

PUBLIC HEARING REPORT OF PASSENGER ROPEWAY AT TSOMGO LAKE, TSOMGO – EAST SIKKIM



PREPARED BY:



STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD – SIKKIM
DEPARTMENT OF FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
DEORALI – GANGTOK

2016

FOREWORD

The Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation has proposed to construct a Passenger Ropeway at Tsomgo Lake in Tsomgo, East Sikkim with Private Sector participation on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis. The proposed project site is 38 Kms from the capital city Gangtok. The project envisages construction of two ends namely LTP and UTP of ropeway systems for boarding/de-boarding of passengers.

The project had already been granted Environmental Clearance from SEIAA, Sikkim and the project was started and was on the verge of completion.

But, a legal notice was served by Shri Arunav Tewari, Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Mr. Pradeep Kumar Mittal, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi that Environmental Clearance was issued on basis of Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, instead of the notification no. S.O. 3067 (E) dated 1st December 2009 according to which clearance from Ministry is required. The SEIAA examined the issue and suspended the Environmental Clearance.

The ropeway is developed from the Southern side of the Changu Lake to the hill top. The land is a forest land, which falls within the Kyongnosla range. The project is a 625 m long aerial ropeway, covering an area of 8072 sq. m. (including Lower Terminal Station, Upper Terminal Station & ropeway corridor). The Lower Terminal Point (LTP) has been developed in south to the lake on right side of the existing Alpine Café and the Upper Terminal Point (UTP) has been developed on the hill top from where the picturesque view of Changu Lake can be rejoiced.

The project being an Aerial Ropeway falls under the activity 7 (g) of the EIA notification, 2006 and is a designated Project as per schedule and falls under category A due to the following two conditions of EIA Notification and its amendments:

- I. The project site is located at an altitude above 1000 m (as per the S.O. 3067(E) dated 1st December 2009).
- II. The project site falls within 10 km radius of the Kyongnosla Wildlife Sanctuary (as per General Condition).

Aerial ropeway is a system in which men or material are suspended from a rope in cabins, chairs, buckets or cable cars and are hauled by another rope from one point to another. The ropeway system proposed to be used in this project is Mono-cable Fixed Grip (Jig Back) system. Fixed grip installations are the types of ropeways whose grip is permanently fixed and tight on the rope and is not taken off the rope in the station. As the sets pass through the stations the rope speed immediately slows and finally it comes to a halt while the passengers can de-board and board at station.

Government of Sikkim (Tourism & Civil Aviation Department) in order to implement a project under the tourism infrastructure development programme requested M/s Conveyor & Ropeway Services Pvt. Ltd. (CRSPL), a specialized engineering organization engaged in concept development, feasibility study, design, manufacture, supply, erection, commissioning, operation and maintenance of Aerial Ropeway System, for both Material and Passenger transportation to undertake detailed Feasibility and Project Viability Analysis for establishment of passenger ropeway to the site. The license has been granted to M/s Conveyor & Ropeway Services Pvt. Ltd. (CRSPL) for a period of 20 years from the date of start of the commercial operation.

The Government of India vide notification S.O. No. 3067 (E) dated 1st December 2009 has made public hearing mandatory for aerial ropeways. Hence this public hearing second of its kind for aerial ropeways in the State of Sikkim was conducted by State Pollution Control Board - Sikkim on 24th March 2016 at Tsomgo Lake Taxi Stand Complex, Tsomgo, East Sikkim.

The views, comments, suggestions and the observations of the public of the area who have a plausible stake in the environment aspects of the project activities have been incorporated in this Report.

The Report, I hope shall be of great help for the Project Developers and the Management Authorities for keeping necessary mitigative measures considering the larger interest of the Public, their feelings and the safeguard of the environment.

(C. S. Rao, IFS)

Member Secretary

State Pollution Control Board - Sikkim.

INTRODUCTION

In fulfillment of the requirement of the Gazette notification S.O. No. 1533 (E) dated 14th September 2006, the State Pollution Control Board, Sikkim published notices in one national daily “Hindustan Times”, “Samay Dainik” (Regional Vernacular Daily) and “Sikkim Express” (Regional English Daily) inviting suggestions, views, comments & objections from persons including bonafide residents, environmental groups and others who have a plausible stake in the environmental aspects of the project or activity. The Public hearing was accordingly conducted by the State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim on 24th March 2016 at Tsomgo Lake Taxi Stand Complex, Tsomgo, East Sikkim for the proposed Passenger Ropeway at Tsomgo Lake, East Sikkim.

