

Site Inspection Report of Proposed 1320 MW Thermal Power Plant of Welspun Energy U.P. Private Limited At Dadri Khurd, Mirzapur



Visit Date: 15th September, 2013

Submitted to:

Ministry of Environment and Forests,
Government of India

Submitted by

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SAVE | PROTECT | CONSERVE

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Observations by Vindhya Bachao team on 15th September, 2013: Proposed Thermal Power Plant of Welspun Energy UP Pvt. Ltd at Dadri Khurd in Mirzapur

The issues discussed are as follows:

1. The project involves forest land.

The project site is surrounded by forest region from all of its side. Following are the important points observed by the team of Vindhya Bachao:

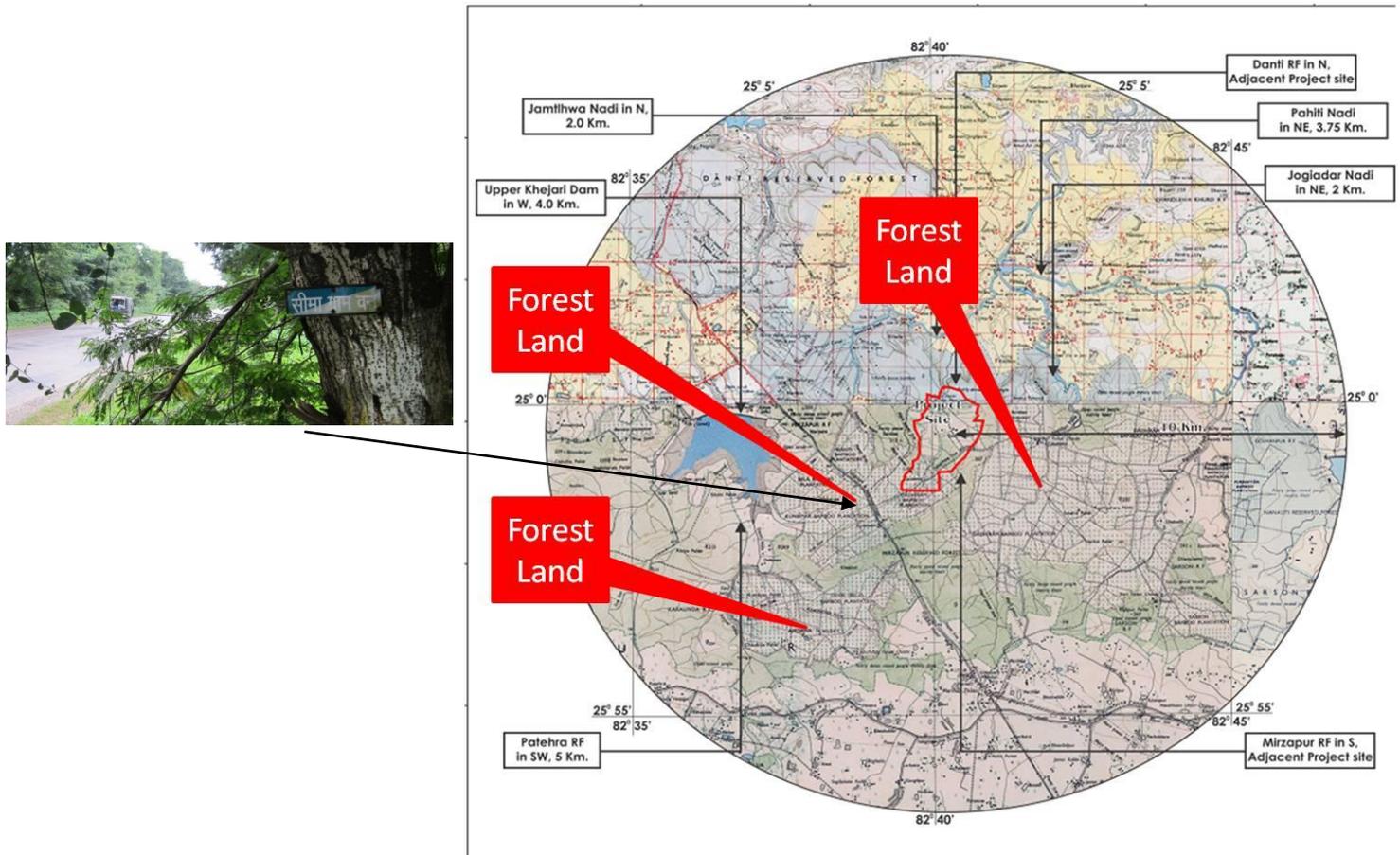


Image 1: 'Forest Land' shown as bamboo plantation in the EIA Report (outset: banner of forest department on a tree)

- I. There is no way one can evade forest land before reaching the place.
- II. Transfer of coal by railway lining or even construction of road cannot happen without clearing forests.

- III. The bamboo plantations shown in the EIA report also belong to Forest Department. This makes the entire region except the project site a forest area including the portion of SH-5 which has forest land on both of its side.
- IV. The proposed pipeline for pumping water from the river Ganga falls well within the forest land even though it is claimed to be motorway.
- V. The small spur claimed to be road by the project proponent was found to be part of forest land with a banner clearly showing its legal condition. The said spur through the forest land meets the gate of project site which happens to be also the immediate boundary of the Forest department. The width of the road is just 6-8 feet wide and purely a road being formed by regular passage of villagers. It is a forest road owned by Forest Department, and cannot be treated as common road. A board being put up by the Forest Department proves the fact very well.
- VI. The project area is not barren as claimed in the EIA report. There happens to be similar forest as found in the reserve forest area with good vegetation cover. It can be referred as mix forest with mixture of trees, shrubs and grasses.



Image 2: 'Entry Restricted. This is not common road. This road is owned by Forest Department.' Below it is written 'Hunting of wild animals is punishable offence.' This banner is pointing the entrance of the narrow forest road on the other side of SH-5. See the next image.



Image 3: The spur leading to the project site, the road shown by the banner of the Forest Department.



Image 4: The road or 'Access to the Site', a clear forest road. It runs for approx. 1.5 Km from SH-5 to meet the boundary of project site.



Image 5: Lush Green Grassland inside the project site.



Image 6: Nests of Baya Weaver birds inside the project site.

2. The project site is surrounded by critical wildlife habitat and old forests.

The forests of Mirzapur are one of the oldest tropical dry deciduous types of its kind representing a true Vindhyan ecosystem. The forests are facing a huge pressure from sandstone mining and deforestation which converted the forests into small pockets. Being undulating in general topography, the entire forest areas in this part of Mirzapur marking advent of Vindhyan range is a mixture of hilly terrain, plains, scrublands, small rivers and rocky structure presenting a unique mix of habitats extremely suitable for deer species. The scrublands are the main areas where the deers are likely to be inhabited as they prefer open grasslands and scrublands comparing dense forests.



