

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE UNIT OF M/s. O.P.G. POWER GENERATION PRIVATE LIMITED, PERIA OBULLAPURAM, CHINNA OBULLAPURAM AND PAPPANKUPPAM VILLAGES, GUMMIDIPOONDI TALUK, TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT

Date: 06.07.2010

Time: 11.00 Hours

Venue : Project Site, PeriaObullapuram.

The Public Hearing organized to get the views of the public, in respect of the proposed expansion of the unit of M/s. O.P.G.Power generation Private Limited, for adding of 1 x 80 and 1x160 Mega Watt Capacity Coal based Thermal Power Plant , in addition to the 2x77 Mega Watt Capacity coal based thermal power plant for which the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) have already granted the Environmental Clearance (EC) was held at the project site, Gummidipoondi Taluk, Tiruvallur District. The District Revenue Officer, Tiruvallur District 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 public notices about the conducting of the public hearing were published before 30 days. He added that the project proponent would present about the environmental impacts of the project after which the public can express their views and seek clarification, which will be recorded and sent to the MoEF.

Then District Revenue Officer welcomed and informed that the meeting is organized to get the views regarding the expansion of the unit of M/s. O.P.G.Power Generation Private Limited. He pointed out that the project proponent would make a presentation on their project and on the measures taken for the control of pollution, after which the public can express their views and concerns, which will be clarified by the project proponent.

Thiru. T.G.H.Ashok Kumar, Environmental Consultant to the project informed that the unit of M/s. O.P.G.Power generation Private Limited is presently operated with 1x77 Mega Watt Capacity Power Plant and 1x77 mega Watt Power Plant is under construction. Presently the unit has proposed to expand their production capacity by adding 1x80 Mega Watt Capacity Power Plant and and 1x160 Meda Watt Capacity Power Plant. It was stated that over an area of 117 acres has been acquired for the project for the project of which 30.33 acres of land will be utilised for developing Green Belt and 6 acres of land for the construction of Ash Pond to store the bottom ash and the remaining area will be utilised for setting up of the plant. Then he presented the pollution control methods adopted by the plant at present. The completely closed coal storage shed, completely closed coal conveyors, completely covered coal crusher, bag filter arrangement in all transfer points and 99.9 % efficiency electrostatic precipitator for the flue gas generated

in order to remove the fly ash from the flue gas and to ensure that the flue gas let out shall have particulate matter of less than 50 microgram per Normal cubic meter. He pointed out that presently the emission is let out through stack of 140 meters height and one number 100 meter height and one number of 120 meters height stacks will be added. He added that the fly ash generated is collected in fly ash silo with the help of pneumatic type closed system and the fly ash collected is sold out and that the bottom ash is collected with the help of tower and stored in ash ponds. It was also informed that the unit has provided on lone monitoring system to continuously monitor the levels of Particulate Matter, Sulphur DiOxide and Oxides of Nitrogen in the flue gas and that the quality of the ambient air is monitored in the project site and the surrounding areas by employing low volume samplers with respirable dust sampler. It was stated that the level of Respirable Particulate Matter, Sulphur DiOxide and Oxides of Nitrogen in the ambient air around the project site is well within the norms prescribed.

The consultant informed the public that Air Cooled Condenser is proposed in the project, which will reduce the water requirement for the project, and because of that that the water requirement would be very low and that the steam would be condensed and completely reused, and the water requirement is only for the make up of boiler feed water, which is very low. It was informed that the unit has obtained clearance from the Central ground Water authority for the drawl of 600 KLD and that Gummidipoondi Block has been categorized as "Safe" by the Central Ground Water Authority, and as such the impact on Ground Water due to the project is minimum. It was stated that the ground water level will be augmented by rain water harvesting arrangements and 80% of the rain water will be collected and recharged. He informed that public that the present quantity of water requirement is 164.6 cubic meters per day and that the quantity after expansion will become 535.8 cubic meters per day. The public were informed that the waste water generated from the Boiler Blow Down, Demineralization Plant Regeneration, and the domestic sewage constitute the effluents from the plant which is presently about 164.08 cubic meters per day which will become 480.24 cubic meters per day. It was pointed out that the sewage is treated in sewage treatment plant and the treated sewage is used for gardening and the other stream of effluent are collected in guard pond followed by neutralization pit and the treated effluent will be used for green belt development within the premises.

The consultant also stated that the unit has already developed green belt over 23.33 acres of land and the same will be extended by another 7 acres and trees will be planted along the periphery of the plant for a width of 20 meters which will reduce the noise from the plant and informed the public that there will not be any adverse impact on environment due to the project.

Then District Revenue Officer 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 the authorities.

Thiru. Raghurama Raju, S.R.Kandigai Village thanked for conducting the public hearing to get the views of people. He states that before five years the villages were clean and pollution free and were cultivating rice, ground nut etc and the water was good, and in the past seven to five years the area has become polluted, life of the people and animals are affected and no because of that no cultivation is carried out. He added that the villagers have given representation to TamilNadu Pollution Control Board and the Board has replied that every thing is fine. He wondered why the two industries are not operated today if there is no pollution due to their operation.

