

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, EASTERN
ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 19 OF 2019**

IN THE MATTER OF:

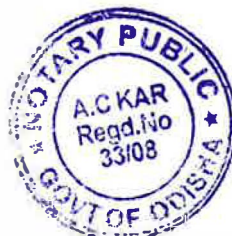
Kalinga Nagar Paribesh Surakshya Samiti ...Applicant

VERSUS

Member Secretary,
Odisha State Pollution Control Board & Ors. ...Respondents

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Place:

Date: 09.01.2025

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IN THE MATTER OF:

Kalinga Nagar Paribesh Surakshya Samiti ...Applicant

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Member Secretary,
Odisha State Pollution Control Board & Ors. ...Respondents

**RESPONSE TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY AFFIDAVITS DATED
28.08.2024 AND 14.10.2024 FILED BY THE APPLICANT ON BEHALF
OF THE RESPONDENT NO. 4 – VISA STEEL LIMITED**

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. The present Response is being filed on behalf of the Respondent No. 4 – VISA Steel Limited (hereinafter referred to as “**Answering Respondent**”) to the Supplementary Affidavits dated 28.08.2024 and 14.10.2024 filed by the Applicant in the captioned Original Application.
2. The captioned Original Application (hereinafter referred to as OA) has been filed by the Applicant against alleged discharge of wastewater by the Answering Respondent. A detailed Counter Affidavit dated 20.04.2023 on behalf of the Answering Respondent is already on record. The contents of the Counter Affidavit filed on

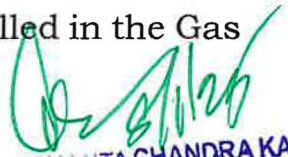


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behalf of the Answering Respondent are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity however, the same may be read as part of the present Response.

3. At the outset, it is submitted that the present Original Application has been filed with malafide intent and by placing on record incorrect and incomplete documents while deliberately concealing material facts and documents to present a false narrative against the Answering Respondent.
4. It is submitted that the Applicant has raised certain issues related to alleged non-compliance on the basis of the inspection conducted by the OSPCB on 24.07.2024. The point-wise response to the allegations made by the Applicant relying on the aforesaid inspection is given herein below:
 - i. With reference to the first issue raised by the Applicant with regard to the result of the stack monitoring at the common stack attached to the GCP outlet of Furnace III and IV of Ferro Chrome Complex Unit-2 showing PM concentration as 56 mg/Nm³, which exceeded the prescribed standard of 50 mg/Nm³. It is stated that upon inspection by the Respondent No. 4, it was observed that out of 4200 bags installed in the Gas

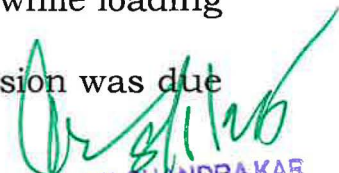



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Cleaning Plant (GCP) associated with Furnace III and 4, 370 bags were damaged. The damaged bags were immediately replaced and the GCP is now working in a healthy condition and the PM concentration level is well within the prescribed limits. The PM concentration values have also been validated through a 3rd party agency. Photographs of the work performed in the GCP by the Answering Respondent are annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE - 1**. True copy of the Report dated 17.08.2024 issued by Visiontek Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd., i.e. a 3rd party agency is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE - 2**.

- ii. With reference to the fugitive emissions observed at Bin mixing building of Ferro Alloys Complex, it is stated that that the emission observed was due to revamping jobs being carried out in the unit. The unit has augmented the capacity of the Dust Extraction System from 26,000 NM³/hr. to 39,000 NM³/hr. and the same has been completed on 10.08.2024.
- iii. With reference to the fugitive emissions observed while loading of fly ash from silo, it is stated that the said emission was due





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to jamming of nozzles, which has been cleaned and is now working in a proper manner and there are no fugitive emissions.

iv. With reference to the approach road near FAP-II and dispatch gate not being black topped/concreted causing fugitive emissions, it is stated that a plan for construction of the said approach roads was submitted with the OSPCB and the approved time frame as directed by the OSPCB for completion of the approach road near FAP-II was 31.10.2024 and for the approach road near dispatch gate is 31.03.2025. It is further stated that the approach road near FAP-II has already been completed within the given time frame, and the approach road near dispatch gate shall be completed within the given time period.

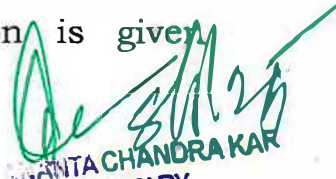
v. With reference to the issue raised by the Applicant regarding the internal drain near WHRB-II and briquette plant of Ferro Chrome Complex-II was observed to be clogged, it is stated that the said drain has been cleaned by the Answering Respondent. Photographs of the clean internal drain near WHRB-II and briquette plant of Ferro Chrome Complex-II are annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE – 3**.




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5. The Applicant has also highlighted that a Show Cause Notice dated 08.08.2024 was issued by the OSPCB to the Answering Respondent. However, the Applicant has conveniently not bothered to either gather information or inform this Hon'ble Tribunal that a Response dated 22.08.2024 was submitted by the Answering Respondent with the OSPCB, to the said Show Cause Notice. True copy of the Response dated 22.08.2024 bearing Ref. No. VSL/SPCB/2024-25/018 submitted by the Answering Respondent to the OSPCB is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE - 4**.
6. Hence, it is submitted that the alleged non-compliances highlighted by the Applicant in its Supplementary Affidavit dated 28.08.2024 have already been addressed and clarification has been given by the Deponent and a response to the Show Cause Notice dated 08.08.2024 was submitted by the Answering Respondent, thereby addressing all observations made therein.
7. The Applicant has also raised certain issues related to alleged non-compliance on the basis of the inspection conducted by the OSPCB on 06.08.2024. The point-wise response to the allegations made by the Applicant relying on the aforesaid inspection is given hereinbelow:




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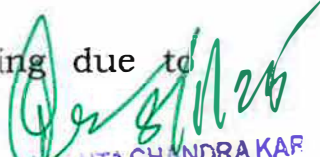
- i. It was observed that the Answering Respondent has not completed the balance 0.4 KM earthen drain, with brick lining along the boundary of M/s KJ Ispat Ltd., carrying surface runoff from upper catchment area connected to IDCO drain near raw material gate. It is stated that due to intermittently low pressure and monsoon rains, the civil job works of completing the said drain was delayed. However, the same was completed on 15.09.2024 by the Answering Respondent.
- ii. It was observed that the Answering Respondent had not started the concreting of internal road connecting near raw material gate and slag breaking area of FAP (Unit-2) as per the proceeding of personal hearing conducted on 21.03.2024. It is stated that in order to comply with the agreed timelines, necessary orders were already issued by the Answering Respondent prior to the said inspection, and the same has already been completed on 31.10.2024, i.e. within the given timeline by the OSPCB. Additionally, during the pendency of the said work, the Answering Respondent was regularly sprinkling water in this area through water tankers for suppression of fugitive dust emissions.




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- iii. With reference to the crushed slag of one truck which was found dumped outside the material gate, it is stated that the same was dumped there to maintain the damaged road. However, as was advised by the inspection team, the same has been lifted and shifted to the designated dump area within the unit of the Answering Respondent. Photographs showing the dumped material and after lifting of the same are annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE - 5**.
- iv. During inspection, one water tanker of capacity of approx. 10 m³ inside the premises of the unit near truck parking area for truck drivers was observed and the effluent parameter of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) of the same exceeded the prescribed standards. It is stated that the said water tanker was being used by truck drivers for bathing and washing, however, the same has been dismantled by the Answering Respondent. Photographs showing that water tanker before and after being dismantled are annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE - 6**.
- v. As regards the roof top emission from cast house of Blast Furnace that was ~~observed during metal lapping~~ due to

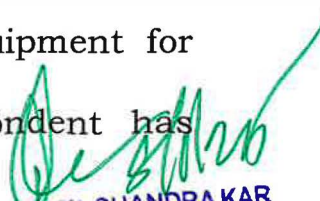



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inadequate suction is concerned, it is stated that the said emissions were observed due to a failure of tap hole drill machine during tap hole opening, however, the same has been rectified. It is also stated that the Answering Respondent has already installed a Fume Extraction System of 95,000 NM³/hr. capacity and has also redesigned and repositioned the suction hoods for increasing the suction area.

- vi. It was also observed that there was dust accumulation at conveyor belt connecting to drying of briquetting plant of FAP Unit-2. It is stated that the dust accumulation observed was due to the revamping jobs being carried out in the unit. The unit has augmented the capacity of the Dust Extraction System from 26,000 NM³/hr. to 39,000 N₂/hr. and the same has been completed on 10.08.2024.
- vii. As regards completion of the installation of new Surface Run-off Treatment System of 2,000 m³/day capacity is concerned, it is stated that due to intermittently low pressure and monsoon rains, the entire civil job got delayed. However, the Answering Respondent has since completed the entire civil work for the new SRTS and has also received the entire equipment for completion of the same. The Answering Respondent has

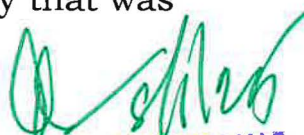



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submitted at that time it had expedited the installation of the equipment. The said SRTS was commissioned and is in ready to operate condition.


- viii. It was observed that the Answering Respondent has installed additional Reverse Osmosis (RO) system of 1,000 KL/day capacity, however, the same was not in operation due to cracks in RCC collection cum settling tanks for clarified water, and was found to be under repair. It is stated that the Construction pit of 600 m³ capacity for collecting treated clear water from clarifier and further input to the new RO System was damaged and the Answering Respondent has already completed the same on 06.09.2024 and operation of the newly installed RO System has been restarted.
- ix. It was also observed that the Answering Respondent had not provided soil cover at the slope of the solid waste dump site on western part, adjacent to the boundary of FAP (Unit-2) and rain cuts were also observed on the slope. It is stated that the Answering Respondent has already provided soil cover at the slope of solid dump site and rectified the discrepancy that was observed during inspection.




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8. In relation to the above, the Applicant has also highlighted that a Show Cause Notice dated 20.08.2024 was issued by the OSPCB to the Answering Respondent. However, the Applicant has once again conveniently not bothered to either gather information or inform this Hon'ble Tribunal that a Response dated 04.09.2024 was submitted by the Answering Respondent with the OSPCB, to the said Show Cause Notice.
9. It is also relevant to mention that the Applicant has placed on record the Show Cause Notice dated 20.08.2024, without placing on record the inspection report that accompanies the same. It is categorically stated in the inspection report attached with the Show Cause Notice dated 20.08.2024 that a total of 22 inspections spreading over thirty six (36) days have been carried out in the unit of the Answering Respondent over the last three (3) years and four (4) months, out of which, eleven (11) of them were on account of the complaints made by the President of the Applicant herein, ten (10) were related to compliance verification and one (1) was related to CICG. In the said inspection report, a table of all inspections carried out in the unit of the Answering Respondent from 2021 till 06.08.2024 were given, which clearly evince the malafide and persistent attempts on the part of the Applicant to malign and disrupt the operations of the





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Answering Respondent. True copy of the Inspection Report dated 16.08.2024 prepared by the officers of the OSPCB is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE – 7**. True copy of the Response dated 04.09.2024 bearing Ref. No. VSL/SPCB/2024-25/023 submitted by the Answering Respondent to the OSPCB is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE – 8**.

10. In the aforesaid response dated 04.09.2024 submitted by the Answering Respondent with the OSPCB, it was also stated therein that it is an admitted position that in the last about three (3) years and four (4) months, twenty two (22) inspections spreading over thirty six (36) days have taken place. Out of these, eleven (11) inspections are solely attributable to the complaints made by Sh. Aswini Kumar Dhal, who claims to be the President of the Applicant herein. These complaints are primarily made to keep the pot boiling. Most of the complaints have resulted in reports which do not find any major violation of environmental norms. However, it seems that the OSPCB officers often get unjustifiably pressurized by these vengeful complaints on behalf of Mr. Dhal. For reasons best known to the industry, public exchequer money is wasted in carrying out these inspections, which ultimately find no major violations, whereas, the entire expenditure for such recurring inspections




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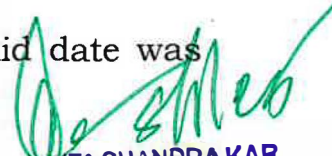
solely at the behest of Mr. Dhal should be borne either by him or the Applicant herein.

11. The Applicant has filed yet another Supplementary Affidavit dated 14.10.2024 before this Hon'ble Tribunal relying upon an inspection Report dated 26.09.2024 wherein it was observed that from the analysis report that runoff water discharged to outside the plant premises does not meet the prescribed standards of the Board with respect to Phenolic compound as Phenol and Cyanide at all the four culverts and parameters with respect to Iron does not meet the prescribed standard at culvert No. 4. In furtherance thereto, a Show Cause Notice dated 09.10.2024 was issued by the OSPCB to the Answering Respondent.

12. In response thereto, it is stated that the contents of the aforesaid analysis report are incorrect and baseless for the following reasons:

- i. The Inspection Report states that the unit was inspected on 26.09.2024, however, it is stated that the Inspecting Officers indicated in the said report, namely Mr. M.M. Sahoo and Mr. H.S. Sahu, SPCB Kalinganagar have not inspected the plant on 26.09.2024, as no notice of inspection for the said date was




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given to the Answering Respondent, in terms of the prescribed rules.

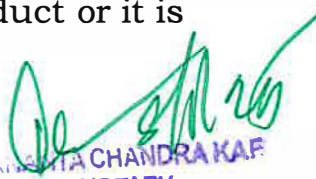
- ii. Without prejudice to the above, it is stated that during the day of the alleged inspection, i.e. 26.09.2024, heavy rainfall was witnessed in the Kalinganagar area and the Answering Respondent was discharging treated surface runoff water from its outlet leading to Culvert No. 01.
- iii. On the said day, Shri M.M. Sahoo, the inspecting officer was present outside the plant with Mr. Ashwini Kumar Dhal, the President of the Complainant, when the Company officials were asked to come outside the plant premises over a phone call. Upon a query raised by the said Officer, the company official accompanying the said inspecting Officer, categorically informed him that the upper catchment surface runoff was flowing through the land between Culvert No. 4 and the boundary wall of the Answering Respondent. This land is approximately 6 to 9 meters wide which runs alongside the company boundary wall and Biju Patnaik Main Road, which has Culverts Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4.




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- iv. The surface runoff water from the upper catchment was flowing from the said point (land) besides culvert No. 4 to culvert No. 01 due to natural gradient as the adjacent land before culvert No. 4 is at 58 metres sea level (MSL) above sea level while culvert No. 03 is at 55 MSL, culvert No. 2 is at 53 MSL, and culvert No. 01 is at 51 MSL.
- v. It may please be noted from the Inspection Report that no discharge was observed from the company outlet leading to Culvert no 04, while sample was drawn from the said point (land between company boundary and road). The results of the sample drawn near Culvert 4 depicts heavy traces of Total Fe, Phenolic compounds and Cyanide. This contaminated surface runoff water is directly responsible for heavy traces observed in the sample report of Culvert no 1, 2 and 3.
- vi. It is also relevant to state that the processes being carried out are incapable of generating any Phenolic compound or Cyanide as the Answering Respondent does not have any unit which either involves any process/chemical reactions for production of Phenol and Cyanide as the main product/by product or it is present in any form of Gas or Liquid.





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13. It is also stated that a detailed Response dated 22.10.2024 was submitted by the Answering Respondent with the OSPCB to the Show Cause Notice dated 09.10.2024. It was also highlighted therein that from 2019 till 2024, several inspections were carried out by the OSPCB in the unit of the Answering Respondent, and not even once was the parameters of Phenolic compound or cyanide was found to be beyond the prescribed limits. True copy of the Response dated 22.10.2024 bearing Ref. No. VSL/SPCB/2024-25/022 submitted by the Answering Respondent to the SCN dated 09.10.2024 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE - 9**.

