

Today, The 14th July 2011, a public hearing was held for setting up of a) Wax plant & ii) Naphtha splitter plant by m/s - Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. at their present site.

PANEL MEMBERS:

- 1) Mr. J. Saikia, ADC Golaghat - President
- 2) Mr. B.K. Baruah, S.E.E PCBA - Designated Member / representative of PCBA.

AGENDA:

1. Selection of President
2. Authorized Representative of Pollution Control Board, Assam, will explain the purpose of the public hearing
3. Presentation in details of the projects by m/s - Numaligarh Refinery Ltd.
4. Views of Public / NGO's etc. regarding Env. impact of this project and mitigation measures.

MINUTES & PROCEEDINGS:

At the outset, Mr. B.K. Baruah S.E.E designated Member of PCBA explained the purpose of the public hearing for setting up of a) Wax plant & ii) Naphtha splitter plant by m/s - Numaligarh Refinery Ltd at their present site.

Mr. S. Sarma, Advisor Nimalgiri Nagaric Mancha, raised question of organising the public hearing of third time & wanted to the reason.

The president of public hearing answered the reasons in details and asked the representative of PCB4 to give his opinion about considering this as third second reason hearing.

Mr. Beharshwar tanti, a public wanted to know about the outcome of the public hearing.

The president explained that, proceedings are recorded in writing and VIDEO recorded.

The PCB4 representative also explained that, minutes can be seen by the public at PCB4 office and they can raised their objections to it within 15 (fifteen) days.

Project proponent explained in details about the proposed project i) Wax plant & ii) Naptha splitter plant as per the agenda.

The president hoped that the project will be a profitable one for M/s. NRL as well as to people nearby and Assam. He also stress that the main aim of the public hearing is to look after the Environmental impacts from the proposed units & invited questions & objections from the public present.

Mr. D. Saikia, Assam Mazdoor Sangha, NRL Hoped that NRL authorities will take adequate pollution control measures & take steps in developmental activities.

Mr. Anulya Dutta, Morangi Journalist Association, wanted know whether NRL is polluting or not and stated they welcomed the project at the beginning

and said they do not oppose the proposed project, alleged that R.O. Golaghat did not co-operate with the nearby resident of Refinery. Also alleged that the NRL authorities are not giving opportunities to local people, which they are opposed to it. Once again wanted to know about the pollution.

Mr. Bhadrachariar Tomti, a Public representative, alleged that pollution from the NRL affected by his agri farm. He also said, as a M.P. during the time, ~~of~~ proposed when NRL was proposed. He took keen interest to the project. He also alleged that the pollution from NRL affecting the agricultural activities of nearby public.

Mr. Purna Sangi, Lettekujan, nearby resident alleged that, they feel cheated by the project, as ~~he~~ he was also a public who gave up his hand for the NRL. The NRL authorities have not taken any development activities to the nearby areas, particularly the road passes by the side of NRL.

Mr. S. Sarma Adviser ^{Naganik unnayanmancha} Nimalgiri, raised question about SO_2 emission from the new project and total effect from the existing and the new plant.

Mr. Babul Saikia, Ranka Gaon unnayan Member, raised question about the pollution caused to Sengamara Jan, which affects his paddy field. Mr. Saikia wanted a permanent solution to the problem. Also raised about question about the Green belt development at their locality. He also wanted a permanent solution to it. He also questioned about the employment to the local people.

Mr. Nurul Ali, President, AATSU Galaghat raised question about pollution from ENAL to Sengamara Jan. He also raised ~~about~~ question about the level of pollution as claimed by the project proponent. He stressed the need for employment generation to the local people. He also wanted to know about the welfare activities that could be taken for the Tea garden areas nearby. He also stressed the need for giving first preference to the local youths.

The president intervening in between said that the public hearing is for pollution control related only and asked PCBA representative to answer their answer first before taking further questions.

