Proceedings of the public hearing conducted on 29.12.2017 in connection with the application filed by M/s Aarti Impex, for obtaining Environmental Clearance as required under the EIA notification dated 14.9.2006 for expansion of its unit in the existing premises located at Budhewal Road, Tehsil & District Ludhiana (Punjab).

The following were present to supervise the proceedings:

1. Smt. Neeru Katyal, PCS,
   Additional Deputy Commissioner (General),
   Jagraon, Distt. Ludhiana.
2. Er. Avtar Singh,
   Environmental Engineer,
   Punjab Pollution Control Board,
   Regional Office-1, Ludhiana
3. Er. Rajeev Sharma,
   Environmental Engineer (Mega),
   Punjab Pollution Control Board,
   Patiala.

Environmental Engineer (Mega), Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala welcomed the officers supervising and presiding over the hearing and people from adjoining towns/villages, who came to attend the public hearing of the project in connection with the application filed by M/s Aarti Impex, Budhewal Road, Tehsil & District Ludhiana in the office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi for getting Environmental Clearance under EIA notification no. 1533 (E) dated 14.9.2006 for expansion of its unit in its premises located at Budhewal Road, Tehsil & District Ludhiana. He apprised the public present there about the requirement of conducting the public hearing before deciding on the application filed by the industry for getting the said clearance for carrying out expansion of the existing unit. He also brought into the notice of public that the industry has submitted copies of draft rapid EIA report alongwith the Executive Summary of the same and a copy of each such document was placed in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana; Zila Parishad, Ludhiana; General Manager District Industrial Centre, Ludhiana; Regional Office of MoEF at Chandigarh and Regional Office-1, Ludhiana of the PPCB for access to the public and other

stakeholders. He further brought out that a notice of public hearing was published in two prominent newspapers namely, 'The Hindustan Times' (English Daily) and 'Punjabi Tribune' (Punjabi Daily) on 28.11.2017 to make the public aware of the date, time & venue of the public hearing and about the places/offices where the public could access the draft EIA report and its Executive Summary report before the said hearing. Thereafter, he requested the representative/Environmental Consultant of the industry to elaborate about the main features of the project and the draft EIA study report.

Environmental consultant of the promoter company, brought out the details of the expansion plan of the project before the public as under:

M/s Aarti Impex acquired the industrial unit which was being operated in the name of M/s Omax Steels Ltd., since 2004 located at Budhewal Road, Tehsil & Distt. Ludhiana (Punjab) is an existing secondary steel based industrial unit.

The existing industrial unit has installed production capacity of ~70 T/day of MS rolled products (round, square, hexagonal sections etc.) using MS ingots/billets as basic raw material.

After proposed expansion, installed production capacity of the industrial unit will increase to ~680 T/day of rolled products (different rolled sections).

The production capacity of the plant with induction furnace having ~6 T/heat capacity which will be replaced by multiple induction furnaces having aggregate capacity of ~50 T/batch.

The industry has applied to the MoEF for obtaining environmental clearance under EIA Notification no. 1533 dated 14/09/2006 and the said authority has already issued TOR for preparation of Rapid EIA study Report.

The details of the project are as under: -

- Land area : 3.931 Hectares
- Cost of the Project : 45.13 Crores

Total water requirements for the industry would be around 150 KL in which 130 KL for one time during operational phase and 20 KL for domestic purposes.

Power requirements would be 27700 KVA. Power would be made available from PSPCL.

The solid wastes in the unit will be generated from the following sources.

i) Slag from the furnace @ 15 MT/day which will have commercial worth and will be sold.

ii) Dust from APCD @300 kg/day will be generated and will be disposed off at TSDF site.

iii) The industry would also generate used/spent oil @~500 kg/year as hazardous waste (category 5.1 of schedule 1), which will be sold to authorized recyclers.

The environmental impacts of the proposed project are as under:

Ambient Air Quality

The concentration of RSPM, SPM, SO_2 and NO_x has been determined quantitatively by conducting field monitoring at suitable stations within a radius of 10km from the project site.

The 24-hourly average levels of SO_2 and NO_x were observed to be within the limit of 80 µg/m3 for residential, rural & other areas as stipulated in the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. PM_{10} & $PM_{2.5}$ levels were within the corresponding permissible limit of 100 µg/m^3 & 60 µg/m^3 respectively.

Water Environment

The pH of all the water samples lies within the desirable limit and ranges between 7.22 to 7.61. Hardness of the samples is found in the range of 236-261 mg/L. Chloride content of the samples range from 6.87 to 15.39 mg/L, which are under the desirable limit. Calcium and magnesium content of the water samples varied in the range of 64 to 73 mg/L and 16 to 21 mg/L respectively. Total Dissolved Solids in the samples vary from 314 to 334 mg/L, which is under the desirable limit. Fluoride

content of all samples lies in the range of 1.12 to 1.18 mg/L. Nitrate content of all samples varied in the range of 4.88 to 7.24 mg/L Sulphate in the water samples lies within the desirable limit and ranges between 6.45-12.70 mg/L.

Noise Environment

Assessment of noise level was carried out at various places to evaluate the ambient noise level in the residential area as well as possible impact due to project activities. The values of noise level, which were recorded lies between 48.51 to 62.29 dB (A) at day time and 39.44 to 52.28 dB (A) at night time. The value of noise was higher at the project site which may be attributed to the presence of machineries and vehicular movement nearby the project site.

Land Use Pattern

The project already exists, thus there will not be any significant adverse effect on the existing general land environment with the increase in capacity of the project.

BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Within 10 km distance of the project site, no plant or animal species were found to be on the endangered list. No ecologically sensitive area like biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant reserve, migratory corridors of wild elephant, wetland, national park and wildlife sanctuary are present within 10 km distance of the project site.

