

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR COMMON BIO-MEDICAL MANAGEMENT FACILITIES (CBMWTFs) AT TUIRIAL, AIZAWL, AIZAWL DISTRICT, MIZORAM

VENUE : VIDEO CONFERENCE HALL, IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, MINECO, AIZAWL, MIZORAM

TIME: 30th September 2021; 11:00 A.M

Introduction:

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India vide S.O. 1533 **14th September, 2006** notified the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006 wherein 42 projects or activities are identified (as listed in the schedule) to require prior environmental clearance either from the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests(Cat A) or at State level the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)(Cat B) before any construction work, or preparation of land by the project management except for securing the land, is started on the project or activity. Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facilities (Sl 7 (da) of the schedule) is grouped by the Notification as Category B thus requiring prior Environmental Clearance from the SEIAA.

Bio-medical waste means any waste, which is generated during the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals or in research activities pertaining thereto or in the production or testing of biological and including categories mentioned in Schedule I, of the BMW rules, 2016. These wastes unless treated and disposed securely as per the BMW Rules could pose severe health risks to human and the environment. Thus proper management of bio medical wastes is mandatory.

In absence of common treatment facility, all hospitals (including small healthcare units) have to install individual treatment facilities thus requiring comparatively high capital investment. In addition, it requires separate manpower and infrastructure development for proper operation and maintenance of treatment systems.

A Common Bio-medical Waste Treatment Facilities (CBWTFs) is therefore required where bio-medical waste from a number of healthcare units, is imparted necessary treatment to reduce adverse effects that this waste may pose. The treated waste may finally be sent for disposal in a landfill or for recycling purposes. The concept of CBWTF not only addresses such problems but also reduces monitoring pressure on regulatory agencies and cost of treatment of per kilogram significantly. Its considerable advantages have made CBWTF popular and proven concept in many developed countries. CBWTF as an option has also been legally introduced in India.

Public Hearing is one of the stages for obtaining Environmental Clearance by the specified projects and **is convened to obtain views, comments & suggestions on the establishment of the from the people of affected areas.**

The Public hearing for the Common Bio-Medical Wastes Treatment Facility (CBMWTF) was conducted online as per the **Memorandum on Conducting Public Hearing during the COVID - 19 pandemic restrictions** issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, G.O.I vide letter F. No. 22-25/2020-IA.III Dt 09.06.2021

The lists of participants are listed at Annexure.

The Hearing was presided over by Smt Dr Lalhriatzuali Ralte, Deputy Commissioner, Aizawl District, Aizawl, Mizoram at the scheduled date and time.

At the outset, the chairperson conducted a round of introduction of various stakeholders present in the panel. She briefly explained the reason for holding the Public Hearing and highlighted the programme for today.

She commented that today's topic i.e setting up of the CMWTF in Mizoram is indeed a milestone for the State as bio medical wastes being infectious could now be treated scientifically. These wastes, if mishandled could be infectious and thus pose problems to mankind and the environment. The present system of BMW disposal is not satisfactory. As per the latest report, the rate of BMW wastes generation is 300 g/day/bed. With the CBMWTF in place, all Govt. and private hospitals and all other health care facilities like veterinary hospitals, laboratory, clinics etc, would now be able to dispose their wastes. Hence The Aizawl Smart City Projects Ltd under the UD&PA Department of the State Govt. took initiatives which are highly appreciated.

She then invited Shri C. Lalduhawma, Member Secretary, Mizoram Pollution Control Board to apprise the public on the process of public hearing and its objectives. He briefly highlighted the role of Pollution Control Board in the process of public hearing which starts from publication of notice of public hearing. The hearing was notified in two leading Newspapers in Mizo language in English since 27th August 2021 to enable 30 days publicity during which it was informed that comments regarding the draft EIA was welcomed in the o/o the Mizoram PCB. However, no comments /suggestions are received till the time of public hearing. Setting up of CBMWTFs is the need of the day for safe treatment and disposal of bio-medical wastes and the initiatives taken by the Government in this regard is appreciated by the MPCB. With the comments of public today, necessary changes will be made in the draft EIA and once the final EIA is approved; all other statutory requirements under the Air and Water Act and the BMW Rules shall have to be carried out by the project proponent.

