

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED 1x660 MW COAL BASED SAGARDIGHI PHASE III EXTENSION UNIT - 5 AT SAGARDIGHI THERMAL POWER STATION (SgTPP) IN DIST - MURSHIDABAD, WEST BENGAL PROPOSED BY M/S THE WEST BENGAL POWER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED HELD ON 16.09.2016 AT 12:00 HOURS NEAR THE PROPOSED PROJECT SITE

M/s The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBDCL) submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed 1x660 MW Coal Based Sagardighi Phase III Extension Unit - 5 at Sagardighi Thermal Power Station (SgTPP) In Dist - Murshidabad, 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 & CC, Govt. of India after conducting the Public Hearing.

Accordingly, West Bengal Pollution Control Board after observing all formalities, conducted the Public Hearing on 16.09.2016 at 12:00 Hrs. near the proposed project site. All the panel members were present in the hearing. Sri Vibhu Goel, IAS, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Murshidabad 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 Shouvik 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 The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited the proposed 1x660 MW Coal Based Sagardighi Phase III Extension Unit - 5 at Sagardighi Thermal Power Station (SgTPP) In Dist - Murshidabad, West Bengal.

Sri Vibhu Goel, IAS, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Murshidabad welcomed the audience and gave a brief introduction about the proposed expansion project and its probable impact on the environment. He 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 Alok Dutta Roy, General Manager, WBDCL welcomed the gathering on his company's behalf and gave a brief introduction of the proposed expansion project. He further assured that the proposed project will lead to overall socio-economic development of the neighboring area.

Smt. Kuhu Banerjee of M/s Development Consultants Pvt. Ltd (Environmental Consultant of the project) on behalf of the PP narrated the details of the proposed expansion project and the pollution control measures to be taken for the same through power point presentation. She explained the location details of the project which is within the existing project premises, details of process activities, probable environmental impacts of such process activities and measures proposed by M/s WBDCL to mitigate such effects. She mentioned about the baseline status of air, water and noise quality of the area which are well within the standards. She 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 Ganesh Chandra Saha of Monigram welcomed the proposed expansion project with the expectation that the same will lead to overall socio-economic development of the neighbouring area. He expressed his grievance regarding nonconformity towards CSR commitments by project proponent in the past and requested the PP to ensure that the same is not repeated. Sri Saha also requested the PP to give priority to local employment generation, proper implementation of 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 WBPDCCL 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 CSR issues on a continuous basis.

Sri Dhananjoy Ghosh, Member of Monigram Gram Panchayet expressed his concern regarding the continuously depleting ground water level of the locality and requested the PP as well as the local administration to take proper measures to ensure that local agricultural activities and irrigation system are not affected due to process activities of the power plant. He further requested the PP to initiate extensive plantation program in and around their unit premises, to arrange for potable water supply for local villages and develop the conditions of local roads and drainage system through their CSR activities in consultation with local administration and local representatives. Sri Ghosh further requested the PP to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the local villages.

Smt. Konika Mondal of Monigram urged the PP to enhance their CSR activities and arrange for adequate number of street lights in local roads, arrange for development of infrastructure of local schools and provide medical facility to local villagers.

Sri Uttam Kumar Ghosh of Monigram expressed his grievance regarding partial fulfilment of R&R and CSR commitments by the PP for their presently running project and requested them to compensate for the same in the near future. He requested the PP as well as the local administration to initiate immediate action for development of infrastructural facilities of the locality and start extensive plantation program in the area so that it can emerge as a prominent tourist spot in the near future.

Sri Shibaprasad Ganguly of Monigram 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 Kunal Chakraborty, Deputy General Manager (HR), WBPDCCL, addressed the issues raised during the discussion in an elaborate manner. Sri Chakraborty 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.

Sri Shouvik 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.

Sri Alok Dutta Roy, General Manager, WBPDCCL expressed his gratitude to the audience for their active participation in the public hearing and assured the audience that being a public sector company, WBPDCCL will give priority to overall inclusive development of the society as a whole.

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.

Sri Vibhu Goel, IAS, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Murshidabad requested the PP to strictly comply with the prevailing environmental norms and fulfil all their commitments regarding CSR activities. Finally Sri Goel concluded the hearing with thanks to the audience.

S. Ganguly
16-09-16.

Sri Shouvik Ganguly,
Environmental Engineer,
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Vibhu
16/09/2016

Sri Vibhu Goel, IAS
Additional District Magistrate (L.R)
Murshidabad