14. Hence, in view of the above, it is submitted that the Answering Respondent has been complying with all conditions and additional suggestions of the authorities and has been putting in constant efforts to remain a compliant unit. Further, the Applicant has relied upon certain Show Cause Notices in the Supplementary Affidavits, which itself shows compliance on the part of the Answering Respondent and the efforts being put in by the Answering Respondent to address additional concerns which are beyond the control of the Answering Respondent.

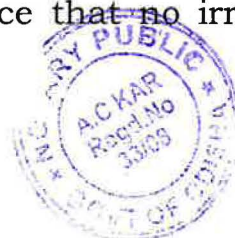




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15. It is also noteworthy to mention that a Personal Hearing was held in the office of the MoEF & CC on 23.10.2024, wherein a detailed presentation was given by the representatives of the Answering Respondent with respect to the configuration of the plant and status of permissions and approvals available with the Answering Respondent, measures being undertaken by the unit for controlling water and air pollution, response to the observations made by officials of the MoEF & CC, and the overall difficulties being faced by the industries in the entire Kalinganagar area. During the said Personal Hearing, the antecedents of the President of the Applicant herein were also informed to the officials in detail. After hearing the representatives of the Answering Respondent, the Additional Secretary, concluded as under:

- “i. PP to approach IA (Ind-I) sector for amalgamation of all the existing ECs with respect to the extant project and seek amendment of the conditions not applicable to the project to ensure ease of implementation and monitoring of the project.*
- ii. PP to submit ground water analysis report to the regulatory authorities including SPCB and the RO.*
- iii. Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB), which is seized of the issue related water pollution from the unit shall deal with the issue and conclude it as per their existing mechanism.*
- iv. As far as this Ministry is concerned, there is no action on part of the Ministry.”*

Hence, a perusal of the Minutes of the Personal Hearing dated 23.10.2024 would clearly evince that no irregularities have been





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found in the unit of the Answering Respondent and the MoEF has stated that no action is required to be taken by them against the unit of the Answering Respondent. True copy of the Minutes of the Personal Hearing dated 23.10.2024 conducted in the office of the MoEF & CC are annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE – 10**.

16. Therefore, it is wrong to suggest that there is any non-compliance on the part of the Answering Respondent and it is also denied that any environmental compensation should be computed against the Answering Respondent. The Answering Respondent has time and again raised the issue of the surface runoff water from higher elevation areas mixing with the treated water in the premises of the Answering Respondent. The first such representation was made way back in 2014, much before the Applicant or his stooges started their extortionist tactics. However, the authorities did not take any steps for its remediation. Further, the issue of surface runoff water flowing down is a phenomenon which takes place during the monsoons. It is submitted that even the numerous complaints made by the Applicant and his associates which alleged the discharge of polluted water was made during the monsoon period. Had it been a case where the Answering Respondent was actually discharging its




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industrial effluent, it would not be restricted to the monsoon period and the discharge would have taken place all throughout the year.

17. It is submitted that all the conditions of the EC and CTO have been fulfilled by the Answering Respondent and the Answering Respondent has been submitting its six monthly compliance reports to the Regional Office MoEF & CC, CPCB and OSPCB in terms of the conditions of the EC.
18. It is also submitted that on multiple occasions it has been pleaded and documents have been annexed by the Answering Respondent which show that there are other industries from where the discharge is being done. Despite the Deponent having pleaded and having put documents on record with respect to the violations by other industries, which include documents whereby Show Cause Notices have been issued to them, the Applicant has still not cared to file any case against the other industries. This clearly shows that the Applicant has an ulterior motive of coming against the Answering Respondent. It is in view of this fact, that the present Application must fail as the same is not a genuine Application for environment protection, but to settle scores with the Answering Respondent. If the Applicant would have been genuinely interested in the cause of environment, he would have initiated some proceedings against the




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other industries who have been continuously discharging from the upper catchment areas.

19. It is humbly submitted that the present Response may kindly be taken on record and into consideration and the Hon'ble Tribunal may pass appropriate Order(s), direction(s) as deemed fit and proper under the facts and circumstances of the present case.
20. It is humbly submitted that the Answering Respondent seeks leave to make additional submissions, if required, during the course of the proceedings.

Through

Manoj Kumar

Respondent No. 4

Manoj Kumar
Director (Kalinganagar)
VISA Steel Limited
Kalinganagar Indl. Complex,
At/P.O.-Jakhapura-755026
Dist. Jaipur, Odisha

Suresh Sodhi

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Email: office@vsalegal.in

Place:

Date: 08.01.2025



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IN THE MATTER OF:

Kalinga Nagar Paribesh Surakshya Samiti

...Applicant

VERSUS

Member Secretary,
Odisha State Pollution Control Board & Ors.

...Respondents

AFFIDAVIT

I, Manoj Kumar, S/o Shri Ram Agarwal, aged about 58 years, working for gain at VISA Steel Limited, having its Plant at Kalinga Nagar Industrial Complex, at PO - Jakhapura, District - Jajpur, Odisha -

755026, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under:

That I am the Authorised Representative for Respondent No. 4, VISA Steel Limited in the abovementioned matter and as such I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and hence, I am competent to swear and sign the present Affidavit.

2. That the accompanying Response has been drafted as per my instructions by my counsel, and I have read contents thereof and I understood the same.
3. That the Annexures enclosed with the accompanying Response are true and correct copies of their respective Originals.

IDENTIFIED BY ME

ADVOCATE

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4. That the contents of the accompanying Response are based on records maintained by the Respondent No. 4 and are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.



M. Ananta Chandra Kar

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION:

Verified at Jaipur, on this the 08 day of January, 2025 that the contents of the foregoing affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Nothing stated therein is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

M. Ananta Chandra Kar

DEPONENT

The Deponent above named being identified by sri..... Adv on oath states before me that the above contains are true to the best of my our Knowledge and belief

Ananta Chandra Kar

**ANANTA CHANDRA KAR
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IDENTIFIED BY ME
[Signature]
ADVOCATE

[Signature]
NOTARY PUBLIC JAIPUR ROAD

ANNEXURE - 1

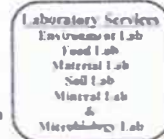


Suresh Sodhi
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- Quality Control & Project Management
- Renewable Energy

- Agricultural Development
- Information Technology
- Public Health Engineering

- Mine Planning & Design
- Mineral/Sub-Soil Exploration
- Waste Management Services

ANNEXURE - 2

Ref: Envlab/24-25/TR-08688

Date: 17.08.2024

TEST REPORT

Customer Name & Address : VISA STEEL LIMITED, Jakhapura, Jajpur, Odisha-755026

A. Sample Particulars	
1. Date of Sampling	: 14.08.2024
2. Sampling Location	: Ferrochrome Complex-2, Chimney-1
3. Sampling Method	: CPCB Stack Sampling Method
B. Stack Information	
1. Stack Connected to	: Chimney-1(Furnace-3 & 4)
2. Material Construction of Stack	: M.S
3. Shape of Stack	: Circular
4. Whether Stack is Provided with Permanent Platform & Ladder	: Yes
C. Test Results	

Sl. No.	Name of the Parameters	Unit	Testing Methods	Revised CPCB Standard(2018) for Steel Plant	Chimney-1
1.	Temperature of Emission in Stack	°C	IS 11255: 1985(Part 3)	--	83
2.	Velocity of Gas	m/sec	IS 11255: 1985(Part 3)	--	7.24
3.	Concentration of Particulate Matter (as PM)	mg/Nm ³	IS 11255: 1985 (Part 1)	50.0	34.40

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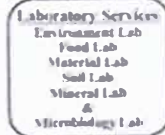




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- Renewable Energy

- Agricultural Development
- Information Technology
- Public Health Engineering

- Mine Planning & Design
- Mineral/Sub-Soil Exploration
- Waste Management Services

Ref: Envlab/24-25/TR-08689

Date: 17.08.2024

TEST REPORT

Customer Name & Address : VISA STEEL LIMITED, Jakhapura, Jajpur, Odisha-755026

A. Sample Particulars		
1. Date of Sampling	:	16.08.2024
2. Sampling Location	:	Ferrochrome Complex-2, Chimney-1
3. Sampling Method	:	CPCB Stack Sampling Method
B. Stack Information		
1. Stack Connected to	:	Chimney-1(Furnace-3 & 4)
2. Material Construction of Stack	:	M.S
3. Shape of Stack	:	Circular
4. Whether Stack is Provided with Permanent Platform & Ladder	:	Yes
C. Test Results		

SL. No.	Name of the Parameters	Unit	Testing Methods	Revised CPCB Standard(2018) for Steel Plant	Chimney-1
1.	Temperature of Emission in Stack	°C	IS 11255: 1985(Part 3)	--	86
2.	Velocity of Gas	m/sec	IS 11255: 1985(Part 3)	--	7.31
3.	Concentration of Particulate Matter (as PM)	mg/Nm ³	IS 11255: 1985 (Part 1)	50.0	28.24

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Approved By 





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| •Water Resource Management | •Quality Control & Project Management | •Information Technology | •Mineral Sub Soil Exploration |
| •Environmental & Social Study | •Renewable Energy | •Public Health Engineering | • Water Management Services |

Ref: Envlab/24-25/TR-08688

DATE:17.08.2024

TEST REPORT

Customer Name & Address: VISA STEEL LIMITED, Jakhapura, Jajpur, Odisha- 755026

A. Sample Particulars		
1. Date of Sampling	:	14.08.2024
2. Sampling Location	:	Ferrochrome Complex-2, Chimney-1
3. Sampling Method	:	CPCB Stack Sampling Method
B. Stack Information		
1. Stack connected to	:	Chimney-1 (Furnace-3&4)
2. Material Construction of Stack	:	M.S
3. Shape of Stack	:	Circular
4. Whether Stack is Provided with Permanent Platform & ladder	:	Yes
C. Test Results		

SL No.	Name of the Parameters	Unit	Testing Methods	Revised CPCB Standard (2018) for Steel Plant	Chimney-1
1.	Temperature of Emission in Stack	°C	IS 11255: 1985 (PART 3)	--	83
2.	Velocity of Gas	m/sec	IS 11255 :1985 (Part 3)	--	7.24
3.	Concentration of a Particulate Matter (as PM)	mg/Nm ³	IS 11255 :1985 (Part 1)	50.0	34.40

TERMS AND CONDITION: -

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- 5.The laboratory's responsibility under this report is limited to proven wilful negligence.

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|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| •Infrastructure Engineering | •Surface and Sub-Surface Investigation | •Agricultural Development | •Mine Planning and Design |
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| •Environmental & Social Study | •Renewable Energy | •Public Health Engineering | • Water Management Services |

Ref: Envlab/24-25/TR-08689

DATE:17.08.2024

TEST REPORT

Customer Name & Address: VISA STEEL LIMITED, Jakhapura, Jajpur, Odisha- 755026

A. Sample Particulars		
4. Date of Sampling	:	16.08.2024
5. Sampling Location	:	Ferrochrome Complex-2, Chimney-1
6. Sampling Method	:	CPCB Stack Sampling Method
B. Stack Information		
5. Stack connected to	:	Chimney-1 (Furnace-3&4)
6. Material Construction of Stack	:	M.S
7. Shape of Stack	:	Circular
8. Whether Stack is Provided with Permanent Platform & ladder	:	Yes
C. Test Results		

SL No.	Name of the Parameters	Unit	Testing Methods	Revised CPCB Standard (2018) for Steel Plant	Chimney-1
1.	Temperature of Emission in Stack	°C	IS 11255: 1985 (PART 3)	--	86
2.	Velocity of Gas	m/sec	IS 11255 :1985 (Part 3)	--	7.31
3.	Concentration of a Particulate Matter (as PM)	mg/Nm ³	IS 11255 :1985 (Part 1)	50.0	28.24

TERMS AND CONDITION: -

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- 5.The laboratory's responsibility under this report is limited to proven wilful negligence.

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Approved By

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ANNEXURE - 3

Latitude: 20.944669
Longitude: 86.050714
Elevation: 46.26±19.65 m
Accuracy: 28.34 m
Time: 21-08-2024 11:00:38

NoteCam @ iOS





Sunee Sodhi

(TRUE COPY)

ANNEXURE - 4 (Colly)

Ref.No.VSL/SPCB/2024-25/018

Dt. 22nd August, 2024

To
The Member Secretary
State Pollution Control Board
Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakantha Nagar,
Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar-751012.

Ref: Letter No. 12540/IND-I-CON-5008 dated 08.08.2024

Sub: Compliance of the Directions issued vide Letter No. 12540/IND-I-CON-5008 dated 08.08.2024

Dear Sir,

This is with reference to the captioned Letter dated 08.08.2024 issued under Section 31A of the Air (PCP) Act, 1981 and under Section 33A of the Water (PCP) Act, 1974.

Please find mentioned below the corrective steps taken by us to comply with the observation made in the captioned Letter.

- 1) Upon inspection of the Gas Cleaning Plant (GCP) associated with Furnace No:3 & 4, we found 370 no's of bags damaged out of the total installed 4200 no's of bags. The damaged bags were immediately replaced and the GCP is now working in a healthy condition and the PM concentration level is well within the prescribed limits. Photographs of the job performed in the GCP is attached herewith as **Annexure – 1**. The PM values have also been validated through a 3rd party agency. Copy of the Report of 3rd party agency is attached herewith as **Annexure – 2**.
- 2) The emission observed at Bin mixing building of Ferro Alloys Complex – 2 was due to revamping jobs being carried out in the unit. We have augmented the capacity of Dust Extraction System from 26000 NM3/hr. to 39000 NM3/hr. and the same has been completed on 10.08.2024.

Contd.2

::2::

- 3) The fugitive emission observed during fly ash loading was due to jamming of nozzles which has been cleaned and is now working in a proper manner and there are no fugitive emissions.
- 4) A plan for construction of the approach road near FAP-II and dispatch gate has already been submitted to your good office and the approved time frame given by your good office to complete the same is 31.10.2024 for the approach road near FAP-II and 31.03.2025 for dispatch gate. Copy of the order issued by your good office is attached herewith as **Annexure – 3**.
- 5) The clogged drain observed near WHRB 2 and Briquette Plant of Ferrochrome complex 2 has been cleaned. Photograph of the cleaned drain is attached herewith as **Annexure – 4**.

All observations made during the inspection and recorded in the captioned letter have been duly addressed by the Company. The Company is committed to ensure 100% compliance with environmental norms and have taken up all jobs as directed by your good office.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
For VISA Steel Ltd.,



[Manoj Kumar]
Director

Cc : 1. The Chief Env. Engineer, State Pollution Control Board, Bhubaneswar.
2. The Regional Officer, State Pollution Control Board, Kalinganagar.



(TRUE COPY)

ANNEXURE -5

Before



After



Suren Sochi

(TRUE COPY)

ANNEXURE - 6

Before



After



Sunee Sodhi
(TRUE COPY)

**INSPECTION REPORT ON M/S. VISA STEEL LTD. AT: KALINGANAGAR INDUSTRIAL
COMPLEX, JAKHAPURA, DIST- JAJPUR**

M/s Visa Steel Ltd., is an integrated steel plant operating at Kalinganagar Industrial Complex, Jakhapura in the district of Jajpur. Sri Aswini Kumar Dhal, President, Kalinganagar Paribesh Surakshya Samiti, At/PO: Jakhapura, Dist: Jajpur made complaints to MoEF&CC and Central Pollution Control Board through E-mail with a copy to SPCB, Odisha on 26.07.2024, 27.07.2024 and 30.07.2024 regarding discharge of waste water from M/s Visa Group of Industries to nearby agricultural land causing water pollution and emission through stacks causing air pollution.