The public hearing was held in the Tsomgo Lake Taxi Stand Complex, Tsomgo, East Sikkim and was attended by Hon’ble Chairperson, SPCB-Sikkim Smt. Kalawati Subba, Shri R. D. Bhutia, Chief Engineer, Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Shri Ragul K., IAS, Addl. District Collector, East District, Shri C. S. Rao, Member Secretary, SPCB-Sikkim, Dr. Gopal Pradhan, Principal Scientist SPCB-Sikkim, Shri B.P. Kharel, Addl. Chief Engineer, Tourism & Civil Aviation Deptt., Shri Sourav Lepcha, Divisional Engineer, Tourism & Civil Aviation Deptt. Shri Anil Kumar Pradhan, Asstt. Engineer, Tourism & Civil Aviation Deptt., Shri Ranjan Rai, Asstt. Environmental Engineer, SPCB-Sikkim, Smt. K. Z. Bhutia, Asstt. Scientific Officer, SPCB-Sikkim, officials of SPCB-Sikkim, Tourism and Civil Aviation Deptt. and public from Thegu, Changu, Chipsu, 15th Mile J.N. Road villages etc.

The public hearing started at 11.00 am at Tsomgo Lake Taxi Stand Complex, East Sikkim, with the introductory note and welcome speech by Dr. Gopal Pradhan, Principal Scientist, State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim. In his introductory speech, he briefed the gathering about the mandatory requirement to hold such public hearing meetings as per the new “Environment Impact Assessment Notification” brought out by the Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India on 14th September 2006. He further informed that, the EIA Notification of 2006 had authorized the State Pollution Control Board to conduct such public hearings for any project where the environment is likely to be affected. Further, he explained, this kind of exercise provides suggestions and approaches for proper implementation of the project, provides for greater transparency and peoples participation in making the project successful. He also informed that, all the requirements have been fulfilled in informing and educating the people about this public hearing. He told the gathering that, the Public Notices had been brought out in one National English Daily (Hindustan Times), one English local paper (Sikkim Express) and one regional vernacular daily (Samay Dainik). The Executive Summary, DPR, the EIA and EMP of the proposed project was made available in the offices of the District Collector (Gangtok), East Sikkim, State Pollution Control Board, Deorali, Gangtok – East Sikkim, office of the Zilla Adakshya East, Gangtok, office of the District Industries Centre, East and Executive Summary of the project and EIA was displayed in the website www.sikenvis.nic.in. Dr. Gopal Pradhan, Principal Scientist also welcomed all the dignitaries and the people present on the occasion to put forth their valuable suggestions, comments, views, observation in the public hearing session.

This was followed by a presentation about the project by Shri Rohit Sahu, M/s Conveyor & Ropeway Services Pvt. Ltd. (CRSPL) with introduction and warm welcome to all the people present on the occasion. He further informed the public about the project

cost (Rs. 9.0 Crore), the length of the ropeway project and the process of implementation of the project. This was followed by presentation on environment impact assessment and environment management plan prepared by M/s Perfect Enviro Solution, New Delhi, who had undertaken the studies. After this detail discussion on the project components followed wherein people who are likely to be affected, i.e., general public and NGOs, took part in public hearing discussion. The discussion session lasted for almost one and half hours.

This was followed by the remarks on the public hearing proceeding by Shri C.S. Rao, IFS, Member Secretary, SPCB-Sikkim. Finally, the whole proceeding came to conclusion with wrap up speech by Shri Ragul K., IAS, Addl. DC. East who is also the Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel after discussion with the panel member Shri C. S. Rao, IFS, Member Secretary, SPCB-Sikkim. He concluded his speech by declaring that the public hearing was very successful and everybody welcomed the proposal. The programme ended with vote of thanks by Shri Ranjan Rai, Asstt. Environmental Engineer, SPCB-Sikkim.

PROJECT DISCRPTION:

Tsomgo Lake or Changu Lake is perched within the great Indian Himalayas and is one of the famous and important tourist destinations in Sikkim. The water of the lake comes from the melting of the snow of its surrounding mountains, which is why, this lake never dries up. The lake is highly revered by the local Buddhists and Hindus as a sacred lake.

The lake is about 1 km long, 15 m deep and is oval in shape. This azure blue lake remains completely frozen during winter months upto mid April during which visitors get an opportunity to experience snowfall. In late spring, the lake is surrounded with wild flowers, which create a riot of colours which includes the rhododendrons, blue and yellow poppies, various species of primulas and irises.

The lake is also home to Brahmini Ducks and a favourite stopover to other species of migratory birds. There is also a small temple dedicated to Lord Shiva built at the lakeside.

Changu Lake is shrouded in myths and legends. It is said that in ancient time, the Lamas (Buddhist Saints) used to predict the future by observing the lake's colour. If the water of the lake had a dark tinge, they predicted the future to be dark and gloomy, full of unrest. The faith-healers of Sikkim, popularly known as Jhakhris also visit this lake during Guru Purnima to offer prayers.

The main objective of the proposed installation is to provide a facility to the Changu Lake tourists to visit the mountain top and adore the panoramic scenery of the surrounding area while experiencing the ecstatic bird eye view of the surrounding greeneries and the lake.