Image 7: A Nilgai spotted inside the project site.

Following are the details of wild animals found in vicinity of the project area as per latest wildlife census in 2013:

(Source: Forest Department, Mirzapur)

Table Showing Wildlife Data obtained from Forest Department using Right to Information Act, 2005

Forest Area	Distance from Project Site	Name of Animal	Protection Status	Population
			WPA Schedule	
Patehra	5 Km	Sloth Bear	I	26
		Swamp Deer	I	12
		Chinkara	I	23
		Mugger Crocodile	I	17
		Peafowl	I	93
		Bengal Monitor	I	45
		Langur	II	80
		Monkey	II	35
		Sambar Deer	III	32
		Chital	III	47
		Wild Boar	III	105
		Striped Hyena	III	18
		Indian Crested Pocupine	IV	27
		Golden Jackal	NA	109
		Jungle Cat	NA	23
		Red Fox	NA	47
		Wolf	NA	7
		Nilgai	NA	635
Mirzapur	0 Km	Sloth Bear	I	5
		Bengal Monitor	I	28
		Peafowl	I	67
		Monkey	II	163
		Nilgai	II	21
		Wild Boar	III	22
		Striped Hyena	III	5
		Indian Crested Porcupine	IV	11
		Golden Jackal	NA	76
		Red Fox	NA	9
		Jungle Cat	NA	1
		Langur	NA	42
Madihan Forest	0 Km	Sloth Bear	I	10
		Bengal Monitor	I	14
		Peafowl	I	34
		Monkey	II	87
		Nilgai	II	281
		Wild Boar	III	77
		Indian Crested Porcupine	IV	18
		Golden Jackal	NA	180
		Red Fox	NA	155

The entire project area is surrounded by forest land. The **area shown in the map in EIA report as bamboo plantation is also a forest area**. The entire project area is very critical from wildlife point of view. The Madihan forest region has witnessed the highest loss in sloth bear population. The population of sloth bears in Madihan according to 2011 census was 43 which have shockingly dropped down to just 10 in 2013 census. The total population of sloth bear in the district has dropped to half in last two years as per Forest Department of Mirzapur with the count at 211 in 2011 as compared to just 112 in 2013. As per forest department, all the compensations in last 5 years being given to people due to injury from sloth bear attacks in this region is from Dadhiram alone, which is adjoining the project site. Hence, the situation is alarming and the sloth bears, well protected under Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 use the entire area as home range. It is not wrong to say that the project site itself is a ideal home for the deer species which they use for foraging and habitat. Terming it as 'wasteland' in the EIA report is unacceptable in any sense. EIA report also does not even talk of the important animals like Sloth Bears, Swamp Deers, Sambar, Bengal Monitor, Chinkara, Peafowl and Mugger most of which are protected under Schedule I of Wildlife Act, 1972.

According to the security staff kept by the project proponent at the project site who is actually a landless farmer who sold off all his land at meager price to the company told us that inside the project site very small deer like species of about 2 feet in height are regularly observed. He also spoke about the Sloth Bears found inside the project site. Nilgais are very common here. The small deer like species might be Chinkara, though he couldn't confirm the species name but he confirmed that it was not Nilgai. After the visit to the project site, our team was affirmed that this area is a forest land only which is coincidentally happened to be not owned by Forest Department. Else, everything is just same as adjoining forest land with equal importance as any other forest in this region.

Thus, setting up a thermal power plant in such a critical wildlife area is strongly not recommended.

3. Huge impact on water resource and irreparable damage anticipated.

Though the rainfall of Mirzapur District is good, but the proposed plant site lies on hilly region with very less catchment arrangement of water. In fact this is one of the reasons; the local villagers could not grow crops and suffer from poverty. Projects like Bansagar canal are being considered since a long time to solve the water problem. This true fact is well documented in the film 'Vindhyan Scourge' made by us in 2011. Scientists working at Krishi Vigyan Kendra situated in the region also accepts this fact that due to undulating landscape, catchment of water is a big issue and agriculture is done only rain based. Upper Khajuri dam and Lower Khajuri Dam are two such dams which cater to the minimum needs of the local habitants for agriculture and drinking water.

