

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON THE 20TH APRIL 2012 OF THE PROPOSED
(3 x 80 MW) UMGOT HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT AT MOOSAKHIA VILLAGE IN JAINTIA
HILLS DISTRICT, MEGHALAYA BY MEGHALAYA ENERGY CORPORATION LTD.**

An Environmental Public Hearing in respect of the proposed (3x80MW) Umngot Hydroelectric Project of Meghalaya Energy Corporation Ltd. at Moosakhia Village in Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya was held on the 20th April 2012. The hearing which commenced from 11:00 A.M. was presided over by Shri N.A.K. Syiem S.D.O.(C), Amlarem Civil Sub-Division, Jaintia Hills District.

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

Smti. B. Majaw welcomed the Chairman, the members of the Press, the project proponent and public who have turned up in large numbers to attend the Hearing. She 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. She 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 HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT at Siangkhnai Village, in East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya by Meghalaya Energy Corporation Ltd.

Further, she 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. She 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 N.A.K. Syiem, MCS, S.D.O. (C) Amlarem Civil Sub-Division, Jaintia Hills District and Chairperson, EPH, welcomed the Public, the Local Headmen, NGOs, villagers, members of the press and representatives of Meghalaya Energy Corporation Ltd. present at the EPH. He invited those who wanted to speak to submit their names to the staff of the M.S.P.C.B. and reiterated that speakers should not repeat the views, comments, etc. presented by those who spoke ahead of them.

On invitation from the Chair, highlights of the proposed project relating to technical aspect were presented by Shri. H. Lyngdoh Mawnai, Superintending Engineer, Meghalaya Energy Corporation Ltd. He informed that Meghalaya Energy Corporation Ltd. has applied for prior Environmental Clearance for the proposed Hydroelectric Project from the Ministry of Environment & Forest in 2007. The work for EIA/EMP studies as per the TOR's given by the

Ministry was given to Agriculture Finance Corporation a recognized consultant by the MoEF. He informs that the project will be located in a village called Saida which is in between East Khasi Hills District and Jaintia Hills District of Meghalaya at an installed capacity of 3 x 80 MW and having a Catchment area of 304 sq. km. Roads to the project sites will be from Moosakhia in Jaintia Hills District and Siangkhnai in East Khasi Hills District. He informs that the dam to be constructed will be an ogee type concrete gravity dam having a live storage of 41.34 Mcum, length of 362 m and a maximum height of 111 m.

The cost of project will be R1564.62 Crores and the total area of land that will be utilized for the project will be 390.52 Ha. The study area as conducted by the consultant is 10 kms radius from dam area and power house area covering East Khasi Hills District and Jaintia Hills District. He also informs that the proposed project is located in a seismic Zone V very close to the Dawki fault and for the design of the dam, power house, tunnel etc. expert advice is being sought for from IIT Roorkee. The impacts that will arise once the project is implemented will be decrease in discharge of the river downstream of the dam and also the flora and fauna of the area will be affected.

However he informs that compensatory afforestation will be undertaken by the department on a large scale and hopes that the reservoir will promote fish production. He emphasized that hydel projects are non-polluting and are a green source of energy as compared to Thermal Power Plants. According to the EIA/EMP he informs that the total area proposed for treatment in the Catchment Area will be 3018 Ha. which will include afforestation, turfing, erosion control measures etc. For Land Management will involve muck disposal site and restoration plan for quarries. Bio-Diversity Management Plan will involve Green Belt Development, Bio Diversity Conservation Plan, Wildlife Conservation Plan and Fishery Management Plan.

He informs that the Department will involve various departments during the implementation of the various management plans. Public toilets with septic tanks and soak pits will be provided to the labourers during the implementation of the project. He also says that water quality, air quality and noise will be regularly monitored. Also, he says that dispensaries will be provided to the public and various awareness programmes will be held in different areas within the catchment of the project. Precaution will be taken during the construction of the dam to prevent any dam break in future.

For any disaster that may arise the department will be providing fixed fire detection & protection systems, portable fire extinguishers, communication facilities, emergency power supply, emergency safety equipment, emergency alarms and training in disaster preparedness. A resettlement and rehabilitation plan is being prepared for the people that will be directly and indirectly affected by the project. Lastly he highlighted a few benefits where first & foremost benefit will be direct and indirect employment to the local people in terms of job opportunities, supply of raw materials, contract works, tourism, electricity benefits, local area development and upliftment of the socio-economic conditions of the people.

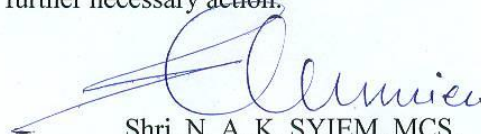
The Chairperson of the Committee then invited the public to offer their comments, suggestions, objections etc.