In this connection, the unit was inspected on 06.08.2024 by Er. S. K. Sahu, ACEE & Er. S. K. Panda, SEE from Head Office, Sri Jayadev Mishra, JLA from Central Laboratory and Er. P. K. Behera, Regional Officer, SPC Board, Kalinganagar. Sri Maheswar Behera, DEE, Sri Soumendra Sahu, AES and Sri Satya Swarup Diwedi, JLA of Regional Office, Kalinganagar accompanied the inspecting team for monitoring and sampling purpose. Sri Aswini Kumar Dhal, President, Kalinganagar Paribesh Surakshya Sammitte was present on the day at the site and accompanied the team during sampling at outside. Sri Manoj Kumar, Director, Sri Vikash Kumar Das, Head Coke Oven, Sri Subash Chandra Das, Divisional Manager, Sri Rajesh Chandra, AGM Environment, Sri Ansuman Mund, Manager Environment and Sri Samrat Singh, AGM were present during the inspection as representatives from the industries.

As referred by the complainant, M/s Visa Group of Industries includes three different industries, namely, M/s Visa Steel Ltd., M/s Visa Special Steel Ltd. and M/s Visa Coke Ltd. All these three units are operating within the same premises. They have common facilities such as entry and exit gate, common boundary wall (however, no boundary wall are in between these units), raw material handling system, water system, common drains, treatment of wastewater & STPs and discharge points.

Table – 1: Overall Configuration of the Plant with Production Facilities, Consent to Operate Status and Operational Status:

Sl. No.	Plant Facilities	Production Capacity	Consent to operate status	Operational Status
M/s Visa Steel Ltd.				
1.	CPP	75 MW (WHRB-50 MW +25 MW CFBC)	Valid up to 31.03.2025	Operating
2.	a) Ferro Chrome Plant FAP – Unit- I (2x16.5 MVA)&Unit- II (3x16.5 MVA) b) Metal Recovery Plant (30 TPH) c) Harsco Metal Recovery Plant 40 TPH	5 x 16.5 MVA (1,50,000 TPA) Recovered Metal -27 TPD Recovered Metal- 20 TPD		Ferro Chrome Complex-I (2x16.5 MVA) was not in operation on the day of inspection or since 1 st March, 2024. Ferro Chrome Complex-II (3x16.5 MVA) along with Metal Recovery plants were in operation
M/s Visa Special Steel Ltd.				
1.	a) Blast Furnace (1x 250 m ³) b) Wet Screened iron ore for MBF	Pig Iron- 175000 TPA 1200 TPD	Valid up to 31.03.2025	Blast Furnace was in operation
2.	DRI Kiln-I& II with steam generating facility	2x500 TPD		DRI Kiln-II was in operation and DRI Kiln-I was under shut down
3.	Steel Melting Shop(1x80 T EAF and Billet Caster)	0.5 MTPA	CTO refused beyond 30.09.219 (2019-20)	Not in operation since November,2017
4.	Rolling Mill	0.5 MTPA	CTO refused beyond 30.09.219 (2019-20)	Not in operation since November,2017
M/s. Visa Coke Ltd.				
1.	Non-Recovery Type Coke Oven Plant	LAM Coke - 4,00,000	Valid upto 31.03.2029	Operating

Prior to this inspection, the unit was inspected by the Officials of Regional Office, Kalinganagar on dtd. 24.07.2024 under CICG. From the inspection report it is revealed that the treated surface runoff from SRTS-I of M/s Visa Steel Ltd. was discharged to outside through the permitted outlet near Culvert-1 of Jhakhpura-Danagadi road. The analysis result of sample collected near Culvert No. 1 shows the parameters such as pH, TSS, Cr⁺⁶, Phenolic Compounds and Cyanide are within prescribed standard. Result of AAQ monitoring conducted at two

locations i.e., at boundary near DM plant adjacent to CAAQMS-4 and at boundary near office building of Ferro Chrome Complex-2 shows concentration of PM₁₀ as 77µg/m³ and 86µg/m³ respectively against the prescribed standard of 100µg/m³. Stack monitoring was conducted at ESP outlet of CPP (CFBC Power Plant) and the monitoring result shows PM concentration as 42mg/Nm³ against the prescribed standard of 50mg/Nm³ and SO₂ emission as 380mg/Nm³ against the prescribed standard of 600mg/Nm³ whereas the stack monitoring result conducted at common stack attached to GCP outlet of Furnace -III & IV of Ferro Chrome Complex- 2 shows PM concentration to be marginally higher 56mg/Nm³ against the prescribed standard of 50mg/Nm³. In this context, a direction was issued to the unit vide Board's letter No. 12540, dtd. 08.08.2024 to rectify the lapses.

Public Complaints & Scope of inspection:

There have been public complaints regarding the pollution caused by the industry lodged mainly by Sri Aswini Kumar Dhal, President, Kalinganagar Paribesh Surakshya Samittee, Jakhpura, Jajpur from time to time over the years. Hence, a number of inspections have been carried out by Board officials promptly and necessary timely actions have been taken by the Board. The compliance to consent to operate conditions has been regularly verified by the Board officials on a routine basis as well as whenever there are public complaints. Even Collector and DM, Jajpur has been requested on 19.05.2020 to instruct the District Agriculture Department and District. Health Department to enquire into the matter regarding damage of agricultural land and health issues as alleged by Sri Aswini Kumar Dhal regarding decline of crop yield and skin irritation due to discharge of wastewater by M/s. Visa Steel Ltd. to outside, since these issues do not come under the purview of Board's activity. Hence the matter was investigated by concerned departments. Chief District Agricultural Officer, Jajpur reported that the crop can be taken successfully in the area. Similarly, Chief District Medical and Public Health Officer, Jajpur reported that skin irritation may be due to many allergies and other reasons, but may not be due to contact with discharge of effluent of M/s Visa Steel Ltd.

The details of the inspections and monitoring carried out by Board Officials for M/s Visa Group of Industries during 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 (as of 06.8.2024) is presented in **Table-2**. It is revealed from this Table that as many as 22 nos. of inspections spreading over 36 days have been carried out by the Board Officials during last 3 and 4 months. Out of these 22 inspections, 11 inspections were carried out related to public complaints, 10 related to compliance verification and 01 no. was related to CICG. The content of every complaint remains the same over the years regarding discharge of wastewater from the premises of M/s Visa Group of Industries to outside. As per CPCB norms and guidelines on frequency of inspection, there shall be two inspections in a year. So there should have been 07 nos. of inspections during this period of three and half years, whereas as many as 22 nos. of inspections were carried out.

Table-2: Details of Inspection & Monitoring Carried out by Board Officials

Year	Sl. No.	Days of Inspection	Name of the Industry	Inspection related to	Purpose of the Inspection
2021-22	1.	2 days on 16.04.2021 & 17.04.2021	M/s. VISA COKE Ltd.	Public complaint by Sri Aswini Kumar Dhal, President, Kalinganagar Paribesh Surakshya Samiti regarding discharge of wastewater to outside	Inspection stack emission, AAQ, Water Quality Monitoring.
	2.	3 days on 22.06.2021, 23.06.2021 & 29.06.2021	M/s. VISA Steel Ltd.	Public complaint by Sri Aswini Kumar Dhal, President, Kalinganagar Paribesh Surakshya Samiti regarding discharge of wastewater to outside	Water Quality Monitoring.
	3.	2 days on 02.08.2021 & 03.08.2021	M/s. VISA Steel Ltd.	CICG	Inspection stack emission & AAQ.
	4.	2 days on 8.9.2021 & 12.09.21	M/s. VISA COKE Ltd.	Public complaint by Sri Aswini Kumar Dhal, President, Kalinganagar Paribesh Surakshya Samiti regarding discharge of wastewater to outside	Inspection stack emission, AAQ, Water Quality Monitoring.

	5.	20.12.2021	M/s. VISA Special Steel Ltd	Verification of CTE conditions for expansion proposal.	Inspection for production enhancement for grant of CTO.
	6.	2 days on 05.10.2021 & 26.10.2021	M/s. VISA Steel Ltd. & M/s. VISA COKE Ltd.	Public complaint by Sri Aswini Kumar Dhal, President, Kalinganagar Paribesh Surakshya Samiti regarding discharge of wastewater to outside	Inspection stack emission, AAQ, Water Quality
	7.	10.01.2022	M/s. VISA Steel Ltd.	CICG and compliance verification	Inspection, stack emission, AAQ.
	8.	02.03.2022	M/s. VISA COKE Ltd.	CICG and compliance verification	Inspection, stack emission, AAQ.
2022-23	9.	2 days on 05.04.2022 & 27.04.2022	M/s. VISA Steel Ltd.	Compliance verification	AAQ monitoring.
	10.	2 days on 04.07.2022 & 05.07.2022	M/s. VISA Steel Ltd. & M/s. VISA COKE Ltd.	Public complaint as well as compliance verification.	Inspection, stack emission, AAQ.
	11.	03.11.2022	M/s. VISA Steel Ltd., M/s. VISA Special Steel Ltd & M/s. VISA COKE Ltd.	Public complaints made by Sri Sujit Behera & Sri Aswani Kumar Dhal	Inspection, stack emission, AAQ.
	12.	2 days on 03.03.2023 & 04.03.2023	M/s. VISA COKE Ltd, M/s. VISA Special Steel Ltd.	Renewal of CTO	Inspection, stack emission, AAQ.
2023-24	13.	18.04.2023	M/s. VISA Steel Ltd. & M/s. VISA COKE Ltd.	Compliance verification	AAQ monitoring.
	14.	2 days on 24.06.2023 & 30.06.2023	M/s. VISA Steel Ltd & M/s. VISA Special Steel Ltd.	Public complaint by Sri Aswini Kumar Dhal, President, Kalinganagar Paribesh Surakshya Samiti regarding discharge of wastewater to outside.	Inspection, stack emission, AAQ, Water quality.
	15.	15.07.2023	M/s. VISA Steel Ltd.	Public complaint by Sri Aswini Kumar Dhal, President, Kalinganagar	Inspection, water quality.

				Paribesh Surakshya Samiti regarding discharge of wastewater to outside	
	16.	08.09.2023	M/s. VISA Steel Ltd.	Compliance verification.	Inspection, water quality.
	17.	2 days on 02.01.2024 & 03.01.2024	M/s. VISA COKE Ltd.	In pursuance to the order of Hon'ble NGT in the matter of O.A. No. 82/2022/EZ, Kalinganagar Paribesh Surkhya Samiti Vs State of Odisha of dtd. 11.05.2023 and 17.12.2023	Inspection of stack emission, AAQ.
	18.	2 days on 29.01.2024 & 30.01.2024	M/s. VISA Steel Ltd & M/s. VISA Special Steel Ltd.	Compliance verification.	Inspection, stack emission, AAQ.
2024-25	19.	2 days on 28.06.2024 & 05.07.2024	M/s. VISA Steel Ltd.	Public complaint by Sri Aswini Kumar Dhal, President, Kalinganagar Paribesh Surakshya Samiti regarding discharge of wastewater to outside	Inspection, water quality.
	20.	2 days on 09.07.2024 & 10.07.2024	M/s. VISA Steel Ltd.	Compliance verification	Inspection
	21.	24.07.2024	M/s. VISA Steel Ltd.	CICG and compliance verification	Inspection, stack emission, AAQ, Water quality.
	22.	06.08.2024	M/s. VISA Steel Ltd., M/s. VISA Special Steel Ltd., & M/s. VISA COKE Ltd.	Public complaint by Sri Aswini Kumar Dhal, President, Kalinganagar Paribesh Surakshya Samiti regarding discharge of wastewater to outside.	Inspection, stack emission, AAQ, Water quality.
Total	22	36 days	M/s Visa Group of Industries only	Public Complaint – 11 Compliance Verification – 10 CICG - 01	

Water Pollution Control Measures Adopted by the Industry and Obseavtions during Inspection:

This time, the public complaint was regarding discharge waste water for entire premises of M/s Visa Group of Industries to outside and the emission from

stacks within the plant premises. Since there was no specific mention of discharge / emission from a particular unit, the inspection was carried out in a holistic way. The source of generation of process wastewater, the wastewater treatment system adopted by the individual unit, recycling / reuse of treated wastewater and the surface runoff management of individual and whole plant were verified during inspection. Similarly, verification of various sources of air pollution, the air pollution control devices and stack monitoring at the operating units were carried out on the day of inspection and the following observations were made.

1. Process Wastewater Management by M/s Visa Group of Industries:

- (i) **Power Plant:** The wastewater generated from side screen filter, boiler blow down, cooling tower blow down and neutralized DM Plant regeneration waste water of Power Plant is collected in a collection tank with diffused air aeration system for mixing with hypo dosing and then it is passed through multi grade sand filter and activated carbon filter. The water is then further treated in the Reverse Osmosis plant of 50m³/hour capacity and reused in the power plant. RO rejects is used for gardening, ash conditioning and slag quenching in FAP-2.
- (ii) **DRI Plant:** The cooling water from DRI plant is completely recycled & there is no process wastewater generation from DRI plant.
- (iii) **Ferro Alloys Plant:** There is no process wastewater generation from the Ferro Chrome Units. Cooling water is completely recycled. Soft water regeneration is neutralized and used in dust suppression. The wash water from jigging plant is taken to a settling tank and the settled water is recycled back for washing.
- (iv) **Blast Furnace:** Cooling water from Blast Furnace is completely recycled. The scrubbed wastewater is taken to thickener. The thickener overflow is used for scrubbing and the underflow is taken to belt press. Wastewater from slag granulation yard is settled in a settling tank and recycled for slag granulation.

(v) **Coke Oven:** No water is used in the process of production of Coke Oven and hence there is no generation of process wastewater from this unit. However, water is required for quenching of coke through quenching tower. Quenching water mostly gets evaporated and balance water is recycled through two numbers of settling tanks in a closed loop. The settled water from these tanks along with recycled water from SRTS (dedicated for Coke Oven area) and desired fresh water for Raw Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) is used for quenching. Since entire water is managed in a closed circuit, there was no discharge of quenching water to outside on the day of inspection.

(vi) **Domestic Wastewater:** For treatment of domestic wastewater, the industry has installed 3 nos. of Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) as follows;

- Guest House & GT Hostel - 150 KLD
- Canteen Building - 45 KLD
- Colony within plant premises - 45 KLD

The treated wastewater from STPs is used for gardening purposes and there is no discharge of this water to outside.

2. Management of Surface Runoff generated from Outside the Plant Premises:

M/s. Visa Steel Ltd., is situated at the lowest level compared to adjoining industries. The RL varies uniformly from 50.29 on extreme west corner to 34.40 at the extreme east corner near main road connecting Jakhapura to JSL (JCDL Road). M/s. Jindal Stainless Steel Ltd., and M/s. K. J. Ispat Ltd., are situated towards north side of the industry at higher elevation. So during monsoon and heavy rains in the locality, the surface runoff from upper catchment area enters into the plant premises from N/W direction to S/E directions by natural gradient.

Hence, in order to prevent the surface runoff from outside areas into the plant

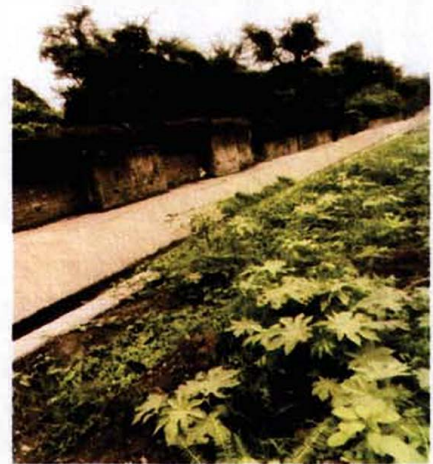


Fig 1: Drain along the Northern boundary carrying surface runoff from upper catchment area

premises, the industry has made a drain along the northern boundary of the plant. There is no drain connection from the plant side to this dedicated upstream surface runoff drain.

