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URGENT: Reg. Proposed Thermal Power Plant near RGSC, Mirzapur

debadityo <debadityo@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 20, 2014 at 1:10 PM

To: "vc_bhu@sify.com" <vc_bhu@sify.com>, vcbhu1 <vcbhu1@gmail.com>

The Vice Chancellor,
Banaras Hindu University,
Varanasi

Respected Sir,

This is reference to the letter received from Registrar vide Ref.No.R/GAD/Misc./116/29653 regarding siting of the proposed Thermal Power Plant of M/s Welspun Energy U.P. Pvt. Ltd in village Dadri Khurd, Mirzapur. We would like to inform that the company has submitted a pointwise response to our representation to MoEF. (attached as Annexure I). In a telephonic conversation with a company representative, it was informed that the company has submitted a response to BHU as well.

In continuation to the representation sent by Registrar, BHU to Ministry of Environment and Forest vide Ref.No.R/GAD/Misc./116 we want to outline the following matters:

1. According to our estimates using Google Earth Tools, the aerial distance comes around 7.5-8 Km from Rajiv Gandhi South Campus and the proposed site. In the BHU's representation to MoEF, it is stated as 10 Km, which we assume must be the distance by road. Hence, to clarify the distance, kindly consult GPS coordinates of the project site after obtaining the authenticated toposheet from the project proponent or the Ministry.
2. In the official response received by Vindhya Bachao regarding the issues raised by us (Annexure II), the project proponent commented that Wyndham fall and Lower Khajuri Dam which is water source of RGSC will be unaffected by the use of Upper Khajuri reservoir. We request the University to kindly prepare a scientific assessment of the impact on Lower Khajuri and other water resources due to the proposed power plant keeping in mind the fact that 40 lakh liters of water per hour will be pumped from polluted river Ganga and also the post process problems like 'Ash Pond' and 'discharging the waste water in nearby nallah'. It is mentioned as a clause in the NOC given by Central Water Commission (Annexure III) that 'during the lean season, the releases downstream of the existing dam should remain unaffected'. Also worth noting is actual lean season of Ganga is November end to May instead of Janaury-May as stated in the CWC clearance.

Whereas the Upper Khajuri dam serves the irrigation needs, Lower Khajuri dam is currently the source of drinking water for the entire BHU south campus. The students of RGSC has special sentimental attachments with Wyndham Fall and Kharanja fall and both these places are used as recreation by local people and frequented by the students of RGSC. The students are so much concerned about the water falls that they have been regularly organising cleanliness campaigns and awareness programs since years at the water falls which are integrated part of Khajuri River.

We, as a student and alumni of BHU has always seen the University as a natural warden of the environment in the region. Due to RGSC, Mirzapur has seen the real 'development' by spreading knowledge and empowering local people. Alongwith development, we have always shown a caring attitude to the local environment as well which now reflects in each of the students and staff of RGSC. These companies will see only their own commercial interests and their paid environmental consultants are never going to open their mouth for the disaster this project will bring. Its after our site visit report submitted to MoEF they have partially accepted the presence of forest and 6 Schedule I species, on which their earlier stand was there is no forest and wildlife.

As a precautionary principle, this Power Plant has to be prevented from coming up otherwise it will cause irreparable damage to the environment, water resource and biodiversity. We request the University to kindly take action regarding this.

Attachments:

1. **Annexure I**-Reply of Project Proponent on Vindhya bachao's Site Visit Report dated 15.11.2013
2. **Annexure II**- Site Visit Report of Vindhya Bachao dated 15.11.2013
3. **Annexure III**- CWC clearance letter for the utilization of water.

Thanking you
Sincerely,
Debadityo Sinha

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3 attachments

 **Annexure I.pdf**
1333K

 **Annexure II.pdf**
3975K

 **Annexure III.pdf**
84K