

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SZ), SITTING AT CHENNAI
(Under Section 18(1) read with S.14 & 15 of NGT Act, 2010)
ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 180 OF 2023

BETWEEN

Suo Moto

...Applicant

-vs-

1. District Collector,
Chennai District, Chennai & Ors.

...Respondents

INDEX

S.No.	Date	Descriptions	Pg. No.
1.	07.12.2023	TNPCB Report	1-4
2.	08.12.2023	TNPCB Formation of Inspection Team Proceedings	5-7
3.	08.12.2023	Minutes Of Meeting related to suspected oil leak with Annexure	8-11

Dated at Chennai on this the 11th December, 2023.



FILED BY
THIRU. S. SAI SATHYA JITH
ADVOCATE, CHENNAI

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

From
Dr.D.Vasudevan, M.Tech., Ph.D.,
Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (M),
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Chennai Zone,
No.950/1, 1st Floor, Poonamallee High Road,
Arumbakkam, Chennai – 600 106.

To
The Member Secretary,
TamilNadu Pollution Control Board,
No.76, Mount Salai,
Guindy,
Chennai – 600 032.

Lr. No. JCEE/TNPCB/Chennai/ New telecast /2023 dated 07.12.2023

Sir,

Sub: TNPCB, O/o.JCEE, Chennai –Report on the suspected oil leak into
Buckingham canal consequently reaching the Ennore Creek – Regarding

Ref: Telecast in Private News Channel

In a private television News channel, it was telecasted about heavy traces of oil being found in the rainwater which has affected the nearby areas. A few messages about the spreading of oil in the waters of Buckingham Canal consequently reaching the Ennore Creek, which stick on the vessels/ boats used by the fishermen thereby affecting their activities, causing financial loss to the fishermen community.

Based on the above information, a team of officials of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board inspected the said area. The Team initially visited the Buckingham Canal stretch from Kargil Nagar bridge up to Kodungaiyur. During the inspection, the team observed traces of oil in the Buckingham Canal mainly on the banks. It was observed that the ingress of oil mainly occurred from the stormwater drain from the Manali industrial area confluence with Buckingham canal.

Oil Traces found in Buckingham Canal



At this juncture, the team attempted to find out the source of the oil and found that, there was some stagnant storm water along with oil, adjoining the storm outlet near South Gate of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, which slowly contributed to oil traces. However, it was observed that during inspection the stormwater coming out of the Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited premises on the southern side was not found to have oil.

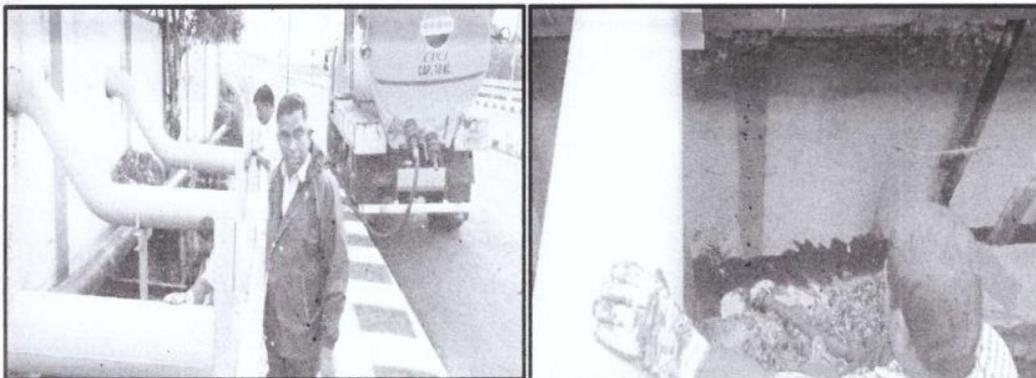
It is submitted that the unprecedented rainfall in Chennai and surrounding areas resulted in the inundation of industries in the Manali area including the Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited. It is learnt that the premises of the Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited is not even accessible today also due to inundation, and under such circumstance, the stagnant water has been pumped outside, in order to safeguard the Refinery during the torrential rainfall. However, even today, the stagnant water flows by gravity. Therefore, when the water was pumped, the oily matter that is found in the ground of the industry premises, get collected in the stormwater pond could have come out along with rain water.