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is the key to ensure a safe and clean environment. The desired results from the environmental mitigation measures proposed in the project may not be obtained without a management plan to assure its proper implementation & function. The EMP envisages the plans for the proper implementation of mitigation measures to reduce the adverse impacts arising out of the project activities. This includes following aspects:

- Pollution control/mitigation measures for abatement of the undesirable impacts caused during the construction and operation phase.

- Details of management plans (Greenbelt development plan, Waste management plan etc.)
- Institutional set up identified/recommended for implementation of the EMP.
- Post project environmental monitoring programme to be undertaken.
- Expenditures for EMP.

The budget allocated on Environment Management Plan having Capital Cost of Rs152 Lakhs and recurring cost at Rs15.5 Lakhs annually.

Social Commitment

The proponent committed to spent Rs.5 Lakhs annually for the development of nearby areas and welfare of people.

An Environment Management Cell shall be created to effectively monitor all environmental parameters. The Environment Management Cell shall include:

- Representative of Management (Head of Environment Cell)
- Process In-charge
- In-charge Maintenance Department
- A representative of Environmental Consultants
- A representative of local body

Thereafter, Environmental Engineer (Mega) informed the Environmental Consultant of the project proponent that presentation given by him is incomplete as details of activity/sources which are likely to have impact on the various parameters of environment and proposed mitigation measures have not been narrated.

To this observation, Environmental Consultant of the project proponent clarified as under:

(i) Domestic waste water generated will be utilized onto land for plantation within premises after passing it through septic tank. Most of water quantity shall be used for cooling purpose in proposed project activity and same shall be reused within the plant premises after neutralization and addition of makeup water.

(ii) The Air Pollution Control Device (APCD) unit with cyclone & bag filters is installed at the facility & its capacity will be increased in accordance with the proposed expansion to control the emissions within permissible limit will be let-out through stack.

Thereafter, Environmental Engineer (Mega) brought into the notice of public present at the venue of hearing that as per the provisions of EIA notification dated 14.9.2006, as amended from time to time, the persons present at the venue may seek any information or clarifications on the project from the project promoter. It was also brought into the notice of the persons present there that the information or clarifications sought by them and reply given by the project proponent will be recorded in the proceedings of the hearing, which will be sent to the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change for further consideration. Accordingly, he requested the persons present in the hearing to seek information or clarifications on the project one by one. He also informed that no information / clarifications / comments / views / suggestions / objections on the project have been received from the public in writing by the Board, so far.

Thereupon, the detail of the information/ clarifications sought by the persons present at the venue of hearing and the reply given by the project proponent is as under:

Sr. No	**Name of the person**	**Detail of query / statement / information / clarification sought by the person present at the venue of hearing.**	**Reply of the query / statement / information / clarification given by the project proponent**
1.	Sh. Kuldip Singh S/o Sh. Sikander Singh, Panch Gram Panchayat Budhewal, District Ludhiana.	1. What arrangements have been proposed to offer employment to the un-employed youth of the area? 2. What arrangements have been made for control of	1. With the proposed expansion of the project, additional employment avenues will be generated for about 250-300 persons, which will be offered to local residents. 2. Air pollution control device based on latest technology will be provided.

		pollution?	He further informed that CSR funds @ 5 Lac/annum will be spent for development of nearby villages, which will be spent on activities such as providing public toilets or offering scholarships to needy children of the area. This will lead to development of the nearby villages.
2.	Sh. Dharamjit Singh, Sarpanch, Village Jandiali, District Ludhiana	As promised by project proponents, the project will generate employment. It has also been explained about the pollution control measures. We have about 30-35 years relationships with the owners and they are nice persons. Whatever they have committed, we hope that they will honour the same. We have also hope that with the coming up of this proposed project, development of nearby villages will take place and this project will prove to be a milestone for the area.	No reply is required to be given by the project proponent.
3.	Sh. Lakhbir Singh S/o Sh. Charan Singh, President Kissan Jathebandi, Block Khamano.	Area is having traffic problem. Also, water coming out of premises should be managed properly by laying own sewer because with the flowing of water on roads, they get damaged.	No wastewater will be discharged outside the premises. Only domestic wastewater will be generated which will be used onto land for plantation within premises after passing through septic tank and cooling water will be recirculated. To this reply, the person raised the issue about rainwater management. In response, the project

			proponent clarified that rainwater will be recharged into groundwater and proper Rainwater Harvesting arrangements have been proposed.
4.	Sh. Kuldip Singh S/o Sh. Sikander Singh, Panch Gram Panchayat Budhewal, District Ludhiana.	He is same person, who raised the issue at Sr. No. 1 above. He said that they are thankful to the project proponents for bringing this project in the area and assured all support for the project from the village side. He further stated that all the existing units are controlling pollution effectively. He requested that the project proponent to offer employment to the youth of the area as committed by them.	Employment will be given to the local residents.

Environmental Engineer (Mega) further requested the persons present at the venue of hearing that if anyone else wants to seek any information/ clarification on the proposed project, but no one came forward. Thereafter, he requested the persons present in the hearing to confirm, by raising their hands, as to whether they are in favour of expansion plan of the Company at this site. In response to this, about 95% of the persons present at the venue of public hearing raised their hands in favour of expansion plan of the Company. This public hearing was attended by 42 persons.

The hearing ended with vote of thanks to the Supervisor-Cum-Presiding Officer and the public present in the hearing.

(Rajeev Sharma)
Env. Engineer (Mega)
PPCB, Patiala

(Avtar Singh)
Env. Engineer,
PPCB, Regional Office-1,
Ludhiana

(Neeru Katyal) PCS,
Addl. Deputy Commissioner (Gen),
Ludhiana