The length of the earthen drain is 1.8 km. Out of this 1.8 km, the unit has made brick lining with cement for a length of 1.4 km as per the direction of the Board and remaining 0.4 km near KJ Ispat Ltd., boundary is yet to be cemented. The representative of the industry informed that they will resume the cementing work



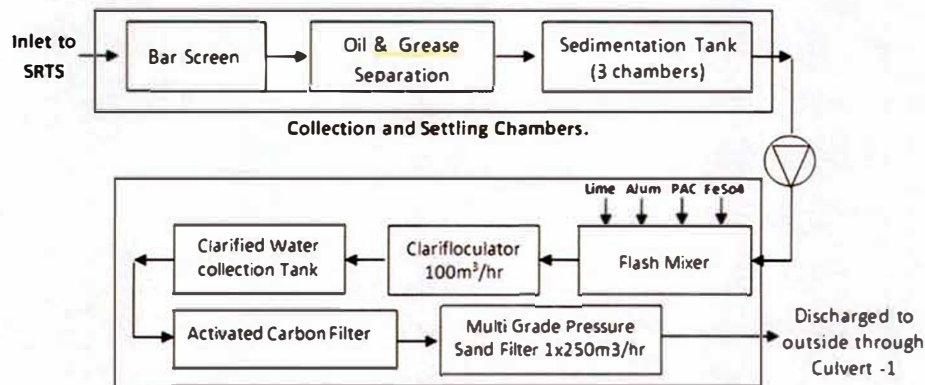
Fig 2: Sampling near Raw Material Gate

of drain immediately after monsoon. The surface runoff through this drain is discharged to outside at the extreme N/E corner of the plant near raw material gate and discharged to nearby culvert ultimately led to nearby agricultural land. Since drain was not lined, there was accumulation of surface runoff near material gate before discharge to outside. **A sample was collected in presence of Sri Aswini Kumar Dhal and from the analysis result it is revealed that the parameters such as pH, TSS, Hexavalent Chromium, Phenolic Compounds and Cyanide are within prescribed standard. Analysis Report is annexed as Annexure-I.**

3. Management of Surface Runoff generated within the Plant Premises:

(i) From M/s Visa Steel Ltd & M/s Visa Special Steel Ltd:

The surface runoff from solid waste dump area, FAP complex-II, FAP complex-I, CPP area, BF area, SMS and Rolling mill area is being collected in cement lining drain to a Surface Runoff Treatment System (SRTS) of capacity 4400m³/day consisting of bar screen, O & G separation, sedimentation tank, clarifier water tank, clarifloculator with dosing system through flash mixer, activated carbon filter and multi grade pressure sand filter. During rainy day, after treatment in the SRTS, the treated surface runoff is discharged through Culvert-I to nearby agricultural land.



Flow Diagram of SRTS-I

Further, the unit has been directed vide this office letter No. 14722, dtd 18.09.2023 to provide a new Surface Runoff Treatment System as an additional measures to treat surface runoff generated from the whole plant area during monsoon. In this connection, the plant authority carried out a survey and based on this study, they are installing a new additional SRTS of capacity 2000m³/day near SRTS-I consisting of bar screen, O &G skimmer, collection cum equalization tank, reaction tank for chemical dosing, clarifloculator, filter feed tank, dual media filter, filter press for de-watering of sludge is under installation. It was observed that the mechanical erection and civil construction of collection tank was going on.

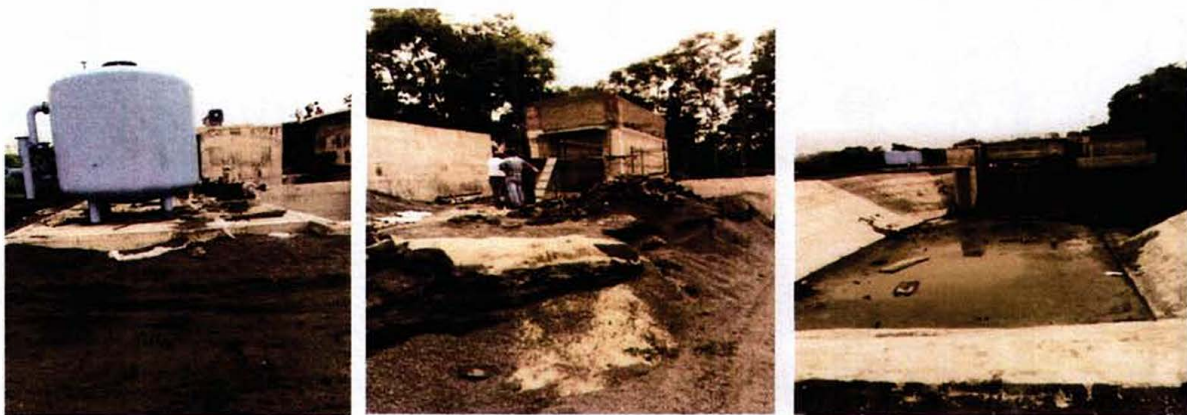


Fig 3: Status of Installation of New SRTS of capacity 2000m³/Day

(ii) From M/s Visa Coke Ltd.

The surface runoff generated from the Coke Oven Plant built-up area is channelized to a separate SRTS of 250 KLD capacity. The treated water of the SRTS is used for dust suppression, plantation and quenching. The excess treated water from SRTS during heavy rain is channelized to the storm water reservoir situated within the premises of M/s Visa Steel Ltd. The surface runoff from vacant areas of the Coke Oven Plant during heavy rains is channelized to two numbers of settling tanks of 150m³ capacity each prior to Culvert No. 2 & 3 and the settled water is recycled back to the plant. In case of exigency the Coke Oven Plant is permitted to discharge treated surface runoff through Culvert No. 2 & 3. There was no discharge of any wastewater to outside through Culvert No. 2 & 3.

Besides these above SRTSs, the industry has constructed an earthen Storm Water Reservoir of 5,00,000m³ capacity near the SRTS-I. There is a manually regulated gate just before the inlet channel into the collection and settling chamber of SRTS. It was informed by the Plant Representative that during heavy rain fall, the excess surface runoff is diverted to the storm water reservoir before entering into SRTS. The filter backwash of raw water treatment plant and SRTS treatment units are also discharged to this reservoir. The water from this reservoir is treated in the dedicated RO system of 1000m³/day and taken to the filtered water storage tank for use in the plant as fresh water. The RO rejects is used in metal cooling and slag cooling in FAP -II. The discharge drain passes close to the reservoir.

In order to use the water further from the storm water reservoir for plant purpose, the unit was directed to install additional RO system of capacity 1000m³/day. The unit has installed the additional RO system of capacity 1000m³/day, but it was observed that the said RO plant was not in operation due to cracks in RCC collection cum settling tanks for clarifier water, which was found to be under repair.

(iii) From Guest House, Colony area & Adjoining areas:

These facilities are existing towards east side of the plant near plant entry gate. The surface runoff from these areas is treated in settling tanks and discharged through Culvert - 2, 3 & 4. On the day of inspection **there was no discharge of Surface runoff water from Culvert – 2, 3 & 4.**

- (iv)** Even though the discharge from SRTS outlet to outside was not substantial on the day of inspection, there was scanty discharge of treated surface runoff from plant area after SRTS-I near Culvert-1 to nearby agricultural land. **A sample was collected in presence of Sri Aswini Kumar Dhal and analysis result shows the parameters such as pH, TSS, Hexavalent Chromium, Phenolic Compounds and Cyanide are within prescribed standard. Analysis Report is annexed as Annexure-1.**



Fig 4: Sample collection Near Culvert-I discharge to outside in presence of Sri Aswini Kumar Dhal

- (v)** All the water samples were sealed in presence of Sri Aswini Kumar Dhal and Representatives of the industry and submitted to Central Laboratory of the Board for analysis in sealed condition.

Air Pollution Control Measures adopted by M/s Visa Group of Industries:

1. On the day of inspection DRI Kiln-I was not in operation, Hence, WHRB-I was not in operation. A common ESP having capacity 1,10,000 m³/hr each has been provided in the stack attached to both WHR Boilers of both DRI Kilns. Pneumatic dust handling system with silo and ash conditioner has been

provided for dust handling at WHRB ESP. Stack monitoring was conducted at ESP outlet of WHRB-2 of DRI Kiln-II and the PM emission was found to be 43 mg/Nm³ against the prescribed standard of 100mg/Nm³. **Stack monitoring report is annexed as Annexure-2.**

2. The unit has provided ESP of capacity 2,48,000 m³/hr in the stack attached to CFBC boiler of 25 MW CPP to control particulate matter emission. Result of stack monitoring conducted on 24.07.2024 by Official of Regional Office SPC Board, Kalinganagar at ESP outlet of CPP (CFBC Power Plant) shows PM concentration as 42mg/Nm³ against the prescribed standard of 50mg/Nm³ and SO₂ emission as 380mg/Nm³ against the prescribed standard of 600mg/Nm³.
3. Both furnaces (2x16.5 MVA) of FAP (Unit-1) were not in operation. The unit has installed two separate GCP consisting air cooled heat exchanger followed by bag filter (4320 nos.) with air handling capacity 2,20,000 m³/hr each. Clean gas from bag filter is passed through a common stack of height of 45m.
4. The unit has provided GCP of air cooled heat exchanger followed by bag filter of capacity 2,20,000 m³/hr each with common stack for Furnace No. III & IV and Separate GCP of air cooled heat exchanger followed by bag filter of capacity 2,20,000 m³/hr is provided for Furnace No. V of FAP (Unit-2). In the meantime, they have replaced the damaged bags at the GCP attached to common stack for Furnace No. III & IV of FAP (Unit-2).
5. Stack monitoring was conducted at the stack attached to GCP of Furnace-III & IV of FAP (Unit-2) and the result of monitoring shows PM emission as 32mg/Nm³ against prescribed standard of 50mg/Nm³. **Stack monitoring report is annexed as Annexure-2.**
6. The unit has provided bag filters at briquetting plant and water sprinkling system at Metal recovery plants to control fugitive emission. There was dust accumulation observed at conveyer belt connecting to dryer of briquetting plant of FAP Unit-2. The unit needs to upgrade the bag filter at Briquetting Plant with more suction points to control fugitive emission there.

7. The Blast Furnace gas is treated in Gas Cleaning Plant consisting of dust catcher followed by double stage ventury scrubber (72,000 m³/hr) and cyclonic separator. Clean gas from GCP is used in BF gas fired boiler for power generation and stove heating. The unit has provided bag filter of capacity 2x95000 m³/hr at cast house to control fume emission during tapping. However, during inspection roof top emission from cast house was observed during metal tapping due to inadequate suction.
8. It was observed that the coal stockpiles outside the coal shed of Coke Oven Plant were covered with tarpaulin. The hot flue gas from the Coke Oven Plant is used in 4 nos. of WHRBs of 24.5 TPH capacity each. The outlet of Boiler-I & II are connected to a common stack of 70m with installation of ID fan of 60,000 Nm³/hr capacity whereas the Boiler-III & IV are connected to another common stack of 70m height with ID fan capacity of 60,000 Nm³/hr. There was no emission from both the stacks on the day of inspection.

Other observations:

1. Sri Aswini Kumar Dhal showed the inspecting team about discharge of wastewater from the boundary of the plant near material gate to outside. Upon investigation, it was found that the industry has made a water tank of approx. 10m³ capacity inside the plant premises near truck parking area for the truck drivers for bathing and washing their clothes. The washed water was discharged to outside as such. Hence,

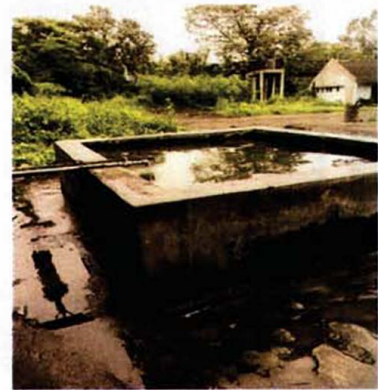


Fig 5: Water Tank used for Bathing and Washing by Truck Drivers

a water sample from the said discharge was collected in presence of Sri Aswini Kumar Dhal to ascertain the quality of discharge. It is revealed from the analysis result that the effluent parameter Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) remained at 118 mg/L which exceeding the prescribed standard of 30 mg/L. The analysis result is reflected in Annexure-I. The

industry was asked to dismantle the tank or provide necessary treatment facility for domestic wastewater.

2. None of the units of M/s Visa Group of Industries are permitted to discharge their treated / untreated process wastewater to outside. However, they have been permitted to discharge treated / settled surface runoff generated within the entire plant premises to outside through 5 nos. of outlets (Culvert Nos. 1,2,3 & 4 and IDCO drain near Raw Material Gate) meeting prescribed standards. Stricter standards have been imposed in the Consent Order i.e., discharge to inland water surface. On the day of inspection, there was discharge from culvert-1 and from upper catchment area near raw material gate to IDCO drain, whereas there was no discharge from outlet No. 2, 3 and 4.

3. The unit has installed one sensor based mechanical wheel washing system with recycling system near raw material gate & found operating. Oil skimmer has been provided for removal of oil water and the cleared water is stored in a tank & recycled again for wheel washing.



Fig 6: Mechanical Wheel Washing System near Raw Material Gate

4. Crushed slag after metal recovery of approx. one truck load was found to be dumped outside near raw material gate. This needs to be either shifted to designated dump site or used for low land filling inside plant premises.
5. The unit has not started yet the concreting of internal road connecting near raw material gate and slag breaking area of FAP (Unit-2).
6. There was no soil cover at the slope of solid waste dump site on western part, adjacent to the boundary of FAP (Unit-2) and rain cuts were observed on the slope.

7. The industry has started dumping the crushed slag after recovery of metal in jigging plant of FAP (Unit-2) in the vacant land on south-west corner of the plant.



Fig 7: Slag dumped near SW corner of FAP (Unit-2)

8. IDCO is constructing the JCDL Road side drain to collect outside catchment runoff. But it was found that the drain is terminated abruptly at the main gate of M/s Visa Steel Ltd. Again they have constructed a culvert over the drain in front of main gate of M/s Visa Group of Industries and the drain will be connected to Culvert-I of Jakhpura-Dangadi road.



Fig: 8 Road side drain constructed by IDCO at the JCDL Road

Conclusion :


1. The unit shall complete the balance 0.4 KM earthen drain, with brick lining along the boundary of M/s KJ Ispat Ltd., carrying surface run-off from upper catchment area connected to IDCO drain near raw material gate.
2. The unit shall expedite to complete the concreting of internal road connecting near raw material gate and slag breaking area of FAP (Unit-2) within the timeline stipulated in proceeding of personal hearing conducted on 21.03.2024.
3. The crushed slag of one truck load dumped outside the material gate shall be shifted to designated dump area inside the premises.

4. The unit shall either dismantle the water tank used by truck drivers for bathing & washing or shall provide necessary treatment facility for this domestic effluent so as to stop direct discharge of washing and bathing water to outside.
5. The unit shall provide adequate measures for suction of fumes at the cast house of blast furnace during metal tapping to control roof top emission.
6. The Unit shall upgrade the bag filter at briquetting plant of FAP (Unit-2) to control fugitive emission there.
7. The unit shall expedite to complete the installation of new Surface Run-off Treatment System of capacity 2000 m³/day.
8. The unit shall operate the newly installed 1000m³/day capacity RO plant for reuse of water from rain water harvesting pond for plant use.
9. The unit shall made soil cover at the slope of solid dump site on western part of the dump adjacent to FAP (Unit-2) to prevent wash out during rain.
10. IDCO may be requested to complete the construction of road side drain at JCDL road to collect catchment runoff.



16.08.24

Er. P.K. Behera,
RO, SPC Board,
Kalinganagar



16.8.2024

Er. S.K. Panda,
SEE, SPC Board,
Bhubaneswar



16/08/2024.