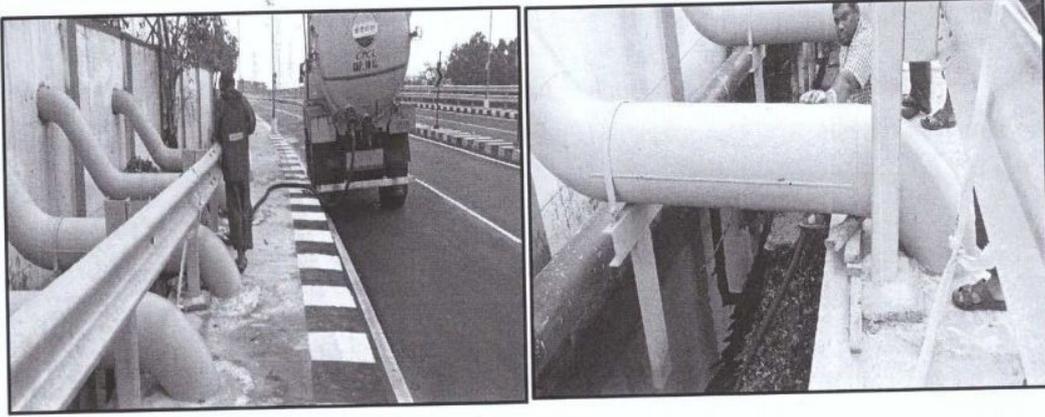
It is observed that the said stagnant oil reaches the Buckingham canal through the culvert slowly, results in oil traces in the water of Buckingham Canal. CPCL authorities are instructed to remove the said floating oil using gully sucker and they immediately carried out the same. They assured to repeat the process tomorrow morning also. The storm water containing oil is taken back for further processing along with crude oil.

Further, the CPCL authorities are also instructed to provide boomer arrangement at the location where the storm water is reaching the drain, leading to Buckingham canal. The representative of industry present assured to formulate a concrete proposal in this regard and to furnish the same for approval before execution.

It is submitted that the action of removal of stagnated storm containing oil, through Gully Sucker near the South gate, would eliminate the oil traces reaching Buckingham Canal, thereby makes the water in Buckingham canal, free of oil.

Stagnated oil with storm water removal using Gully sucker



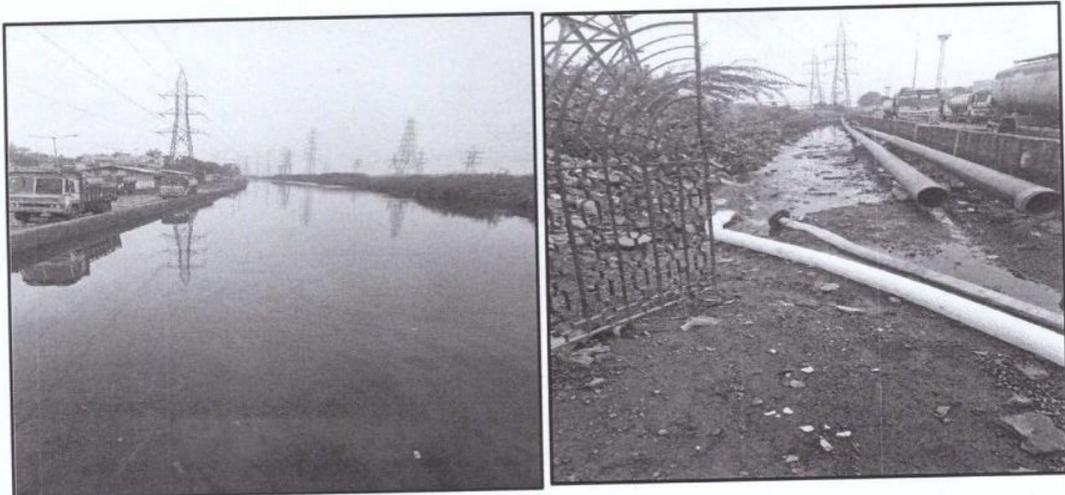


However, the inspecting team found that slight traces of oil is also found coming from the upstream of the Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited from Kodungaiyur / Tondiarpet areas from Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Tondiarpet Terminal and container Terminal located along the Buckingham Canal at Korrukupet and Kodungaiyur areas.

Oil traces in the upstream of Buckingham canal



Oil traces near Kodungaiyur IOCL, Container Terminal facility



4

The team felt mild oily odour during the afternoon, when the climate was sunny, due to the volatilization of the hydrocarbon present in the oil traces. However, the same subsided in the evening.

Samples of water from the Buckingham canal and various points were collected and sent for analysis. The Team has not observed any substantial presence of oily matter in the Buckingham canal at Ennore Creek.

for study - 7/12/23
Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (M),
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Chennai Zone.



