

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE CALCUTTA LEATHER COMPLEX (CLC) AT VILL.-BANTALA, P.O. BHOJERHAT, TEHSIL & DIST. SOUTH 24 PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL BY KOLKATA METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, CONFERENCE HALL, 1ST FLOOR, CLC TANNERS ASSOCIATION, CETP, BANTALA, KARAIIDANGA, P.O. BHOJERHAT, P.S.-KLC, DIST. SOUTH 24 PARGANAS, PIN-743502, WEST BENGAL ON 18.04.2022 AT 12:00 HRS.

Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting a Public Hearing for the proposed expansion of the Calcutta Leather Complex (CLC) at Vill.-Bantala, P.O. Bhojerhat, Tehsil & Dist. South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. As per the EIA Notification S.O. 1533 dated 14th September, 2006 of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, Environment Clearance for the said project is required to be obtained from the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, West Bengal, after conducting the Public Hearing.

Accordingly, the West Bengal Pollution Control Board after observing all formalities, held the Public Hearing on 18.04.2022 at 12:00 hrs. at the Administrative Building, Conference Hall, 1st Floor, CLC Tanners Association, CETP, Bantala, Karaidanga, P.O. Bhojerhat, P.S.-KLC, Dist. South 24 Parganas, Pin-743502, West Bengal. Shri Nitesh Dhali, Additional District Magistrate (LR), South 24 Parganas presided over the hearing. List of the panel members and others present in the public hearing is enclosed.

Smt Ruby Sinha, Environmental Engineer, West Bengal Pollution Control Board initiated the hearing process. At the outset, she welcomed the audience present. She then gave a brief description of the proposed project. She also elaborated about the need of public hearing for such type of projects as per the Ministry of Environment & Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) Notification S.O. 1533(E) dated 14.09.2006. She further mentioned that the entire public hearing would be recorded and the unedited videography would be sent to the Competent Authority for their consideration.

Sri Samit Datta, Environmental Engineer, West Bengal Pollution Control Board discussed briefly about the hearing process and its objectives. He requested the Project Proponent to deliver their presentation in local language.

Thereafter, Shri Nitesh Dhali, Additional District Magistrate (LR), South 24 Parganas, welcomed the audience present. He described in detail about the need and the process of conducting the Public Hearing considering the expansion of the industry and its impact on the environment. He discussed about the proposed project and mentioned that the local people could voice their independent views regarding implementation of the project.

Sri Sajjate Sultan of M/s. SBA Enviro Systems Private Limited, Environmental Consultant for the Project Proponent, presented the project details and the mitigation measures undertaken by the proponent towards abatement of pollution. The presentation is summarized below:

PROJECT SUMMARY AS PER THE PROJECT REPORT

S. No.	Parameter	Details
1	Project Name	Expansion of Calcutta Leather Complex
2	Project Proponent	KMDA
3	Project Location	Village- Bantala, Post- Bhojerhat, Tehsil & District – South 24 Parganas, West Bengal
4	Expansion Area	About 40 Ha
5	Current Leather Processing Capacity	1,000 MTPD
6	Proposed Leather Processing Capacity	1,600 MTPD (Increase of 600 MTPD from existing capacity)
7	Manpower Required for expansion	30,000 direct job opportunities 1,50,000 indirect job opportunities
8	Electricity Requirement	7.23 MVA supplied/received from West Bengal State Electricity Board at 132 KV level through two 132/33 KV substation, 50 MVA transformers.
9	Water Requirement for Proposed Expansion	19.2 MLD (1.2 MLD Drinking Water and 18 MLD Process Water)
10	Wastewater Generation for Proposed Expansion	18.15 MLD (1.05 MLD Drinking Water and 17.1 MLD Process Water)

It has been submitted during the hearing that the proposed expansion would enable additional 228 tanneries to set up in the leather complex. Water requirement for the tanneries will be met by groundwater abstraction. It has been also stated that necessary permission for abstraction of 40.4 MLD groundwater has been obtained from concerned authority and permission for additional 10 MLD groundwater abstraction will be taken by KMDA from concerned authority.

During the discussion the local people present in the public hearing voiced their opinion and made queries / suggestions with respect to the proposed project, the queries are tabulated below:

Sl. No.	Name & Place	Questions put by the Public
1	Bahadur Sardar, Vill. Kantatala	He showed his concern about the foul smell generated from adjacent canal due to tannery activities in the complex.
2	Bibhas Mondal, Vill. Kantatala	He expressed his concern about the air pollution, specifically, the odour problem

Sl. No.	Name & Place	Questions put by the Public
		faced due to tannery activities in the complex
3	Gagan Das, Vill. Kantatala	He showed his concern about the foul smell generated due to tannery activities in the complex. He also stated about facing skin problem.
4	Shakti Patra, Vill. Bederhait	He expressed his concern about the odour problem faced due to tannery activities in the complex.

The representative of the Project Proponent has submitted that individual tannery units shall have to install pre-treatment plant for partial treatment of the tannery effluent before discharge to the Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) of the leather complex for final treatment. The wastewater from the tanneries will be discharged to the CETPs via underground HDPE pipeline network. He has submitted that already two modules of CETP (7 & 8) having total 10 MLD capacity (each module of 5 MLD capacity) have been installed and additional CETP of 10 MLD will be required in order to handle the increased effluent load after proposed expansion.

Sri Rakesh Roy Chowdhury, Upo-Pradhan, Tardah Gram Panchayet has stated that overall situation of the leather complex has improved a lot and significant socio-economic development of the adjacent areas has occurred.

The General Secretary of the Calcutta Leather Complex Tanners Association has submitted that R & D/ trial run of several cleaner technology options like mechanical desalting, enzyme assisted dehairing etc is being undertaken in order to reduce pollution load and odour problem generated from tannery activities. He stated that sincere efforts would be made to maintain the environmental norms.

The Additional District Magistrate(LR), South 24 Parganas thanked the audience for their active participation in the public hearing and voicing their opinion regarding the proposed project and then finally concluded the session.



Ruby Sinha
Environmental Engineer, WBPCB



Nitesh Dhali
Additional District Magistrate(LR),
South 24 Parganas