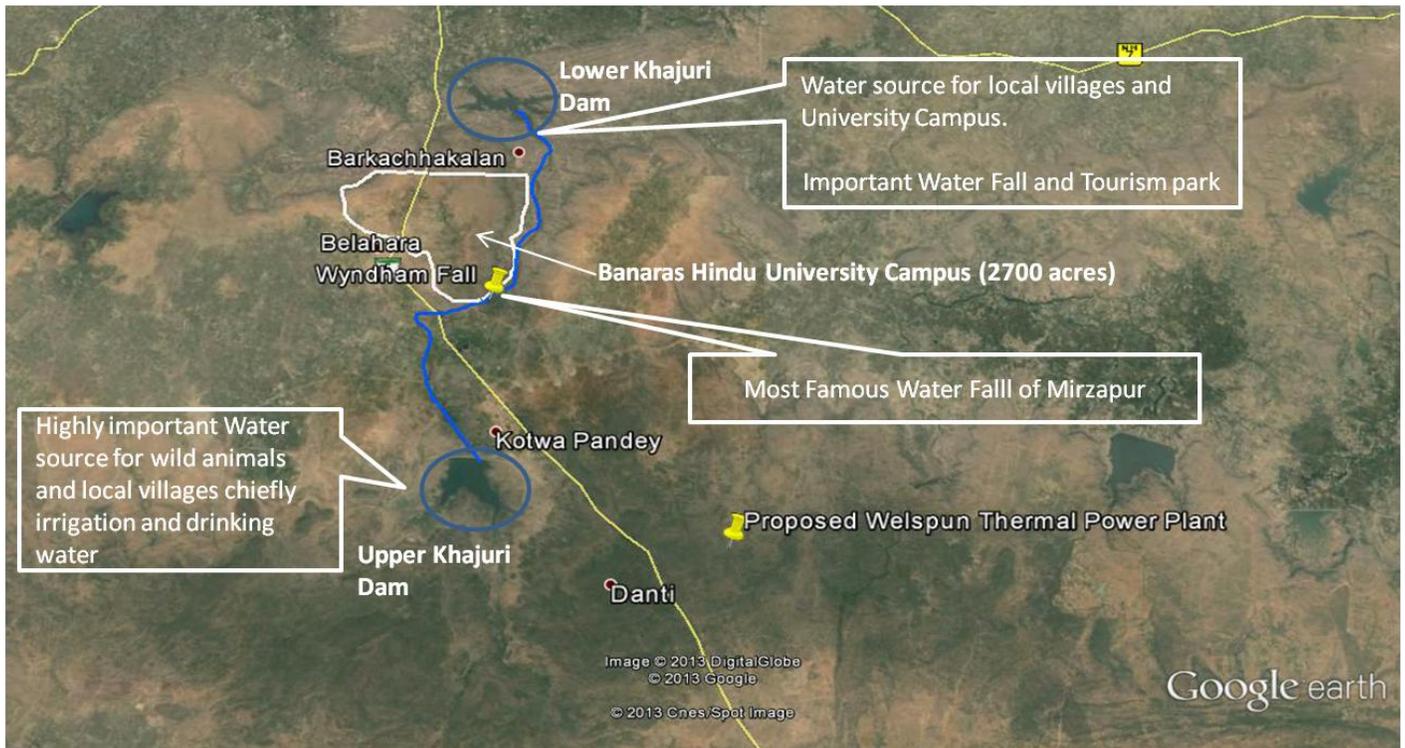


Image 8: Map showing the connection of Upper Khajuri Dam, Wyndham Fall, BHU Campus and Lower Khajuri Dam.

- i) Banaras Hindu University has developed its new campus spreading over area of 2700 acres with fairly good population of students and staff which is at present approximately 5,000 and bound to increase many times as it is still under development stage. It is a residential campus with hostels and all infrastructures are present in a mini-township plan. The source of water including drinking water for the campus is Lower Khajuri Dam. The water from Upper Khajuri dam flows via Khajuri River to Lower Khajuri Dam and thus any alteration to Upper Khajuri will have immediate implication on Lower Khajuri.
- ii) Wyndham Fall is the main tourist attraction not only in Mirzapur but it also attracts tourist from neighbouring districts of Varanasi, Allahabad, Bhadohi and Chandoli. The water flowing through Upper Khajuri dam to Lower Khajuri when passes through the dead end of hilly terrain it forms a beautiful water fall. The forest region surrounding the Wyndham fall is used by wild animals for foraging and hunting. Due to Wyndham Fall a large number of local people gets employment who are engaged in transportation and other facilities for tourists. The Khajuri river also serves a fishing source for local villagers who depends on the fishes for their food. Using water from Upper Khajuri will damage immensely the pride of Mirzapur. Just adjacent to Banaras Hindu University Campus, students of the university conducts maintenance cum cleanliness drive of Wyndham Fall with Forest Department every year.

The impact of this project will not be only to the local villagers who depend on Upper Khajuri Dam but it will have impact on entire region as Upper Khajuri is a source of drinking water of Banaras Hindu University

Campus which is lying just 8 Km away as the water from Upper Khajuri is stored in Lower Khajuri Dam for usage by BHU residents.

4. Storing water from river Ganga in Upper Khajuri will bring more crisis!

The water stored in the Upper Khajuri dam is mainly rainwater free from contamination and very clean as it is the rainwater which gets stored and the suspended matters water get enough time to settle and self cleansing takes place effectively. Given the vast area and year round slow utilization of water, local people use it for drinking without any extra effort to treat the water. The availability of so much clean water is also a reason that Patehra forest has the highest wildlife diversity in entire district.

Once, the water from river Ganga is pumped and started utilized, the entire system of water collection and utilization will be changed drastically. The water which was allowed to present for year around will be rapidly filled and used on daily basis. The water from Ganga will be contaminated with industrial effluents and sewage upstream which will lead the entire Upper Khajuri dam dirty, the Khajuri river and Lower Khajuri Dam and make it unfit for any other use except the power plant. The amount of water is also huge to the extent of impossible to be treated on per hour basis. An impact of this, the region including the university campus will face a huge crisis of drinking water and irrigation. Hence, we strongly suggest not to go even with the plan to fill up the dam with water of river Ganga.

Another implication of sucking so much water will lead to severe impact on ecological flow of river downstream. There is expected to be a very good population of Gangetic Dolphins as witnessed by local fishermen and boat owners, though we lack any official data to confirm it. The river gets further polluted in Varanasi as well, which is just 60 Km from Mirzapur. To ensure cleansing mechanism of the river and preserving the remaining wildlife, it is very dangerous to reduce the water flow of Ganga. The envisaged quantity of water required i.e. 4 lakh liters per hour will make it to 3,50,40,00,000 liters of water per year being pumped out from the national river. This will be just creating another dam on the river, only difference being water is pumped to store to some other location that also for industrial purpose in an area where agriculture should be priority.

Also, to be noted here importantly is that the elevation of the proposed project site is at 630 feet while the elevation of Upper Khajuri dam is at 510 feet. The elevation of river Ganga is around 260 feet.

Water from Ganga to the project site will need to pump the water for more than 400 feet over a distance of 31 Km. This will involve a lot of energy to be wasted for meeting the water requirement. What is the need of the project when there is so much deficiencies in the project plan itself. Forest clearance is also envisaged in case pipelines are to be laid as they have to pass through forest land, though we don't think it will be justified to lay pipeline from the river.

5. Wrong Siting as per Environmental Guidelines of Thermal Power Stations by MoEF, place of tourism, cultural and religious importance is within 7.5 Km from project site.

According to Environmental Guidelines of Ministry of Environment and Forests for Thermal Power Plants, forest land and agricultural land should be avoided for setting up a thermal power plant or for ash disposal and the location of the thermal power station should be avoided in the vicinity of places of archaeological, historical, cultural, and religious or tourist importance. Apart from involving forest and agricultural land, the proposed power plant impacts three of such sites related to tourism and cultural importance.

- i) Wyndham Fall, a very old and historical tourism place is revered as pride of Mirzapur. It is approx. 7 Km from the project site. Interestingly, the same water flows to Wyndham Fall which the project proponent plans to exploit for themselves.
- ii) The newly built south campus of Banaras Hindu University popularly known as Rajiv Gandhi South Campus spreaded over a massive area of 2700 acres is just adjacent to Wyndham fall. It is well within the 7.5 Km radius of the project site. The entire campus depends on Lower Khajuri Dam for its water requirement, which again depends on Upper Khajuri Dam.
- iii) Ludki Baba temple, a very ancient temple is present at a distance of 7.5 Km. This temple is very old and very important from religious point of view as people from very far off places visit this ancient temple.



