

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED FOR THE PROPOSED UNIT OF
M/s. BHATIA ENERGY AND STEELS LIMITED, KETNAMALLEE VILLAGE,
GUMMIDIPOONDI TALUK, TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT

Date: 25.02.2010

Time: 11.00 Hours

Venue: Project Site, Ketnamallee Village.

The Public Hearing organized to get the views of the public, in respect of the proposed unit of M/s. Bhatia Energy and Steels Limited, for the setting up of a Coke Oven to produce 1,68,000 Tonnes per Annum of Low Ash Metallurgical Hard Coke as main product, 5280 Tonnes per Annum of Breeze Coke as By-Product and Power Generation of 12 Mega Watt (MW) Capacity using Waste Heat Recovery Boiler, was held at the project site, Ketnamallee Village, Gummidipoondi Taluk, Tiruvallur District. The District Collector, Tiruvallur chaired the Public Hearing proceedings and assisted by the District Environmental Engineer, TamilNadu Pollution Control Board, and Tiruvallur.

The District Environmental Engineer welcomed the participants and explained the purpose of the meeting and informed that the Public Notice informing the conducting of the Public Hearing was published before one month in "Dinamani" and "The New Indian Express" dated 22.01.2010 and publicity given through the Panchayat Union. He informed that concerns of the public clarified by the project proponent and added that the entire proceedings will be recorded and submitted so as to facilitate the decision making on according Environmental Clearance to the project. Then the project proponent was requested to present the salient features of the project and the summary Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Thiru. R.K.Jayaseelan, Environmental Consultant to the project informed that the Promoters of M/s.Bhatia Energy and Steels Limited have proposed a new Coke Oven Plant adjoining to the existing Coke Oven of M/s. Bhatia International Limited, another concern owned by the promoters, at an estimated cost of Rs.110 Crores at Survey Numbers 379,380 and 341 of Ketnamallee Village, Gummidipoondi Taluk, Tiruvallur District in 13.98 acres of land, to produce 1,68,000 Tonnes per Annum of Coke, removing the volatile matter from Coal, for the use of industries like Steel Foundries and Blast Furnaces and that the heat evolved will be utilized in the Waste Heat Recovery Boiler (WHRB) to produce steam and to run the turbine and in turn electric power of 12 MW will be generated. He pointed out that the project will be beneficial in two counts that it generates employment and produces power.

Then he explained the environmental setting of the proposed site in detail. He stated that National Highway 5 (NH5) is located at about 3.25 kilo-meters North east of the project site and the site is well connected with NH 5. He added that the site is about 22 meters above Mean Sea Level, nearer to the existing industries, the nearest air port is Chennai and is proposed in un-classified land, where in setting up of industries is permitted, the land for the project is plain terrain, no places of Archaeological importance, National Park or Reserve Forest is located within 10 kilo-meter distance from the site and that the site is in Seismic Zone III, which is of little threat due to earth quake and no places of Defence importance is located nearby and as such the site is suitable for the project. He added that the water requirement for the project will be obtained from bore wells within the project site after obtaining clearances from the relevant departments such as Public Works Department and Central Ground Water Authority. The consultant pointed out in the total project area of 13.98 acres, an area of 4.6 acres, ie nearly 33% of area is earmarked for developing Green Belt as stipulated by the Pollution Control Board.

The process of coke oven was explained in brief. It was informed that the Coal required for the project will be imported from Australia and China, fed in to the Crusher through, charged in to the Coke Oven, which was previously top charged is proposed to be charged as Cakes, which will reduce fugitive emission, and heated to remove the volatile matter and the Coke obtained will be stored in the Yard and the hot gases will be used for generating Power. He mentioned that there will be 56 Ovens in total and the Coal requirement is 2,29,950 Tonnes per year, Water requirement is 174 KLD(Kilo Litres per Day) and 50 meters height stack will be provided to disperse the emission. He pointed out that the water requirement is for the quenching of hot coke and the waste water generated will be collected and taken to a settling tank and recycled after settling and as such no waste water

will be discharged. It was also stated that the waste gases will be let through a stack of 3 meters diameter and 50 meters height and the air pollution control measures are designed to ensure dispersion and dilution of the flue gas and shall have Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM), Respirable Particulate Matter (RPM), Sulphur Di-Oxide(SO₂) and Oxides of Nitrogen(NO_x) below the prescribed norms. The level of Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) will be less than 100 mg/Nm³, and as such there will not be any adverse impact to the environment. It was also informed that the coke dust from the settling tank of about 5280 Tonnes per Annum, which is the solid waste generated will be used by brick kilns and cement mills.