The consultant replied that agricultural activity is mainly dependent on ground water aquifer and agricultural activity is affected because of diversification and due to the reduction in ground water aquifer and that the same is a common phenomenon. He informed that the power plant is under operation and generating about 65 Mega Watt of Power and opined that the pollution control measures adopted at M/s.O.P.G. Power generation Private Limited will be an example for thermal power plants.

Thiru K.S.Devasundaram, Ex-Councillor, Kayalamedu informed that the people of Dalit community is agricultural labourers and that if water is drawn by the industry, what would be the fate of the surrounding villages. He added that even though the company is carrying out welfare measures to the community, they are bound to pin point the deficiencies, and informed that even when the emission level is below 50 milligram per Normal Cubic Meter, there is impact; may be from other industries. He wanted to know how much employment opportunities are given to the local people of which how many are under permanent employment and how many are under contract category. He informed that adequate qualified people are available in the villages and pointed out that the villagers only given the land for the project and requested that the employment opportunities be given to the local people. he added that the industry has provided continuous monitoring arrangement and a continuous air monitoring station be installed in the SIPCOT Industrial Complex, where more than 140 industries are located.

Thiru Pandian, Senior Executive, Administration of the company has informed that the company has completely deployed the local people for their constructions and around 40 people in and around Gummidipoondi in semi skilled jobs are employed, 25 people employed in house keeping, 24 people employed in Garden Works and 25 people in other works. He assured that due employment opportunity will be given to the local people in the expansion project.

Thiru Ramesh from S.R.Kandigai Village informed that they have sought compensation for the land in which the power transmission line is passing and the

company has promised for compensation which was not honoured so far. He added that black smoke is coming from the plant, but at low levels and because of that the people are not able to sleep out side. He stated that the development of the company is also required but without affecting the people and that the health of the poor people are affected. He opined that the company should not commit which cannot be full filled. He pointed out that a person who has offered land for the project has not been made as the employee of the plant.

Thiru Chandramoulee, Executive Director informed that there are 26 power transmission towers each requires about 1 to 1.5 cents of land and the company has paid Rs. one Lakh each for the land owners and registered and wherever public land is involved amount paid to the Government. That some one is demanding high which is above the amount decided by the company and hence the payment was not made to them. He added that the plant has provided employment opportunities to local people. Thiru Suresh Rajan, Ex-President, S.R.Kandigai has supplemented that Rs.50000/- has been paid to every one except one person namely Thiru.Sivakumar, since he is demanding more.

Thiru Roche Pillai, President, Pappankuppam welcomed the project and wanted that the pollution control equipments should be properly maintained and continuously operated, employment opportunity be given to local people,90 percent of them are poor and the water quality be checked periodically.

Thiru Pandian, Senior Executive of the company informed that employment will be provided based on their qualification and skill and that administrative jobs will be given to the local people.

Thiru Nesakumar of Kayalarmedu informed that the company has offered employment to 50 people, mainly dalits and has promised to construct school building. He added that the existing power plant is not causing pollution and the pollution is caused by other industries only. He wanted many such companies to come up to get employment opportunities and welcomed the project on behalf of Dalit people.

Thiru Suresh, S.R.Kandigai village has informed that the ground water has depleted and the people are not having adequate drinking water. He pointed out that the ground water table has gone down to 150 feet from 100 feet. He added that they are not against the expansion, but pointed out that the expansion is proposed without sort out the pollution problems of existing industries.

Thiru Sesha Dorairaj, S.R.Kandigai village informed that no action has been taken on their complaint against the industries. He informed that TamilNadu Pollution Control Board has replied as if no pollution is caused.

District Environmental Engineer, TamilNadu Pollution Control Board has informed that the major industries has provided continuous stack monitoring system and that the

scheme of providing a Continuous Ambient Air Quality station at Gummidipoondi is under consideration and funds have been allotted for the same. He pointed out that the same at Manali has been recently commissioned and similarly it will be provided at Gummidipoondi also. He also informed the public water and air samples are periodically checked from the major industries and TamilNadu Pollution Control Board is taking action on episodal releases of pollutants.

Thiru Thankaraju of Kayalarmedu village informed that the pollution can be controlled by installing suitable control measures and that the power plant has extended lot of assistance to the villages, and wanted that the project implemented with control measures.

Thiru Venkatachalam of S.R.Kandigai village informed that the company has supported the public in many ways and because of the power plant there is no pollution or adverse impact to the public, and hence welcomed the project.

Thiru Prasanna, Pappankuppam village has informed that it was promised to provide continuous ambient air quality monitoring before three years and the promise was not fulfilled.

District Environmental Engineer informed that the same was installed at Manali on a priority basis as highly polluting industries are located at Manali and the air pollution in that area is high, and promised that the same will be provided at Gummidipoondi. District Revenue Officer also informed that the necessary action will be initiated through District Collector.