The other objectives of the project include:

- I. To promote tourism in the state of Sikkim.
- II. To facilitate the Government of Sikkim for generating added revenue to the state.

The project is a 625 m long ropeway, covering an area of 8072 sq m of the Kyongnosal range. The Lower Terminal Point (LTP) has been developed in south to the lake on right side of the existing Alpine Café and the Upper Terminal Point (UTP) has been developed on the hill top from where the picturesque view of Changu lake can be rejoiced.

The project had already been granted Environmental Clearance from SEIAA, Sikkim and the construction was started and project was on the verge of completion. But, the EC was then suspended by SEIAA due to the legal notice served against the project that stated Environmental Clearance was issued on the basis of EIA Notification , 2006, instead of the notification no. S.O. 3067 (E) dated 1st December 2009 according to which clearance from Ministry is required as the altitude of site is above 1000 m. Hence the construction work has been stopped since 2013.

The project is a 625 m long alignment which stretches from Southern side of the Changu lake to the Southern hill top. The area is surrounded by dense forest and the Himalayas. The site is at a distance of approx. 38 km from the Gangtok city in West direction and approx. 17 km from Nathula boarder in East direction.

The project envisages construction of two ends namely LTP and UTP of Ropeway Systems for boarding/de-boarding of passengers.

Presently, there is no railway line in the state. Nearest railhead is New Jalpaiguri in West Bengal. Similarly, so far there is no airport in the State. Nearest airport

is at Bagdogra in West Bengal. There is a skeleton helicopter service between Bagdogra and Gangtok (Sikkim). Two major rivers Teesta and Rangit flow through the state but are not navigable and as such inland water transport has practically no role. Roads are the only means of getting to and within the state. They are a critical input to the growth of all sectors.

Existing Infrastructure – At Hill Top (UTP):

No infrastructure is available at the hill top. Only the upper terminal of the ropeway has been constructed to facilitate the visitors of Changu lake to enjoy the enchanting landscape view of the surrounding area.

At Changu Lake (LTP):

- The Changu lake is connected by the metalled Gangtok – Nathula highway (J.N. Marg).
- No accommodation is available at or near Changu lake, the visitors has to stay at Gangtok. There are small rustic markets, shopping complexes and small restaurants near the lake. Few army camps also exist near site. Electric poles are also present.
- The main sources of water in the area are spring water and water of the lake.
- Near LTP, there are two government parking areas available out of which one is being used and the other is being developed. An army helipad is also available.

Proposed Infrastructure – At Hill Top (UTP):

Ropeway Tower and Terminal Station (boarding & de-boarding, control room, store room, first aid counter, waiting room, toilets).

At Changu Lake (LTP):

- Ropeway Tower and Terminal Station (boarding & de-boarding, MCC control room, Administration block, toilets).
- Waiting room
- Public convenience facilities
- Basic infrastructural facilities (sewage system, drinking water, medical facilities, electricity, telecommunication, etc.).

Existing Land Use:

Total site selected for the development of LTP and UTP including ropeway corridor for the proposed ropeway project falls under the Kyongnosla Range. Mainly the land use is forest cover. However, agricultural, built up, barren land, roads and trek path and water bodies, river/canal also exists.

Proposed Land Use:

For the development of ropeway, 0.8327 hectares of the forest land has been acquired for. The construction of terminal stations, line towers and the ropeway corridor has been carried out on an area of 8072 sq. m (0.80 ha).

- Area required for lower terminal station, Kadukhal is 1200 sq. m.
- Area required for upper terminal station, Surkanda Devi Temple is 1755 sq. m.
- Area required for ropeway corridor is 5117 sq. m.

The project was started in 2011. The entire ropeway project has been developed upto 95% and is at the verge of completion. It shall take about 1 year to start commercial operations after the grant of all statutory clearances.

The cost of project exclusive of land cost is estimated to be about Rs. 9 crores.

The Government of India vide notification S.O. No. 1533 (E) dated 14th September 2006 has made public hearing mandatory for projects prior to its commencement. Hence, this public hearing second of its kind in the State of Sikkim (for passenger ropeway project) was conducted by State Pollution Control Board - Sikkim on 24th March 2016 at 11.00 a.m. at Changu Lake Taxi Stand Complex, Changu, East Sikkim.

The views, comments, suggestions and the observations of the public who have a plausible stake in the environment aspects of the project activities have been incorporated in this report.

PASSENGER ROPEWAY AT TSOMGO LAKE, TSOMGO, EAST SIKKIM.