SL.NO.	NAME & ADDRESS	COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS/REMARKS
1.	Mr. L. Paksang, Secretary Shnong, Moosakhia.	He thanks the MeECL for bringing the project to their area as it will benefit them. The Dorbar met on 16 th April 2012 and decided unanimously that the Dorbar will support setting up of the project by MeECL and not by any other party. The General Meeting of the Dorbar held on 17 th April 2012 has decided to support the MeECL to set up the project on the following conditions namely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Providing employment and contract works to the local people b. Land compensation to all the affected land owners c. Providing electricity to all d. Up-gradation of the lower primary school to High School status. e. Setting up of hospital. f. Construction of community hall g. Construction of outdoor stadium h. Providing of drinking water i. Construction of internal roads with footpaths in the village j. Road communication from the existing road to dam site k. Construction of Eco-Park
2.	Mr. S. Kassar, Sohmanong	He represents the land owners in the area. He requests the MeECL to start the project soon so that the people can start getting the benefits of the project.
3.	Mr. Heibok Suting, Secretary, 7 Shnong Welfare Association Sohmynting.	Extends his support to the proposed project. He requests that the MeECL fulfill all their proposals which were presented to the people earlier.
4.	Mr. Mynjur Pyrtuh, Headman, Sohmynting Village	Extends his support to the proposed project. He expects the project to bring benefits to the area.
5.	Mr. Dapmon Lamin, Treasurer 7 Shnong Welfare Association, Umsalang Village	Extends his support to the project. He wants the MeECL to execute the project by itself and not to hand it over to another party. He also says that as the project is a hydro project, there will be no pollution generated from it as compared to thermal power projects.
6.	Mr. Meshak Kyndiap, Mupyut	He believes that the coming of the project will benefit the area and urges to protect the right of the local people. Also, he is of the opinion that there should be cooperation amongst the people and various Government Departments for development of the area.

7.	Mr. P. Pakyntein, Headman, Pdenghshakap	Expresses his support to the proposed project. He feels that with the coming of the proposed project there will be development in many aspects in areas around the project in terms of employment, contract works and socio-economic up-liftment of the people. Also expresses his appreciation to MeECL in the manner in which they have executed the Myntdu Leshka Hydro Electric Project as it has greatly benefitted the people. He requests the MoEF to grant the Environmental Clearance to MeECL at the earliest so that they can start the project as early as possible.
8.	Smti. I.C. Suting, Member Ex. Committee, Dorbar Shnong, Moosakhia	She extends her support to the proposed project.
9.	Shri. F. Pakyntein, Jarain	He extends his support to the proposed project by Meghalaya Energy Corporation Ltd. He feels that there will be an all round development to the people if MeECL is allowed to execute the project by itself and not to hand it over to another party. He opined that he will strongly opposed if the project is given to any other party.
10.	Jaintia Youth Federation, War Jaintia Region, Amlarem	Supports the proposed project and request MeECL to protect the environment. He appeals that the first priority should be employment of the local people of the area.
11.	Mr. Stanis Pyngrope, Village Headman, Laitkor	Extends his support to the proposed project by MeECL and not by any other party as the people will greatly benefit by the coming of the project.
12.	Mr. M. Bareh, Secretary Laikur Land Owners, Samanang	Extends his support to the proposed project.
13.	Smti. L. Bareh, Laikur, Shillong	Extends her support to the proposed project by MeECL and not to any other party. She requested that for labourers who will work in the project should be provided with I.D. Cards. Also, she is of the opinion that the project should start as soon as possible and the memorandum to be signed between the people and the MeECL should strictly follow the terms and conditions as given.
14.	Mr. S. Paksang, Moosakhia	Extends his support to the proposed project
15.	Mr. Dimi Tariang, Acting Doloi, Elaka Amwi, Thangbuli	Extends his support to the proposed project on behalf of the Elaka as it feels that the people will greatly benefit from it.
16.	Mr. Kroswel Khyriem, Headman Mupyut	Extends his support to the proposed project and hopes MoEF to grant the clearance as early as possible so as the enable the officials of MeECL to start the project very soon.

17.	Mr. Pichal Bareh, Village Headman, Samanang	Extends his support to the project.
18.	Smti. Thil Bareh, Samanang	Supports the proposed project as there will be development in the area. Read out a letter to the SDO(C) Amlarem Civil Sub-Division supporting the proposed project of the MeECL on the following conditions. 1) Employment opportunity to the people of the Samanang. 2) Contract Works 3) Tarred Roads to be provided from Samanong Village to Dam Site 4) Schools to be upgraded 5) Supply of drinking water to the village 6) Upgradation of the football ground 7) To set up a hospital 8) To built a community hall 9) To set up an Eco Park 10) To provide footpaths to the village 11) To provide street lights to the village
19.	Mr. Rollingson Bareh, Moosakhia	Extends his support to the proposed project by MeECL and not by any other party as the people will greatly benefit by the coming of the project.
20.	Mr. Herman Khonglah, General Secretary, F.K.J.G.P., Amlarem Circle	Supports the proposed project by MeECL and not by any other party. Requested MeECL to provide permanent employment to the people, to grant full compensation to the landowners and to complete the project on time. Also, he feels that with the coming of the Project it will be a blessing to the people.
21.	Mr. Alban K. Gashnga, President, W.J.S.U.	Extends his support to the project. He wants the MeECL to execute the project by itself and not to hand it over to another party. He also says that as the project is a hydro project, there will be no pollution generated from it. He requested MeECL to provide schools and colleges to the people of the area.
22.	Mr. Shri. R. Bareh, Sohmanong	Supports the proposed project by MeECL and not by any other party.

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. N. A. K. SYIEM, MCS,
S.D.O.(C), Amlarem Civil Sub Division,
Jaintia Hills District & Chairperson, E.P.H.