

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED FOR THE PROPOSED UNIT OF M/s. ARS METALS LIMITED FOR THEIR 2x60 MW CAPACITY COAL BASED THERMAL POWER PLANT AT CHITHOORNATHAM, SIRUPULALPETTAI AND EAGUVARPALAYAM VILLAGES, GUMMIDIPOONDI TALUK, TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT

Date: 24.11.2010

Time: 10.30 Hours

Venue : Project Site.

The Public Hearing organized to get the views of the public, in respect of the proposed unit of M/s. ARS Metals Limited, for the setting up of 2x60 Mega Watt Capacity Coal based Thermal Power Plant , was held at the project site of the proposed unit , located at Chithoornatham, Sirupuzhalpettai and Eaguvarpalayam Villages, Gummidipoondi Taluk, Tiruvallur District. The District Collector, Tiruvallur Chaired the Public Hearing proceedings and assisted by the District Environmental Engineer, TamilNadu Pollution Control Board, Tiruvallur.

The District Environmental Engineer explained the purpose of the meeting and informed that the proposed project of setting up of 2x60 MW capacity coal based thermal power plant by M/s. ARS Metals Limited at Chithoornatham, Sirupuzhalpettai and Eaguvarpalayam villages, is required to get Environmental Clearance (EC) from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India (GoI) for which the Public Hearing is organized. He pointed out that the Terms of Reference (TOR) for carrying out the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study was approved by MoEF based on which the EIA Report was prepared He added that the Public Notice informing the conducting of the Public Hearing was published on 15.10.2010 in "Dinathanthi" and "The New Indian Express", and requested the District Collector to conduct the proceedings.

Then District Collector welcomed all the participants and informed that the project proponent would make a presentation on the project after which the public can express their views and concerns, which will be clarified by the project proponent and informed that the entire proceedings will be recorded and submitted to the MoEF, GoI. Then District collector invited the project proponent to make the presentation.

Thiru. T.G.H.Ashok Kumar, Environmental Consultant to the project informed that the unit of M/s. ARS Metals Limited has proposed 2x60 Mega Watt Capacity Coal based Thermal Power Plant over an area of 60 acres of lands located in Chithoornatham, Sirupuzhalpettai and Eaguvarpalayam villages in which the public hearing is organized. He presented the location map of the project site and stated that out of the total area of 60 acres, total construction area will be 28 acres, 8 acres will be used for ash pond and Green belt will be developed in 12 acres. He informed the public that the power generated will be used for the

captive consumption of the steel melting shop of M/s.ARS Metals Limited located at SIPCOT Industrial Complex, Gummidipoondi.

He pointed out that CFBC Boiler is proposed to be used, in which lime stones will be used to reduce the Sulphur Di-Oxide emissions by 80% and as in other Thermal Power Plants, Air Cooled Condenser will be employed as hence the water requirement is reduced to a large extent and that very high quality imported coal from Indonesia will be used and its daily requirement is 1790 Tonnes per day. Then the consultant explained about the characteristics of the coal in which it was pointed out that the level of ash content is only 3.67% as against 30-40% in Indian coal and Sulphur content is only 0.69%.

The consultant said that in order to ensure that the handling of coal is not causing any pollution, wind shields and water sprinklers will be provided around the coal storage area, coal will be conveyed in closed conveyors, and bag filters will be provided in all transfer points. The photographs of the wind shields, closed conveyor system, coal crusher were shown to the public. It was further informed that the back ground environmental settings of the area around the proposed power plant were studied and found that the level of pollutants in the ambient air is very low and well within the standards, the impact of the power plant on air quality was predicted using "AIRMOD" software, which is approved by MoEF, and the predictions made with no pollution control measure scenario, showed that the predicted values are well below the prescribed standards. The table showing the predicted values was also presented and informed that due to this proposed Thermal Power Plant there will not be any adverse impact to the Environment. It was also informed that a stack of 145 meters height with 99.9% efficiency ESP will be provided to control the dust below 50mg/Nm³.

The consultant stated that the water requirement will be very low as air cooled condenser is proposed and the total water requirement is 570 Cu,m,/day of which the fresh water requirement is 345 Cu.m./day, taken from Ground water sources, and the remaining water is recycled water. He pointed out that the unit has obtained permission from the Central Ground Water Authority for the drawl of 800 Cu.m/Day of Ground water and hence the impact on ground water is less. He further informed that the blow down from the boiler will be used for Green Belt Development. As regards the Fly Ash it was informed that the ash content in the coal is very low and the fly ash will be collected in fly ash silos and sold out to end users, and taken by end users in closed vehicles and the bottom ash will be stored in impervious LDPE sheet lined ash ponds and 8 acres of land has been assigned for ash pond. It was stated that out of the total ash quantity only 20% is bottom

ash, and as such there will not be any adverse impact due to Fly Ash and Bottom Ash.

The consultant said that green belt is proposed to be developed along the periphery and around the plant during the construction and operation phase of the Thermal Power Plant and 12 acres of land has been earmarked for this purposes, and 5 meters depth Green belt will be developed along the periphery and around the plant.

Then the consultant summarised about the measures taken for mitigating the impacts such as providing of ESP and 145 meters height chimney, closed conveyors for transporting the coal, transporting coal in covered condition from the port to the site to control the impact on air environment, and as such no impact on air environment, as air cooled condenser is employed and condensed water is re-circulated, and rain water harvesting will be practiced and as such there will not be any impact on water environment, Green belt will be developed over 12 acres of land and hence there will be no impact on noise environment, fly ash will be collected and sold to cement plants and bricks manufacturers and the bottom ash will be stored in the 8 acres of land earmarked, no discharge of effluent from the plant and hence no impact on soil and land environment and in over all there will be no adverse impact to the environment due to this project.