Er. S.K. Sahu,
ACEE, SPC Board,
Bhubaneswar



(TRUE COPY)

ANNEXURE - 8

Ref.No.VSL/SPCB/2024-25/023

Date: 04th September, 2024

To,
The Member Secretary,
State Pollution Control Board,
Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakantha Nagar,
Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar – 751012.

Ref: Letter No. 13170/IND-I-CON-5008 dated 20.08.2024.

Sub: Compliance of the Directions issued vide Letter No. 13170/IND-I-CON-5008 dated 20.08.2024.

Dear Sir,

This is with reference to the captioned Letter dated 20.08.2024 issued under Section 31A of the Air (PCP) Act, 1981 and under Section 33A of the Water (PCP) Act, 1974.

Please find mentioned below the corrective steps taken by us to comply with the observation made in the captioned Letter:

- 1) Due to intermittently low pressure and monsoon rains, the civil job works of completing the balance 0.4 km earthen drain with brick lining along the boundary of M/s KJ Ispat Ltd., carrying surface run-off from upper catchment area connected to IDCO drain near raw material gate got delayed. The same shall be completed by 15.09.2024.
- 2) With regard to expediting completion of concreting on internal road connecting near raw material gate and slag breaking area of FAP (Unit – 2) within the timeline stipulated in the proceedings of personal hearing conducted on 21.03.2024 is concerned, it is stated that necessary orders have been issued and the same would be completed within the given timeline. In the meantime, the unit is regularly sprinkling water in this area through water tankers for suppression of fugitive dust emissions.

- 3) The crushed slag of one truck load was dumped outside the material gate to maintain the damaged road, however, as has been advised vide the Letter dated 20.08.2024, the same has been shifted to the designated dump area within the premises of the unit. Relevant photographs are attached herewith as **Annexure – 1**.
- 4) The water tank used by truck drivers for bathing and washing has been dismantled by the unit. Relevant photographs are attached herewith as **Annexure – 2**.
- 5) The observed emissions on the day of the inspection was due to failure of tap hole drill machine during tap hole opening, which has already been rectified. Further, the unit has already installed Fume Extraction System of 95,000 NM³/hr. capacity. The unit has redesigned and repositioned the suction hoods for increasing the suction area.
- 6) The dust accumulation observed at Bin Mixing Building of Ferro Alloys Complex – 2 was due to revamping jobs being carried out within the unit. The unit has augmented the capacity of its Dust Extraction System from 26,000 NM³/hr. to 39,000 NM³/hr. and the same has been completed on 10.08.2024.
- 7) As regards completion of the new Surface Run-off Treatment System of capacity 2,000 m³/day, it is stated that due to intermittently low pressure and monsoon rains, the entire civil job works got delayed. The unit has completed 100% of the civil work for completion of the new SRTS and has received the entire equipment. The unit has expedited the installation of the equipment.
- 8) The Construction pit of 600 M³ capacity for storing treated clear water and further input to the new RO System was damaged. The unit has already started repairing this pit and the same shall be completed by 06.09.2024, and immediately thereafter, operation of the newly installed RO system will be restarted.

- 9) The unit has provided soil cover at the slope of solid dump site on western part of the dump adjacent to FAP (Unit – 2).

All observations made during the inspection and recorded in the captioned letter are being duly addressed by the Company and the same would be completed within the timelines provided. You may note that the Company is committed to ensure 100% compliance with environmental norms and has taken up all jobs as directed by your good office.

There is another aspect that needs your urgent and immediate attention. It is an admitted position that in the last about three (3) years and four (4) months, twenty two (22) inspections spreading over thirty six (36) days have taken place. Out of these, eleven (11) inspections are solely attributable to the complaints made by Sh. Aswini Kumar Dhal, who claims to be the President of one Kalinganagar Paribesh Surakshya Samiti and has also filed a case against the Company which is pending adjudication before NGT, Kolkata bearing O.A. 19/2019. These complaints are primarily made to keep the pot boiling. Most of the complaints have resulted in reports which do not find any major violation of environmental norms. However, it seems that the Pollution Control Board officers often get unjustifiably pressurized by these vengeful complaints on behalf of Mr. Dhal. For reasons best known to the industry, public exchequer money is wasted in carrying out these inspections, which ultimately find no major violations, whereas, the entire expenditure for such recurring inspections solely at the behest of Mr. Dhal should be borne by him. Therefore, you are requested to kindly initiate appropriate proceedings for recovery of the entire expenditure undertaken by the Board against Mr. Dhal.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
For VISA Steel Ltd.,


(Manoj Kumar)
Director

Cc: The Regional Officer, State Pollution Control Board, Kalinganagar.



(TRUE COPY)

ANNEXURE - 9

Ref.No.VSL/SPCB/2024-25/022

Date: 22nd October, 2024

To,
The Member Secretary,
State Pollution Control Board,
Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakantha Nagar,
Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar – 751012.

Ref: Show Cause Notice No. 16338/IND/I/CON/5008 dated 09.10.2024.

Sub: Response on behalf of VISA Steel Ltd.

Dear Sir,

This is with reference to the captioned Show Cause Notice bearing No.16338 dated 09.10.2024, wherein certain observations have been made by the Regional Officer, SPCB, Kalinganagar, as under:

- a. Run-off water from the plant was getting discharged to outside through culvert 1, 2 & 3 and the characteristics of runoff water is not confirming to the prescribed standard of the Board w.r.t phenolic compounds and cyanide;
- b. The characteristics of discharge of effluent at Culvert-04 also contained phenolic compounds and Cyanide exceeding the prescribed of the board.

At the outset, it is stated that we are a 100% environment compliant industry and strive to ensure that any deficiency, if found during any inspection by your department or any other department, are rectified and complied within a timely manner.

In respect of the aforesaid observations made in the Show Cause Notice dated 09.10.2024, it is stated as under:

1. All observations made in the Show Cause Notice are denied as being incorrect, and without any merit for the reasons mentioned hereinafter.
2. The Inspection Report states that the unit was inspected on 26.09.2024, however, it is stated that the Inspecting Officers indicated in the said report, have not inspected our plant premises on 26.09.2024, as no notice of inspection of the Unit for the said date was given to the Company, in terms of the prescribed rules.

3. Without prejudice to the above, it is stated that during the day of the alleged inspection, i.e. 26.09.2024, heavy rainfall was witnessed in the Kalinganagar area and the company was discharging treated surface runoff water from its outlet leading to Culvert No. 01.
4. On the said day, Shri M.M. Sahoo, the inspecting officer was present outside the plant with one Mr. Ashwini Kumar Dhal, the Complainant, when the Company officials were asked to come outside the plant premises over a phone call. Upon a query raised by the said Officer, the company official who was called outside the plant premises by the said inspecting Officer, categorically informed him that the **upper catchment surface runoff was flowing through the land between Culvert No. 4 and the company boundary wall**. This land is approximately 6 to 9 meters wide which runs alongside the company boundary wall and Biju Patnaik Main Road, which has Culverts Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4. The layout plan is attached herewith as **Annexure 01**.
5. The surface runoff water from the upper catchment was flowing from the said point (land) besides culvert no 4 to culvert no 01 due to natural gradient as the adjacent land before culvert no 4 is at 58 meters sea level (msl) above sea level while culvert no 03 is at 55 msl, culvert no 2 is at 53 msl, and culvert no 01 is at 51 msl.
6. It may please be noted from the Inspection Report that no discharge was observed from the company outlet leading to Culvert no 04, while sample was drawn from the said point (land between company boundary and road). The results of sample drawn near Culvert 4 depicts heavy traces of Total Fe, Phenolic compounds and Cyanide. This contaminated surface runoff water is directly responsible for heavy traces observed in the sample report of Culvert no 1, 2 and 3.

Moreover, we would like to bring additional facts on record for the observation of SPCB:

7. It has been stated by your office that it is a matter of concern that phenolic compounds as phenol and Cyanide as CN in drain water has been found above permissible limits. In this respect, we would earnestly like to point out that processes being carried out in VISA are **incapable** of generating any Phenolic compound or Cyanide as we do not have any units which neither involves any process/chemical reactions for production of Phenol and Cyanide as the main product/by product nor it is present in any form of Gas or Liquid. The Board may review other companies situated at higher

elevations which involves processes which have a potential to produce Phenol and Cyanide in their main product/by product or either present in any form of Gas or Liquid. It is our humble submission that SPCB may look into the Biochemical Oxidation and De-phenolisation Plants (BOD plants) of Recovery type Coke Ovens in Kalinganagar Industrial Area to find the root cause for such contamination of surface runoff water.

8. We would also like to refer the following Guidance Manual issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forest for your perusal:

Reference: Technical EIA Guidance Manual For Coke Oven Plants prepared for the Ministry of Environment & Forests Government of India
https://environmentclearance.nic.in/writereaddata/Form-1A/HomeLinks/TGM_Coke%20Oven_010910_NK.pdf

The important details are depicted below for your reference and review:

a. **Non-recovery type coke oven battery – (Pages 212/216)**

The pollution problem from such batteries are low due to the fact that the batteries work under slight negative pressure unlike recovery type batteries, which work under slight positive pressure. As such, emission of pollutants from battery is eliminated. Also, as the **Coke Oven Gas is completely combusted inside the battery**, organic pollutants like PAH are fully broken down. As there is **no by-product plant, liquid effluents and a BOD plant are avoided**. Solid wastes are completely avoided as there are **no crude tar and benzoyl involved**.

b. **Recovery Coke Ovens - Treatment of phenols, ammonium cyanide in effluent – (Pages 58/216)**

Wastewater generated during the process of cleaning coke oven gases is toxic in nature due to presence of high phenol, ammonia, thiocyanate and cyanide. This wastewater is commonly treated using biological methods of treatment. In steel industry, these treatment plants are known as Biochemical Oxidation and De-phenolisation Plants (BOD Plants) which have two or three stage biological treatment units. However, functioning of these BOD plants is often affected due to high inlet concentrations, biodegradability and improper operational control. The overall efficiency of

biological treatment of coke oven wastewater, even after employing well acclimatized microorganisms, is constrained due to its resistance to biodegradability and inhibition.

9. You may also note that the company has an authorized outlet to discharge surface runoff from the outlet leading to Culvert no. 02, 03 & 04 from the vacant area. It is pertinent to mention here that we have no operational units installed in the radius of 200 to 300 meter in this vacant area. The vacant area consists of only the Colony, Guest House and Play grounds.
10. With reference to surface runoff water observed at Culvert no. 01, we hereby confirm that only treated water was discharged from our outlet leading to Culvert no. 1. It is pertinent to mention here that the present surface runoff was contaminated as explained in point no. 6 above and also that this culvert is also connected with IDCO drains coming from more than 2 KM road adjacent to company premises.
11. We would also like to put on record that we have also got the sample analyzed drawn on the same date from inside of our plant at the outlets leading to 1, 2 and 3 and the results depicts that no effluents were discharged by us. The reports of NABL accredited lab is enclosed herewith as **Annexure 02**.
12. It may further be noted that in the recent past, SPCB had issued 3 directions bearing Nos. 12540, 13170 and 14722 dated 24.07.2024, 20.08.2024 and 18.09.2023 respectively and we have complied all observations made therein, as per the time lines submitted in our responses vide letter dated 22.08.2024, 04.09.2024 and 04.10.2023.
13. Further, it may be noted that SPCB has formed a 4-member team, including 2 people from the Head Office, 1 person from the Central Laboratory and the Regional Officer. The team was also accompanied by 3 Lab persons for monitoring and sampling for inspecting the allegations raised by Mr. Ashwini Kumar Dhal. The team inspected our plant in depth on 06.08.2024 and have submitted a detailed report which clearly states that no non-compliance related to water pollution was observed. The report also states an important fact which is mentioned below for your reference:

“22 inspections spreading over 36 days have been carried out by the Board Officials during last 3 years and 4 months, out of these 22 inspections, 11 inspections were carried out related to public complaints filed by Mr. Aswini Kumar Dhal. As per CPCB norms and guidelines on frequency of inspection, there shall be two inspections in a year so there should have been only 07 nos of inspections as compared to 22 nos in last 3 and half years.”

The above details clearly state the undue pressure is being mounted by Mr. Ashwini Kumar Dhal on SPCB despite the fact that the matter is sub-judice before the Hon'ble NGT, Eastern Zone.

14. We would like to state that even as per the above said inspections done by SPCB, the company had discharged only treated Surface Run Off during rainy days from its approved outlets. It has not been observed in any of the analysis reports carried out by the SPCB that any effluents have been discharged.
15. Meanwhile, we are providing the details of inspections and sample analysis report carried out by SPCB from 2019 to 2024 (attached herewith as **Annexure -3**) for your review and reference which clearly supports the above facts that we have never discharged any effluents from our plants to any of the nearby drains.

Date of Inspection	Sample Collected	Hexavalent	Phenol	Cyanide
Prescribed standard at outlet (Inland Surface)		0.1	1	0.2
06.08.2024	Culvert no.1	0.002	0.001	0.028
24.07.2024	Culvert no.1	0.041	0.010	0.010
29.01.2024 & 30.01.2024	No Discharge	-	-	-
08.09.2023	Culvert no.1	0.039	0.001	0.004
24.06.2023	Culvert no.1	0.055	0.016	0.003
30.06.2023	Culvert no.1	0.023	0.058	0.003
03.03.2023 & 04.03.2023	No Discharge	-	-	-
03.11.2022	No Discharge	-	-	-
05.04.2022 & 27.04.2022	No Discharge	-	-	-
10.01.2022	No Discharge	-	-	-
26.10.2021	Culvert no.1	0.015	0.025	0.012
22.06.2021 & 23.06.2021	No Discharge	-	-	-
19.11.2019	Culvert no.1	0.04	0.004	0.011
05.11.2019	Culvert no.1	0.03	0.001	0.014

16. You will also appreciate that we have completed all the jobs as mentioned by SPCB from time to time as mentioned in the Consent to Operate granted to the Company as well as through Directions/Show cause issued by SPCB. It is stated that there are no violations of the conditions or the provisions of the Consent to Operate leading to cause any problems of pollution.
17. In addition and without prejudice to the above, in the Show Cause Notice under response, it has been mentioned that various complaints have been received by your office. You are called upon and requested to kindly provide the copies of all such complaints received by you in the recent past since neither the details of those complaints are mentioned in the SCN nor copies of the complaints are annexed with the SCN.
18. The SCN is therefore, without any basis as it is based upon a report that incorrectly mentions that inspection of the Unit was carried out. We humbly submit that on 26.09.2024, the due process has not been followed as neither the officers concerned entered the premises of the Unit on the given date and nor did they ascertain the originating source of the alleged discharge.
19. We, therefore, earnestly request your good-self to acknowledge our explanation with submitted facts and rescind the Show Cause Notice bearing No. 16338/IND//CON/5008 dated 09.10.2024 by not taking any coercive action against the company.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
For VISA Steel Limited,


(Manoj Kumar)
Director

Encl: As above.

Cc: 1) The Chairman, SPCB, Bhubaneswar.
2) The Chief Environment Engineer, SPCB, Bhubaneswar.



(TRUE COPY)

PROCEEDINGS**ANNEXURE - 10****PERSONAL HEARING FOR THE PROJECT “INTEGRATED STEEL PLANT AND CAPTIVE POWER PLANT AT KALINGANAGAR INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX BY M/S VISA STEEL LTD.” HELD ON 23.10.2024 AT 15:00 HRS**

Personal hearing for the project “Integrated Steel Plant and Captive Power Plant at Kalinganagar Industrial Complex by M/s VISA Steel Ltd.” was held on 23.10.2024 at 15:00 hrs under the Chairmanship of Dr. Amandeep Garg, Additional Secretary, MOEF&CC at Narmada Meeting hall, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan. The list of the participants is at **Annexure I**.