Image 9: BHU South Campus, 7.5 Km from the project site



Image 10: Wyndham Fall, a tourist place 7 Km from the project site



Image 11: Ludki Baba temple, 7.5 Km from the project site

Also, considering the fact that the coal requirement might be met from Indonesia as domestic coal source is still not clear, the whole siting of the power plant may be termed wrong! There is no good reason to establish a thermal power plant which involves transportation of coal to port and then through railway across thousands of kilometer, wasting fuel and increasing pollution and that too at a final cost of a critical wildlife habitat and human health. The same is true for meeting the need of water as well. If the basic raw materials are to be transported from far off places, what is the need of the project at this particular site?

6. Wrong Site Selection

Apart from absence of and access of basic raw materials like coal and water both of which have to be transported, the entire siting criteria discussed in the EIA report is a question. As per Site Selection Criteria described in Chapter 2 of EIA report, the project proponent has given a point-wise justification for selecting this particular site. Point-wise contradiction is given in the following table:

S. No.	EIA Report	Actual
1	Availability of adequate uncultivable and unused land for erecting power plant structures	The land acquisition has been done over multi-crop agricultural land. Rest of the land is forest, scrubland and grasslands and habitat of critical wildlife species.
2	Vicinity to the railway line for laying railway siding for coal transportation	The Sakteshgarh railway station is 15 Km far. No road or railway line connects the project site to railway station. The area between project site and railway station is forest land.
3	Adequate land being available for coal storage yard	This could not be criteria for site selection. Air pollution and noise from transportation and handling of coal will have significant impact on environment and forest.
4	Suitability of land from topography, geological aspects	It is suitable agricultural land and forest area very much suitable for herbivores. Sloth bear and monitor lizards are dominant in the project site.
5	Proximity to Highways for transport of heavy equipments	The highway is 1.5 Km away from project site and there is no road connecting the proposed project site. Only link between SH-5 and the project site is a narrow forest road which is part of forest land.
6	Facility for interconnection with transmission system for evacuation of Power	There are several high transmission lines already going over the project site. There is an ongoing effort to shift those transmission lines by the Banaras Hindu University and local administration.
7	Environmentally suitable, absence of sensitive areas and major settlements	Very good environmental conditions and ecologically very sensitive as only few patches of such forests are remaining. These areas should be disturbed as less as possible.

8	Availability of infrastructure facilities	There is no infrastructure suitable for setting up a thermal power plant including water and road.
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7. Taking Signatures by wrongly misleading people for job

A very serious issue observed by our team during the visit is that the company has engaged few local people in a job to get signatures from local villagers by misleading them to ensure job in the proposed power plant. We interacted with few of the people, and what we came to know is the last date of application was told to be 15th September, 2013. When we looked upon the application form it was nothing but a tactic to get as many signatures from local people in favour of the project. A photograph of the sample of the form which is been distributed as 'Job Application' Form is attached as Annexure A (colly). The job application form comes in three pages.

The translation of the first page of the form is as follows:

*"We residents of the district are very happy that in Village Dadri Khurd, Tappa 84, Pargana Kantit, Tahsil Sadar, District Mirzapur, Welspun Energy UP Private Limited is establishing a 1320 MW Thermal Power Plant. This is very happy moment for us and like dream come true that the state will have an industry which is becoming industry less. This will solve the electric problem, provide employment opportunities for unemployed and will also create self employment opportunities. We all wish for starting of this project as soon as possible, so that multi-dimensional development of Dadri Khurd and neighboring villages can happen. **We all are with the project plan, and whosoever becomes obstruction to the project, today or in future will together voice against him and will support the thermal power plant to be established by Welspun Energy U.P. Pvt. Ltd shoulder to shoulder.***

This is nothing but misleading people for getting support by giving greed of employment to poor people. This issue should be taken very seriously by EAC and project proponent should justify why they needed to put the said document in application letter.



Image 12: People outside project site who came to deposit the said 'Job Application Form'

The project is also blamed to acquire land with help of local property builders and powerful people at meager price by improper means. Farmers have shown opposition regarding the issue several times. It is blamed that the project proponent used local authorities as well to create atmosphere of fear to acquire lands. Few newspaper clippings are shown below.

ददरी खुर्द में स्थापित होने वाले वेलस्पन एनर्जी के खिलाफ राज्यपाल के नाम का ज्ञापन एडीएम को सौंपा ग्रामीणों ने प्रदर्शन कर जताया विरोध

मिर्जापुर | कार्यालय संवाददाता

जिले के सदर तहसील क्षेत्र के ददरी खुर्द में स्थापित होने वाले वेलस्पन एनर्जी कंपनी के 1320 मेगावाट बिजली प्लांट का विरोध होना शुरू हो गया है। बुधवार को ग्रामीणों और शहर के लोगों ने कंपनी के खिलाफ कलेक्ट्रेट में प्रदर्शन किया। साथ ही अपर जिलाधिकारी केएल तिवारी को राज्यपाल को संबोधित ज्ञापन सौंपा।

साथ ही चेलावनी दी कि कंपनी की मनमानी पर रोक नहीं लगती तो वे अनवरत विरोध प्रदर्शन के साथ ही आमरण अशन करने की विवश होंगे। प्रदर्शनकारियों ने आरोप लगाया कि कंपनी की ओर से किसानों को प्रताड़ित कर जमीन बर्नामा करवाया जा रहा है। जो किसान कंपनी या उसके लोगों के पक्ष में अपनी जमीन का बर्नामा नहीं कर रहा है उसके खिलाफ फर्जी मुकदमें पुलिस से मिलकर लदवाए जा रहे हैं। इसका उदाहरण एक ही वर्ष में दर्जन भर से अधिक लोगों पर दर्ज कराए गए मुकदमें



कलेक्ट्रेट पर वेलस्पन कम्पनी के विरोध में प्रदर्शन करते हिन्दुस्तान

हैं। जिन किसानों ने भय में आकर जमीन बर्नामा कर दिया उनके ऊपर से मुकदमें वापस ले लिए जा रहे हैं।

यदि कंपनी का यही रवैया रहा तो जिले में बगवत की स्थिति उत्पन्न हो जाएगी। फिर आम आदमी के अक्रोश को निर्बंधित कर पाना कठिन हो स्या है। प्रदर्शनकारियों ने यह भी कहा कि कारतकारों की कम भूमि का बर्नामा

लगाया आरोप

- कंपनी पर गलत तरीके से भूमि का बर्नामा कराने का आरोप
- राज्यपाल से हस्तक्षेप कर मामला सुलझाने की अपील

कराने के बाद अधिकारियों कर्मचारियों से मिलकर कामज पर अधिक दिख

राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी के बैनर तले वेलस्पन का समर्थन