The consultant informed the gathering that a detailed study about the base line environmental status was carried out between June 2009 and August 2009 and as per the findings of the study the level of suspended solids at Gummidipoondi was found to be 193 micro-grams/cubic meter, which is attributed to the heavy vehicular traffic and at Sirupuzhalpettai to be 163 micro-grams/cubic meter and in both cases less than 500 micro-grams/cubic meter the value prescribed for Industrial Area. Similarly the level of Respirable Particulate Matter was found to be 71 micro-grams/cubic meter and 62 micro-grams/cubic meters in the above places respectively against the prescribed level of 150 micro-grams/cubic meter for Industrial Areas. Like wise the level of Sulphur Di-Oxide were 15.7 micro-grams/cubic meter and 13.9 micro-grams/cubic meter and the level of Oxides of Nitrogen were 29.2 micro-grams/cubic meter and 26.7 micro-grams/cubic meter as against the standard of 120 micro-grams/cubic meter. While presenting the quality of the water, the consultant informed that the level of Total Dissolved Solids is ranging between 400 mg/L to 1290 mg/L and Chlorides ranges between 45 mg/L and 390 mg/L, where in water can be potable up to level of 1500 mg/L of TDS. The level of noise monitored in four places around the project site and the Maximum Day Time Noise Level was reported as 69.8 dB(A) at Gummidipoondi and Minimum reported at Sirupuzhalpettai as 67.9dB(A). Similarly the maximum Night Time Noise Level was 62.6 dB(A) at Gummidipoondi and the minimum Night Time Noise Level was 42.4 dB(A) at Sirupuzhalpettai. The soil was found to be neutral and moderately fertile. The coke dust to the tune of 2-3% settle in the settling tank will be collected and used by brick kiln and cement plants.

Thiru R.K.Jayaseelan then listed the various measures proposed for the control of air pollution. He informed that water sprinkling will be carried out during construction phase for the suppression of dust, the important internal roads will be tarred, vehicles and equipments will be properly maintained, providing 50 meters height chimney, providing scrubber arrangement to clean the flue gas, covering the conveyor belt to avoid spreading of dust, Green Belt at the periphery to avoid spreading of dust. On controlling water pollution, he informed settling tank will be provided for settling coke dust and recycling the water, Oil and Grease Trap in equipments and Vehicles maintenance area, Septic Tank and Soak Pit arrangement for the treatment and disposal of the domestic waste water generated from worker and collection and using of rain water. In order to control noise pollution, vehicles will be properly maintained, using construction equipments generating high noise during day time only, developing green belt along the periphery to attenuate noise pollution and ear plugs/ear muff to the workers working in noisy areas.

In the socio economic front the project is reported to generate direct and indirect employment to the surrounding village people and the consultant stated 150 local village people will be directly employed; which means 150 families, ie about 750 families will be benefitted. He pointed out that local people will be getting nominal works, construction works, and petty trading activities and benefitted by associated activities.

It was informed Green Belt will be developed at the rate of 1500 to 2000 trees per hectare and an Environmental Monitoring Cell will be formed as prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board /TamilNadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) and environmental parameters will be monitored. The consultant added that the quality of emission, waste water and noise monitored every month and soil once in six month and data will be furnished to TNPCB and the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and mentioned that a sum of Rs.10 Lakhs in total with Rs.3 Lakhs for Air Quality monitoring, Rs.1.5 Lakhs for Water Quality monitoring, Rs.1 Lakh for monitoring Noise and Rs. 2 Lakhs for monitoring Solid Waste Management. It was also informed that health check ups will be carried out with the assistance of Lions Club, distributing free books to the school children and willing to carry out any other assistance to the community. Then the Public were requested to express their views.

Thiru Venkatachalapathy, Advocate, Poovalambedu wanted to know how many local people are being employed at present in M/s. Bhatia International Limited, the sister concern of the promoters which is under operation. Thiru. Manoj, Representative of the Company informed that 15 to 20 people are employed at present and added that the local people cannot work in the furnace area and that the locals can be employed in construction, and that the materials required for the construction is also purchased through local people. To this, Thiru. Venkatachalapathi remarked that the construction activity last for a short period only and specifically wanted to know how many local people will be employed permanently. He pointed out that in all public hearings the project proponents are promising of giving employment to local people; but in reality no unit is offering employment to the local people. The consultant suggested that the local people can be engaged for works such as Green Belt Development, Storm Water Drain management, Rain Water Harvesting etc. For this Thiru. Venkatachalapathi remarked that these works are offered to locals because people from outside will not come forward to do these works for the meagre salary offered for these works and informed whenever skilled people are approaching for employment they are rejected. The consultant suggested that the local people can be educated/trained and utilized, for which Thiru Venkatachalapathi informed only M/s. SRF Limited is imparting training and offering employment to local people. Thiru.Venkatachalapathi wanted some categorical assurance from the company about the employment for the local people. The consultant informed that this will be worked out and intimated.

