

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

OA No. 180 of 2023 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF :

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU

... Applicant

Vs

The District Collector and Ors.

... Respondents

STATUS REPORT FILED BY M/s. CHENNAI PETROLEUM

CORPORATION LIMITED , THE 7TH RESPONDENT



M/s. AAV PARTNERS

S. SARAVANAN

E.KARTHIKEYAN

COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT NOS. 7 & 10

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CORPORATION LIMITED , THE 7TH RESPONDENT

THE 7TH RESPONDENT BEGS TO SUBMITS AS FOLLOWS :

1. It is submitted that the Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) has been meeting the energy demands of one of the fastest growing states Tamil Nadu for over six decades. Founded in 1965 as a joint venture of Government of India, AMOCO, USA and National Iranian Oil Company as Madras Refineries Limited, CPCL today is a Government of India Enterprises & group company of Indian Oil, a global fortune 500 company. From its modest beginnings with a capacity of 2.5 MMTPA, CPCL has gradually increased its refining capacity to 10.5 MMTPA.

R. J. Sahni

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2. That CPCL proudly plays the role of mother industry supplying various value added petroleum products and petrochemical feedstocks to the neighbouring industries in the Manali industrial belt. Paraffin wax, Sulphur, Food grade hexane etc., manufactured by CPCL has been a huge employment generator in the small & large sector industry.

3. That the CPCL is engineered to withstand floods and waterlogging, with storm water systems designed to handle the highest levels of rainfall. In previous instances, including Cyclones Vardah, Gaja, Nivar and the 2015 floods, CPCL has demonstrated its capability to prevent release of water contaminated with oil.

4. That in respect of the present issue, this report is being filed by this Respondent only in respect of the relief measures being carried out and not in respect of the merits of the case. It is humbly submitted that this Respondent will be submitting a detailed additional report at a later date on the merits of the case.

5. That the present Cyclone Michaung has brought 36 hours of incessant rain, causing severe flooding in CPCL Manali Refinery. The storm water system of CPCL was handling this flood situation, however, the discharge of 48,000

Raj Sahni

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cusecs of water from Poondi and Puzhal reservoirs worsened the situation. The District administration was promptly informed about the situation and CPCL management requested to regulate the discharge of water from the reservoirs to prevent complete flooding of the refinery.

6. That the extent of flooding was unprecedented and has never been experienced in the history of CPCL even during the previous 2015 floods. Due to the adverse conditions, CPCL team used boats and fire trucks to enter into the refinery to keep a check on the refinery operation to prevent any damage to the machinery system and ensured that there was no pipeline leak.

MEASURES TAKEN BY CPCL

7. Presently, the water level has receded and the situation has normalized within the premises. It is submitted that traces of oil in the Buckingham canal have been removed through reverse pumping, installation of Boomers & Husk filters and usage of Gully Suckers. It has been reported that an oil slick has been formed near the creek and oil contaminated flood water has inundated houses near the creek area which is about 10 kms from CPCL refinery. That CPCL has taken the lead to remove the oil slick near Ennore creek in coordination with State Authorities.

R. S. Sahu

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8. That Booms are being deployed to prevent slippage of oil near the creek and the same is being collected through skimmers. Around **1300 mts** of Booms have been arranged on emergency basis from Chennai port, Kamaraj port, Karaikal port and local procurement and about **325 mts** have been installed in oil area near the bridge. In addition, **300 mts** boom has been placed in mouth area. **250 mts** of boom, **1 Skimmer, Absorbent Pads** and other infrastructure are in transit from Paradip port.

9. That operation of **Ejectors, Oil Skimmers, Gully suckers (Vacuum type Oil removal vehicles) (5 Nos.) and Spraying of Bio dispersants** is being carried out on a continuous basis in Ennore creek area under the guidance of TNPCB.

10. That around 60 boats have been deployed in Ennore creek area for oil removal using absorbent pads which has commenced from 09.12.2023.

11. That CPCL has engaged a professional agency – **"M/s. Viraj Clean Sea Enterprises from Chennai Port"** - for clearing the oil from Ennore creek and they have started working. In addition, **Neo Will Win (Navtek)** from **Kamarajar Port Oil Spill management team** has also been employed for clean-up activities.

Sul Sahas

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12. That Resources have been deployed to clean the shore area mechanically with JCB (**7 nos.**), Hydras (**1 no.**), Tractor trailer (**4 nos.**), Dumpers (**4 nos.**) etc., along with more than 125 crew.

13. That dedicated team from CPCL is monitoring the above activities round the clock under the guidance of the State Authorities and the entire oil clean-up operation is being carried out under the supervision of a team of experts from the professional agency M/s. Viraj Clean Sea Enterprises and Neo WillWin, who are experienced in oil spill management. Due consideration to Health and Safety of the working crew is being ensured by the agency and also being continuously monitored by CPCL Safety Officer.

14. That the personnel engaged in the clean up activity are all been given protective and safety gear in the following manner :

- GUMBOOTS – **250 Nos. (Additional 300 to be given on 14.12.2023)**

- GLOVES – **650 Nos. (Additional 500 to be given on 14.12.2023)**

- N95 Mask – **1500 Nos. (Additional 1000 to be given on 14.12.2023)**

- Goggles – **400 Nos. (Additional 600 to be given on 14.12.2023)**

Aw Sahu

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15. That in addition to the above, this Respondent has engaged the services of 10 expert members from Mumbai based company M/s. SEA CARE MARINE SERVICES, to render their assistance in the clean up activity.

16. That on 05.12.2023, **500 Nos.** of sleeping mats were handed over to nodal officer Mr. Kandasamy, IAS for using it in the Emergency Centre.

