

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON THE 27TH SEPTEMBER 2011 OF THE
PROPOSED LIMESTONE MINE OVER AN AREA OF 128.52 HA. OF ADHUNIK CEMENTS LTD. AT
THANGSKAI VILLAGE IN JAINTIA HILLS DISTRICT, MEGHALAYA**

An Environmental Public Hearing in respect of the proposed Limestone Mine of M/s Adhunik Cements Ltd. at Thangskai Village in Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya was held on the 27th September 2011. The hearing which commenced from 11:00 A.M. was presided over by Shri E. Kharmalki, MCS, ADC, and S.D.O. (C) Khliehriat Civil Sub-Division, Jaintia Hills District.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the officers and public present at the Hearing and invited Shri B.B War, Asst. Environmental Engineer, Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board (MSPCB), Shillong to give the welcome and introductory address.

Shri B.B War welcomed the Chairman, the members of the Press, the project proponent and public who have turned up in large numbers to attend the Hearing. He explained that the Environmental Public Hearing has been conducted as per provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 (14th September 2006) and subsequent amendment E.I.A. Notification No. S.O. 3067(E) Dtd 1st December 2009 issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Govt. of India. He explained that the objective of the Hearing is to solicit and record the opinions, views, comments or objections of the people residing in the adjoining areas of the Project site likely to be affected by the establishment of the proposed LIMESTONE MINE at Thangskai Village, in Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya by M/s Adhunik Cements Ltd.

Further, he explained that the Environmental Public Hearing is a part of the Environmental Clearance process and that no decision on the Project will be taken during the Hearing as its role is strictly confined to recording of opinions, discussions, suggestions submitted in writing or orally so that the same can be submitted to the MoEF, Govt. of India. The Ministry will examine and scrutinize such views, comments, suggestions, etc. regarding the project as recorded during the hearing while processing the application for Environmental Clearance. He also emphasized that the Hearing should not be taken as a platform for any public debate. The views of the public are recorded and filmed. The proceedings are then drawn and submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Delhi for the Environmental Clearance.

In the Opening Address Shri E. Kharmalki, MCS, Additional District Magistrate and S.D.O. (C) Khliehriat Civil Sub-Division, Jaintia Hills District and Chairperson, EPH, welcomed the Public, the Local Headmen, NGOs, villagers, members of the press and representatives of M/S Adhunik Cements Ltd present at the EPH. He invited those who wanted to speak to submit their names to the staff of the MSPCB and reiterated that speakers should not repeat the views, comments, etc. presented by those who spoke ahead of them.

On invitation from the Chair, Shri. S.K. Baruah, General Manager (Mines) was called upon to give the welcome address on behalf of M/s Adhunik Cements Ltd. He welcomed everyone present and offers his grateful thanks to the local people of the area, District Council and concerned authorities of Government of Meghalaya for their support to the company.

Shri. E. Kharmalki, MCS, Additional District Magistrate, then invited Shri. S.K. Rai, C.E.O., M/s Adhunik Cements Ltd. to present the Administrative & Socio Economic aspect of the proposed project. Shri. S.K. Rai informed that the firm had applied for Environmental Clearance for 128.52 Ha. and stated that the company has obtained all the required NOC's and clearances from different Government authorities and agencies. He expressed that being a new cement plant and in the process of streamlining production and marketing its products, the firm had already done several important social activities such as 1) setting up of a L.P. School with the cooperation of K.J.P. Synod East and Durbar Shnong Thangskai, 2) giving assistance to the Jaintia Eastern College for opening the Commerce wing of the college, 3) providing direct and indirect employment, 4) associated itself for construction of foot over bridge at Jowai for the students of St. Mary Mazerrello High School and Marian Hills High School, 4) giving assistance in encouraging and highlighting the cultural heritage of Jaintia Hills District under the banner of Discover Jaintia every year, 5) organizing medical camps in Jaintia Hills District, 6) appointment of a football coach for the youth of Thangskai Village. Shri. S.K. Rai informed that the company was committed to fulfill the clauses of the agreement made with various organizations and traditional institutions. Moreover the mining plan of the company had been approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines and assured that they will follow all guidelines of the approved mining plan by adopting best practices of mining. He concluded his speech by reaffirming that the company is committed to follow all guidelines of the State Pollution Control Board, District Council and the local authorities.

The same was interpreted in the local language by Smti. Sunday M. Suting Adhunik Cements Ltd.

