

JOINT COMMITTEE REPORT OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (STP) AT M/s ELYSIUM PROPERTIES INDIA PVT. LTD. AS PER THE DIRECTION OF NGT (SZ) DATED OCTOBER 04, 2021 IN THE MATTER OF ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 213 OF 2015

1.0 Preamble

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) Southern Zone, Chennai in the matter of O. A. No. 213 of 2015 in case of Sh. C. P. Senthil Vs Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and 2 others issued an order dated 04/10/2021 stating that:

“...The 3rd respondent has filed their objection to the joint committee report. It is seen from the objection submitted by the 3rd respondent to the joint committee report that they have already engaged IIT Madras to study the existing STP and offer suggestions for upgradation of the present Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to make it more environment friendly and comply with the prescribed norms, they want two months time for submitting the report.

It is seen from the report submitted by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board that on account of certain modifications made project proponent, inlet and outlet norms of the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) conform to the standards provided. This was seriously opposed by the counsel for the applicant stating that there is no possibility of improvement in the inlet water quality, as no upgradation has been done by them as suggested by the committee so far and he wanted that the same has to be considered by the joint committee appointed by this Tribunal and get further report in this regard.

Since the 3rd respondent also filed objection to the joint committee report, we feel that it is necessary to direct the Joint Committee to inspect the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in question again and on the basis of the temporary measures taken by them as mentioned in the report submitted by the Pollution Control Board which was referred to above, whether there was any improvement in the inlet and outlet norms of the water which is being discharged from the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), so as to continue with the STP till the further study regarding upgradation is done as suggested by the IIT Madras based on their study.

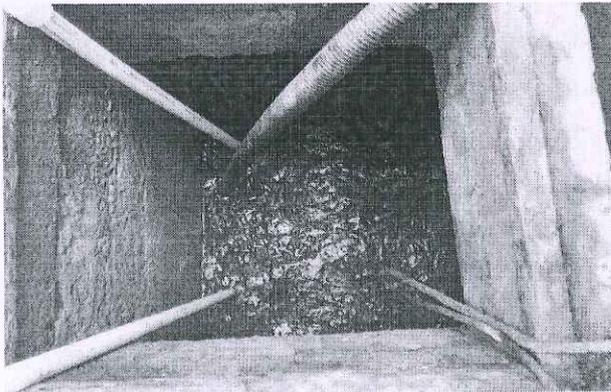
As regards the environmental compensation and other aspects are concerned, we are not expressing any opinion at this stage, as if any show cause notice has been issued by the Pollution Control Board, then it is for the 3rd respondent to appear before them and submit their Page 9 of 10 explanation and in turn, it is for the Pollution Control Board to take appropriate decision on the same.

The joint committee is directed to inspect the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in question and submit a further report regarding the improvement (if any) found on the basis of the improvements said to have been made by the 3rd respondent which was extracted in the report submitted by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and submit a report to this Tribunal on or before 10.11.2021

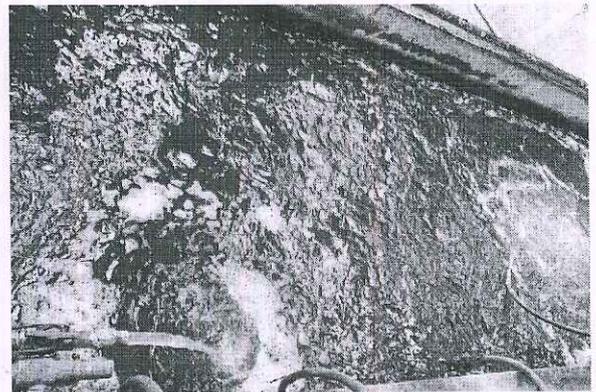
In the meantime, the 3rd respondent is also directed to approach the IIT Madras to expedite the study for providing proper design for upgradation of the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to meet the situation and for applying to the Pollution Control Board for renewal of their consent....”

2.0 Joint inspection by the committee

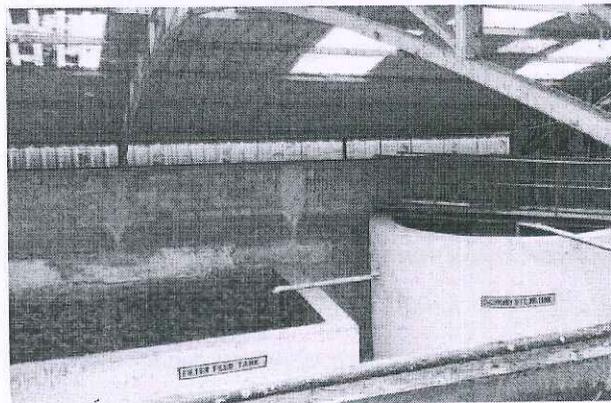
As per the order dated October 04, 2021 a joint inspection of STP facility located at Flushing Meadows, Vellanaipatty Village was carried out by the joint committee members: Smt. Poornima B M, Scientist “D”, (CPCB, Regional Directorate, Chennai) and Smt. D. Jeyalakshmi (DEE, TNPCB, Coimbatore North) along with Smt.V.P.MohanaJeyaValli(AE, TNPCB, Coimbatore North) on December07, 2021. The committee carried out inspection in and around the STP facility and interacted with the operators and 3rd respondent. During inspection, STP was in operation and samples were collected by STP components like Collection tank, aeration tank, outlet of the STP, ground water seepage and the Bore wellslocated at backside of the basketball court at Southern side& park at eastern side.