2. At the outset Chairman extended warm welcome to the participants and after the round of introduction invited Dr. Shruti Rai Bhardwaj, MS, C&MD for brief background of the matter. Dr Bhardwaj submitted following as brief of the matter:

- i. The matter started with complaint dated 08.08.2022 from Jakhpura Gram Panchayat against M/s VISA Coke Limited. It was alleged that the M/s Visa Coke has been discharging untreated effluent which is in violation of EC letter no. J-11011/33/2007-IA.II(I) dated 12 June 2007 which specifies that plant shall operate with zero discharge. The complainant also mentioned that M/s Visa coke has no valid separate environmental clearance for its coke oven plant as the said EC was granted for M/s Visa steel for integrated steel plant.
- ii. The list of Environmental Clearances (EC) granted to M/s. Visa Steel Limited subject to implementation of the various conditions and environmental safeguards contained therein, is as follows:
 - a. EC vide letter No. J-11011/33/2007-IA.II(I) dated 12.06.2007 for the project ‘Integrated Steel Plant (1.5 MTPA and WHRB-CPP (100MW)’ to M/s. Visa Steel Limited.
 - b. Expansion EC vide letter No. J-11011/1000/2007-IA.II(I) dated 03.07.2008 for the project ‘Expansion of integrated steel plant by installing rolling mill (1.5 MTPA rolled products) and CPP (255 MW)’ to M/s. Visa Steel Limited
 - c. EC vide letter No. J-11011/491/2009-IA.II(I) dated 28.10.2009 for the project ‘Ferrochrome plant (1,00,000 MTPA, 4x16.5 MVA)’ to M/s Visa Bao Limited
 - d. Amendment EC vide letter No. J-11011/1000/2007-IA.II(I) dated 05.03.2011 for the project ‘Amendment in EC due to change in the Captive Power Plant configuration’ granting amendment to EC dated 2008 to M/s. Visa Steel Limited
 - e. Transfer EC vide letter No. J-11011/491/2009-IA.II(I) dated 26.02.2021 for ‘Transfer of Environmental clearance dated 2009 from M/s Visa Bao Limited to M/s Visa Steel Limited
- iii. Accordingly, all the ECs presently are in the name of M/s. Visa Steel Limited.
- iv. The project mentioned above in the subject was monitored by Regional Office of MoEF&CC Bhubaneswar on 20-21st September 2022 and the report was submitted to the Ministry vide letter dated 27.03.2023. It was noted that the RO had already sought ATR from PP based on the inspection report prior to examination by the Ministry.

- v. Examination of the inspection report indicated major non-compliance for which SCN was applicable. However, since RO had already sought ATR in the matter and it was long pending from PP, Ministry issued a reminder for ATR vide letter dated 17.07.2023. PP vide letter dated 25.07.2023 submitted the ATR.
- vi. Ministry vide letter dated 28.08.2023 sought ATR review report from RO Bhubaneswar. RO Bhubaneswar vide letter dated 15.01.2024 submitted the ATR review report to the Ministry based on the inspection conducted on 10.01.2024.
- vii. Examination of ATR review report in the Ministry indicated continued non-compliance. Accordingly, Show Cause Notice (SCN) was issued to the PP vide letter dated 04.03.2024.
- viii. PP submitted its response to the SCN vide letter dated 15.04.2024 and considering pending non-compliance the Personal Hearing is called.

3. It was followed by a presentation made by M/s. VISA Steel Ltd (**Annexure II**) on the actions taken to comply with the conditions. PP presented documentary and pictorial evidence/drone video. The same was deliberated in detailed during the hearing.

4. The chairman proposed to apprise the condition wise status of the compliance. Accordingly, details of the deliberation indicating the updated status of EC condition-wise conclusion during the personal hearing in reference to the submission of PP and taking into consideration the views of RO is as given below:

S. No.	EC Conditions	Latest observations of RO as per monitoring report dated 15.01.2024	Latest submission of PP, deliberations and recommendations of the Ministry
EC dated J-11011/33/2007-IA II(I) dated 12.06.2007			
1.	The gaseous emissions from various process units shall conform to the load/mass based standards prescribed from time to time. The Orissa State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) may specify more stringent standards for the relevant parameters keeping in view the nature of the industry and its size and location. At no time, the emission	In the Six-monthly compliance for the period of April 23 to Sept 23 stack monitoring data of WHRB-1 & 2, CFBC Stack, Ferrochrome complex-1. Ferrochrome complex-2, coke oven stack 1 & 2 has been furnished. During visit it was informed that, SMS rolling mill and blast furnace was not in operation during April 23 to Sept 23.	PP submitted that they have provided 8 nos. of Online Continuous Stack Emission Monitoring Facilities (CSEMS) in all the process stack of DRI, Ferro Chrome, CPP-CFBC, SMS, Coke Oven, and Blast Furnace. The monitoring data of all the stack has been transmitted on a real-time basis to CPCB & SPCB except the plant which are stopped due to non-viability of the operations like SMS and Blast Furnace. The same will be resumed once they are back in operation.

	level shall go beyond the prescribed standards. Interlocking facilities shall be provided so that process can be automatically stopped in case emission level exceeds the limits (Specific Condition i.)	Monitoring data of all the stack as per the consent order has not been furnished. The condition remains partially complied.	Six monthly compliance report which consists of the said monitoring report has been submitted regularly to MoEF. During the said day when exceedance was reported by the RO, bag replacement job was being carried out in Gas Cleaning Plant. RO agreed that it was not regular exceedance. RO clarified that the plant has a total of approximately 22 stacks, including both process and secondary stacks. Only the process stacks are connected to the SPCB server, while the secondary stacks are not. On the submission of RO, SPCB clarified that CEMS have been installed at all the stacks associated with process flue gas emission, which is the policy requirement. CEMS are not required at Dedusting Stacks connected to Bag filters/Cyclones etc. meant for controlling fugitive emission. The same policy is being applied to all industries. On this clarification, the Chairman considered the response of PP satisfactory.
2.	Continuous stack monitoring facilities for all the major stacks and adequate air pollution control systems shall be provided to keep emission levels below 50mg/Nm ³ and reports submitted to the OSPCB and CPCB (Specific Condition ii.)	Continuous stack emission monitoring facilities provided to WHRB -DRI- & II, CFBC, Ferro Chrome Complex -1 & 2 and Coke Oven stacks. Occasional online data for particulate matter exceeds the norms of 50 mg/Nm ³ n SAF-3. PP reported that SMS and rolling mill shut down since 11 th December 2017, Blast furnace shut down since 03 August 2022. Continuous stack monitoring facility to all the major stack as per the consent order has not been furnished. The condition remaining Partially Complied.	
3.	In-plant control measures for checking fugitive emissions from all the vulnerable sources shall be provided. Gas cleaning system in MBF, Fume and dust	Raw materials were found to be kept in covered shed as well as in open with tarpaulin cover and open. Pulse jet tyre bag filter in raw material unloading area yet to be	PP submitted that 13 nos. of high capacity Pulse Jet Type Bag Filter based dust extraction system has been provided at different locations of the units for controlling fugitive dust emission from raw material conveying, screening, transfer and feeding points.

	<p>extraction system to BF stock house, DR kiln, DRI EAF, Ore and Coal crushing and Screening section, Coke oven etc. and bag filter in SMS, pulse jet type bag filter system in Raw material handling area will be provided to control fugitive emissions. ESP to WHRB to control emission within 100mg/Nm' and bag filters to DRI kiln, EAF, BF, Submerged Arc Furnace (SAF), Coke oven plant, Lime plant, Dolo plant will also be provided to control air emission within 50 mg/Nm³. Further Specific measures like water sprinkling around the coal stock piles and asphaltting or concreting of the roads shall be done to control fugitive emission (Specific Condition iii.).</p>	<p>provided at the storage yard. Occasional online data exceeds the norm of 50mg/Nm³ in SAE 3 &4 stack. Road are mostly clean however, dust accumulation observed in parts, water sprinkler provided to reduce/control fugitive emission. The condition may be treated as Partially Complied.</p>	<p>The pictures of the systems were also submitted during the meeting.</p> <p>Additionally, they have installed 4 nos. of Mist Cannon along with water sprinklers at raw material yard for Dust Suppression.</p> <p>RO contended that Pulse jet tyre bag filter was not provided at the stockyard, and water sprinkling was absent on the monitoring day. Additionally, SPM data had not been submitted by PP.</p> <p>MS, Ind-1 and MS, C&MD opined that installation of Pulse jet tyre bag filter at stock yard are practically not feasible. However, to suppress the fugitive emissions sprinkler can be used.</p> <p>In response, PP further submitted that sprinklers have already been installed at all stock yards, however, during the visit of RO some of the sprinkler were not functional.</p> <p>PP stated that adequate arrangements, as previously described, were in place to capture dust, and a fugitive emission monitoring report dated 20.02.2024 had been submitted as requested. The Chairman reviewed pictorial evidence and drone footage confirming PP's installation of a high-capacity Pulse Jet Type Bag Filter, Mist Cannon, and other dust control measures. He instructed PP to maintain these practices.</p> <p>The Chairman found PP's response satisfactory.</p>
4.	Total water requirement from River	PP furnished a copy of document regarding agreement for	The Chairman noted that SCN has been issued by SPCB to the PP

	<p>Brahmani/Kharswan shall not exceed 39,600 m³/day and prior permission for the total water requirement shall be obtained from the Department of Water Resources, Government of Orissa before commissioning the project. Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) shall be installed for the treatment of process water. Cooling tower and boiler blow down water will be used for coke quenching. All the waste water generated shall be treated, recycled and reused either in the process or for dust suppression or green belt development. No wastewater shall be discharged outside the factory premises and 'Zero' discharge shall be adopted. Domestic effluent shall be treated in septic tank followed by soak pit (Specific Condition v.)</p>	<p>withdrawal of water from river Kharsua with executive engineer Jaraka. IRR division. PP submitted that they have an agreement with IDCO for drawal of 6000 KL of water from river Baitarani. During visit on 10.02.2024 discharge of water has not been observed. However, Stagnant water was present on the outlet point I till the culvert 1. Ministry may like to take a view on the submission of PP regarding run-off water and elevation of Visa Steel with respect to other industries in the area.</p>	<p>for Phenolics and cyanide compound in surface discharge. Chairman sought the opinion of the SPCB officials on the SCN. The SPCB reported that samples were collected from four locations and analyzed at the central laboratory. The analysis indicated that runoff water from the plant was being discharged externally through culverts 1, 2, and 3, with levels of phenolic compounds and cyanide exceeding the Board's prescribed standards. Additionally, effluent discharged at Culvert-4 contained phenolic compounds and cyanide that also exceeded the allowable limits. There was concern that any contaminated water coming into contact with other water within the plant could result in widespread contamination. OSPCB confirmed that PP has been maintaining the ZLD. However, OSPCB opined that if the surface runoff gets contaminated by coming in contact with any process, activity, storage of raw materials/products/waste etc, then it has to be collected, channelized separately and treated in SRTS and then in Tertiary treatment system (like RO Plant) for reuse. Such surface runoff (untreated & treated both) should not be allowed to be stored in the captive pond. The captive pond being an unlined one, should be used only for storage of surface runoff which is completely free from contamination. Provisions existing for diverting the contaminated surface runoff (treated or untreated both) in to</p>
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			<p>the pond should be permanently dismantled. The industry should designate one exclusive outlet for discharge of treated surface runoff (in case of exigency) for monitoring and compliance verification.</p> <p>The PP submitted that an inspection was conducted in July 2018 following a complaint on the issue, which led to a court case being filed in the NGT. PP appealed to the Supreme Court against the NGT Order, where a stay was granted in on the NGT order, favour of PP.</p> <p>The PP emphasized that due to the uneven topography of the project area, wherein number of other industries are also located; it is challenging to capture all storm water from the site by the PP. Although the project maintains a Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) system, some storm water had stagnated in areas, which may have been mistaken for process effluent water. The exceedance of storm water and hazardous chemicals may not be necessarily associated with their industry, considering that at lower elevation their project site is prone to accumulate water from higher elevations where other industries are located.</p> <p>After reviewing all facts and submissions from the Regional Office, SPCB, and PP, the Chairman noted that, since the SPCB had already issued the Show Cause Notice and is seized of the issue, Ministry does not have any action in the matter at present.</p>
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5.	<p>At the iron skull, scrap from CCM and char shall be used in EAF. Semi-burnt coke dust and coke breeze shall be reused in the power plant. Iron ore fines shall be sold to cement plants. BF dust, Thickener mud, EAF/LRFD dust, fines from ESPs, EAF slag shall be used for land filling, road construction etc. slag from Ferro chrome unit shall be disposed of in a suitably designed landfill as per CPCB guidelines to prevent leaching to the sub-soil and underground aquifer. Used oil shall be sold to Recyclers and Re-processors only (Specific Condition vi.).</p>	<p>Partially Complied During visit slag was found to be dumped inside the premises. Landfill as per the condition has not been observed. PP furnished chrome slag testing report dated 16.11.2022 and along with six monthly compliances for the period of April 23 to Sept. 23 of date 01.09.2023. However, TCLP analysis data has not been furnished. Landfill as per the condition yet to be constructed. The condition may be treated as partially complied.</p>	<p>The Project Proponent (PP) submitted that a TCLP (Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure) analysis was conducted, with results included in the six-monthly compliance report, showing hexavalent chromium levels below the detection limit. PP presented the latest TCLP test report dated 20.02.2024. A detailed report was submitted during the meeting. Additionally, slag generated after the recovery of ferrochrome was tested for leachate and stored in a designated dump area for potential use in road construction within the plant.</p> <p>The PP further explained that slag generated during the process is utilized for metal recovery, and after the final recovery stage, the remaining solid waste is repurposed for road construction and filling low-lying areas. Unutilized solid waste is stored in an earmarked area, and no landfill site is require within the project.</p> <p>The Chairman found the response satisfactory and advised the PP to seek amendments to conditions if necessary.</p>
6.	<p>The company shall develop rain water harvesting structures to harvest the rain water for utilization in the lean season besides recharging the groundwater table (Specific Condition vii.).</p>	<p>The rain water harvesting pond is separated from run off collection drain with a sluice gate. Permanent structure to separate runoff collection drain to surface runoff treatment area yet to be provided.</p>	<p>The Project Proponent (PP) reported that a rainwater harvesting structure has been installed on the plant premises. They have constructed concrete surface runoff drains with seven settling pits across all units, covering all yards. Additionally, a paved (pucca) drain with a settling pit has been installed to properly collect surface runoff water from the dump area.</p> <p>The Regional Office (RO) noted that while a rainwater harvesting structure exists, no separate</p>

