

**SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE PUBLIC HEARING
FOR PROPOSED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY,
RIANGVAI THLAN MUAL, LUNGLEI**

Venue: Convention Centre, Lunglei

Date& Time: 29th April, 2025 (Tuesday) @ 12:00 Noon

INTRODUCTION:

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, vide Notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14th September 2006, has mandated the conduct of a public hearing for certain projects listed under the Schedule of the EIA Notification, 2006. The proposed project falls under Category B1, Schedule 7(i), and therefore requires Environmental Clearance from SEIAA/SEAC, Mizoram.

Today's public hearing is being conducted in compliance with the aforementioned notification under the chairmanship of Smt. Zoramdini, MCS, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Lunglei District. The hearing concerns the proposed 15 MTPD Solid Waste Management Facility to be established by the Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA) Department, Government of Mizoram at Rianguvai Thlanmual, Lunglei.

The hearing aims to gather views, comments, and suggestions from the public residing in the affected area regarding the establishment of the proposed facility. It was attended by stakeholders from various sections of society, including local NGOs, prominent citizens, and residents. The list of participants is provided in the Annexure.

The public hearing commenced with a formal welcome by the Chairperson, Smt. Zoramdini. She briefed the participants on the purpose of the hearing, highlighting its legal foundation under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and the EIA Notification, 2006. She emphasized the benefits of the project for Lunglei District, particularly in reducing the environmental impact of unregulated solid waste disposal and mitigating air and water pollution.

She further explained that the project, being classified under Category B1, Schedule 7(i), requires Environmental Clearance from SEIAA, Mizoram. The objective of the hearing was to share project details with the public and collect feedback, objections, and suggestions, especially from those in and around the project-affected area. These will be included in the Final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for review by the Competent Authority.

The Chairperson then invited the Environmental Consultant, Eco-Management Services & Voyants Solutions Pvt. Ltd., to present the project on behalf of the UD&PA Department. The presentation covered:

- Project overview and justification

- Site location, layout, project objectives, and environmental context
- Existing waste management practices and associated issues in Lunglei
- Proposed infrastructure including route plan, Waste Resource Centre, source segregation, drum composting for biodegradable waste, covered transport, leachate treatment, human resources, and landfill details
- Environmental baseline data and mitigation measures outlined in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Environmental Clearance process
- Anticipated environmental and socio-economic benefits

Following the presentation, Smt. P.C. Lalmuanpuii, Environmental Engineer, delivered a brief speech on the statutory procedures for public hearings. She informed the gathering that the application for the public hearing was received by the Mizoram Pollution Control Board (PCB) on 24th March 2024. Public notices were issued and published in the leading newspapers "Vanglaini" (vernacular) and "Newslink" (English) on 29th and 30th March 2025, in accordance with the prescribed timeline.

She also noted that a written representation was received from the Joint NGO Coordination Committee, Pukpui, Lunglei, on 28th April 2025. However, the issues raised were beyond the scope of the current public hearing and, therefore, would not be addressed during this session.

Participants were invited to speak after stating their name, designation, and place of residence. The Chairperson reminded attendees that the hearing is intended to collect public opinion and is not a platform for decision-making.

Next, Shri Lalduhthlana, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Lunglei, clarified that the project does not require wildlife clearance. He encouraged attendees to actively participate in the consultation process.

Queries Raised and Responses are as follows:

Query 1: Written comments on environmental impacts of SWM Center, Pukpui submitted by Joint NGO Coordination Committee, Pukpui, Lunglei

Response: The concern is duly noted. Necessary actions will be taken through appropriate channels should any such facility be planned at Pukpui in the future.

Query 2 : Waste Segregation, Collection & IEC Plan:

Response: A collection and transportation plan is developed based on studies conducted by the UD&PA Department. Designated vehicles and collection bins will be used for the segregation and transportation of municipal solid waste. Stakeholder suggestions for improving the transportation process are welcome. A portion of the project budget is allocated for the implementation of the IEC plan

Query 3 : Health & Environmental Impact on Szaikawn Locality having about 500 residents and who are already aggrieved by the existing dump sites.

Response : The new facility will be built scientifically below the current dumpsite, not at Sazaikawn. Open burning will be banned, and no incinerator will be used. Environmental safety is a priority.

Query 4 : Leachate Treatment and Dry Sludge Disposal & Clarification for using incineration as provided in the Executive Summary.

Response : It was an editing error. Leachate will be treated as per guidelines. A proper lining system will be installed.

Query 5: Contamination risk for Ruangte Lui and treatment thereof:

Response: Wastewater will be treated to comply with environmental norms prescribed by the CPCB before discharge.

Query 6: Solid Waste Treatment proposed

Response: Drum composting for biodegradable waste will be used. Non-biodegradables will be recycled or reused. No incineration.

Query 7: Handling and treatment of Bio-Medical Waste in the Centre.

Response: No. The project pertains to municipal solid waste under SWM Rules, 2016. BMW will not be entertained.

Query 8: Pollution Control Equipment and status of practice of composting and landfilling in other areas.

Response: Similar practices are ongoing in Aizawl. Pollution control devices will be installed.

Query 9: Contingency & Public Safety Plan:

Response: A landfill gas collection system will be installed. Project success depends on public awareness, participation, and source segregation. Bailing machines, shredders, and composting systems will be included.

Query 10: Time targeted commencement:

Response: The facility will begin operations only after obtaining all necessary clearances. No specific date can be confirmed yet.

Question 11: Issue of present dump site and waste piles.

The current dumpsites will be closed and becomes legacy waste. Legacy wastes will be remediated as per the CPCB guidelines after the facility is in place.

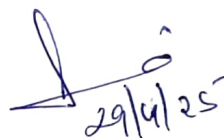
The public also expressed their concern over the problems caused by the existing dumpsites and anticipate implementation of the facility in its true sense to reduce their health and environmental problems at the earliest

All views were duly recorded in both written and video formats for submission to SEIAA, Mizoram.

The Chairperson thanked all attendees for their active and constructive participation. She reaffirmed that the feedback received during the hearing would be considered during the finalization of the EIA report and that the compiled proceedings would be submitted to the SEIAA, Mizoram for further appraisal and Environmental Clearance.

The hearing concluded successfully at 4:20 PM.

Dated: Lunglei, the 29th April, 2025



(ZORAMDINI, MCS)
Addl Deputy Commissioner, Lunglei District
&
Chairman of the Public Hearing