The Technical aspect of the proposed limestone mining was presented by Shri. J. Chandramoili, Env Engineer, Envirotech on behalf of the company. He highlighted that Adhunik Cement Ltd. is incorporated to develop a Greenfield Cement Plant of 1.33 MTPA capacity in the state of Meghalaya and proposed to produce 2.0 MTPA of limestone from the mining lease area of 128.52 Ha to meet the limestone requirement of the cement plant. The Mining Lease area is located at a distance of 1.6 Km-E from the NH-44 and at an altitude of 663 m above MSL and the nearest village is Thangskai which is about 1.2 km from the site. He informs that an Environmental Impact Assessment study for baseline environmental monitoring was carried out during the winter months of 2009-2010 i.e December, 2009 to February, 2010 and the parameters covered were i) Ambient Air Quality ii) Noise Monitoring iii) Water Monitoring iv) Soil Monitoring and v) Ground Vibration Studies. The total water requirement for the mine is estimated to be 30m³/day. The company proposes to take afforestation works over an area of 19.0 Ha of dump area. He also informs that people residing in the nearby villages will be benefitted by direct and indirect employment opportunities which will be created by the mining activity. The company also proposes to establish a well equipped occupational health centre headed by experience doctors and nurses, compunder and pathologist and periodical medical checkup will be carried out. Awareness programmes will be conducted regularly for all employees regarding Aids, Malaria, Filariasis etc. He ended with a note that an amount of R8.75 Crores has been earmarked for the Environmental Management Plan.

The same was translated into the Local Language by Shri.B. Swer.

The Chairperson then invited Shri. B.B. War, Asst. Environmental Engineer, MSPCB, to present the written presentations, comments, etc. received by the Board. The following is a list of the written presentation received:

1. Members of Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council, Jowai
2. North-East India Environment Association,

3. Office of Rangbah Shnong Sohphoh Village,
4. Khasi Jaintia Truck Owner Association,
5. Western Ribhoi Organization Border Area,
6. Labour Association (Jaintia Hills District),
7. Office of the Headman Village Nongkhroh,
8. Coal Miners Association (Jaintia Hills District),
9. Poor People Leaders Organization (Jaintia Hills District),
10. Youth Un-Employment Association (Jaintia Hills District)
11. Jaintia People Welfare Organization
12. Shri K.H. Langtang, Senior Citizen, Shangpung, Jaintia Hills District

The translations of the written presentations in local language are enclosed as Annexures.

The Chairperson of the Committee then invited the public to offer their comments, suggestions, objections etc.


SL. No.	NAME & ADDRESS	COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS/REMARKS
1.	Shri Manbha Kyndoh Doloi Elaka Narpuh.	Strongly supports the proposed project and urged the company to provide more job opportunities to the local people of the area.
2.	Shri Morit Swer, Headman, Thangskai	Extends his full support to the company in the general council of the village dorbar. He also appeals to provide more employment opportunities to the local people in terms of supply of materials and to comply with the terms and conditions as given by the Dorbar.
3.	Shri. Phon Syih, Ex Headman, Thangskai	Extends his support to the project and expresses that with the coming of the project job opportunities will be created to the local youth and development will occur in and around the project site.
4.	Shri. Gabriel Lipon, Executive Member, Umlong Village	Supports the proposed project and requested the project proponent to abide by the terms and conditions of the Village and the various promises made to the people of the region.
5.	Shri. Pisius Lamare, Secretary, Thanskai Village	Extends his support to the project since it would create direct and indirect employment to the people and request the various cement plants under the banner of Jaintia Cement Association to set up a hospital for the people of the region.
6.	Shri Sunday Suting, Headman, Wahiajer Narpuh	Extends his support to the project.
7.	Shri. Sibren Sumer, Secretary, Wahiajer Narpuh Village	Expressed his support to the proposed project and request the company to strictly abide to the EIA report.

8.	Shri. A.H. Syih, Vice Chairman Elaka Narpuh	He extends his support to the Company.
9.	Shri. Emlangki Lamare, Headman Lumshnong	Welcomed the proposed project in the interest of development and employment of the area.
10.	Shri. Lamshuwa Kyndoh, Lumshnong	Supports the proposed project as it will be a blessing to the surrounding areas of the Elaka. He however urged the company to strictly follow the mining plan and request the Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board to strictly inspect that all cement plants involve in mining should not harm the environment and should follow the norms as given in the Mining Plant
11.	Mr. William Shylla, Ex Headman, Pyrtakuna	Extends his support to the project
12.	Shri. Desous Pohshna, Chairman, Ratachera Village	Strongly supports the project
13.	Shri. Bidan Bareh, President Border Youth Welfare Organization	Supports the proposed project and urged the company to strictly abide the terms and conditions of the organization.
14.	Shri. Kalbin Shylla, Headman, Pyrtakuna	Supports the proposed project and urged the company to strictly abide the terms and conditions of the village.
15.	Shri. Condrik Lamare, Secretary, Elaka Narpuh	Extends his 100% support to the proposed project. He requested the company to plant trees in areas where the limestone will be extracted and also to strictly abide by the terms and conditions of the Elaka
16.	Sailensingh Sutnga, Headman Umkiang	Extends his support to the proposed project.
17.	Shri. Lovely Bareh, Executive Member Pyrtakuna Village	Extends his support to the proposed project.
18.	Shri. P. Dhar, Headman, Chiehruphi	Extends his support to the proposed project.
19.	Shri. Stan Lamin, President Seng Samla Shnong Umkiang	Extends his support to the project since it will create job opportunities.
20.	Shri. Datip Shwa Nongrum, Secretary, Umkiang Village	Supports the proposed project.