Thiru Mani, Agriculturist from Sirupuzhalpettai stated that the industry will be extracting water for their needs through bore wells and because of that the water availability will be affected and as the local people are depending on agriculture for their livelihood and wanted that arrangements be made for water availability for their agricultural activities. To this the consultant informed that only the initial requirement of water will be more and then the water will be recycled, Rain Water harvesting will be carried out and that water will be used and that the water will be drawn with the approval of competent agencies like Public Works Department and Central Ground Water Authority, and if warrants the company will make arrangements for drinking water needs. Thiru Mani re-iterated that the company has to make arrangements for water for their agricultural activities, which is their livelihood. The consultant replied that the company will be replenishing the water drawn through Rain Water Harvesting.

Thiru. Vijayan, Ward Member, Sirupuzhalpettai informed that because of the heavy vehicle movement the road get damaged, dust deposited in villages and vehicles should not be sent through Sirupuzhalpettai till roads are repaired. Thiru.Manoj, informed that the repairing of Roads will be carried out in consultation with the Block Development Officer, and that they have already approached the Block Development Officer in this regard. Thiru. Vijayan also stated that from the existing factory at times the waste water is coming out side and smoke is spreading at ground level. To this, the consultant replied that the height of settling tank will be raised to ensure that waste water is not coming out under any circumstance. Thiru Vijayan wanted that the existing company has not carried out any health camp and the company has to help the nearby schools. To this, Thiru. Manoj informed that a Health Camp is organized on 07.03.2010.

Thiru. Palani, Ketnamallee village stated that there are 8 villages nearby and none of the educated students from these villages are employed; but only the outsiders are employed. Thiru Manoj replied that the existing industry is operating for a short period of 4 years only and employment will be provided in the proposed industry. Thiru Palani informed that villagers are getting employment only through the Government's Employment Guarantee Scheme and stated that the company can employ around 50 local people.

Thiru Venkatachalapathi suggested that while developing green belt, saplings may be obtained from Forest Department. Thiru Manoj accepted the suggestion and informed another 15 acres of land has been purchased which will also be used for developing Green Belt. Thiru Venkatachalapathi also suggested that the company may extent assistance to the Primary Health Centre located at Eaguvarpalayam, which will be of much useful to many of the nearby villages.

Thiru. Dakshinamoorthy, President, Ketnamallee Panchayat informed that there is no noise nuisance to the existing industry.

It was expressed by the District Collector that the operation of the near by existing unit of M/s. Bhatia International Limited, owned by the same promoters, is warming the surrounding area

because of the heat from their operations and that the unit could have not carried out the measures suggested in their Environmental Management Plan, including Green Belt Development Programme, prepared for their expansion, which is under execution, the measures proposed in the Environmental Impact Assessment/Environment management Plan for the expansion of M/s. Bhatia International Limited should be monitored.

Before concluding the meeting, the proceedings of the meeting was explained to the participants in the vernacular language (Tamil).

District Environmental Engineer
TamilNadu Pollution Control Board
Tiruvallur

District Collector,
Tiruvallur District
Tiruvallur

To
The Chairman,
State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority
for the State of TamilNadu,
Panagal Maligai, Saidapet,
Chennai - 600 015.

Statement of the issues raised in the Public Hearing Meeting held on 25.02.2010 for establishing the unit of M/s. Bhatia Energy and Steels Limited at the Project Site, Ketnamallee Village, Gummidipoondi Taluk, Tiruvallur District

| Sl. No. | Issue Raised | Response/Comment of the proponent |
|---------|--|---|
| 01 | Employment opportunity not given to the local people. | Employment will be given to the local people in the proposed project. |
| 02 | Drawl of ground water will affect the availability of ground water and affect the agricultural activity. | Drawl will be more only at the beginning and subsequently recycled and only less drawl, after getting necessary clearances. Rain water Harvesting will be provided to replenish the Ground Water drawn. |
| 03 | Heavy vehicle movement damaged roads; road to be improved. | Approached the Gummidipoondi Panchayat Union to improve roads. |
| 04 | Medical camps not conducted. Help for improving Primary Health centre. | Medical camp proposed on 07.03.2010. Ready to extend assistance for improving the Primary Health Centre. |

District Environmental Engineer
TamilNadu Pollution Control Board
Tiruvallur

District Collector
Tiruvallur