5

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



Proceeding No. T2/TNPCB/F- 027291/CHN/2023, dated : 08.12.2023

Sub: TNPCB – Formation of Inspection Team of the Board to inspect all the Sewage Treatment Plants in major Residential Apartment complexes, Commercial establishments, IT Companies, etc., in and around Chennai, to check the position and suggest measures to restore the operations and to furnish daily report along with consolidated report on or before 15.12.2023 – Intimation – Reg.

In view of the Michaung Cyclone hit in Chennai and nearby Districts of Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur, the TNPC Board decided to form eight teams with the following officials to inspect all the Sewage Treatment Plants in major Residential Apartment complexes, Commercial establishments, IT Companies, etc., in and around Chennai.

Team 1	1. Er. K. Prakash, DEE, Sriperumbudur 2. Er. S.Santhosh Kumar, AEE, O/o. DEE, Sriperumbudur
Team 2	1. Er. S.Indira Gandhi, DEE, Ambattur 2. Er. G. Manivasagam, AE, O/o. DEE, Ambattur
Team 3	1. Dr. R. Jayamurugan DEE, Chennai 2. Er. C R Sathish Kumar, AEE, O/o. DEE, Chennai
Team 4	1. Dr. Vanitha Murugaiyan, EE, Flying Squad Chennai 2. Er. Silambarasan M, AE, Flying Squad Chennai
Team 5	1. Er. P Ravichandran DEE, Thiruvallur 2. Er. Sabarinathan S, AE, O/o. DEE, Thiruvallur
Team 6	1. Er. T.Kalaiselvi, EE, O/o. JCEE(M), Chennai 2. Er. G. Kesavamorthy, AEE, O/o. AEE, Manali
Team 7	1. Er. P.S. Livingston, DEE, Gummidipoondi 2. Er. Thirumurthi Inbaraj, AE, O/o. DEE, Gummidipoondi
Team 8	1. Er. S. Senthil Kumar, AE, O/o. DEE, Maraimalai Nagar 2. Er. R. Menaga, AE, O/o. DEE, Maraimalai Nagar

All the team members are instructed to carry out the inspections during **09.12.2023 to 15.12.2023** of the all the Sewage Treatment Plants in major Residential Apartment complexes, Commercial establishments, IT Companies, etc., in and around Chennai, to check the position and suggestive measures to restore the operations

The Teams shall also inspect all the Effluent Treatment Plants in the major Industries, Common Effluent Treatment Plant, Common Bio-Medical Waste Processing facilities, Common Hazardous Waste Processing facilities. The team shall verify the status of the effluent treatment plants and give recommendations if any to improve the treatment plants to meet the standards.

The Teams are instructed to give daily report for each unit along with details in the format as attached herewith to the Board directly and also furnish their consolidated report on or before 15.12.2023 through JCEE(M), Chennai. For any further clarifications and area of inspection, it is requested to contact JCEE(M), Chennai.

Encl: Inspection report Format.

To

The above said individuals.

Copy to

1. P.S to Chairperson
2. P.A to Member Secretary
3. The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (M),
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Chennai
4. File

For Chairperson
8/12/23
8/12/23



Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
Inspection Report

1		Name of the Inspecting Officers & Designation	1. 2.
2		Date of Inspection	
3	a	Name of the unit	
	b	Location & Address	
4		Type of the industry (Residential Apartment complexes, /Commercial establishments/ IT Companies/ Industries/ Common Effluent Treatment Plant/ Common Bio-Medical Waste Processing facilities/ Common Hazardous Waste Processing facilities)	
5	a	Name of the Occupier of the unit present during inspection.	
	b	Contact Person with phone no. / E- mail.	
6	a	Quantity of sewage/effluent in KLD:	
		i. Sewage	
		ii. Trade effluent if any	
	b	Status of sewage treatment plant(STP) / Effluent treatment plant(ETP) during inspection	Operation/not in operation.
	c	Location (Above (or) below Ground Level) & Capacity of STP/ETP	
	d	Water stagnation/ Overflow from STP/ETP/treatment facility noticed (if any)	
	e	Influence from nearby water bodies if any noticed in the STP/ETP/treatment facility	
7		Suggestions/measures to restore the operation of STP/ETP/treatment facility:	
8		Any other information if any:	
9		Recommendations:	

Signature of the Inspecting Officers

1.

2.