			<p>collection system has been established to prevent mixing of process effluent with surface runoff water.</p> <p>The PP clarified that a dedicated drain has been provided for surface runoff and floodwater.</p> <p>SPCB also recommended to ensure that process effluent and storm water should not mix, as such contamination could lead to groundwater pollution through the recharge pit.</p> <p>In response, during the meeting PP submitted the layout plan and map of Kalinga nagar industrial complex and explained in detailed for implementing the surface runoff. As per the map submitted by the PP it was observed that the plant is located at lowest elevation topography at 102ft and other adjoining plants are located at higher elevation. M/s. Visa Plant area is shallow ground water level. Being the lowest elevation plant in Kalinganagr Industrial Complex, during rain, surface runoff of entire catchment from Hill side and adjunct industries and vacant area of Kalinga industrial complex flows towards Visa Steel premises through natural gradient. The same confirmed by the State Pollution Control Board in their inspection dated 19-20th September 2018.</p> <p>Considering the RO and SPCB's input, the Chairman directed that groundwater monitoring be conducted regularly, with necessary permissions obtained from the relevant authorities if needed.</p>
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7.	The project authorities must strictly adhere to the stipulations made by the Orissa Pollution Control Board (OPCB) and the State Government (General Condition i.)	EC has been accorded in the name of the M/s Visa Steel Ltd. However, consent order has been accorded in the name of Visa Steel Ltd, Visa coke Ltd and Visa Special Steel Ltd. Ministry may like to take a view in the issue.	<p>PP submitted that the VISA Steel has separated two units named VISA Coke Limited and VISA Special Steel Limited and the basis of separation are mentioned below:</p> <p><u>Basis of separation of VCL from VSL</u></p> <p>VISA Steel has been facing financial stress since 2011 due to various external factors beyond the control of the Management, including non-availability of Iron Ore at viable prices due to closure of Mines and failure of the Government to grant captive Iron Ore & Coal Mines, depriving the Steel Companies from long term source of Iron Ore & Coal at cost. Consequently, the Company had to re-structure its debt under the CDR Mechanism and raise funds.</p> <p>In view of above and in order to grow the Coke business independently, VISA Steel Limited (VSL) decided to transfer the business of manufacturing and sale of Metallurgical Coke and the associated Steam generation Units at its Kalinganagar plant was transferred by way of slump sale on going concern basis to "VISA Coke Ltd".</p> <p>VISA Steel Limited in 2013 had taken up with the Ministry for transfer or re-issuance of Environment Clearance on above line.</p> <p><u>Basis of separation of VSSL from VSL</u></p>

			<p>VISA Steel has been facing financial stress since 2011 due to various external factors beyond the control of the Management, including non-availability of Iron Ore at viable prices due to closure of Mines and failure of the Government to grant captive Iron Ore & Coal Mines, depriving the Steel Companies from long term source of Iron Ore & Coal at cost. Consequently, the Company had to re-structure its debt under the CDR Mechanism and raise funds.</p> <p>The Special Steel business has good potential to grow in order to provide the management with an opportunity to explore the business potential to the fullest and achieve economies of scale. The transfer will result in creation of a separate company engaged in Special Steel business, which will facilitate in inducting strategic partners / investors and bring greater focus to the operation of Special Steel business.</p> <p>Further, PP submitted that, Hon'ble NGT has given its judgement in the case no 82/2022 filed by Kalinga Nagar Paribesh Surakhya Samiti vs VISA Coke on the matter of Environment Clearance which states that mere creation of another company in the name and style of M/s VISA Coke Limited for operating the existing Coke Oven Plant does not require fresh Environment Clearance as the activity of coke oven plant was already covered in the Environment Clearance dated 12.06.2007. The company has a valid Environment Clearance and has obtained valid Consent to Operate from the State Pollution Control Board.</p>
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			After detailed deliberation in the matter Chairman was satisfied with the response and documental evidence submitted by the PP and suggested to apply for amalgamation of all the ECs, if it ease out compliance by the PP.
8.	No further expansion or modifications in the plant shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (General Condition ii.).	As per the EC accorded the products are Mild steel billets, stainless steel billets, alloy steel billets along with intermediate products of sponge iron, hot metal/pig iron and ferro chrome. Since SMS was not in operation the main products are not being manufactured instead intermediate products such as Ferro Chrome, Sponge Iron, Pig iron are being produced. (i) Consent order accorded for DRI and blast furnace in the name of Visa Special Steel Ltd. (ii) CPP and Ferro chrome has been running in the name of Visa Steel Limited. (iii) Coke are also being produced as a product in the name of separate company M/s Visa Coke Limited. Ministry may like to take appropriate view in the matter.	During the meeting PP submitted that the company has got the 'No Increase In Pollution Load' (NIPL) certificate from State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) vide letter no 3682 dated 10.03.2021 and Consent to Operate vide letter no 9204 dated 08.07.2021 for enhancement of Ferro Chrome Production from 125,000 MT to 150,000 MT. Copy of the same was submitted by the PP during the meeting. Based on the information/documents submitted by the PP, no further action lies with the PP.
9.	At least four ambient air quality monitoring stations shall be established in the downward direction as well as where	The details of consultation for Establishment of continuous Ambient air quality station has not been furnished.	PP submitted that Four nos. of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations has been established only after consultation with State Pollution Control Board.

	<p>maximum ground level concentration of SPM, SO and NOx are anticipated in consultation with the OPCB. Data on ambient air quality and stack emission shall be regularly submitted to this Ministry including its Regional Office at Bhubaneswar and OPCB, CPCB once in six months (General Condition iii.).</p>	<p>Third party analysis data M/s V.C.P.L. has been furnished in for two locations along with Six monthly compliance of April 23 to Sept. 23 for dated 01.09.2023. The condition remains Partially complied.</p>	<p>AAQMS and Stack CEMS nomenclatures representing the locations are approved by SPCB for recognition of continuous data in their server. The Chair was satisfied with the response submitted by the PP.</p>
10.	<p>Industrial wastewater shall be properly collected, treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under GSR 422(E) dated 19th May, 1993 and 31st December, 1993 or as amended from time to time. The treated waste water shall be utilized for plantation purpose (General Condition iv.)</p>	<p>It is require to examine/analysis the capacity of surface runoff treatment plant and runoff generation in the premises by an institute of repute. Drain has been observed connecting the different unit to the surface runoff treatment plant. However, proper collection arrangement for runoff water (garland drain) from open raw material storage yard and waste dump yet to be made. During visit construction observed at the dumping yard, near the slag storage area and near the boundary line. During visit 10.01.2024 discharge water not observed. However stagnant water observed at the outlet point of the</p>	<p>As mentioned at S. No. 4.</p>

		drain till the culvert. Proper collection and treatment of runoff from the storage yard yet to be implemented.	
11.	The project proponent shall also comply with all the environmental protection measures and safeguards recommended in the EIA/EMP report. Further, the company must undertake socio-economic development activities in the surrounding villages like community development programmes, educational programmes, drinking water supply and health care etc. (General condition vi.)	During visit efficient extraction observed at submersed Arc furnace no. 3. The expenditure unit has been reported as Rupees. However, garland drain around the raw material stock pile (kept in open) has not been observed for collection of contaminated runoff water and dust extraction system in raw material unloading area, proper collection and treatment of runoff water from raw material handling area, etc needs to be implemented.	
12.	The Project Proponent shall inform the public that the project has been accorded environmental clearance by the Ministry and copies of the clearance letter are available with the OPCB and may also be seen at Website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. This shall be advertised within seven days from the date of issue of the clearance letter, at least in two local	Norms of vernacular language has not been followed. This condition remains partially complied.	PP submitted that advertisements regarding accord of environmental clearance has been published in the SAMAJ, SAMBAD and New Indian Express. Further SAMAJ and SAMBAD are reputed local newspaper which are published only in the local vernacular language. The copy of the same was submitted by the PP during the meeting. The Chair was satisfied with the response submitted by the PP.

	newspapers that are widely circulated in the region of which one shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned and a copy of the same shall be forwarded to the Regional Office at Bhubaneswar (General Condition ix.)		
13.	Project authorities shall inform the Regional Office as well as the Ministry, the date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of commencing the land development work (General Condition x.)	PP furnished the year not the date as stipulated in the condition.	The document about final closure and final approval of the project was submitted by the PP during the meeting. The Chair was satisfied with the response submitted by the PP.
Compliance Status as per EC J-11011/1000/2007-IA II(I) dated 03.07.2008			
14.	Gaseous emissions including secondary fugitive emissions from all the sources shall be controlled within the latest permissible limits issued by the Ministry and regularly monitored. Guidelines/ Code of Practice issued by the CPCB shall be followed (Specific Condition iii.)	Raw materials were found to be with covered shed, as well as in open with tarpaulin cover and open on 10.01.2024. Third party monitoring data for 11 locations of PM10. Has been furnished. However, SPM monitoring data has not been furnished.	PP submitted fugitive emission monitoring report dated 20.02.2024 during the meeting. Upon review, it was observed that the SPM figures are within prescribed limit. The Chair was satisfied with the response submitted by the PP.
15.	Dust suppression and extraction system shall be provided to raw	Dust suppression or extraction arrangement at the raw material	As mentioned at S. No. 3

	material handling areas crusher house, junction towers, feed point, conveyors and transfer points. Water sprinkling shall be done in stockyard (Specific Condition iv.) .	unloading area in the storage yard yet to be provided.	
16.	Vehicular pollution due to transportation of raw material and finished product shall be controlled. Proper arrangements shall also be made to control dust emissions during loading and unloading of the raw material and finished product (Specific Condition v.) .	Arrangement for unloading of material at the stock yard along with dust suppression system yet to be provided. Dry fog system provided at the ground hopper for mitigating dust emission during feeding to the furnace/kilns.	
17.	Total water requirement from River Kharsua shall not exceed 1,498m ³ /hr. Closed circuit circulating/cooling water system shall be used. The wastewater from the demineralization (DM) plant shall be neutralized in neutralization pit. All the treated wastewater shall be recycled and reused either in the process or for dust suppression, green belt development and various other activities at the site. 'Zero' effluent discharge shall be strictly followed and no wastewater shall	PP furnished a copy of document regarding agreement for withdrawal of water from river Kharsua with executive engineer Jaraka. IRR division. PP submitted that they have an agreement with IDCO for drawls of 6000KL of water from river Baitarani. During visit on 10.02.2024 discharge of water has not been observed. Stagnant water was present on the outlet point I till the culvert 1. Ministry may like to take a view on the submission of PP regarding run-off water and elevation of Visa Steel with respect to other	As mentioned at S. No. 4.

	be discharged outside the premises. Domestic effluent shall be treated in septic tank followed by soak pit and used for green belt development (Specific Condition vi.) .	industries in the area.	
18.	At least four ambient air quality monitoring stations shall be established in the downward direction as well as where maximum ground level concentration of SPM, S and NOx are anticipated in consultation with the OPCB. Data on ambient air quality and stack emissions shall be regularly submitted to this Ministry including its Regional Office at Bhubaneswar and OPCB, CPCB once in six month (General Condition iv.) .	Details of consultation with SPCB has not been furnished. Hg monitoring data from CFBC has been furnished. The condition may be treated as partially complied.	As mentioned at S. No. 9.
19.	In-plant control measures for checking fugitive emissions from all the vulnerable sources shall be provided. Further, specific measures like water sprinkling around the coal stockpiles and asphaltting or concreting of the roads shall be done to control fugitive emissions (General Condition v.) .	Raw materials were found to be with covered shed, as well as in open with tarpaulin cover and open on 10.01.2024. Third party monitoring data for 11 locations of PM10. Has been furnished. However, SPM monitoring data has not been furnished.	As mentioned at S. No. 3.
20.	Industrial waste water shall be	PP furnished a copy of document regarding	As mentioned at S. No. 4.

	properly collected, treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under GSR 422 (E) dated; 19 ^o may 1993 and 31 ^o December, 1993 or as amended from time to time. The treated wastewater shall be utilized for plantation purpose (General Condition vi.) .	agreement for withdrawal of water from river Kharsua with executive engineer Jaraka. IRR division. PP submitted that they have an agreement with IDCO for drawal of 6000 KL of water from river Baitarani. During visit on 10.02.2024 discharge of water has not been observed. However, Stagnant water was present on the outlet point I till the culvert 1. Ministry may like to take a view on the submission of PP regarding run-off water and elevation of Visa Steel with respect to other industries in the area.	
21.	The company shall develop rain water harvesting structures to harvest the rain water for utilization in the lean season besides recharging the ground water tables (General Condition ix.) .	It is require for permanent separation of the rain water collecting drain and the rain water harvesting pond in place of a sluice gate.	As mentioned at S. No. 6.
22.	The project proponent shall also comply with all the environmental protection measures and safeguards recommended in the EIA / EMP report. Further, the company must under take socio-economic development	During visit efficient extraction observed at submersed Arc furnace no. 3. The expenditure unit has been reported as Rupees. However, garland drain around the raw material stock pile (kept in open) has not been observed for collection of	As mentioned at S. No. 4.

	<p>activities in the surrounding villages like community development programmes, educational programmes. Drinking water supply and health care etc. Suggestions made during the public hearing shall be implemented (General Condition x.)</p>	<p>contaminated runoff water and dust extraction system in raw material unloading area, proper collection and treatment of runoff water from raw material handling area, etc needs to be implemented.</p>	
23.	<p>The Project Proponent shall inform the public that the project has been accorded environmental clearance by the Ministry and copies of the clearance letter are available with the OPCB and may also be seen at Website of the ministry of Environment and Forests. This shall be advertised within seven days from the date of issue of the clearance later, at least in two local newspapers that are widely circulated in the region of which one shall be in the vernacular language of the locally concerned and a copy of the same shall be forwarded to the Regional Office at Bhubaneswar</p>	<p>Copy of advertisement has not been furnished. The condition yet to be complied with.</p>	As mentioned at S. No. 12.

	(General Condition xiii.).		
24.	Project authorities shall inform the Regional office as well as the ministry, the date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of commencing the land development work (General Condition xiv.).	Date of financial closure and final approval of the project along with the commencement of land development work has not been furnished. PP reported year only.	As mentioned at S. No.13

Compliance Status as per EC No. 11011/491/2009-IA.II (I) dated 28.10.2009

25.	Continuous monitoring facilities for all the stacks and sufficient air pollution control equipment viz. fume extraction system with bag house/filters, ID fan and stack of adequate height to submerged arc furnace shall be provided to control emissions below 100mg/Nm'. Monitoring of total Chromium (Cr) and Carbon monoxide (CO) shall also be ensured. Standards for Nickel (Ni), Chromium (Cr) and Lead (Pb) shall be within permissible limit. The Orissa Pollution Control Board (OPCB) may specify more stringent standards for the relevant parameters keeping	During visit on 11.01.2024 SAF-3 was observed with efficient suction. However, online particulate emission found to be occasionally exceeding 50 mg/Nm³ in the stack of SAF-3. Furnace 4&5 was not in operation during visit. Monitoring data of total Chromium (Cr) and Carbon monoxide (CO) has not been furnished. Monitoring data of Ni, Cr and Pb has not been furnished.	PP submitted the real time data submitted to CPCB and SPCB in FY 2023 during the meeting wherein only one incident has been recorded. PP clarified that this may be due to the abrupt change in any process parameter affected due to any critical operation parameter leading to shutdown of furnace. Further, during the meeting PP submitted the monitoring report wrt total Chromium (Cr) and Carbon monoxide (CO), Ni, Cr and Pb. The Chair was satisfied with response submitted by the PP.
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	<p>in view the nature of the industry and its size and location. At no time, the emission level shall go beyond the prescribed standards.</p> <p>Interlocking facilities shall be provided so that process can be automatically stopped in case emission level exceeds the limit (Specific Condition i.).</p>		
26.	<p>Data on ambient air quality, stack emission and fugitive emission shall be uploaded on the Company's website and also regularly submitted on-line to the Ministry's Regional Office at Bhubaneswar, OPCB and SPCB as well as hard copy once in six months. Data on SPM, SO₂ and NO_x shall also be displayed prominently outside the premises at the appropriate place for the information of general public (Specific Condition iii.).</p>	<p>Monitoring data yet to be uploaded on the website of the company. The condition remaining partially complied.</p>	<p>PP submitted that Six monthly compliance reports which consists of the said monitoring report have been submitted regularly to MoEF. Monitoring data are available at the official website of MoEF i.e https://environmentclearance.nic.in and are available on the company website https://www.visasteel.com/2024/Annual%20Environmental%20Statement%20for%20FY-2023-24-VSL.pdf</p> <p>The Chair was satisfied with response submitted by the PP.</p>
27.	<p>Secondary fugitive emission from all sources shall be controlled with in the latest permissible limits issued by the Ministry and regularly monitored. Guidelines/Code of practice issued by</p>	<p>Raw materials were found to be with covered shed, as well as in open with tarpaulin cover and open on 10.01.2024. Third party monitoring data for 11 locations of PM₁₀ has been furnished. However,</p>	<p>As mentioned at S. No. 14</p>

	the CPCB shall be followed (Specific Condition iv.).	SPM monitoring data has not been furnished.	
28.	Vehicular pollution due to transportation of raw material and finished product shall be controlled. Proper arrangements shall also be made to control dust emission during loading and unloading of the raw material and finished product. (Specific Condition v.).	Arrangement for unloading of raw material with extraction or suppression to be done.	As mentioned at S. No. 3.
29.	'Zero' effluent discharge shall be strictly followed and no waste water shall be discharged outside the premises (Specific Condition viii.).	During visit on 10.01.2024 drain construction activity has been observed for collection of runoff water from the waste dump area. Proper collection arrangement for runoff water from slag dump as well as waste material dump yard need to be completed at the earliest. During visit discharge of water has not been observed from outlet point. However, stagnant water was there on the nala up to the culvert.	As mentioned at S. No. 4.
30.	Regular monitoring of influent and effluent surface, sub-surface and ground water shall be ensured and treated wastewater shall meet the norms prescribed by the State pollution Control Board or described under the	Ground water quality monitoring report has not been furnished. Ministry may like to take a view on the submission of PP.	PP submitted that they have no bore well system in the company for the drawl of ground water. The requirement of water is met through the supply of water from river Brahmani for which PP have an 6000 cum/day water drawl agreement with IDCO. MS, C&MD sought opinion from the OSPCB to which OSPCB responded that approval from