मिर्जापुर। जिले के ददरी खुर्द में स्थापित होने वाले वेलस्पन एनर्जी कंपनी के पावर प्लांट का राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी के कार्यकर्ताओं ने समर्थन किया। कंपनी के विरोध में प्रदर्शन की सूचना मिलते ही राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी के नेता भी जिलाध्यक्ष दिलीप सिंह गहवरवार की अगुवाई में कलेक्ट्रेट पहुंच गए। पार्टी के लोगों ने कंपनी के कार्यों की प्रसंशा की। कहा कि वेलस्पन एनर्जी पहली कंपनी है कि पावर प्लांट लगाने के लिए मिर्जापुर को चुनी है। इसके पूर्व जितनी भी कंपनियां आईं वह सोनभद्र और मध्य प्रदेश में चली गईं। कंपनी के स्थापना से जिले के विकास में चार चांद लगेगे। साथ ही

यहां के बेरोजगारी की समस्या दूर होगी। कुछ लोग अपने स्वार्थ के चक्कर में कंपनी का विरोध कर रहे हैं। वह नहीं चाहते हैं कि यहां कंपनी स्थापित हो और जनता को लाभ पहुंचे। ऐसे लोगों की मंशा पूरी नहीं होने दी जाएगी। इसके लिए पार्टी के सिपाही हर कदम पर विरोधियों से मोर्चा लेने को तैयार खड़े रहेंगे। अंत में कार्यकर्ताओं ने एडीएम केएल तिवारी को ज्ञापन सौंपकर कंपनी को स्थापित करने में मदद करने की मांग की। इस मौके पर प्रदीप सिंह, अनीस सिंह, राधेश्याम, सतीश कुमार गुप्ता, सोहन गुप्ता, मनीष सिंह, दिनेश यादव, विभू कुमार मिश्र आदि मौजूद रहे।

दिया जा रहा है। किसानों को बर्बाद करके यहां स्थापित होने वाली कंपनी की मंशा कभी पूरी नहीं होने दी जाएगी। इसके लिए चाहे जिस स्तर की कुर्बानी देनी हो दी जाएगी। इस मौके पर कुमाकुमार दीक्षित,

दीपेन्द्र कुमार सिंह, विकास सिंह, अमरदीप सिंह, शिवसेवक पाण्डेय, शुभम सिंह, नरेश कुमार मिश्र, गौरव सिंह, बलराम, अविनाश, मनोज आदि मौजूद रहे।

Image 103: Hindustan, 23rd May, 2013

जनसंदेश टाइम्स

वाराणसी, गुरुवार, 23 मई 2013

वेलस्पन किसानों को कर रहा प्रताड़ित

कम दामों में ली जा रही किसानों की जमीन

मीरजापुर। वेलस्पन एनर्जी यूपी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड द्वारा ददरी खुर्द में जमीन खरीदने हेतु किये गये फर्जीवाड़ा व पुलिस की मिलीभगत से किसानों पर फर्जी मुकदमे लगाकर उनकी जमीन जबरजस्ती बर्नामा कराने के सम्बन्ध में राज्यपाल के नाम का ज्ञापन जिलाधिकारी को सौंपा। बृजेश प्रताप सिंह एवं राजेन्द्र कुमार सिंह ने ज्ञापन सौंपकर जनहित में मामले को जांच सीबीआई से कराने तथा किसानों के विरुद्ध दर्ज फर्जी मुकदमे को वापस लेने हेतु उचित कार्रवाई करने की मांग की। इस अवसर पर बृजेश प्रताप सिंह ने कहा कि वेलस्पन एनर्जी यूपी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड जनपद के ददरी खुर्द



कलेक्ट्रेट पर वेलस्पन कम्पनी के खिलाफ प्रदर्शन करते लोग

गांव में विद्युत परियोजना के अग्रदूतों के हेतु जमीन खरीद रही है। जमीन क्रय करने के नाम पर कम्पनी प्रतिनिधि कुक्कू टेक्कर स्थानीय हिस्ट्रीशीटर सुश्री सिंह व उनके दलालों द्वारा किसानों की जमीन अपने लोगों के नाम से अनैतिक दबाव बनाकर कानों कम दामों में खरीद कर

उसे उक्त कम्पनी को काफ़ी उरो दामों में बेचा गया।

जिसका लेन-देन कम्पनी व उक्त दलालों के खाते के माध्यम से किया गया है। उक्त लोगों द्वारा कई किसानों की जंगल फर्जी व्यक्तिओं को खड़ा कर जमीन का बर्नामा कराया गया है। कई

नामालिग एवं अनुसूचित जाति का किसानों के जमीन का बर्नामा विधि दंड से कराया गया है। उक्त कम्पनी द्वारा मूल कास्तकारों की जमीन उनके अंश से अधिक बर्नामा करा कर राजस्व कर्मचारियों के मिली भगत से अपना नामान्तरण करा कर विगत वर्ष के 11वें

महीने में कम्पनी का बाउन्ड्रीवाल दिखाते हुवे कृषी योग्य नहीं है घोषित करा दिया गया जब कि मौके पर न कोई बाउन्ड्रीवाल है न कोई अबादी अपितु भूमि कृषि योग्य है। वेलस्पन कम्पनी द्वारा अपनी अन्य 11 कम्पनीयों के नाम से उक्त भूभाग का बर्नामा कृपक दर करारि हुए स्टाम्प पेपर की भारी संख्या में जारी हुई। जिससे सरकार को भारी राजस्व की हानि हुई। भूमि अधिग्रहण पर रोक लगाने के बाद से तिजि कम्पनीयों के द्वारा किसानों से सीधे जमीने खरीदी जा रही है किन्तु जो किसान कम्पनी को उसके मुहनाये दामो पर जमीन देने को तैयार नहीं हुये स्थानीय पुलिस की मिलीभगत से उन किसानों को फर्जी मुकदमें में फसाने की धमकी देते हुए कम्पनी को जमीन देने के लिए बाध्य किया। प्रदर्शन के दौरान कान्ची संख्या में लोग उपस्थित रहे।