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING RELATED TO SUSPECTED OIL LEAK INTO BUCKINGHAM CANAL ON 08.12.2023 AT 5.00 PM TO DECIDE ON THE ACTION TO BE TAKEN

I. TNPCCB Officials

1. Dr. S. Rajan, Additional Chief Environmental Engineer - I
2. Dr.R.Rajamaickam, Additional Chief Environmental Engineer - II
3. Dr.D. Vasudevan, JCEE(M),Chennai
4. Er.S. Indiragandhi, District Environmental Engineer, Ambattur
5. Dr.R.Jayamurugan, District Environmental Engineer, Chennai
6. Er.P. S. Livingston, District Environmental Engineer, Gummidpoondi

II. Officials from Industries (List Enclosed)

In a private television news channel, it was telecasted about heavy traces of oil being found in the rain water which has affected the nearby areas. A few messages about the spreading of oil in the waters of Buckingham canal consequently reaching the Ennore Creek, which stick on the vessels/boats used by the fishermen thereby affecting their activities, causing financial loss to the fishermen community.

Based on the above information, on 07.12.2023, a team of officials of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board inspected the Buckingham canal stretch from Kargil Nagar bridge upto Kodungaiyur. During the inspection, the team observed traces of oil in the Buckingham canal mainly on the banks, and that the ingress of oil mainly occurred from the storm water drain from the Manali industrial area confluencing with Buckingham canal, and found the source of the oil traces is from the stagnant storm water near South Gate of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited.

Based on the inspection, CPCL was instructed to contain the Oil traces from its storm water drain. Immediately, CPCL engaged gully sucker and boomer to curtail the oil traces in storm water drain leading to the Buckingham Canal.

In continuation to the inspection, a meeting was convened on 08.12.2023 at Corporate Office with Senior Officials of TNPCB & oil industries located at Manali, Kodungaiyur, Tondiarpet areas to arrive a solution for the removal of oil traces in the canal.

The representatives of CPCL explained that due to heavy rainfall occurred on 3rd & 4th December, 2023 and release of excess water from Poondi & Puzhal reservoirs resulted heavy floods in & around Manali Industrial Area including CPCL Campus, the rain water level in the premises was about 1m which is higher than previous floods, and they pumped the stagnated water to save the installation, and in the process, the oily matter sticking on the ground could have found its way to the water body.

Further, they informed that there was no leakage from the tank farm area, process area including pipelines carrying raw material & product.

The representatives from other industrial establishments also concurred with the views expressed by the CPCL representatives.

From 07.12.2023, CPCL has started to remove the oil traces in the storm water outlet using gully sucker & boomer. They also informed that, as on 08.12.2023, they have curtailed the oil traces reaching the Buckingham Canal.

Secretary, Manali Industrial Association informed that all the industries in Manali area are not in operation till date due to water stagnation. The other oil industries located at Tondiarpet & Kodungaiyur informed that there are no leakage from the tank farm area, process area including pipelines carrying raw material & product and however there could have been traces of oil carried away with heavy storm.

The ACEE, who chaired the meeting, decided that the traces of oil found in the Buckingham Canal are to be removed.

After detailed discussion, the following decisions are arrived at:

1. Considering CPCL is the major establishment in Manali Area, it is instructed to identify the hotspots in Buckingham Canal where oily matter is stagnated and take necessary steps to remove the same using oil absorbent pads/pillows, gully



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

- suckers and other possible means. This exercise shall be completed before 20.12.2023.
- CPCL, other oil industries & terminals are instructed to ensure that all pipelines and tanks are intact with a view to ensure that no leakage shall occur.
- All industries were instructed to carry out pre-monsoon Leak Detection & Repair Study (LDAR) every year and furnish report to the Board.

With the above, meeting came to an end.


Additional Chief Environmental Engineer

To:

- The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (M), Chennai – For further necessary action
- District Environmental Engineer, Ambattur – For further necessary action
- Assistant Environmental Engineer, Manali – For further necessary action
- All Participants



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

List of Industry Representatives attended the meeting on 08.12.2023

S.No	Industry Name	Name of the Official & Designation
1.	Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Lube Blending Plant	Y.D. Leela Krisha, Chief Manager Plant
2.	Manali Industrial Association	Prema Priyan, Secretary
3.	Ennore Tank Terminal Pvt Ltd	C.P.Viswamohan, Vice President
4.	Reliance Industries	T Viswanathan Terminal Manager
5.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	Aravanan R, Manager Safety
6.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited	R Mero Infento, Assistant Manager
7.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Tondiarpet	Saurabh Gusain, Manager, Operations
8.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited	K Rajasekaran, Deputy General Manager
9.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited	Anil Sahni, Chief General Manager, Operations