Mr. Mridul Saikia, Rongbeng Gaon, Numaligarh raised about the pollution caused by NRL to Sengamara Jan and supported one of the public Mr. Rabul Saikia's allegation and asked NRL authorities to give adequate compensation to him. He also raised question about water pollution caused to nearby river Dhansiri and alleged that it is affecting the public who is using the water in daily life. He also alleged that as per NWQMP it is found that Dhansiri river is polluted, wanted more vigilance from PCBA authorities. He also wanted know about the effect it will caused to the sugarcane farmers nearby. However, He welcomed the project.

The president thanked one of the public Mr. Mridul Saikia for his views.

The President asked NRL authorities to clarify about the question raised by Mr. Babul Sarkia about Sengamora jam.

The project proponent said that a meeting was held in D.C chamber regarding Sengamora jam to and resolved take necessary steps. He explained that they have already initiated an in house studies against the problem and will be completed in August. Also said that consultant has been engaged to solve the problem.

Project proponent also answered the question raised by Mr. S. Sarma about the SO_2 emissions & said that emission level much below the limit of 256 kg/hr.

The president also wanted to know about the probable affect from the new project to the Sengamora jam.

The project proponent explained that there will be no discharge from the ETP which will be recycled.

The president asked PCBIA representative to explain the questions raised by the public.

The representative of PCBIA explained that the public hearing was conducted on behalf of MOEF, GOI. He said PCBIA works on Air Act & Water Act.

He also explained that a sample was collected and the result was found to be within limit but he supported ~~with~~ the views of the public, about the pollution from Sengamora jam. He hoped that problem could be solved and in this regard necessary direction has been issued to the NRL. He also assured that discharge to the Sengamora jam would be stopped.

Mr. Ruma Sangi wanted a time limit for solving the problem.

Then a public objected to the giving of any further time to the NRL authorities. During this time NRL authorities explained the background of the setting up of the Refinery and reminded that it is a accord Refinery. He said that NRL authorities have taken serious note of the question raised about the pollution problem of Sengamora jam and they are committed to solve the problem for ever taking confidence of the affected people as per the tripartite meeting held at the D.C chamber during the month of February.

The REE Galanghat explained about question raised by the public so far. However some public objected to his explanation & some was in his favour. During this time NRL authorities once again addressed to the meeting and affirmed their commitment to solve the problem of Sengamora jam and a high level committee has already been formed to look after the problem.

Mr. Burna Sangi wanted clarification from PCB A authorities.

The president explained the jurisdiction of PCB A & MOEF in regards to pollution and the necessary measures to be taken by the NRL authorities. He also said if industry is constructed pollution is bound to be happen. He also said some limit has been fixed to all polluting parameters and from the monitoring reports parameters are found to be within limit. He opined that the local people should be given priority in every respects from employment and other opportunities and there should be no doubt about that.

After hearing the opinion of the president, the public present were in favour of the project and hoped that NRL authorities will fulfill their demand. Representative of Numaligash Nagarik Mancha also submitted a memorandum ~~to the president~~ to the president.

Towards end, the president hoped that the NRL authorities will do the needful in regards to pollution control and hoped PCRA authorities will also keep a watchful eye to the pollution problems.

Now in view of the above & considering the ecological, Technical, Scientific and Socio-economic aspects related to the proposed i) wax plant & ii) Naphtha splitter plant of m/s. Numaligash Refinery Ltd. at their present site and taking into consideration of opinions and suggestions made by the public present in the public hearing held on 14th July 2011, it is unanimously resolved to allow m/s. Numaligash Refinery Ltd. to take up the said projects incorporating with all pollution control measures proposed by the project proponent and to comply with provisions of all existing Environmental laws.

Dated 14th July 2011.

14/7/11

Senior Environmental Engineer
Pollution Control Board Assam
Bamunimaidan Guwahati-21


Adithy Deputi Commissioner
Golaghat