

## **Third Party Evaluator's Opinion on Flue Gas Desulfurization Plant For Mae Moh Power Plant 8-11**

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### **Relevance**

Environmental measures at thermal power plant particularly SO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction & control to conform with environmental laws, are key important success indication and performance for Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment and EGAT (Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand). This objective is achievable and maintained according to the environmental laws under the project. Information for disclosure to the public about the project success and its feed back from the public are needed to be carried out to improve public image and create any betterment and prevent or to manage further risk of public confidence in EGAT's and the Government's.

### **Impact**

The technology knowledges and experiences involved in the construction and the operations of the project together with uses of its equipments, have been transferred to other power plants, providing more benefit and value added to EGAT and the country as a whole.

Despite a significant drop in SO<sub>2</sub> emissions, still changes in residents' health condition are not clearly seen. Thailand's ministry of Public Health pointed out that reduction in SO<sub>2</sub> emissions following implementation of this project have not, at this time led to a reduction in the risk of occurrence of respiratory illness. As report points out that emissions of PM<sub>10</sub> are at a high level, eventhough removal of PM<sub>10</sub> was not part of the plan in this project and after installation of flue gas desulfurization equipment PM<sub>10</sub> have dropped sharply to one-third of 1993 emissions, this project is criticized that it may not aims at the right objectives for solving the real problems.

Base on interview with other people interested in this project and involved in similar project in Thailand (an engineer in one the power producer companies in Thailand), this particular project has geographical site problem. Because the project located in crater like terrain where the flow of the air, particular in certain season, is badly difficult and not in normal condition as in other place. SO<sub>2</sub> emission, even in smaller proportion can still affects residents health condition. Moreover, the condition of the forest and water resource in the area are not much favourable to complement an improved air quality. It is believed that all future development projects have to consider how to improve the forest or green condition and water resources nearby to enhance relatively to the project objectives.

As Thai people concerns more to social and environmental awareness and responsibility of the enterprises in developing any project, one observation points out that the dust from lignite mine operation near by the project site causes PM<sub>10</sub> problem.

### **Sustainability**

Given the limited scope of the project objective for SO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction to certain level, and the structure of EGAT organization doesn't change from the present (October 2004) where EGAT privatization plan and schedule is under reconsideration, sustainability of the project implementation will be well maintained. It is suggested that when this project be privatized, the conditions for improving SO<sub>2</sub> emission and other related pollution problems must be attached to the privatization agreement for better effectiveness and sustainability of the project as well.