SALIENT FEATURES OF ROPEWAY SYSTEM:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Description
1.	Place	Changu Lake
2.	District	East of Sikkim
3.	State	Sikkim
4.	Lower Terminal Station – Latitude (Near Changu lake)	27°22'26.44" N
5.	Lower Terminal Station – Longitude (Near Changu lake)	88°45'28.42" E
6.	Lower Terminal Station – Elevation (Near Changu lake)	3764 m
7.	Upper Terminal Station – Latitude (Hill top)	27°22'7.10" N
8.	Upper Terminal Station – Longitude (Hill top)	88°45'28.10" E
9.	Upper Terminal Station – Elevation (Hill top)	3994 m
10.	Road	NH 31 A, Adjacent. Gangtok is connected by road and can be reached via private buses, jeeps and taxis.
11.	Helicopter Service	Tourism department operates an 5/8 seater Helicopter service between Bagdogra and Gangtok.
12.	Project Total Area	8072 sq m (0.80 ha)
13.	Capacity	800 PPH
14.	Technology	Mono Cable Continuously Circulating Gondola system
15.	Cost of Project	Rs. 9 Crores
16.	Project Length	625 m
17.	Level Difference	230 m (Approx.)
18.	No. of Gondolas	20 Nos. (Up & Down)
19.	No. of Trips/Hr.	Approx. 10 nos. round trip per hour
20.	Cabin capacity	6 seats
21.	Estimated Capital Cost on EMP	Rs. 87.5 lakhs

22.	Source of power	Power Department, Government of Sikkim
23.	Power requirement	150 kW
24.	DG Sets	1 x 150 kVA
25.	Water Requirement	101 KLD
26.	Waste Water Generation	92 KLD
27.	STP Capacity	2 STPs of 55 KLD each
28.	Total Solid Waste Generated	967 kg/day



STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD-SIKKIM
DEPARTMENT OF FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
DEORALI, GANGTOK.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Sikkim in order to promote tourism, in the State proposes to install a Passenger Ropeway at Tsomgo Lake, Gangtok, East Sikkim. The Salient features of the Ropeway project are as under:

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE PASSENGER ROPEWAY PROJECT:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Description
1.	Place	Changu Lake
2.	District	East of Sikkim
3.	State	Sikkim
4.	Lower Terminal Station – Latitude (Near Changu lake)	27°22'26.44" N
5.	Lower Terminal Station – Longitude (Near Changu lake)	88°45'28.42" E
6.	Lower Terminal Station – Elevation (Near Changu lake)	3764 m
7.	Upper Terminal Station – Latitude (Hill top)	27°22'7.10" N
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10.	Road	NH 31 A, Adjacent. Gangtok is connected by road and can be reached via private buses, jeeps and taxis.
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12.	Project Total Area	8072 sq m (0.80 ha)
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22.	Source of power	Power Department, Government of Sikkim
23.	Power requirement	150 kW
24.	DG Sets	1 x 150 kVA
25.	Water Requirement	101 KLD
26.	Waste Water Generation	92 KLD
27.	STP Capacity	2 STPs of 55 KLD each
28.	Total Solid Waste Generated	967 kg/day

Whereas by notification of the Govt. of India in the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India No. S.O. 1533 (E) dated 14th September 2006 issued under sub-section (1) and clause V of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 read with clause (d) of sub-rule (3) of Rule 5 of Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and in suppression of the notification no. S.O. 60 (E) dated 27th January 1994 as made mandatory under part II, section 7, sub-section 3 dated 14th September 2006, the State Pollution Control Board is required to conduct Public Hearing in the interest of the public for preparing recommendations based on the technical assessment of documents and data furnished by the Project Authorities for obtaining necessary environmental clearance from MoEF, Govt. of India. Therefore notice is hereby given to all concerned persons, having a plausible stake in the environment aspects of the project or activity and to provide responses in writing or by participating in the public hearing to be conducted on 24th March 2016 at Changu Lake, East Sikkim at

11.00 A.M. onwards. Any person having plausible stake in the environmental aspects of the project or activity can submit their responses before the hearing date which may be addressed to the Member-Secretary, State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim, Department of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management, Govt. of Sikkim, Deorali, Gangtok. Further access to the details of the project/executive summary, has been made available in the web-site www.sikenvis.nic.in / www.spCBSikkim.org and at the offices of the State Pollution Control Board- Sikkim, Deorali, Gangtok, Office of the District Collector (East) Gangtok, District Industry Office, Gangtok, East Sikkim and Zilla Parisad Bhawan, Gangtok, East Sikkim.

Sd/-
Member Secretary,
State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim
Department of Forest, Env. & W/L Management
Government of Sikkim
Deorali – Gangtok.