Thiru Sudhir, Bodhi Reddi Kandigai informed that there are five villages having cultivable lands and the industries are drawing water for their industrial purposes by digging deep bore wells of 100 to 150 feet deep, and because of that there is no water for the cultivation of land and for drinking purposes. He informed that out of the two bore wells in Pappankuppam there is no water in one bore well.

The consultant informed that Gummidipoondi Block was classified as "Semi Critical" before two years and the Central Ground Water Authority has changed to "Safe" based on the study conducted which revealed adequate water availability exists. He also stated because of the using of air cooled condenser the water requirement is less and for boiler make up only and the steam is condensed and reused, and that the waste water is only hot water without any chemicals.

Thiru Ravi, Member, District Panchayat Council stated that all the industries are promising employment to the local people in the public hearings, but not sticking to their promises. He added that the power plant projects which are supporting the developmental schemes of Government should not cause adverse impact to the Public. He stated that the project would not cause any pollution is not acceptable and wanted that employment opportunity be given to local people.

The proceedings of the meeting were explained to the participants in the vernacular language (Tamil).

Before concluding the meeting, District Revenue Officer thanked the participants for their co-operation.

The written representations handed over by the public were also received.

The meeting came to an end.

District Environmental Engineer
TamilNadu Pollution Control Board
Tiruvallur

District Revenue Officer,
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.

Statement of the issues raised in the Public Hearing Meeting held on 06.07.2010 for the expansion of the unit of M/s. O.P.G. Power Generation Private Limited at the Project Site, Gummidipoondi Taluk, Tiruvallur District

Sl. No.	Issue Raised	Response/Comment of the proponent
01	Agriculture affected because of the industrial pollution.	Down trend in agricultural activity is a common phenomenon because of diversification.
02	Compensation not paid for the land taken for erecting transmission tower.	Except one person, Rs.1,00,000/- paid to the other people.
03	Drawl of huge quantities of water for industrial purposes by installing deep bore wells will affect the water available for agriculture and drinking purposes of the villages.	Adequate ground water is available in Gummidipoondi Block and water requirement is low because of deploying air cooled condenser for cooling purposes.
04	Employment not given to local people as promised in Public Hearings.	The industry presently employs local people and promised employment to locals in expansion also.

District Environmental Engineer
TamilNadu Pollution Control Board
Tiruvallur

District Revenue Officer,
Tiruvallur District,
Tiruvallur

திருவாளர்கள். ஓபிஜி பவர் ஜெனரேஷன் பிரைவேட் லிமிடெட் நிறுவனத்தின் விரிவாக்கம் குறித்து 06.07.2010 அன்று திருவள்ளூர் மாவட்டம், கும்மிடிப்பூண்டி வட்டத்தில் அமைந்துள்ள தொழிற்சாலை வளாகத்தில் நடைபெற்ற பொதுமக்கள் கருத்து கேட்பு கூட்டத்தில் எழுப்பப்பட்ட பிரச்சனைகள் குறித்த பட்டியல்.

வ.எண்	எழுப்பப்பட்ட பிரச்சனை	நிறுவனத்தின் பதில்
1.	தொழிற்சாலைகளின் மாசினால் விவசாயம் செய்வது பாதிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.	பிற தொழில்களுக்கு மாறுவதனால் விவசாயம் பாதிக்கப்படுவது எங்கும் பொதுவாக காணப்படும் நிலையாகும்.
2.	மின் கடத்தி கோபுரம் நிறுவ நிலம் அளித்தோர்க்கு இழப்பீடு வழங்கப்படவில்லை.	ஒருவர் தவிர பிற அனைவருக்கும் ரூ.1,00,000/- வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.
3.	தொழிற்சாலைகளின் தேவைக்கு அதிக அளவில் ஆழ்குழாய் கிணறு அமைத்து தண்ணீரை எடுப்பது, கிராமக்களின் விவசாய மற்றும் குடிநீர் தேவையை பாதிக்கும்.	கும்மிடிப்பூண்டி வட்டாரத்தில் போதிய நிலத்தடி நீர் உள்ளது. திட்டத்தில் காற்று குளிர்விப்பாணை பயன்படுத்துவதால் தண்ணீரின் தேவை குறைவு.
4.	கருத்து கேட்பு கூட்டத்தில் உறுதியளித்தப்படி உள்ளூர் மக்களுக்கு வேலை வாய்ப்பு வழங்கப்படுவதில்லை.	தற்போது தொழிற்சாலையில் உள்ளூர் மக்கள் பணியமர்த்தப்பட்டுள்ளனர். விரிவாக்கத்தின் போதும் உள்ளூர் மக்களுக்கு வேலை வாய்ப்பு வழங்கப்படும்.

5. மாவட்ட சுற்றுச்சூழல் பொறியாளர்,
தமிழ்நாடு மாசு கட்டுப்பாடு வாரியம்,
திருவள்ளூர்

மாவட்ட வருவாய் அலுவலர்,
திருவள்ளூர் மாவட்டம்,
திருவள்ளூர்