

Proceeding of the Public Hearing conducted on 27.01.2009 for grant of environmental clearance to M/s Universal Bio-Mass Energy Pvt. Ltd. for setting up of 14.5 MW capacity Biomass based Independent power plant at Village Channu, Tehsil Lambi, Distt. Muktsar.

The following were present to supervise the proceedings:-

1. Sh. Varun Roojam, IAS
Additional Deputy Commissioner
Muktsar.
2. Er. G.S. Majithia,
Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office, Bathinda,
3. Er. Rajiv Garg,
Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Head Office, Patiala.
4. Sh. Jaswinder Singh,
Block Level Extension Officer (Lambi),
District Industries Centre
Muktsar

Sh. J.K. Sharma, General Manager, M/s Universal Bio-Mass Energy Pvt. Ltd. welcome the panel members and people from adjoining Towns/Villages who came for the public hearing of 14.5 MW capacity Bio-mass based Independent power plant proposed to be established by M/s Universal Bio-Mass Energy Pvt. Ltd. at Village Channu, Tehsil Lambi, Distt. Muktsar. Thereafter, Sh. Rajiv Garg, Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Patiala apprised the public about the requirement of conducting the public hearing before grant of environmental clearance as per the provisions of EIA notification no.1533 (E) dtd.14.9.2006 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India, New Delhi. Then, he requested the representative of the industry to elaborate the main features of the project and the Environmental Impact Assessment study report.

Sh. Yash Pal Jain, partner M/s Alliance Engineers, Passi Road, Patiala, the consulting firm engaged by M/s Universal Bio-Mass Energy Pvt. Ltd. for conducting the Environmental Impact Assessment study for this project brought out the details of the project before the public as under:-

REQUIRMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- Total land available with the company for the setting up of Bio-mass based independent power plant is 12 acres.
- The industry will provide 70 TPH capacity boiler using agro waste as fuel.
- The consumption of agro waste for the boiler will be approx. 17 MT/Hr. The fuel required for the proposed power plant (i.e. cotton stalk/mustard stalk/wood chips etc.) is available in the 50 Km radius.
- The total water requirement of the project is estimated to be 4050 m³/day, which will be taken from canal through pipeline.

METHODOLOGY FOR PREPARATION OF EIA STUDY:-

- A map of the area around the proposed project for 10 km radius was prepared and the location of various towns, villages and other important places was marked on the same.
- The prospective problems likely to be caused due to installation of the project were identified.
- Ambient air quality monitoring of the impact area was carried out at different locations to adjudge the level of air quality of the area and the likely impact from the project.
- Water samples and soil samples were also collected from various points in the area for analysis.
- Impact assessment were carried out indicating various sources of Air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution etc. likely to be caused by the proposed project and environmental management plan has been prepared accordingly.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MANAGEMENT PLAN:-

AIR ENVIRONMENT

The emissions of concern from the power plant are suspended particulate matter (SPM), SO₂ and NO_x. During the study period, SPM concentrations have ranged from 106 µg/m³ to 214 µg/m³. The high range of variations in concentrations of SPM is because of the harvesting season during the monitoring period.

SO₂ concentrations at various ambient air quality monitoring stations have ranged from 3.6 µg/m³ to 14.7 µg/m³.

NO_x level in the ambient air at different ambient air quality monitoring locations have ranged from 6.9 µg/m³ to 22.8 µg/m³.

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES :-

- M/s Universal Bio-Mass Energy Pvt. Ltd., Village Channu, Tehsil Lambi, Distt. Muktsar will install Electro Static Precipitators as air pollution control device for 14.5 MW Biomass based independent power plant. The Electro Static Precipitators will be designed to give

a final outlet particulate concentration not exceeding 100 mg/Nm³ (12 % CO₂) against the prescribed limit of 150 mg/Nm³.

- Chimney of adequate stack height of more than 46 mtrs. will be provided for dispersion of flue gases.
- A thick green belt will be provided along the periphery of the proposed power plant.

NOISE ENVIRONMENT

The major noise generating sources are turbine generators. The steam turbine would be housed in a closed building which will considerably reduce the noise levels.