The consultant presented the topography of the project site and the surrounding areas and informed that the site is in plain terrain and the drainage studies showed that the drainage pattern will not be affected. The maps of the Topography, drainage and water bodies, land use pattern were presented.

In the Corporate Social Responsibility front, it is stated that the company has distributed free books and note books to the needy school children of Chithoornatham, Sirupulalpettai and Eaguvarpalayam Villages, for about 2.5 Lakh Rupees, and proposed to extending assistance in constructing compound walls to schools, financial assistance to school children, improving the existing Primary health Centres, setting up of new Primary health Centres, providing protected water supply to the villagers, conducting health awareness camps etc.

Then District collector has invited the public to express their views and informed the public that their queries will be answered by the project proponents and will be recorded and sent to MoEF.

Thiru M.Jayachandran, Councillor, Gummidipoondi Panchayat Union has welcomed the project and wanted that employment opportunity be given to the

local public and desired that 50% of the employment be given to those who sold out their lands for the project

Thiru. Arumugam of KumaraNaicken Pettai informed that the presentation is technical and could be understood only by the educated and opined that ash will not be properly handled and cause pollution. The District Collector requested the consultant to explain in simple way. To this the consultant informed that storage and handling are the important areas of concern and to prevent the spreading of dust from coal storage yard, wind shield will be provided for a height of 3 meters and coal will be stored for a height of 2 meters only, water sprinklers will be provided around the coal storage area and coal will be kept under moisture, coal conveyed through closed conveyors only, bag filters will be provided in all the transfer points, fly ash from the boiler will be collected in silo through ESP Hopper, and taken by end users in specially designed closed trucks and as such no possibility of spreading of fly ash. He added that because of the 145meters height chimney proposed, the flue gas will be dispersed and ESP is designed for a Particulate matter value of below 50 mg/Nm³ and as such there will not be any adverse impact.

Thiru Palani of KumaraNaicken Pettai opined that even though it is stated that the level of Sulphur Di-Oxide is very low , it may affect the nearby areas. He wanted to know, whether the company will carry out health check up of the villagers. To this the consultant pointed out that the company has committed to conduct periodical health check up and to modernise the Primary Health Centre and the bear the expenses of treatment.

Thiru E.P.Damodharan wanted that employment be given to all the villagers, atleast for one person in every household. To this the General Manager of the Company informed that employment will be provided based on their qualification. The consultant supplemented that the skills of the local youth will be developed through training in I.T.I. and employment will be provided.

Thiru Arumugam of K.N.Pettai again informed that only the hamlets of Eaguvarpalayam Panchayat will be affected because of the project and priority be given to the hamlets of Eaguvarpalayam panchayat, particularly the K.N.Pettai Hamlet having sizable population. The same view was echoed by Thiru Aaron of K.N.Pettai and other people of K.N.pettai hamlet. District Collector advised the proponent to took note of the demand.

Thiru Praveen Kumar of Eaguvarpalayam informed that because of the existing sponge iron plant in Eaguvarpalayam black dust spreads for three

kilometres and affecting people and in such scenario what is the guarantee that the operation of the proposed plant will not cause spreading of dust and smoke, and wanted that the spreading of dust and smoke should be controlled. To this the consultant replied that 145 meters height chimney is proposed and as such possibility of spreading of dust is very low.

Thiru Haridass of K.N.Pettai informed that because of the ash from the industries, the children are affected and their hamlet is not benefitted by the existing industries. He wanted to know whether the health facilities promised will be implemented and added that he would welcome the project if the promises are fulfilled to ensure that no pollution will be caused and the welfare schemes are implemented. To this, Thiru Rajesh Bhattia, Director of the company assured that all promises made will be fulfilled and added that as per the norms 0.4% has to be earmarked for CSR which will be audited by MoEF also.

Thiru Rajendran of Eaguvarpalayam informed that many industries are existing and more industries are coming up in that area which will cause damage to the roads. He pointed out that the existing condition of roads itself is very poor and stated that a medical check up done to 422 people has revealed that 132 people are suffering due to back pain. He requested necessary action be taken to improve the road condition. Thiru Sudhakar of Pathapalayam village informed that vehicles carrying load above 10T capacity shall not be allowed. The consultant replied that they would improve the Road along with other industries in that area.

Tmt. Punithavalli Venkatachalapathi, ChairPerson, Gummidipoondi Panchayat Union desired that the company has to give the employment opportunities to the local people based on their qualification and skills and employment be given to women also. She desired that the industries should honour their commitments and fulfill the demands of local people. She requested that the industries should come forward to execute schemes under "Namakku Naame" scheme to improve the infrastructure of the village and to improve the Primary Health Centre at Eaguvarpalayam by means of providing cots, additional building, towels etc.

Thiru Sridhar, Ex. President, Eaguvarpalayam Panchayat welcomed the project. Thiru Bharatkumar, President, Eaguvarpalayam Panchayat also welcomed the project and informed that there are 10 hamlets in the panchayat and requested the company to do welfare measures to all the hamlets of the panchayat.

Thiru K.M.S. Sivakumar of Eaguvarpalayam informed that he would welcome the project provided the company assures that no pollution is caused and that they shall extent assistance to all the hamlets without any discrimination.

The proceedings of the meeting was explained to the participants in the vernacular language (Tamil). Three representations were also handed over by the Public to the District Collector, welcoming the project.

Before concluding the meeting, District Collector thanked the participants.

The meeting came to an end.

District Environmental Engineer
TamilNadu Pollution Control Board
Tiruvallur

District Collector,
Tiruvallur District
Tiruvallur

To
The Director,
Ministry of Environment and Forests,
Government of India,
Paryavaran Bhavan, C.G.O.Complex,
Lodi Road, New Delhi - 110 003.