

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED 2X660 MW COAL BASED KATWA SUPER THERMAL POWER PLANT AT VILL – SRIKHANDA AND KOSHIGRAM, NEAR TOWN KATWA, DIST - BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL PROPOSED BY M/S NTPC LIMITED HELD ON 30.06.2015 AT 12:00 HOURS AT THE PREMISES OF THE OFFICE OF THE SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICER, KATWA, DIST – BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL

M/s NTPC Limited submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed 2X660 MW Coal based Katwa Super Thermal Power Plant at Vill – Srikhanda and Koshigram, near Town Katwa, Dist - Burdwan, West Bengal. As per the EIA Notification S.O. 1533 dated 14th September, 2006 of the Ministry of Environment & Forest, Govt. of India, Environmental Clearance for 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, conducted the Public Hearing on 30.06.2015 at 12:00 Hrs. at the premises of the Office of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Katwa, Dist. Burdwan, West Bengal. All the panel members were present in the hearing. Sri A.K.Saha, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Dist. Burdwan 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 Sri S.Ganguly, Environmental 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 NTPC Limited for the proposed 2X660 MW Coal based Katwa Super Thermal Power Plant at Vill – Srikhanda and Koshigram, near Town Katwa, Dist - Burdwan, West Bengal.

Sri A.K.Saha, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Dist. Burdwan welcomed the audience and gave a brief introduction about the proposed project and its probable impact on the environment. He then requested Sri R.N.Chattopadhyay, Honorable MLA of Katwa Constituency and Janab Sk. Sahanwaz, Honorable MLA of Ketugram Constituency to address the audience.

Sri R.N.Chattopadhyay welcomed the project and further requested the NTPC authorities to implement the project at the earliest since the local people have been waiting for a long time for the same. He expressed his hope that the proposed project will lead to overall development of the surrounding area.

Janab Sk. Sahanwaz also welcomed the proposed project and requested the NTPC authorities to initiate CSR activities involving the local people for overall inclusive development of the area.

Sri A.K.Saha, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Dist. Burdwan then requested the project proponent (PP) to explain in details about the proposed project, giving emphasis on the environmental aspects in particular, for discussion among the panel members and others present in the hearing.

Sri A.Sen, General Manager of the proposed project, addressed the gathering on behalf of M/s NTPC Limited. Sri Sen gave a brief introduction regarding the company profile of M/s NTPC Limited. He assured the audience that they have implemented state of the art technology inherently in their design for the proposed plant in order to ensure that no environmental degradation results from their process activities. Sri Sen further stated that their company has well defined CSR & RR policies which will lead to overall socio-economic development of the area.

Dr. J. K. Moitra of EMTRC Consultants Pvt. Ltd (Environmental Consultant of the project) on behalf of the PP narrated the details of the proposed project and the pollution control measures to be taken for the same through power point presentation. He explained the location details of the project, details of process activities, probable environmental impacts of such process activities and measures proposed by M/s

NTPC Limited to mitigate such effects. He mentioned about the baseline status of Air, Water & Noise Quality of the area which are well within the standards. Dr. Moitra also described about the specific R&R policy of M/s NTPC Limited. He further elaborated on the steps to be taken for developing the society through activities under Corporate Social Responsibility of the company.

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 D.Majumdar, Pradhan, Srikhanda Gram Panchayat welcomed the proposed project and requested the PP to implement the same at the earliest since the project has already been delayed considerably and local people are eagerly waiting for the same. He thanked the NTPC authorities for expediting the process of laying of rail line from Burdwan to Katwa by paying a large amount of money to the railway authority for the job. Sri Majumdar also requested the PP to give priority to local employment generation, proper implementation of R&R and CSR policies leading to overall development of the area and proper functioning of efficient pollution control devices continuously during process activities. He further requested the NTPC authorities and the local administration to form a local level committee involving representatives from local residents, project authorities and local administration in order to plan and monitor development activities including R&R and CSR issues on a continuous basis.

Sri Arup Ghosh of Vill – Koshigram appreciated the CSR activities like installation of tube wells and building of sanitary toilets already initiated by the PP. He requested the NTPC authorities to inform the gathering about their time bound program for procuring further land from the local villagers. Finally Sri Ghosh welcomed the project and assured that the local people will extend all possible help towards implementation of the project at the earliest.

Smt. Anhara Khatun of Vill – Srikhanda and Smt. D.Ghosh of Vill - Debkundu thanked the PP for providing computer training opportunity to local women like them from which they have already benefited a lot. They further requested the authorities to implement the project at the earliest.

Sri R. Majumdar of Vill – Srikhanda requested the NTPC authorities to ensure proper mitigation measures for preventing air pollution resulting from the proposed project activities.

Sri S.Paul of Vill – Gowai requested the authorities to ensure that CSR activities are implemented properly in and around the project site to ensure overall socio-economic development of the villages in the immediate vicinity of the project site.

Sri S.Saha of Katwa and Sri B.Mondal of Vill – Srikhanda welcomed the project and requested for earliest implementation of the same. They further requested the PP to ensure overall and inclusive development of the neighboring area.

Smt. S.Majumdar of Vill – Srikhanda requested the PP and the local administration to initiate campaigns at grass root level to increase environmental awareness of the residents of the nearby locality.

Sri A.K.Saha, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Dist. Burdwan then requested the PP to address the issues raised by the participants of the public hearing.


Sri A.Sen, General Manager of the proposed project, addressed the issues raised during the discussion in an elaborate manner. Sri Sen assured the gathering that they will use most modern and efficient equipment for mitigation of any possible environmental nuisance arising out of their process activities; he also stated that they will ensure that in no way the agricultural activity of the predominantly agrarian neighborhood is affected due to the process activities of the proposed project. He further guaranteed that through their well-defined R&R and CSR policies they will ensure proper compensation for the land

losers and consistent overall socio-economic development of the neighboring area including generation of indirect employment opportunities for the local people. Finally Sri Sen assured the audience that being a public sector company, NTPC Limited will give priority to overall inclusive development of the society as a whole.

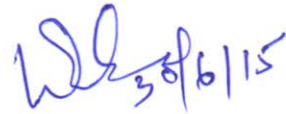
Sri S.Ganguly, Environmental Engineer, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, suggested that the project proponent should include all the issues discussed in the public hearing, in the final EIA/EMP report and address the issues properly during implementation of the project. Further, Sri Ganguly assured the audience that the deliberations presented by the audience in the hearing is being recorded and unedited videography of the whole proceedings will be forwarded to the appropriate authorities for their consideration.

In general, local people present in the hearing welcomed the proposed project provided that the project proponent will implement all the commitments made during public hearing.

Finally Sri A.K.Saha, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Dist. Burdwan expressed his gratitude to the audience for their active participation in this public hearing and concluded the session.


30.06.15.

Sri S.Ganguly,
Environmental Engineer,
West Bengal Pollution Control Board


30/6/15

Sri A.K.Saha,
Additional District Magistrate (LR),
Dist – Burdwan