Image 14: Jansandesh Times, 23rd May, 2013

नौकरी के बहाने उल्लू सीधा कर रहा है वेलस्पन

शिवकुमार उपाध्याय

मि

जर्जपुर के ग्राम दादरी खुर्द गांव में प्रस्तावित वेलस्पन के निजी थर्मल पावर प्लांट को मंजूरी दिलवाने के लिए कंपनी अब इस हद तक गिर चुकी है कि इसने मडिहान और आसपास के गांव में नौकरी देने का झांसा देकर कुछ स्थानीय दलालों से इस प्रोजेक्ट के समर्थन में हस्ताक्षर लेने की नई चाल चली है। ये बात तब सामने आई, जब विध्य बचाओ संस्था बीएचयू बरकछा के दल ने यहां का दौरा किया और पाया कि वहां काफी संख्या में लोग आवेदन पत्र जमा करवा रहे हैं। बातचीत में पता चला कि स्थानीय दलालों ने गांव वालों को ये बताया है कि जो भी इस आवेदन पत्र को जमा कराएगा, उसे वेलस्पन की तरफ से नौकरी दी जाएगी। गरीबी की मार और कौड़ी के भाव अपनी जमीन खोने के बाद उन बेचारों के पास न अब खेत रहे और न ही कोई नौकरी। ऐसे में गांव वालों ने भी दलालों की बात मान कर आवेदन पत्र जमा करने पहुंच गए। किस्सा समझ में तब आया, जब दल ने इसमें लिखित शब्दों को पढ़ा। आवेदन पत्र की आड़ में इस परियोजना के समर्थन में गांव वालों के हस्ताक्षर लेने की गंदी साजिश मालूम पड़ी। आवेदन पत्र का पहला पन्ना सिर्फ परियोजना के बारे में खुशी और समर्थन देने की बात कही गई है और इसी पन्ने में हस्ताक्षर भी लिए जा रहे हैं जिसके शब्द कुछ इस प्रकार हैं—हम सभी इस परियोजना के साथ हैं और इस परियोजना में बाधक बनने वाले किसी भी व्यक्ति के विरुद्ध हम सभी सामूहिक रूप से परियोजना के साथ आवाज बुलंद करना चाहते हैं और कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर वेलस्पन एनर्जी यूपी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड की तरफ से स्थापित किए जाने वाले तापीय परियोजना के निर्माण में सहायक बनना चाहते हैं। विध्य बचाओ टीम के सदस्य एवं पर्यावरणविद देवदित्यो सिन्हा ने बताया कि इस तापीय परियोजना की स्थापना के लिए गंगा से चार लाख लीटर पानी प्रति घंटा पंप करके अपर खजुरी बांध में जमा किया जाएगा और फिर इसका इस्तेमाल इस परियोजना में किया जाएगा। ये बात बहुत हास्यास्पद भी है क्योंकि जहां गरीब किसान खेती के लिए पानी के अभाव में जमीनें बेच चुके हैं, उनके लिए सरकार ने आज तक कोई सुविधा उपलब्ध नहीं कराई, वहीं इस परियोजना के लिए पानी उपलब्ध करवाने में सरकार पूरी मदद कर रही है। इस परियोजना से गांव वालों को कोई फायदा नहीं होगा, बल्कि परियोजना के आते ही खजुरी बांध का पानी पीने और खेती के लायक नहीं रह जाएगा। हालत देख कर लग रहा है कि राज्य सरकार सिर्फ उद्योगपतिओं के विकास को ही विकास मानती है, अगर ऐसा न होता तो बेलहटा और मडिहान के किसानों को खेती करने में कोई परेशानी नहीं आती और न ही इन्हें नौकरी करने के लिए किसी विदेशी कंपनी के आगे भीख मांगना पड़ता। विध्य बचाओ सदस्य परियोजना स्थल के जांच के वक्त मौजूद थे। उन्होंने पाया कि कंपनी ने सरकार को जमा कराए दस्तावेज में जहां वन भूमि न होने की बात कही, वहीं जांच में सामने आया कि स्थान तक पहुंचने का रास्ता वन विभाग का है। यही नहीं, परियोजना स्थल के आसपास वन भूमि है। इस परिस्थिति में पर्यावरण मंजूरी के अलावा वन विभाग की मंजूरी की भी आवश्यकता है। एक ओर जहां इस फुटपाथ पर जाना मना है, वहीं इसकी चौड़ाई भी इतनी कम है कि एक छोटी गाड़ी भी नहीं निकल सकती। ऐसे में परियोजना के बनने के बाद वनों को नुकसान पहुंचेगा। बीएचयू बरकछा में पर्यावरण के शिक्षक डॉ. अनिल कुमार पाठेय के अनुसार इस परियोजना के मंजूरी से सबसे ज्यादा नुकसान बीएचयू परिसर को पड़ेगा। अपर खजुरी बांध का पानी ही लोअर खजुरी बांध में आता है, जिसे पूरा परिसर जल आपूर्ति के लिए इस्तेमाल करता है। इस परियोजना के आते ही स्थानीय जल स्रोतों पर भी प्रभाव पड़ेगा और इन्हें इस्तेमाल में लाना असंभव सा हो जाएगा। चिमनी से निकलने वाले धुएं का असर भी परिसर पर पड़ेगा और छात्रों के स्वास्थ्य पर बहुत बुरा असर पड़ेगा। यही स्थिति आसपास के गांवों में भी होगी।

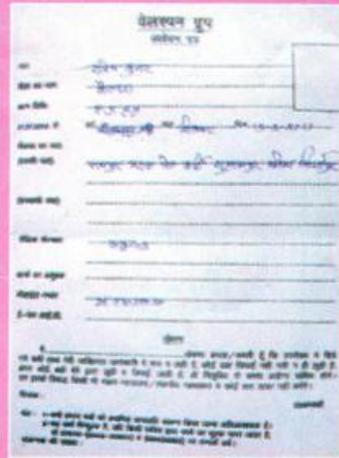


Image 15: Chauthi Duniya Weekly (21-27 October, 2013)

8. Few other important issues related to the thermal power project

- i) Banaras Hindu University and local people is strongly against the project.

Banaras Hindu University, which has its south camps very close to the project site has already showed its concern to Ministry of Environment and Forests regarding health impacts on students and impact on drinking water if the project comes. There are already several incidences of local opposition and demonstrations against setting up the power plant. A copy of the letter from BHU to MoEF is attached as 'Annexure B'.

- ii) No details provided where the wastewater will be discharged

As per the EIA report, it is written that the wastewater will be utilized within the project area and excess wastewater will be discharged in a neighboring nalla.

Practically no power plant can achieve the zero-waste water discharge and significant amount of water laden with ash and high temperature goes into local water body. Also, it must be noted that the project site falls in the drainage area of several rivers. River Khajuri, which is the main river in the region, is 6-7 Km from the project site. River Jamithwa is 1.3 Km, River Pahiti is 3.5 Km and River Jogiadar is 2 Km from the project site.

As it is evident from situation of all thermal power plants in India, thermal pollution and ash disposal is huge problem. Combating both of them is practically not achievable in any circumstances. These issues are common in any thermal power plants.