DISCUSSION

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

<p>Q.1. Due to the implementation of the ropeway project our yak riding business will decrease, because yak is the only source of our livelihood. What is your opinion about this?</p> <p>Shri Phurba Sherpa, Chipsu village</p>	<p>Ans. There shall be no decrease in the yak riding business due to the implementation of the ropeway project because Changu lake is the most popular tourist spot in Sikkim, so when the project comes in operation there will be more flow of tourists, and at the same time they will also enjoy yak rides.</p> <p>Shri R.D. Bhutia, Chief Engineer, Tourism Department.</p>
<p>Q.2. I request the Project Proponent to construct a crematorium for the welfare of the villagers of Thegu, Changu and Chipsu.</p> <p>Shri Lakdong Tokdokpa, Chipsu village</p>	<p>Ans: Yes, definitely Tourism deptt. will take this up with the project proponent to construct the crematorium as this comes under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).</p> <p>Shri R.D. Bhutia, Chief Engineer, Tourism Department.</p>
<p>Q.3. We have around 50 shops in Changu Lake, so I request the project proponent and the Tourism deptt. not to open any canteen and any liquor shops as these will hamper our livelihood.</p> <p>Shri Binod Sherpa, Chipsu</p>	<p>Ans: I assure you that project proponent will not open any canteen and liquor shops in and around ropeway. The preferences will be given to locals and also the unskilled and semi-skilled jobs will be given to locals only.</p> <p>Shri R.D. Bhutia, Chief Engineer, Tourism Department.</p>
<p>Q.4. I request the project proponent to install one ticket counter at shopping complex instead of ropeway entry point.</p> <p>Ms. Tashi Yongzom, Changu</p>	<p>Ans: This is mandatory requirement for project proponent to open ticket counter at ropeway entry point i.e. Lower Terminal Point because there are many formalities about the health check up of the passengers. But in future, if needed we will definitely look into this matter.</p> <p>Shri R.D. Bhutia, Chief Engineer, Tourism Department.</p>

<p>Q.5. When the ropeway comes in operation that time if any accident happens then what are the safety measures you have taken into consideration? Will you cooperate with locals for handling such type of situation?</p> <p>Mr. Raju. Kyongnosla</p>	<p>Ans: There will be trained employees including locals for the emergency if any accident happens. Sometime, if there is electricity failure for 2-3 minutes, then we will address the passengers not to panic and sit calmly, through Public Address System. As suggested, we'll definitely cooperate with the locals.</p> <p>Mr. Rohit Sahu, Project Proponent, Conveyor & Ropeway Services</p>
<p>Q.6. On behalf of the local public, I request the project proponent to construct new track route upto Upper Terminal Point, as this will boost our yak riding business.</p> <p>Shri Phurba Sherpa, Shipsu</p>	<p>Ans: Yes, we'll definitely construct new track route for yak riding approximately 7-8 ft. in breadth upto upper terminal point for the betterment of your business.</p> <p>Shri R.D. Bhutia, Chief Engineer, Tourism Department.</p>
<p>Q.7. How will the project proponent provide facilities for water and toilets at project site?</p> <p>Mr. Raju, Kyongnosla</p>	<p>Ans: The company has proposed to construct Sewage Treatment Plant near the project site for treatment of sewage water and the solid wastes will be segregated and transported to dumping yard for further treatment. The treated water will again be used for flushing of toilets.</p> <p>Shri R.D. Bhutia, Chief Engineer, Tourism Department.</p>
<p>Q.8. what are the provisions of the ropeway maintenance and how long it will run in a week or month?</p> <p>Local Youth, Chipsu</p>	<p>Ans: First of all, there will be regular maintenance of the ropeway and when our team technically conforms that everything is fine then only we'll run the ropeway. The ropeway will be closed down once in a month and in regular interval the maintenance of the ropeway will be done. So, on behalf of the Project, I assure you not to worry about the maintenance of the ropeway.</p> <p>Mr. Rohit Sahu, Project Proponent, Conveyor & Ropeway Services</p>

<p>Q.9. What are the contribution of the ropeway for the conservation of the lake and the surroundings?</p> <p>Mr. Sangay Sherpa, Office Secretary, (Changu Pokhari Sanrakshan Samiti) Thegu</p>	<p>Ans: We have already mentioned in our presentation that for Solid Waste Management we'll collect solid wastes and send it to the nearest solid waste disposal yard. There we'll segregate the waste as per colour bins as per the norms. For Air Quality Management as per the norms we'll set-up stack height of the Chimney of D.G. set. And for Water Quality Management, we are installing Sewerage Treatment Plant for the proper treatment of the sewage water, after treatment again the water will be used for flushing of toilets.</p> <p>Mr. Rohit Sahu, Project Proponent, Conveyor & Ropeway Services On behalf of the Government, Tourism department will also continuously monitor all these factors and advise them as and when required.</p> <p>Shri R.D. Bhutia, Chief Engineer, Tourism Department</p>
<p>Q. 10. You have assured that you'll provide dustbins but I think it is not sufficient; instead you transport it to the solid waste disposal yard, for this have you got any provision of fund for the transportation? And how will you dispose the bio-degradable waste?</p> <p>Shri Ranjan Rai, AEE, SPCB, Gangtok</p>	<p>Ans: We have kept fund provision under the Solid Waste Management.</p> <p>For solid waste management, there are bio-degradable waste and non-biodegradable waste. For bio-degradable waste we have arrangement for composting it and are used as manure. For non-biodegradable wastes which are hazardous will be collected and sent it to Total Solid Disposal Facility site for proper treatment.</p> <p>Mr. Rohit Sahu, Project Proponent, Conveyor & Ropeway Services</p>

REMARKS BY SHRI C. S. RAO, IFS, MEMBER SECRETARY

State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim.

MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC HEARING PANEL

24th March 2016-Tsomgo, East Sikkim

Hon'ble Chairperson, SPCB-Sikkim Smt. Kalawati Subba, Dr. Gopal Pradhan, Principal Scientist, SPCB-Sikkim, Shri R.D. Bhutia, Chief Engineer, Tourism & Civil Aviation Department and the friends from Changu, Chipsu and the surrounding area. This ropeway project's EIA & EMP has been prepared by M/s Perfect Enviro Solution Ltd., New Delhi, and M/s Conveyor Ropeway Services Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata, who are involved in constructing the ropeways. I on behalf of SPCB-Sikkim welcome you all in this public hearing. The ropeway project work was started in 2009, so far the construction work of the ropeway is 90% completed. In the meantime there was problem in Environmental Clearance from the Ministry. It has been already highlighted by Dr. Gopal Pradhan, Principal Scientist, SPCB-Sikkim about the mandatory requirement of the Environmental Clearance from the Ministry for any kind of project works. Earlier the State Government had given Environmental Clearance to the ropeway project but there was some technical fault discovered by the Government of India. Therefore, there was a need to take Environmental Clearance from the Ministry for construction of the ropeway, for this reason, today we are conducting this public hearing which is very necessary for obtaining the EC. In this public hearing you have actively participated and the points which you have raised is very important. The question raised by the local youth from Chipsu village about the yak is important one because yak is the only source of their livelihood. Regarding this point, Chief Engineer, Tourism Department has assured the public that there will be no decrease in the yak riding and they will construct track route for the yak riding upto the upper terminal point. Regarding this, before the construction of the track route, I request the Tourism Department to consult with the Forest Department. Other participants also raised important points, such as, not to open any canteen, liquor shop around the ropeway, construction of crematorium, track route for yak and management of rescue team. The Tourism Department and the Project Proponent have given all the positive assurances to the public as these points comes under the Corporate Social Responsibility. I would like to inform you that

after the implementation of the ropeway project whatever revenue will be collected, from this 15% of the revenue will be given to the State Government. As you have already informed that the company will run ropeway for a period of 20 years after that they will hand it over to the State Government. I suggest the Tourism Department and the Project Proponent to provide training to the local youths for rescue during emergency period if any accident occurs.

The Project Proponent informed the public that they'll maintain the ropeway continuously and the ropeway will be shut down once in a month. I hope the tourist will increase when the ropeway is started. I suggest the Project Proponent and the Tourism Department to provide one ambulance for 24 x 7 for emergency if any accident happens to the victim for taking them to the nearest hospital. You have participated very actively, for this, on behalf of the Department, SPCB-Sikkim and the Chairperson, I wholeheartedly thank you all who have participated in this public hearing. I finally assure you that there'll be 100% benefit to the local public after the implementation of the ropeway project. There is positive response from the participants, the cooperation extended by all who are present here is highly appreciated and I thank them all for their presence and support. With this, I extend my thankfulness to all who have been involved in this hearing directly or indirectly. Thank you once again.

WRAP UP SPEECH AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY
SHRI RAGUL K. IAS, ADDL. DISTRICT COLLECTORATE, EAST
24th March 2016, Tsomgo, East Sikkim.

Hon'ble Chairperson, SPCB-Sikkim Smt. Kalawati Subba, Member of the public hearing panel, Shri C. S. Rao, IFS, Member Secretary, SPCB-Sikkim, Shri R. D. Bhutia, Chief Engineer, Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Dr. Gopal Pradhan, Principal Scientist SPCB-Sikkim, Shri B.P. Kharel, Addl. Chief Engineer, Tourism & Civil Aviation Deptt., NGO Members and ladies and gentlemen.

Now, after having listened to your views, suggestions, opinions, comments and observations, it was very interesting to see that the participants were found to have supported and welcomed the project, and they were of the opinion that the passenger ropeway project should come up.

The major thrust of all however was on the safeguard of general environment of the area, employment to the locals, safeguard of social, cultural and traditional values of the area. The questions, views, suggestions and opinion presented by the participants were meaningful and appreciable and this shall be reflected in the public hearing report. The promises and commitments made by the Project Developers in response to the suggestions, questions and views expressed were appreciated and accepted by the public who have attended this meeting.

It was nice to see that the Project Developer had assured every possible ways and means in solving the grievances of the general public present. As the Chairman of the public hearing panel, I recommend that the Project Proponent maintain a cordial relationship with all the people of the area and respect their social life, tradition, culture and sentiments.