	E(P)Act whichever are more stringent (Specific Condition ix.).		Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) is required for conducting groundwater monitoring. Further, Ind-I suggested the PP that ground water monitoring may be conducted within the radius of 5 kms. The Chair directed that ground water monitoring report shall be submitted to the RO and C&MD, MoEF&CC.
31.	Metal recovery plant shall be installed to recover maximum metal through hydraulic jigging process. Discharge from metal recovery plant shall be monitored for the chromium content and maintained within the permissible limit before recycling and reuse. SAF slag tailing shall be dumped in own premises in secured landfill constructed as per CPCB guidelines after recovery of the metal. Used oils/lubricants shall be sold to authorized recyclers/re-processors (Specific Condition x.).	Details regarding discharge of chromium from metal recovery unit as per the condition has not been furnished. PP furnished chrome slag analysis data. Secured landfill as per the condition yet to be provided. The condition may be treated as partially complied. *Important	PP submitted that they have installed Hydraulic Jigging based Metal Recovery Plant for recovery of Ferro Chrome metal from Slag touch Ferro Chrome. The separated metal are sold while the water used in this process is 100% recirculated, there is no discharge from this plant. The chromium content in reject slag is 0.1%. The Chairman reviewed the reply of PP and found it satisfactory , however, PP may approach Industry sector to seek necessary amendment if needed with respect to the condition.
32.	Chromate slag shall be used for road making only after passing through Toxic Chemical leachability Potential (TCLP) test otherwise ferrochrome shall be recovered from the	Secured land fill as per the condition has not been observed. TCLP analysis data has not been furnished. PP furnished test report for which sample type was Chrome slag.	PP submitted that the TCLP analysis has been conducted and the same was submitted along with the six monthly compliance report. Hexavalent chromium is below detection limit. PP further submitted that the slag after recovery of Ferro Chrome is tested for leachate test and is

	slag and output waste shall be disposed in secured landfill as per SPCB guidelines. All the other solid waste shall be properly disposed off in environment- friendly manner. No hazardous material shall be spilled out and good housekeeping Practices shall be adopted. Hazardous waste ,hall be handled as per the hazardous waste {Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 and, subsequent amendment (Specific Condition xi.) .		stored at designated dump area which is being utilized for road making within the plant. The Chair was satisfied with response submitted by the PP.
33.	No further expansion or modifications in the Plant should be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (General Condition ii.) .	Ferro chrome production during 2022-23 reported to be 104606 Ton production during 2021-22 is 127181 ton. As per the EC accorded combined capacity is 125000 TPA. PP furnished the consent order dated 08.07.2021 for 5x 16.5 MVA (150000 TPA) Ferro chrome (FAP 1 & 2) for a period of six month. Ministry may like to take a view on the matter. *Indicate variation in capacity as per EC & CTO.	PP submitted that the company has got the No Increase In Pollution Load (NIPL) certificate from State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) vide letter no 3682 dated 10.03.2021 and Consent To Operate vide letter no 9204 dated 08.07.2021 for enhancement of Ferro Chrome Production from 125,000 MT to 150,000 MT. The copy of the same was submitted during the meeting by the PP. The Chairman found the reply of the PP satisfactory.
34.	The company shall develop rain water harvesting structures to harvest the	Separation of runoff collection drains to raw water harvesting pond by permanent	As mentioned at S. No. 6.

	rainwater for utilization in the lean season resides recharging the groundwater table (General Condition vi.)	structure yet to be implemented. There is a sluice gate between the collection drain and the rain water harvesting pond.	
35.	The project proponent shall also comply with all the environmental protection measures and safeguards recommended in the EIA/EMP report. Further, the company must undertake socio-economic development activities in the surrounding villages like community development programmes, educational programmes, drinking water supply and health care etc. (General Condition ix.)	Copy of EIA/EMP has not been furnished. PP furnished use of equipment in Fe-Cr complex I and 2, CPP, ORI, MBF, SRTS, RO system, STP etc. However, point wise compliance status of the EIA/EMP yet to be furnished. The condition may be treated as partially complied.	PP submitted the comprehensive details of Implementation Status Of Environmental Protection Measures covering use of equipment in Fe-Cr complex I and 2, CPP, ORI, MBF, SRTS, RO system, STP etc as Per EIA/EMP during the meeting. Upon reviewing the documents submitted by the PP, the Chair found response submitted by PP to be satisfactory.
36.	A copy of clearance letter shall be send by the proponent to concerned Panchayat, Zila Parishad / Municipal Corporation, Urban vocal Body and the local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/ representations, if any, were received while processing the Proposal. The clearance letter shall also be but on the website of the	Copy of clearance letter yet to be uploaded on the website. Ministry may like to take a view on the submission of PP.	PP submitted that the Clearance letter, environmental statements and six monthly compliance reports are available at the official website of MoEF i.e https://environmentclearance.nic.in and are available on the company website www.visasteel.com . Upon confirmation of the above details, the Chair found response submitted by PP to be satisfactory.

	company by the proponent (General Condition xi.)	
37.	The project proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated environmental conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall simultaneously be sent to the Regional Office of the MOEF at Bhubaneswar, the respective zonal office at CPCB and the OPCB. The criteria pollutant levels namely; SPM, RSPM, SO ₂ and NO _x (ambient level as well as stack emissions) or critical sectoral parameters Carbon monoxide (CO), Chromium (Cr), Nickel (Ni) Lead (Pb), indicated for the projects shall be monitored and displayed at a convenient location near the main gate of the company in the public domain (General Condition xii.)	Six monthly compliance for the period Apr22 to Sep22 has been submitted to the Regional Office. However, yet to be uploaded on the website. The condition remains partially complied.
38.	The environmental statement of each financial year ending 31st March in Form-V as is mandated to be submitted by the	Environmental Statement yet to be uploaded in the website. Environmental statement for the

	project proponent to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently, shall also be put on the website of the company along with the status of compliance of environmental conditions and shall also be sent to the respective Regional Office of the MOEF at Bhubaneswar by e-mail (General Condition xiv.).	period of 31st March 2023 has been furnished to the Regional Office, during visit on 10.01.2024. The condition may be treated as partially complied.	
39.	Project authorities shall inform the regional Office as well as the Ministry, the date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of commencing the land development work (General condition xvi.)	The date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of commencing the land development work has not been furnished yet. PP reported year instead of date.	As mentioned at S. No. 13.
Compliance Status as per EC No. J-11011/1000/2007-IAII(I) dated 05.03.2011			
40.	The National Ambient Air Quality Standard issued by the Ministry vide GSR No.826(E) dated 16th Nov., 2009 shall be	Partially Complied Manual ambient air quality monitoring data furnished for two locations dated 01.09.2023 along with six monthly compliance for April	PP submitted that the real time data submitted to CPCB and SPCB in CY 2023 wherein only one incident has been recorded. During the said day, bag replacement job was carried out in Gas Cleaning Plant.

	<p>followed (Specific Condition ii.).</p>	<p>23 to Sept 23, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5} SO₂, NO_x and CO, lead and nickel. CAAQMS data furnished for 4 location for, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5} SO₂, NO_x and CO. PM₁₀ data exceeds the norms in few occasions. PM_{2.5} and SO₂ exceed the daily norms in one occasion. Ambient air quality as per NAAQS 2009 has not been furnished. The condition may be treated as partially complied.</p>	<p>The Division reviewed the monitoring report and accepted the reason submitted by PP, as approved by the MS C&MD. However, she directed PP to take necessary precautions to prevent similar occurrences in the future.</p> <p>The Chairman reviewed PP's response and found it satisfactory.</p>
41.	<p>The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31st March in form-V as is mandated to be submitted by the project proponent to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environmental (protection) Rule, 1986 as amended subsequently and shall also be put on the website of the company along with the status of compliance of environmental condition and should also be sent to the respective regional office of MoEF by email (Specific condition iv.)</p>	<p>Environmental Statement has not been uploaded in the website of the company. Copy of the Environmental Statement has been furnished during visit on 0.01.2024. The condition remains partially complied.</p>	<p>As mentioned at S. No. 36.</p>

5. The PP highlighted that the complainant had lodged over 35 complaints with various authorities (SPCB, CPCB, MoEFCC, etc.) in last few years and the authorities have conducted more than 25 inspections wrt his complaints. This all appears to be intentional and motivated. During all these inspections, no major violations have been observed. PP further sort permission to submit their experience wrt the Complainant, Shri Ashwini Kumar Dhal. Accordingly, PP submitted following information:

- i. **Litigant Profile and Alleged Malfeasance:** Mr. Ashwini Kumar Dhal has reportedly emerged as a frequent litigant in the locality. He is accused of exploiting gaps in industrial infrastructure, as per the WAPCOS report, to pressure industries for personal gains.
- ii. **Union Leadership and Dispute with VISA Steel:** Previously, Mr. Dhal served as General Secretary of the Kalinga Nagar Majdoor Union under the region's ex-MLA at VISA Steel Limited. VISA Steel claims that he adopted a retaliatory stance against the company after they refused to comply with his alleged demands.
- iii. **Petition against KNPSS Leadership:** Mr. Alok Kumar Sia, Treasurer of KNPSS, filed a writ petition (No. 20231, dated 15.07.2021) with the Odisha High Court. The petition accuses the KNPSS leadership, including Dhal, of corrupt practices and making baseless complaints against local industries.
- iv. **Assault Allegation and FIR:** Mr. Sia filed an FIR (dated 14.12.2020) against Mr. Dhal, alleging physical assault. Dhal reportedly evaded arrest, leading to a proclamation order by the JMFC court. He was eventually arrested, spent 35 days in jail, and later secured anticipatory bail.
- v. **Complaints by Industrial Entities:** VISA Steel Limited and various industry associations have formally accused Mr. Dhal and his associates of extortion and misconduct, citing instances from 2020 to 2024.
- vi. **Multiple FIRs against Mr. Dhal:** Several FIRs have been filed against Dhal and his associates in Kalinganagar and Jakhapura police stations.
- vii. **Supreme Court Precedent on Litigant Credibility:** The Supreme Court, in *State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors Vs Uday Education and Welfare Trust*, emphasized the need to verify a litigant's credentials and motives, particularly when complaints can have significant social and economic impacts. The court's stance is cited to support scrutiny of Mr. Dhal's actions.

6. PP reiterated the major issue of persistent influx of surface runoff from higher elevations with other industries to the extant project site, which is at relatively low elevation. Due to its lower elevation, PP's plant reportedly suffers from accumulating runoff, largely because of other industries' lack of Surface Runoff Treatment Systems (SRTS) at higher elevations. None of the nine other industries in the area has installed Surface Runoff Treatment Systems (SRTS). This ongoing problem has been repeatedly brought to the notice of Odisha government authorities by the PP and PP had been requesting the implementation of infrastructure solutions in line with the available WAPCOS recommendations on the issue.

7. PP submitted a report dated 21.11.2023 issued by the Collector & District Magistrate, Jajpur wherein, it has been pointed out **that, "discharge water by M/s VISA Steel plant is helpful for both Kharif & Rabi crop cultivation of nearby villages of Jakhapura GP and they have stated that the crop yield is better than other places in the block. Also stated that, if VISA stops the water, the crops will**

face drought situation". The report further states that, "***the unit was last inspected on 08.09.2023 and it was observed that there was discharge of treated surface runoff to outside near culvert no-1. The water sample was collected for analysis and it is revealed from the analysis report that the quality of water is meeting the prescribed standard of the Board***".

8. On the basis of detailed deliberations, Chairman concluded as following:
- i. PP to approach IA (Ind-I) sector for amalgamation of all the existing ECs with respect to the extant project and seek amendment of the conditions not applicable to the project to ensure ease of implementation and monitoring of the project.
 - ii. PP to submit ground water analysis report to the regulatory authorities including SPCB and the RO.
 - iii. Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB), which is seized of the issue related water pollution from the unit shall deal with the issue and conclude it as per their existing mechanism.
 - iv. As far as this Ministry is concerned, there is no action on part of the Ministry.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure-I**List of participants**

PERSONAL HEARING FOR THE PROJECT “INTEGRATED STEEL PLANT AND CAPTIVE POWER PLANT AT KALINGANAGAR INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX BY M/S VISA STEEL LTD.” HELD ON 23.10.2024 AT 15:00 HRS

Sr No.	Name	Designation
MOEFCC		
i.	Dr. Amandeep Garg	Additional Secretary
ii.	Dr. Shruti Rai Bhardwaj	Director, IA-C&MD
iii.	Mr. Dinesh Runiwal	MS, Industry-I
iv.	Dr. T.H. Mahato	Scientist –E, RO Bhubaneshwar
iv.	Dr. Adiraju Bhardwaj	Scientist-D,
v.	Dr. Sandeepan BS	Scientist-B, Industry-I
v.	Mr. Vinay Rana	ASO
vi.	Mr. Ritin Raj	RA, IA-CMD
Representatives from Orissa Pollution Control Board		
	Mr. R. N. Prusty	Chief Env. Engineer
Representatives from M/s. VISA STEEL LTD		
vii.	Mr. Manoj Kumar	VSL
viii.	Mr. Vikas Das	-do-
ix.	Mr. Rajesh Chandra	-do-
x.	Mr. Samrat Singh	-do-

*****End of Document*****

*Surender
Sodhi*

(TRUE COPY)



Office Vsalegal <office@vsalegal.in>

**Response to Supplementary Affidavits on behalf of Respondent No.4-
M/s VISA Steel Limited in OA/19/2019 "Kalinga Nagar Paribesh Suraksha
Samiti vs Member Sec. OSPCB & Ors."**

1 message

Office Vsalegal <office@vsalegal.in>

Wed, Jan 8, 2025 at 4:47 PM

To: Sankar Pani <sankarprasadpani@gmail.com>, surendra kumar <surendra_kr15@rediffmail.com>, csori@nic.in, secy-moef@nic.in, mscb.cpcb@nic.in, Papiya Banerjee Bihani <pbanerjeebihani@gmail.com>, legumjure@gmail.com
Cc: Sumeer Sodhi <sumeer@vsalegal.in>, Arjun Nanda <arjun@vsalegal.in>

Dear Sir/ Ma'am,

Please find attached the Response to the Supplementary Affidavits dated 28.08.2024 and 14.10.2024 filed by Applicant on behalf of Respondent No.4 - M/s VISA Steel Limited in the abovementioned matter.

Kindly treat this email as due service of the same.

**Office of VSA Legal
Counsels for the Respondent No.4 - M/s VISA Steel Limited**

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