21.	Shri. Pardonwell Lyngdoh, Umkiang	Extends his support to the proposed project with a condition that the company abides by the terms and condition of the village and the Elaka.
22.	Shri. Crim Sutnga, Sonapur	Expressed his happiness that the Company is willing to invest in the area and supports the proposed project.
23.	Shri. Boilin Pusein, Sonapur	Extends his support to the proposed project with a condition that the company abides by the terms and condition of the village and the Elaka.
24.	Shri. Minot Sympli, Chiehruphi	Extends his support to the proposed project.
25.	Shri. Rev. M. Shylla, Principal of K.J.P. Synod High School, Jowai	Extends his support to the proposed project and feels that this company is a blessing to the people.
26.	Shri. Bijit Khongsit, Joint Secretary, All North East Commercial Truck Owners and Operation Association.	Stated that the Organization has given its consent to the Company, he supports the same and urged the company to take care of the welfare of the people.
27.	Shri. Morningstar Pusien, Thangskai	Supports the proposed project and requested the concerned authorities to grant the clearance at the earliest.
28.	Shri. Sorju Syih, Ex. Headman Thangskai	Extends his support to the proposed project.
29.	Shri. Stanly Pala, Thangskai	Extends his support to the proposed project.
30.	Shri. Yoomakey Kyndait, President JYF-Narpuh Circle	Supports the proposed project and urged the Company to fulfill its promises.
31.	Shri. Atiar Bamon, Headman Tongseng	Supports the proposed project and requested the concerned authorities to grant the clearance at the earliest.
32.	Shri. Francis Lamin, Ex- Vice Chairman Elaka Narpuh	Welcomed the proposed project by Adhunik Cements Ltd.
33.	Shri. Skinly Pohshna, Secretary Elaka Narpuh Sports Association	Supports the proposed project and urged the Company to fulfill its promises. To take proper precautionary measures while blasting so as not to endanger the caves of the area.

34.	Shri. Edmon Tlang, Secretary, Mynkre Village	Extends his support to the proposed project.
35.	Shri. Lambha Dhar, Ex- Headman, Nongsning	Extends his support to the proposed project.
36.	Shri. Baining Suja, Ex- Secretary, Nongsning	Extends his support to the proposed project.
37.	Shri. Shem Laloo, Secretary, Sonapur Village	Extends his support to the proposed project.
38.	Shri. Ronal Pala, Umlong Village	Supports the proposed project and urged the Company to fulfill its promises made with the various villagers and NGO's.
39.	Shri. Bar Bamon, Ex- Headman, Lumshnong	Supports the proposed project and requested the concerned authorities to grant the clearance at the earliest.
40.	Shri. S.S. Dkhar, President Jaintia People Welfare Organization	<p>Strongly opposed the proposed project based on the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) According to the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 the Govt. can acquire land from the people solely on the basis for public purposes only. Also, according to the Land transfer act, 1971 of the Govt. of Meghalaya, any land cannot be transferred to a non-tribal. The organization expresses shock as to how the firm has obtained land for its Mining Project. 2) The agreement made by M/s Adhunik Cements with the people of Narpuh Elaka in terms of employment, trade and other activities were never abided with. 3) The presence of the Mining Project has brought tremendous hazards to the people and wildlife of the area through air pollution, noise pollution and has caused degradation of the ecology and environment of the area making it unfit for cultivation. The presence of the mining plant will pollute the streams and rivers of the area by waste products emanating from the mine. 4) Close to the location of the mining area there are many beautiful caves but the indiscriminate mining of limestone would greatly affect and destroy the caves.

The Public Hearing ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair to all the officials, participants, Doloi and Headmen of different Villages, members of the press and the public present at the Hearing for their co-operation. He also informed that the proceedings of the Hearing will be sent to the MoEF, Delhi for further necessary action.


Shri. E. Kharmalki, MCS,
Addl. Deputy Commissioner,
& S.D.O. (C) Khliehriat Civil Sub-Division
Jaintia Hills District & Chairperson, E.P.H.