Finally, I request the Project Authority to sincerely adhere to the commitments of the agreement as envisaged in the Project Report & EMP as per today's proceedings in letter and spirit. Further the points raised and suggested by all present in today's hearing be incorporated in the final EIA & EMP reports for proper safety of the environment and sentiment of the common mass. With these words I thank all the participants for your active participation and meaningful interaction in today's public hearing and declare that the public hearing was successfully conducted.

Thank You.

**VOTE OF THANKS BY
Mr. Ranjan Rai,
ASSISTANT ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim.
24th March 2016-Tsomgo, East Sikkim**

With the wrap up speech by the Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel, ADC, East, now we have come to the end of the programme. But before this, I have been assigned with the duty of offering vote of thanks. I therefore, take this opportunity to convey vote of thanks to all present here on this occasion. First of all I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Chairman of the public hearing panel Shri Ragul K., IAS, ADC, East, Chairperson Smt. Kalawati Subba, SPCB-Sikkim, Shri C. S. Rao, IFS, Member Secretary, SPCB-Sikkim, Govt. of Sikkim. I thank Shri R. D. Bhutia, Chief Engineer, Tourism & Civil Aviation Department and Shri B.P. Kharel, Addl. Chief Engineer, Tourism & Civil Aviation Deptt. for sparing their valuable time. We thank S.P., East District, for providing security for smooth conduct of the programme. On behalf of the State Pollution Control Board, I take this opportunity to thank the officials of the Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Department of Forest, Env. & W/L Management, NOG and the general public for having attended this programme with their ideas, suggestions, views and guidance. We thank the Tourism Department for providing us the venue for today's programme.

We extend our sincere thanks to all the concerned citizens who put forth their suggestions for making this programme meaningful. We thank them for their guidance, concern and interaction in making this programme meaningful and lively. The co-operation extended by all who are present here is highly appreciated and we thank them all for their presence and support. Last but not the least I stand before you all to extend our thankfulness to all who have been involved in this programme directly or indirectly. Thank you once again.

THANK YOU

**PUBLIC HEARING OF PASSENGER ROPEWAY AT TSOMGO LAKE,
TSOMGO, EAST SIKKIM**

24TH MARCH 2016

Conducted by – State Pollution Control Board - Sikkim at

TSOMGO LAKE TAXI STAND COMPLEX, EAST SIKKIM

On

24TH MARCH 2016

PANEL FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESIGNATION</u>
1.	Shri. RAGUL K., IAS	Addl. District Collector East District, Govt. of Sikkim.
2.	Shri C. S. Rao, IFS	Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim Deptt. of Forest, Env. & W/L Management, Govt. of Sikkim.

PUBLIC HEARING OF
PASSANGER ROPEWAY AT TSOMGO LAKE,
TSOMGO, EAST SIKKIM
24TH MARCH 2016

PROGRAMME

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 10.40. A.M: | Arrival of the Public participants. |
| 10.50. A.M: | Arrival of the Members of the Public Hearing Panel. |
| 11.00. A.M: | Introduction on public hearing & Welcome address by Dr. Gopal Pradhan, Principal Scientist, State Pollution Control Board- Sikkim. |
| 11.10. A.M: | Briefing on the Passenger Ropeway Project by Project Developer. |
| 11.30. A.M: | Comments, views, suggestions, clarifications, (Questions & Answer Session). |
| 12.30. P.M: | Remarks on the public hearing proceeding by Member Secertary, State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim |
| 12.40. P.M: | concluding remarks and declaration by D.C. East-cum-Chairman of Public hearing panel. |
| 12.50 P.M: | Vote of Thanks by Shri Ranjan Rai, Asstt. Env. Engineer, State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim. |
| 1.00. P.M: | Lunch. |

PUBLIC HEARING OF PASSENGER ROPEWAY AT TSOMGO LAKE, TSOMGO, EAST SIKKIM

24TH MARCH 2016

Name of the Participants:

Sl. No.	Name	Address
1.	Smt. Kalawati Subba, Chairperson	SPCB-Sikkim
2.	Shri R. D. Bhutia, Chief Engineer	Tourism & CA Deptt.
3.	Shri B.P. Kharel, Addl. Chief Engineer	Tourism & CA Deptt.
4.	Shri Nipun Bhargava, Dy. Director	Perfect Group Rohini, Delhi
5.	Shri Purba Chatterji, CEE	Perfect Group Rohini, Delhi
6.	Shri Akshay Chauhan, SEE	Perfect Group Rohini
7.	Shri Ragul. K. Addl. District Collector	Gangtok, East District
8.	Shri C.S. Rao, IFS, Member Secretary	SPCB-Sikkim
9.	Shri K.B. Gurung, Contractor	Gangtok
10.	Shri M.T. Tamang	Chipsu
11.	Shri Kazi Tamang	Chipsu
12.	Shri Netra Bdr. Lohar	Do
13.	Shri Phurba Tshering Sherpa	15 th Mile, J.N. Road
14.	Shri Raju Tamang	Do
15.	Shri Bhim Bdr. Shop No. 25	Chipsu

