

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AS SCHEDULED ON 12-10-2023 AT 05:00 P.M. AT THE BARJORA PANCHAYAT SAMITY MEETING HALL, BARJORA, DIST – BANKURA, WEST BENGAL FOR THE PROPOSED RIVERBED SAND MINING OF MIN\_BNK\_7 SAND BLOCK OVER AN AREA OF 15.74 HA (38.89 ACRES) ON THE DAMODAR RIVER AT JL NO. – 73, 74, PLOT NO. – 2870, 2053, MOUZA – BANJORA, JALANPUR, P.S. – MEJIA; DIST. – BANKURA, WEST BENGAL BY M/S. WEST BENGAL MINERAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADING CORPORATION LIMITED.

M/s. WEST BENGAL MINERAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADING CORPORATION LIMITED (henceforth termed as project proponent) submitted an application to the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (herein after referred to as the State Board) for conducting a Public Hearing for the proposed riverbed sand mining of MIN\_BNK\_7 Sand Block over an area of 15.74 ha (38.89 Acres) on the Damodar River at JL No. – 73, 74, Plot No. – 2870, 2053, Mouza – Banjora, Jalanpur, P.S. – Mejia; Dist. – Bankura, West Bengal by M/s. West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited. As per the notification S.O. 1533 dated 14th September, 2006 of the MoEF& CC, Govt. of India and amendments made thereafter, Environmental Clearance (EC) for the said project is required to be obtained after conducting Public Hearing.

Accordingly, the State Board conducted the Public Hearing scheduled on 12-10-2023 at the Barjora Panchayat Samity Meeting Hall, Barjora, Dist – Bankura, West Bengal. A considerable gathering of people was present during the hearing. List of the panel members and others present during the public hearing is enclosed as *Annexure*.


Sri Pralay Raychaudhuri, WBCS (Exe.), Additional District Magistrate (General), Bankura presided over the hearing.

The public hearing started with a welcome note from Sri A. K. Dey, Environmental Engineer, Durgapur Regional Office, W.B. Pollution Control Board. He briefed the audience about the modalities and significance of Public Hearing, which is part of Public Consultation process under EIA Notification, 2006 and its subsequent amendments. He also gave an overview of the proposed project to the attending public and requested the gathering present at the hearing to come up with relevant questions and suggestions regarding the proposed project after listening carefully the presentation to be given by the project proponent. Sri A. K. Dey informed that proceedings of the public hearing along with videography will be forwarded to the appropriate authorities for their consideration for setting up of the proposed project of **M/s. West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited**.

With due permission of Sri Raychaudhuri, ADM (General) and Chairman of the public hearing, Sri A. K. Dey requested the project proponent, to describe the details of the proposed project in local language.

On behalf of M/s. West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited, Sri Arpan Chakraborty of the environment consultancy firm (M/s. Indian Mine Planner & Consultant) engaged by the project proponent, narrated the proposed project. Sri Arpan Chakraborty explained the locational details of the project and basic requirements like land, water, fuel, manpower, etc. for the proposed project. He informed that the pollution potential involved in the project activities will be well taken care of by the project proponent and elaborated on the steps to be taken for environmental pollution control, afforestation program/green-belt development.

Sri A. K. Dey then requested the gathering to come up with relevant questions to fulfill the objectives of the public hearing.

  
Environmental Engineer  
Durgapur Regional Office  
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

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Additional District Magistrate (G)  
Bankura

During the discussion, the panel members and the others present in the public hearing came up with queries / suggestions with respect to the proposed project, which are noted below:

Sri Tarun Chatterjee of Vill. Banjora, requested the PP to extend the village road that leads to the main road since it's a narrow roadway and the traffic is a problem for them. He asked the PP about the haul road maintenance and repairing work of the haul road. He also asked the PP to restrict the movement of Mine Vehicles during the School Hours.

Sri Ardhendu Biswas of Vill. Jalanpur, asked PP about the procedure to acquire sand for local need.

Sri Bimal Tiwari of Vill. Jalanpur, requested the PP to take proper measures to ensure maintenance of haul road.

Sri Arpan Chakraborty on behalf of the PP explained that the proposed road will be checked and evaluated properly for any scope of expansion or better alternative route. He also assured that the maintenance and repair work will be properly monitored during the operational phase of the mine and the movement of trucks/dumpers will be restricted during the school hours. He explained that once the mines become operational, they can contact the local office for any requirement of sand. He also explained that all necessary actions will be taken towards proper maintenance of the proposed road when the mine become operational

Sri Manik Ghosh, Upo-Pradhan, Banjora Gram Panchayet supported the project and asked the PP when these mines will become operational.

The PP explained that they are taking all necessary actions to bring up these mines operational as soon as possible.

In conclusion the ADM (Gen), Bankura stated that since the project is being executed by M/s. West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited, the MDO (Mine Developer and Operator) has to take the responsibility to protect the environment and check. It was stated that the MDO shall have to construct a local office close to the mine so that if local people face any problems or seek information, they can directly contact there. It was also suggested to the PP that a bypass road, if possible, might be constructed so that the excavated sand can be transported directly to the NH avoiding the village road which will ease the problems of dust pollution faced by the local people nearby the mine. The PP was requested to take proper steps for protection of environment and thanked the people for attending the public hearing.

Sri A. K. Dey, Environmental Engineer, Durgapur Regional Office thanked the people for attending the public hearing.

**Sri A. K. Dey**  
**Environmental Engineer**  
**Durgapur R.O.**  
**West Bengal Pollution Control Board**

**Pralay Raychaudhuri, WBCS (Executive)**  
**Additional District Magistrate (Gen), Bankura**  
**&**  
**Chairman of the Public Hearing**