

Proceedings of the Public Hearing conducted on 10.11.2020 in connection with application filed by M/s Vardhman Special Steels Limited for obtaining environmental clearance as required under EIA Notification dated 14/9/2006 for carrying out expansion of its industrial unit at Plot no. C-58 & C-59, Focal Point, Ludhiana, Punjab.

The following were present to supervise the proceedings:

1. Sh. Amarjit Bains,
Addl. Deputy Commissioner (Gen),
Ludhiana.
2. Er. S.S. Matharu,
Environmental Engineer (Mega)
Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala.
3. Er. R.K. Goyal
Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office-1, Ludhiana.
4. S. Bachanpal Singh,
Assistant Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office-1, Ludhiana.

Environmental Engineer (Mega), Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala welcomed the Supervising-cum-Presiding Officer and people from adjoining towns/villages, who came to attend the public hearing of this project. He informed that M/s Vardhman Special Steels Limited has filed an application 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 carrying out expansion of its industrial unit i.e. for enhancing the capacity of rolled Steel from 2,00,000 TPA to 2,80,000 TPA, located at Plot no. C-58 & C-59, Focal Point, Ludhiana, Punjab. 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 the proposed expansion. 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; Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana; General Manager, District Industries Centre, Ludhiana, Regional Office of MoEF&CC 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 'The Spokesman' (Punjabi Daily) on 10.10.2020 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.

Ms. Kirandeep Kaur, Official of the industry brought out the details of the project

proposal before the public as under:

- Vardhman Special Steels Limited (VSSL) is a part of Vardhman Group which started its business in the year 1962.
- Vardhman Group diversified in special steel production for automobiles at Ludhiana plant. VSSL has entered into Joint Venture with Aichi Steel Corporation (Part of Toyota Group Company), one of the world's leading Steel Company.
- The industry produces Special and Alloy Steel Billets/Blooms, Rolled Bars and Bright Bars processed through cold drawing, peeling and center less grinding, using Electric Arc Furnace, hence uses scrap, pig iron and directly reduced iron as raw materials.
- The industry was granted Environment Clearance on 30th June, 2015 for expansion of its plant by productivity Improvement through Technological Up-gradation of the Steel Melting Shop with Electric Arc Furnace from 1, 25,000 TPA to 2,00,000 TPA of rolled product vide letter No. J-11011/742013-IA II (I).
- The industry proposes expansion of its existing plant by technological up-gradation of the Electric Arc Furnace and installation of other downstream processing facilities to expand from 2,00,000 TPA rolled steel to 2,80,000 TPA of rolled steel.
- The industry has obtained 'Consent to Operate' (CTO) under the Air Act, 1981 vide no. CTOA/Varied/LDH1/2018/7259435 having validity up to 31/03/2021 and under the Water Act, 1974 vide no. CTOW/Varied/LDH1/2018/7029237 having validity up to 31/03/2021 from Punjab Pollution Control Board.
- The industry is located at Industrial Focal Point, Phase III, in an area of 11.23 ha at plot no. C-58 measuring 7.99 ha & a portion of C-59 measuring 3.24 ha.
- The estimated manpower requirement after completion of the proposed expansion shall be 1435 persons comprising administrative, technical, nontechnical, Skilled & un-skilled work force.
- The existing plant site is already having about 1.18 acres of the green area developed by planting trees. There is a proposed to increase plantation by planting trees in about 1.83 acres of additional land area to make total land area under tree plantation, inside the industrial premises, in about 3.01 acres, which will be about 11% of the total plot area. For completing plantation in about 33% of land area, balance plantation in 22% of land area will be done in about 6.14 acres of land, in the surrounding areas with due permission from the land owners and/or Gram Panchayats. Thus the total plantation is proposed in an area of 9.15 acres.
- The industry will develop various management activities for the Environmental Management Program which will meet all statutory requirements and help to improve environmental quality. The Capital cost for EMP of the project is Rs. 8.4 crores and the recurring cost for the EMP of the project is Rs. 1.24 crores per year.
- The post project environmental monitoring capital cost will be Rs. 1.01 crores and annual operating cost will be Rs. 41,12,000/-.
- The Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) Budget of Rs. 2.88 Crores has been kept

in line with CER Notification of MoEF & CC. The plant will also comply with all the applicable legal provision made for the CSR as per Companies Act, 2013.

➤ The total project cost is estimated at Rs.159.00 Crores.

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 and address 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. Vijay Sharma, resident of 33 ft road, Adarsh Colony, Ludhiana.	The industry shall clarify as to whether there will be any job opportunities with the expansion of the project.	The project proponent informed that the employment will be generated with the expansion of the project and vacancies shall be filled as per the requirement & as per qualification of the persons.
2.	Sh. Ram Durshpal, resident of RGL Gate no 5, Urban State, Ludhiana	The industry shall clarify as to whether there will be any additional water requirement with the expansion of the project.	The project proponent informed that no additional water will be required in the expansion project and arrangements have been made to utilize the industrial wastewater @300 KLD of the pickling units after treatment from J.B.R. Technologies.
3.	Sh. Meva Lal, resident of Hargobind Nagar, Giaspura Sua Road, Ludhiana	The industry shall clarify as to whether there will be any job opportunities with the expansion of the project as he is a daily wage earner and his current work is seasonal.	The project proponent informed that the employment will be generated with the expansion of the project and vacancies shall be filled as per the requirement & as per qualification of the persons. He further informed that even trainings shall be imparted to the newly recruited persons under Corporate Social Responsibility Rules as per the roles assigned to them.
4.	Sh. Vijay Bahadur, resident of Ambedkar Nagar, Ludhiana	The industry shall take a pledge to continue the plantation work after expansion in the same manner as is being done at present.	The project proponent informed that the plantation shall be carried out as per the Social Forestry Program in the villages, Schools and other areas allocated by the Local bodies.
5.	Sh. Raj Kumar	He appreciated the efforts	The project proponent informed

	Walia (Retd. Income Tax Officer), resident of Rishi Nagar, Ludhiana	done by the industry towards Society under CSR initiatives and expansion of the project will create employment opportunities for all local people.	that their company shall continue to give support to the society under the CSR.
6.	Ms. Soniya, resident of Sanjay Ghandi Colony, Tajpur Road, Ludhiana	The industry shall clarify as to whether there will be any job opportunities for the women with the expansion of the project.	The project proponent informed that the employment will be generated with the expansion of the project and vacancies shall be filled as per the requirement & as per qualification of the persons which shall include the both. He further informed that even trainings shall be imparted to the newly recruited persons under Corporate Social Responsibility as per the roles assigned to them.
7.	Ms. Anjali, resident of 100 Feet Road, Sherpur Market, Ludhiana	The industry shall clarify as to whether any maintenance and development of the road in surrounding areas can be initiated by it under CSR.	The project proponent informed that the maintenance and construction of the roads under CSR can only be done with due permission of the Local Bodies/ Govt. Departments.

Environmental Engineer (Mega), Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala further requested the persons present at the venue of hearing that if anyone else wants to seek any information/ clarification on the proposed expansion project, but no one came forward. After that people were asked to raise their hands who are in favour of this proposed expansion project and most of the people present raised hands in favor of the project. This public hearing was attended by 69 persons.

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



(Er. S.S. Matharu)
Env. Engineer (Mega)
PPCB, Head Office,
Patiala



(Er. R.K. Goyal)
Env. Engineer,
PPCB, Regional Office-1,
Ludhiana



(Sh. Amarjit Bains),
Addl. Deputy Commissioner (Gen)
Ludhiana