The ambient noise level at plant boundary will comply the National Ambient Noise Standards.

The green belt provided along the periphery of the industry will act as noise barrier.

WATER ENVIRONMENT

The total water requirement of 4050 m³/day is estimated which will be taken from nearby canal through pipeline for the proposed power plant. Out of 4050 m³/day water, about 4000 m³/day of water will be used as make up for cooling towers, about 36 m³/day water will be used as make up for boiler feed through DM plant, 10 m³/day for DM plant re-generation and 5 m³/day will be used as domestic requirements. The total effluent generation is estimated as 280 m³/day from cooling and DM plant re-generation, which will be treated in the effluent treatment plant. After treatment, 42.5 m³/day of effluent will be re-used for ash quenching /bio-mass spray and remaining effluent will be discharged onto land for irrigation in the green belt of the plant. The domestic effluent @ 4.5 m³/day will be discharged onto land for irrigation after treatment in septic tank.

LAND ENVIRONMENT

The proposed 14.5 MW bio-mass based independent power plant including the ash disposal area will be located in about 12 acres. The site is free from habitation and hence no displacement of people is envisaged.

Total ash generation is estimated to be about 25 MT/day. The project proponent has earmarked sufficient area for onsite storage of ash for a period of 120 days. The ash will be disposed off as a soil conditioner, for making hollow bricks and for using in cement production.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- The project will augment alarming power deficit situation in the state and local production near to consumption point will decrease huge transmission losses.
- The project will utilize waste bio-mass as fuel, which, is otherwise, destroyed by uncontrolled burning in the fields causing air pollution problems in the area.
- The management of M/s Universal Bio-Mass Energy Pvt. Ltd. will give preference to the local people for employment.

Thereafter, Er. Rajiv Garg, Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board requested the public present in the hearing to give their comments/views/suggestions/objections on the project one by one:-

Following are the queries/ views/ suggestions/objections of the people and replies given by the project proponent/consultant of the project proponent :-

S. No	Name of the person	Questions/ query / statements of the person	Reply / clarification given by the representatives of the industry
1.	Sh. Khushwinder Singh, Village Lambi	He has 3 acres land in village Lambi, adjoining to village Channu in which the electricity lines from power plant will be crossed	Sh. J.K. Sharma, General Manager of the project informed that the lines of electricity generated from this plant will be connected to PSEB grid/station at Gidderbaha which is in opposite direction to village Lambi
2.	Sh. Narinder Singh, Village Jangirana	At what rate the electricity generated from this plant will be supplied to the public?	Sh. J.K. Sharma, General Manager of the project informed that the electricity generated from this plant will be sold to the Govt./ PSEB and the industry cannot sell the electricity directly to the public.
3. 4.	Sh. Boota Singh, Village Lalbai Sh. Kuljeet Singh, Village Jangirana	Whether, the residents of the nearby area will get the employment in this project?	Sh. J.K. Sharma, General Manager of the project informed that centres will be established in the nearby villages for purchase of agro waste and employment will be given to the people on the basis of their educational qualification.
5.	Sh. Gurtek Singh, Village Lalbai	Whether, the crops will be effected in the adjoining area due to the smoke / flue emissions from this project?	Sh. Yash Pal Jain, consultant of the company informed that Electro Static Precipitator, which is most efficient air pollution control device will be

			installed to control the flue emissions of boiler conforming to the emission standards ≤ 100 mg/Nm ³ of SPM and as such the crops adjoining to this plant will never be effected.
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Sh. Rajiv Grag, Environmental Engineer asked the public if any one else want to ask any question but no one came forward. Thereafter, he requested the public present in the hearing to confirm by raising their hands as to whether they approve the establishment of Bio-mass based independent power plant project at this site, in response to this more than 95 % of the people present in the public hearing raised their hands and gave their consent for the establishment of this project.

The panel members observed that the participants of the public hearing have no objection from environmental angle for setting up of the said project at the present site, provided the company will comply with the provisions of the law for control of environmental pollution.

The hearing ended with vote of thanks to all the panel members and the public present in the hearing.

Sh. Varun Roojam, IAS
Additional Deputy Commissioner,
Muktsar