- iii) The Water Source for January to May is still not clear

As per CWC condition and pointed out by EAC in its 70th Meeting, the proposed project must ensure water availability for the period of January to May as it prevents them to use water from Ganga during the said period of time. Instead of pointed out by EAC, the project proponent plans to create a temporary reservoir which storage capacity of 4 days, the water source for the reservoir will be again Upper Khajuri Dam. In such case, where is the application of EAC suggestion? And how come the construction of a reservoir for 4 days will solve the problem of water for 5 months? Creating a dam inside the project area is not going to solve the actual issue until a new alternate source of water is developed.

The Expert Appraisal Committee of Coal and Thermal Projects in its 70th meeting has already raised this issue in its 70th meeting and asked for some alternate water resource. EAC clearly asked the project proponent to develop its own water harvesting structure pointing out that Upper Khajuri dam is very old built dam and using it for any other purpose other than drinking and irrigation will create conflict of interest. EAC clearly stated that the project proponent shall

ensure that the power project is self-sufficient in its water requirement for which necessary water conservation practices shall be done.

iv) Coal Source still not defined

The total coal requirement for the proposed plant will be 6.74 MTPA as per the EIA report. Regarding the source of coal it is written in the EIA report that 'the required coal will be sourced from proposed nearby coal mines such as NCL / SECL /CCL as per the availability through railway line.' It will create tremendous amount of mobile sources of air pollution from vehicles. Impact of coal dust will have larger impact on the human health and forests up to several kilometers.

EAC has also raised the issue of uncertainty of coal availability in its 70th meeting held on 26th March, 2013, when the project proponent talked for importing coal from Indonesia due to lack of domestic coal. As there is no agreement on coal source till now, the entire justification of setting up a thermal power plant at this area is totally mindless.

Team Members for Site Inspection:

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2. Shiva Kumar Upadhyaya, Senior Journalist, Vindhyan Ecology and Natural History Foundation
3. Dr. Anil Kumar Pandey, Assistant Professor, Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development, Banaras Hindu University
4. Pankaj Kumar, Research Associate, Vindhyan Ecology and Natural History Foundation
5. Vivek Gupta and Pravin Ram. Volunteers, Vindhyan Ecology and Natural History Foundation

Acknowledgements:

1. Prof. A.S. Raghubanshi, Director, Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development, Banaras Hindu University
2. Prof. Guruprasad Singh, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University
3. Dr. Sarita Kumar, Associate Professor, Zoology, Acharya Narendra Dev College, University of Delhi
4. Dr. Anil Kumar Pandey, Assistant Professor, Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development, Banaras Hindu University
5. Dr. Shashibhal Pandey, Associate Professor, Zoology, Mumbai University
6. Ajai Swamee, Head, Programs and Operations, Vindhyan Ecology and Natural History Foundation
7. Navendu Nidhan, Research Associate, Vindhyan Ecology and Natural History Foundation
8. Manoj Patel, Research Coordinator, Vindhyan Ecology and Natural History Foundation



Image 13: Vindhya Bachao site inspection team at the project site



श्रीमान् जी,

हम जनपद/प्रदेशवासीयों को इस बात का अत्यन्त हर्ष है कि ग्राम ददरीखुर्द, तप्पा 84, परगना कंठित, तहसील सदर, जिला मीरजापुर में वेलस्पन एनर्जी यूपी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड द्वारा 1320मेगावाट की तापीय विद्युत परियोजना की स्थापना की जा रही है, यह मीरजापुर जनपद व यहाँ के निवासियों के लिए अत्यन्त खुशी की बात है कि उद्योगविहीन हो रहे मीरजापुर जनपद में उद्योग की स्थापना का सपना साकार होने जा रहा है, एवं प्रदेश में व्याप्त विद्युत संकट का समाधान होगा वही पर परियोजना की स्थापना से जहाँ जनपद व क्षेत्र के बेरोजगारों को रोजगार मिलेगा साथ ही साथ लोगों को स्व-रोजगार के भी तमाम अवसर प्राप्त होंगे। हम सभी परियोजना के शीघ्र प्रारम्भ होने की कामना करते हैं, ताकि जल्दी ही मीरजापुर जनपद एवं ग्राम ददरीखुर्द के आस पास के ग्रामों का चातुर्दिक विकास हो सके, उक्त के बाबत हम सभी परियोजना के साथ हैं, तथा परियोजना में बाधक बनने वाले किसी भी व्यक्ति के विरुद्ध आज व भविष्य में हम सभी सामूहिक रूप से परियोजना के साथ अपनी आवाज बुलन्द करना चाहते हैं, और कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर वेलस्पन एनर्जी यूपी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड द्वारा स्थापित किये जाने वाली तापीय विद्युत परियोजना के निर्माण में सहायक बनना चाहते हैं।

क्र.स.	नाम	पिता का नाम	पता	मो.नं०	हस्ताक्षर/अंगूठा
1	संतोष कुमार	कैलाश	रामपुर मडवा	9651031730	संतोष कुमार
2	रजेश कुमार	रघुवर	रामपुर मडवा	✓	रा. जे. रा. कुमार
3	सोहन शर्मा	जोगेन्द्र शर्मा	जोगेन्द्र शर्मा रामपुर ठाकुर	✓	सोहन शर्मा
4	च्यौर लाल	श्री	रामपुर मडवा	✓	च्यौर लाल
5	रामनन्दन	श्री	रामपुर मडवा	✓	रामनन्दन
6	जोगेन्द्र शर्मा	कुलर	रामपुर ठाकुर	8756573323	जोगेन्द्र शर्मा

:- योग्यता क्षेत्र :-

- 1-शैक्षिक योग्यता : कक्षा 8वीं, 10वीं, 12वीं पास एवं आई.टी.आई. (आई.टी.आई. प्रशिक्षित को वरीयता दी जायेगी।)
- नियुक्ति के समय उम्र : न्यूनतम 18साल तथा अधिकतम-28साल।
- आवश्यक प्रमाण पत्र : उम्र का प्रमाण पत्र, शैक्षिक योग्यता का प्रमाण पत्र, मतदाता पहचान पत्र, पैनकार्ड, आदि, और आठ फोटोग्राफ्स नियुक्ति के समय।

नियुक्त किये गये अभ्यर्थी, ट्रेनी के रूप में भर्ती किये जायेंगे और उनको निम्नांकित लाभ दिया जायेगा