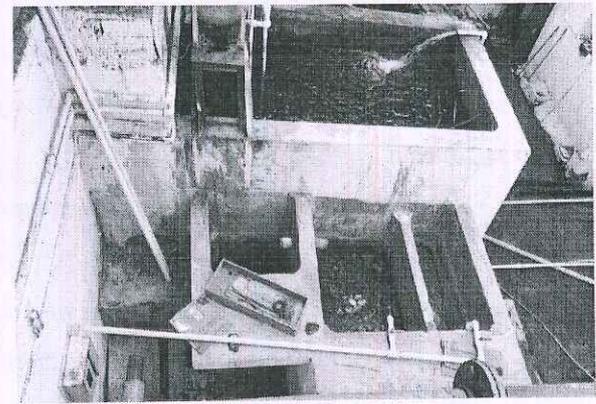
Collection Cum equalization and Primary settling tank



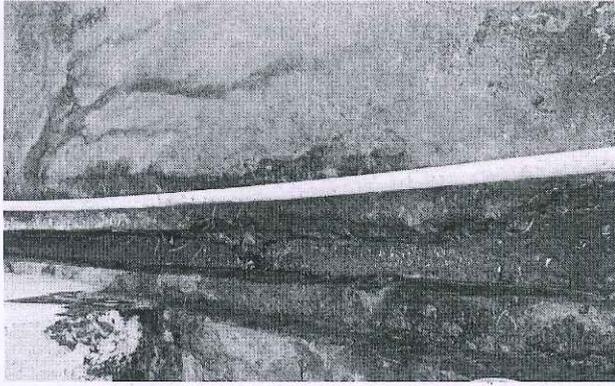
Aeration tank



Secondary Clarifier and filter feed tank



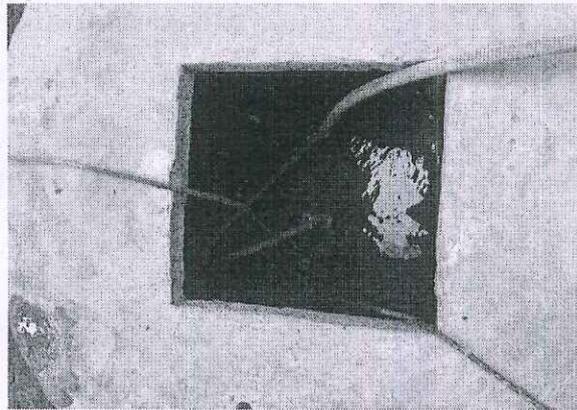
Sludge Drying Bed and Treated water tank



Ground water Seepage near EB Room



Ground water Seepage near Aeration



Ground water Seepage Collection well inside the STP area

3.0 Observations:

- a) M/s Elysium properties has installed a STP of capacity 125 KLD to treat the sewage generated from the community and has obtained consent to operate from the TNPCB in the year 2014 with validity up to June 30, 2015, which was subsequently renewed on 29-06-2015 with a validity up to 30-06-2017. At present the STP is operating without valid consent to operate from the TNPCB. M/s Elysium properties has not applied and taken any steps for the renewal of consent to operate from TNPCB.
- b) It was informed that M/s Elysium properties have engaged M/s Eco Green Technology, Coimbatore for the operation and maintenance of the STP located inside the gated community.
- c) Based on the advice of M/s Eco Green Technology, the bio-media in the aeration tank has been removed and changed operating process of aeration tank from Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor (MBBR) technology to Conventional Activated Sludge Process.
- d) M/s Elysium properties or 3rd Respondent have not carried out any renovation work of STP other than engaging third party for operation & maintenance of STP and change of aeration tank process.
- e) It was informed to committee that Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IITM) has been engaged for carrying out performance and up gradation of existing STP. It was reported that

IITM has completed the field study in August & September, 2021 and are accepting the report from IITM within 15 days. However the work order issued to IITM was not provided to the committee.

- f) During inspection, STP was operational with inlet load of 96 KLD and all the components of STP were operational.
- g) Observation/ inspection platform for the aeration tank is been provided to assess the physical working condition, however for Clarifier and filter feed tank accessibility has not been provided.
- h) The unit has not provided dual piping system to reuse the treated water for toilet flushing, since it is monsoon season, the treated sewage is discharged into Odai adjacent to the housing colony through pipe hose.
- i) The unit has provided provision of fresh water pipe to dilute the treated water in the final treated water tank.
- j) The STP is constructed below the ground level and the ground water seepage was observed inside the STP. The unit has provided ground water seepage collection tank inside the STP and the water from the tank is pumped into nearby Odai along with RO reject using flexible hose pipes.
- k) Samples from collection tank, aeration tank, outlet of the STP, ground water seepage and the bore wells located at backside of the basketball court & children's park at eastern side were collected during inspection.
- l) The samples were sent to TNPCB laboratory, Salem for analysis and results are awaited.

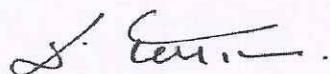
4.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

- i. M/s Elysium properties has not carried out any renovation works for the STP, however M/s Eco Green Technology, Coimbatore have been engaged for the operation and maintenance of the STP. The operating process of aeration tank has been changed from MBBR technology to Conventional Activated Sludge Process.
- ii. M/s Elysium properties (Unit) may be directed to provide details of work order issued to IITM and the dates when the study of STP was carried out by IITM.

- iii. The unit to submit the performance/up gradation report of STP from IITM to TNPCB along with timeframe required for the revamping of STP.
- iv. The unit may be directed to apply for renewal of consent to operate to TNPCB.

Report dated December 09, 2021

Signatures of Joint Committee:



Smt. D. Jeyalakshmi
District Environmental Engineer
TNPC Board
Coimbatore, North



Smt. Poornima B M
Scientist D
Central Pollution Control Board
Regional Directorate - Chennai