome note from Mr. Shyamal Sarkar, Additional District Magistrate (Dev), Purulia who presided over the hearing. Sri Anjan Fouzdar, Asstt. Environmental Engineer, WBPCB explained about the provisions of the above stated MoEF notification. The ADM (Dev) 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.

The Project Proponent then explained about the project details emphasizing on the likely environmental impacts arising out of the same as well as the proposed pollution abatement measures to be taken by them.

During the discussion the panel members and others present in the public hearing made queries / suggestions in connection with the proposed project which are noted below:

Sri Kamakya Chowdhary, resident of village Madhukunda welcomed the expansion proposal of M/s Vision Sponge Iron (P) Ltd. However, he has raised some points, which are noted below:

- Dust problem from the nearby industries to the Surface water and local residents.
- Commitments and assurances from the Project Proponent regarding continuous operation of Pollution Control Equipments.
- Employment of local people in the plant.
- Provision of Health Camp, Eye Camp, etc. in the locality as a part of their social responsibility.

Sri Sameer Mukherjee, resident of Village Madhukunda, Sri Ajit Chakraborty of Pachandapur and Sri Gautam Chakraborty of village Kastogora requested the Project Proponent to provide tube wells, eye camps in the locality. They also requested that the Project Proponent should take programmes for more plantation in & around the factory premises. They also welcomed the proposed expansion project maintaining all the Environmental norms strictly.

Sri Mantu Chakraborty of village Balitora & Sri Pintu Sarkar of Village Madhukunda mentioned that the social & economic condition of the area has improved due to the ongoing industrial activities in the area. They also mentioned about the dust problem and requested that the Pollution Control Equipments should be operated continuously.

Sri Bhaskar Chakraborty, Karmadhakshya, Purulia Zilla Parishad, Distt. Purulia supported the opinion of Sri Kamakya Chowdhary and mentioned that the local area is affected by the dust generated from various nearby industries. He also requested that the local people should be employed as much as possible. He mentioned that the appropriate measures should be taken by the PP to control the additional emission from the proposed expansion project.

Sri Surajit Pal, Block Development Officer, Santuri enquired about the Ground Water Monitoring conducted by PP.

Sri T. K. Chakraborty, SDO, Raghunathpur has mentioned about the pollution problems on vegetation, water bodies due to local Sponge Iron Units. He further mentioned that PP should ensure proper functioning of Pollution Control Systems as proposed during Public Hearing. He appreciated the existing Social Works of the industry & requested to extend the same in future. He also mentioned that the PP should take more plantation programme in consultation with the District Authorities.

Sri P. K. Roy, Sr. Environmental Officer, Deptt. of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal, welcomed the expansion of the project and requested the PP to look into the public grievances and implement and take all preventive measures and adopt the best technology available.

On behalf of the Project Proponent, Sri Siddhartha Jhunjhunwala of M/s. Vision Sponge Iron Pvt. Ltd. has stated that the problem of air pollution, water pollution, ash management, water management would be adequately addressed while finalizing the EIA/EMP for such projects. He has also mentioned that best available technology will be considered in each step of implementation of the project. He has mentioned that they will adopt the concept of zero discharge and will provide a minimum of 33% of the total area for greeneries. He has also mentioned that the project proponent will take programme for more plantation not only within the plant premises but also in the neighboring areas in consultation with the District Authorities. He also mentioned that they will provide more Health Check-up camps for the local people in future.

The Additional District Magistrate (Dev), Purulia emphasized that all possible measures should be ensured by the Project Proponent towards the mitigation of all environmental hazards and various points raised by the public present in the hearing. He also mentioned that Surface Water Quality in the nearby areas should be regularly checked by the PP. He requested that PP should provide few Deep Tube wells for the local people & Rain Water Harvesting System should be adopted. In general, the public present in the hearing welcomed the project incorporating with all the pollution control measures proposed by the Project Proponent.

Sd/-
Anjan Fouzdar
Asstt. Environmental Engineer
WBPCB

Sd/-
Shyamal Sarkar
Additional District Magistrate (Dev)
Dist.-Purulia