The Chairman then highlighted the provisions of the BMW Rules the requirement of safe disposal of bio medical wastes which could be infectious. All bio medical wastes generator should dispose their wastes securely. Today's hearing is organized by the MPCB to enable public to have a say in the environmental impact of this developmental project but it is not to take approval or consent from the public.

She requested the public to speak out their views, comments and suggestions regarding environmental impact of the proposed project so that changes in the draft

EIA Report and make final report accordingly and all proceedings will be recorded in print and in video which will be sent to the SEIAA, Mizoram.

The Chairperson then requested the Chief Executive Officer Project Proponent, Aizawl Smart City Projects, Ltd (SIPMIU) for a presentation on the project. The CEO then invited ENPRO Enviro Tech & Engineers Pvt. Ltd. Mr Rushabh Mevawala, consultant for the project proponent to present how the Common Facility on BMW is to be managed. Capacity of the CBMWTs is designed based on the study on wastes generation conducted by the Mizoram Pollution Control Board. The consultant explained the need of the project, location project with picture of Google Maps. Wastes are to be segregated against the type specified by the BMW rules, 2016 like yellow Category (anatomical wastes etc), Red Category (Recyclables), Blue Category (Sharps) and white Category. Each segregated wastes will be incinerated or shredded or autoclaved or compacted to make them harmless. The equipments to be used and pollution control devices proposed for all equipments. He also shared how the base line study were conducted - ambient air quality at 6 locations, water quality at 8 sampling locations, noise quality at 6 locations, soil quality at 6 locations. The baseline study shows ambient environmental qualities are well within the prescribed permissible limits. Mitigation plan are therefore prepared for each type of impact on air, water, soil, noise are also shared. Socio economic study, actions for green belt developments are also discussed. Rs 80.5 lakh is also earmarked as capital cost for environmental monitoring which comprises i.e., waster, soil, environmental monitoring, occupational health issues. The study also shows that no rare, endangered species specified by the schedule to the Wildlife Protection Act 1972. The presentation ended with Project summary and benefits.

The Chairperson then invited Er Lalrothanga, CEO, ASCL, to apprise the viewers with the gist of the presentation.

The main issues raised and clarifications from the project proponent were as summarized below:

1. Availability of authorised plastic recyclers in Mizoram?

Response: Recyclables will be channelized to the Dalmia Cement plant in Meghalaya which is equipped with special facility for conversion of plastic wastes

2. Absence of ground water in the study report:

Response: The wording in the report as no ground water was not exactly precise. It was meant to describe absence of tube well around the area for extraction of ground water.

3. No Seismic Vulnerability Assessment and soil bearing capacity, Bore drilling in the EIA report

Response: Seismic study will be done for buildings. However, for equipments, such study may not be required

4. Degree of safety to reuse of treated wastes and management of ash

Response: Wastes will be given treatment as per the Pollution Control Board's guidelines and utmost care will be given to make them safe for re use. the MPCB will not let us violate the standards and guidelines

5. Transportation of BMWS from Health Care Facilities in other districts

Response: 2 Stainless steel vehicles with GPS tracking system will be deployed for each district

6. Training of workers: will the facility be manned by trained works

Response: Yes if the project is granted with permission.

7. Suggestion:

Shell in the Executive summary (Mizo) be translated as Tlaklei while silt stone as Lungkelha

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks from Er Lalrothanga, CEO, Aizawl Smart City Projects Ltd, & Project Director, SIPMIU, Aizawl

Sd/- (Dr LALHRIATZUALI RALTE),
Deputy Commissioner,
Aizawl District,
Aizawl, Mizoram,