16.	Shri Dinesh Pradhan, Shop No. 15	Changu
17.	Shri Shyam Kumar	Changu
18.	Shri Pema Gyaltsen Bhutia, shop No. 10	Change
19.	Shri Lakdong Dokpa	Chipsu
20.	Shri Phurba Sherpa	Do
21.	Shri Sanjay Sewa	Do
22.	Smt. Bimla Tamang, Shop No. 24	Chipsu
23.	Smt. Dawa Doma Sherpa	Do
24.	Smt. Tashi Palmu	Change
25.	Smt. Pema Doma	Chipsu
26.	Smt. Aruna Rai	Shopping Complex
27.	Smt. Diki	Do
28.	Smt. Riku Doma	Change
29.	Smt. Passang Diki	Change
30.	Smt. Lamzing Sherpa	Complex
31.	Smt. Mira	Do
32.	Smt. Janu Sherpa	Do
33.	Smt. Nima Sherpa	Do
34.	Shri Kartuk Sherpa	Do
35.	Smt. Doma Sherpa	Do
36.	Smt. Shanti Tamang	Complex

37.	Shri Denzom Bhutia	Do
38.	Shri Phurba Sherpa	Do
39.	Shri Karma Sherpa	Do
40.	Shri Dawa Sherpa	Do
41.	Smt. Rinzing Lhamu Sherpa	Do
42.	Smt. Anita	Do
43.	Smt. Tsheten Lhamu	Do
44.	Shri Sunil Rai	Do
45.	Smt. Dichen	Do
46.	Smt. Tsultim Doma	Do
47.	Smt. Denka	Do
48.	Smt. Doma Sherpa	Changu
49.	Shri Sunil Sharma	Do
50.	Smt. Reeta Doma Sherpa	Do
51.	Smt. Geeta Sherpa	Do
52.	Smt. Soman Sherpa	Do
53.	Smt. Hissey Cho Sherpa	Do
54.	Smt. Tashi Yangzom	Do
55.	Smt. Nim Doma Tamang	Chipsu
56.	Shri Manish Pradhan	Chipsu
57.	Smt. Phur Phuti Sherpa	Chipsu
58.	Shri Chandra Bdr. Rai	Do

59.	Shri Tek Bdr. Sewa	Do
60.	Shri Jiwan Gajmer	Do
61.	Shri Changba Tamang	Do
62.	Shri Ongli Sherpa	Do
63.	Shri Kamal Rasaily	Do
64.	Shri Rajesh Rai	Changu
65.	Smt. Devi Maya	Changu
66.	Smt. Sonam Donka	Do
67.	Shri Anil Kr. Pradhan, AE	Tourism Department
68.	Shri Rohit Sahu	Conveyer & Ropeway Services Pvt. Ltd.
69.	Shri Arunangshu Baroi	Do
70.	Dr. Gopal Pradhan, Pr. Scientist	SPCB, Gangtok
71.	Shri Ranjan Rai, AEE	SPCB, Gangtok
72.	Smt. Kunzang Z. Bhutia, ASO	SPCB, Gangtok
73.	Shri Ramesh Chettri, JSA	SPCB, Gangtok
74.	Shri Krishan Pd. Sharma	SPCB, Gangtok
75.	Shri Yogesh Subba	SPCB, Gangtok
76.	Shri Kumar Gurung	SPCB, Gangtok
77.	Shri Ramesh Rai	SPCB, Gangtok
78.	Shri D.K. Rai	SPCB, Gangtok
79.	Smt. Sashi Chettri	SPCB, Gangtok

80.	Smt. Akit Bhutia	SPCB, Gangtok
81.	Smt. Bal Kri. Rai	SPCB, Sikkim
82.	Smt. Meena Kri. Chettri	SPCB, Sikkim



Fig 1. A view of display of public hearing banner for awareness of the public for conducting hearing.



Fig 2. A view of Chairman and member of the public hearing panel.



Fig 3. A view of the public participation from the public desk.



Fig 4. A question from the local youth.



Fig 5. Shri Rohit Sahu, Conveyor & Ropeway Services Ltd. answering the question of the public.



Fig 6. A view of the participation of the senior citizen.



Fig 7. Shri R.D. Bhutia, Chief Engineer, Tourism Deptt. answering the question of the public.



Fig 8. A view of women participation during question and answer session.



Fig 9. A view of NGO youth asking the question from the public desk.



Fig. 10. A view of the Government officials and project consultants in the public hearing.



Fig 11. Shri C.S. Rao, IFS, Member Secretary, SPCB, Member of Public hearing panel addressing the public.



Fig 12. Shri Ragul K. IAS, Addl. DC, Chairman of public hearing panel addressing the public.