

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 1X600MW CAPACITY UNIT-6 AT BAKRESWAR THERMAL POWER PROJECT, DIST.-BIRBHUM, W.B. PROPOSED BY M/S. WEST BENGAL POWER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED HELD ON 08.05.2007 IN THE CONFERENCE HALL OF OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE AND COLLECTOR, BIRBHUM, WEST BENGAL

M/s. West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed construction of 1X600MW capacity unit-6 at Bakreswar Thermal Power Project, Dist.-Birbhum, 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 Public Hearing.

Accordingly, WBPCB after completing all formalities, held a Public Hearing on 8th May, 2007 at 11.30 Hrs in the Conference Hall of office of District Magistrate & Collector, Dist.-Birbhum, W.B. All 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 a welcome note from Shri Golak Chand Ghosh, DL&LRO and ex-officio ADM, Birbhum who presided over the Hearing. Dr. T. K. Gupta, Senior Environmental Engineer and Incharge – Consent Cell, WBPCB explained about the provisions of the above stated MOEF Notification. Shri Ghosh, DL&LRO and ex-officio, ADM then requested the Project Proponent to explain the details about the proposed project for the benefit of the Panel Members and other participants present in the Hearing.

Project Proponent then explained about the project by PowerPoint presentation, 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 the others present in the Public Hearing made queries / suggestions with respect to the proposed project which are noted below:

Sri Binoy Kumar Choubey, a resident of Muramath village appreciated the action taken by the Bakreswar Thermal Power Unit for management of Ash Handling and Disposal. However, he has requested that the Project Proponent should take adequate measures to avoid flying of ash from the Ash Pond during dry season. He has also requested that regular ground water quality monitoring need to be carried out by the Project Proponent in the adjoining villages of Ash Pond of BkTPP.

Sri Asit Roy, a resident of Kachujore village requested that the Project Proponent should undertake more plantation programme in the Ash Pond areas. He has also requested that the Project Authority may provide more quantum of water for the benefit of the local agriculture and the villagers.

Sri Arun Mitra, a resident of Chinpai village has mentioned that the Project Proponent should consider increase of plantation in the local village surrounding the Bakreswar Thermal Power Station. He has requested that the Project Proponent should encourage to set up ancilliary units like cement plants etc. in the surrounding villages of BkTPP.

Sri Balam Chatterjee, a resident of Bhurkuna village mentioned that the project authority may develop some tourism project around Bakreswar Dam site in consultation with the District Authorities. He has also asked whether the Project Authority will construct any new ash pond for their 6th Unit or not. He has also requested that more plantation programme need to be considered by the Project Authority in an around the Plant area.

Sri Sadhan Ghosh, Karmadhakshya, Birbhum Zilla Parishad has welcomed the expansion proposal (6th Unit) of BkTPP. He has mentioned that due to this particular Thermal Power Station, the entire district of Birbhum got the benefit of upliftment of its socio-economic condition. He has requested that the Project Authority will continue & extend their social responsibility for betterment of local area development, social forestry, employment generation etc.

Shri P. K. Roy, Sr. Environment Officer, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal mentioned that the project authority should make necessary arrangement for on-line stack emission monitoring with public display of the same. Shri Roy emphasized that the Project Proponent should take necessary measures for collection and utilization of ash as per MOEF guideline, extension of forestry programme, measures for avoiding any hazards due to ash management in the local area.

Sri Susanta Mitra, General Manager, District Industries Centre has mentioned that setting up of few ash-based cement plants are already in the pipeline.

On behalf of the Project Proponent Shri Nirajan Saha, Executive Director (Technical), West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited & Sri Debi Prasad Roychowdhury, General Manager, Bakreswar Thermal Power Project, an unit of WBPDCCL have appreciated the concern expressed by different participants and welcome the suggestions. They indicated that they will address all the above stated issues while finalizing the environmental management plan. He has categorically mentioned that they will take up more plantation schemes in consultation with Birbhum Zilla Parishad and District Authorities at an earliest.

Sri Ghosh, DL&LRO and ex-officio, ADM, Birbhum 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. In general the public present in the hearing welcome the project incorporating with all the pollution control measures proposed by the Project Proponent.

sd/-
Dr. T. K. Gupta
Sr. Environmental Engineer &
Incharge – Consent Cell, WBPCB

sd/-
Golak Chand Ghosh
DL&LRO and ex-officio, ADM
Birbhum