17. That from 08.12.2023 onwards, **3** mobile medical units have been deployed in the Ennore Creek & nearby villages by CPCL and upto 11.12.2023, the total number of beneficiaries is around **900 Nos.**

18. That medicines as requested by Zonal medical officer of the State has been handed over on 11.12.2023.

19. That as on 12.12.2023 rice, groceries, and other essential items for **6000 families** has been handed over to nodal officer and distributed to the public and cleaning of Houses and schools, of the affected areas is continuing since 11.12.2023.

Ravi Sahu

20. It is submitted that CPCL is working on a war footing basis towards mitigating the oil leak and removing the oil discharged in the Canal and Creek areas and that this respondent is ready and willing to abide by any condition or direction as may be imposed by this Hon'ble Tribunal, in the interest of justice.

Under the above circumstances, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to consider the present status report and pass such orders as it deems fit and thus render justice.

Dated at Chennai on this the 14th day of December 2023



7th RESPONDENT

VERIFICATION

I, ANIL SAHNI, Son of K.K SAHNI, aged 56 years, the CGM(TS) of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, the 7th Respondent herein, do hereby verify that the contents of the above paragraphs are true to the best of my personal knowledge and grounds are based on legal advice and that I have not suppressed any material fact.

Verified at Chennai on this the 14th day of December 2023



7th RESPONDENT

Flooding inside Refinery Premises with Transportation in Fire Trucks, Tractors and Boats



Two Level Containment Booms installed at Ennore Creek

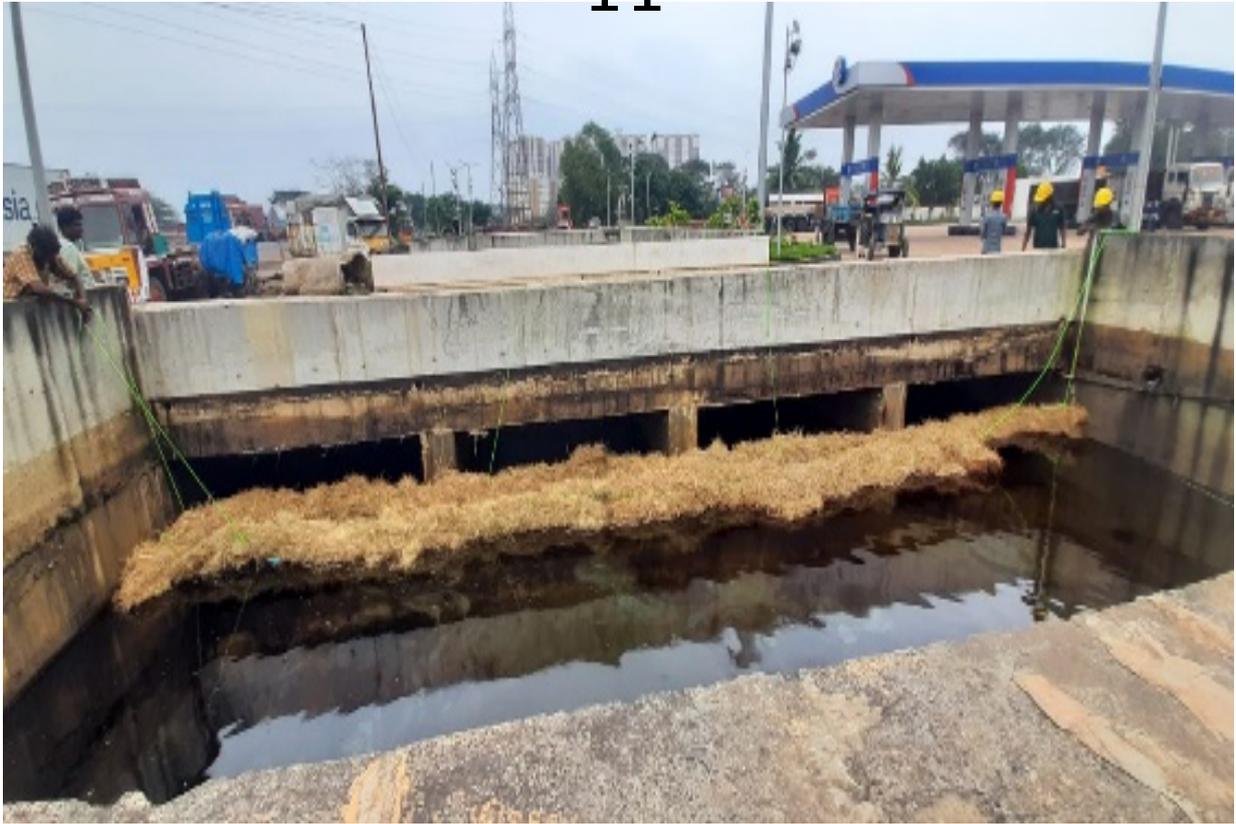




Absorbent Boom



Containment boom



HUSK FILTERS



EJECTORS



Signature
Chennai

Dec 07, 2023 05:38:53 pm

GULLY SUCKERS



Oil Skimmers



Bio-Dispersant



BOATS USING ABSORBENT PADS

CONTAINMENT BOOM INSTALLATION BY M/s. VIRAJ CLEAN SEA ENTERPRISES



OIL REMOVAL AND CLEANING WITH HYDRA



MANUAL REMOVAL OF ENNORE CREEK SHORELINE



MEDICAL CAMP

Cleaning Activities at School in Sathiyamoorthy Nagar



PPE DISTRIBUTION



PPE COMPLIANCE