2-आर्थिक लाभ एवं अन्य लाभ :-

- 1- मासिक आय अप्रशिक्षित ट्रेनी के लिये 5372/-प्रतिमाह की होगी।
- 2- कम्पनी द्वारा आवासीय सुविधा दी जायेगी, जिसमें एक कमरे में तीन अभ्यर्थी रहेंगे, जिसका शुल्क 150/-रूपया प्रति अभ्यर्थी प्रतिमाह देय होगा।
- 3- अभ्यर्थी को फैंक्ट्री से आवास तक आने-जाने के लिए बस की सुविधा दी जायेगी, जिसका टोकन शुल्क 100/-प्रतिव्यक्ति प्रतिमाह देय होगा।
- 4- अभ्यर्थी को किफायती भोजन उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा, जिसका शुल्क 11/-रूपये प्रति समय प्रति व्यक्ति देना होगा।
- 5- अभ्यर्थी को सुसज्जित मेडिकल सेन्टर सुविधा प्रदान की जायेगी।
- 6- पूर्ण सुसज्जित ट्रेनिंग, योग्य टेक्नीकल ट्रेनर द्वारा प्रदान किया जायेगा।

3-अभ्यर्थियों की ट्रेनिंग के बाद स्थायी हो जाने के उपरान्त निम्न सुविधाएं प्रदान की जायेगी-

- 1- अभ्यर्थी के कार्य क्षमता की गुणवत्ता के आधार पर ही ट्रेनिंग के उपरान्त एक साल के पश्चात ट्रेनी को कन्फर्म किया जायेगा।
- 2- कार्य निष्पादन में वृद्धि के आधार पर हर तीन महीने पर मासिक आय में 300/-रूपये की वृद्धि उनकी योग्यता के अनुसार की जा सकती है।
- 3- प्रति नियुक्त अभ्यर्थी को दो जोड़ी यूनिफार्म हर वर्ष दिया जायेगा।
- 4- विशेष इन्सेटिव (उपस्थिति और वर्नर योजना) कम्पनी के नीति के अनुसार दिया जायेगा।
- 5- सरकारी नीति के अनुसार सभी संवैधानिक लाभ (पी.एफ., बोनस, ग्रेच्युटी, छुट्टी आदि) सभी इम्प्लोईज को दिया जायेगा।
- 6- सामाजिक सुरक्षा एवं उससे सम्बन्धित अन्य लाभ प्रदान की जायेगी।

नोट :-

ट्रेनिंग के लिए नियुक्त अभ्यर्थियों को उनके निवास से नियुक्ति स्थान तक पहुँचने की व्यवस्था व किराया अभ्यर्थी को स्वयं करना होगा।

वेलस्पन ग्रुप
आवेदन पत्र

नाम संतोष कुमार

पिता का नाम के.लाल

जन्म तिथि १.5.88

01.07.2013 से वर्ष १५-११-१९ माह सितंबर दिन 15-1-2013

निवास का पता (स्थायी पता) रामपुर मठवा पेठ वडी गुलामपुर नीला मिनापुर

(अस्थायी पता) _____

शैक्षिक योग्यता कक्षा-९

कार्य का अनुभव _____

मोबाईल नम्बर 98 51031730

ई-मेल आई.डी. _____

घोषणा

मैं _____ घोषणा करता/करती हूँ कि उपरोक्त मे दिये गये सभी तथ्य मेरी व्यक्तिगत जानकारी मे सच व सही है, कोई बात छिपाई नहीं गयी न ही झूठी है. अगर कोई बातें मेरे द्वारा झूठी व छिपाई जाती है, तो नियुक्ति के समय अयोग्य घोषित होंगे। हम इसके विरुद्ध किसी भी सक्षम न्यायालय/स्थानीय न्यायालय मे कोई वाद दायर नहीं करेंगे।

दिनांक :

ह0अग्यर्थी

नोट : 1-सभी प्रमाण पत्रों की प्रमाणित छायाप्रति संलग्न किया जाना अतिआवश्यक है।
2-यह फार्म नि:शुल्क है, यदि किसी व्यक्ति द्वारा फार्म का शुल्क मागा जाता है, तो तत्काल-(05442-253002) व (9984588883) पर सम्पर्क करें।
संलग्नक की संख्या :

काशी हिन्दू
विश्वविद्यालय



BANARAS HINDU
UNIVERSITY

कुलसचिव कार्यालय
सामान्य प्रशासन

Office of the Registrar
General Administration

184

Dated: 18th September, 2013
SPEED POST

Ref.No.R/GAD/Misc./116/

The Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodi Road
New Delhi-110003.

Subject: Request to review the proposed site of 1320 MW Coal based Thermal Power Project located at Dadari Khurd Village, District-Mirzapur.

Dear Sir,

I would like to inform you that a Thermal Power Project with capacity 1320 MW Coal based is going to be installed at nearby village-Dadari Khurd in District-Mirzapur which is 10 Km. away from Rajiv Gandhi South Campus of BHU at Barkachha. It is pointed out that the Rajiv Gandhi South Campus is constituent of BHU having running more than 20 Self-Financing undergraduate and postgraduate Courses and other academic activities. A good number of students, teaching and non-teaching staff and their family members are residing in the Campus.

In this connection, we have received a letter of General Secretary, a NGO- "Vindhya Environmental Society" and representation of resident of that area. Further, we have also examined by our Faculty Member who belongs to field of Environmental Science & Technology and he has submitted an Environment Impact Assessment Report of 1320 MW about proposed Coal based Thermal Power Project, which are self explanatory (Copy enclosed).

It is needless to mention here that the negative impact of this project may adversely affect their health of students, teachers and other staff residing in the Rajiv Gandhi South Campus. We would like to highlight the fact that entire drinking water supply of the RGSC is from lower Khajuri Dam which is fed by upper Khajuri Dam. Any industrial activity in the upper Khajuri Dam will jeopardize our water supply.

Keeping in view of the above fact, I request you to kindly consider for reviewing the shifting of place much ahead from the premises of Rajiv Gandhi South Campus, Barkachha so that the ambiance and environment of this area may keep intact.

Looking forward for an earliest positive step from you in the matter.

Encl: as above

Yours faithfully,

Lejyadaw
18.9.2013

REGISTRAR

; of date: 18.09.2013

Ref.No.R/GAD/Misc./116/ 27521-524
Copy forwarded for information & necessary action to:

1. The Officer-on-Special Duty, RGSC, Barkachha
2. The Dy.Registrar & Secretary to the Vice-Chancellor, BHU
3. Mr.Pradeep Kumar Shukla, General Secretary, Vindhya Environmental Society, Registered Office Triveni Campus Block-1, Village-Barewan, Post-Bhareta (Chunar), Distt.- Mirzapur.

Rshukla
DY.REGISTRAR (GAD)



OK

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W : www.bhu.ac.in