

ANNEXURE-IV

By Speed Post



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Proceedings No. T2/TNPCB/F.0048GMP/RLW/2021 dated:12.10.2021

Sub: TNPCB – Industries – M/s. North Chennai Thermal Power Station (Stage-I), S.F.No. 44 & 45 of Puzhuthivakkam Village, Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur District – Direction issued under Section 33A of the Water (P&CP) Act, 1974 as amended - To comply – Regarding.

- Ref:**
1. News flashed in Dinamalar daily dated 04.10.2021
 2. JCEE's Lr.No.F.GMP48/JCEE(M)/TNPCB/CHN.ZONE/2021, dated:04.10.2021
 3. 3. Units Letter No.CE/NCTPS-I/SE/O/EE/Trg & Res /F.TNPCB/D.No.82, dated:07.09.2021

Whereas, a news appeared in daily newspaper "Dinamalar" stating that, the nearby villagers/fishermen surrounding the North Chennai Thermal Power Station (NCTPS) are affected due to the dust caused from the dried ash slurry of NCTPS, disposed into the ash pond and the disposal of ash slurry into water bodies and also near the Seppakkam hamlet located near the ash ponds, through the broken ash slurry pipes of M/s. North Chennai Thermal Power Station (Stage-I), S.F.No. 44 & 45 of Puzhuthivakkam Village, Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur District.

Whereas, Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Monitoring, TNPCB, Chennai vide reference second above reported the following present status of ash pipelines of NCTPS Stage I to Ash pond:

- i) The pipelines of Stage-1 were commissioned during 1994-95 and hence more than 25 years old. They have become rustic, corroded and brittle with numerous cracks.
- ii) Out of the above 5 Nos of ash slurry pipelines, Line 1 & 5 were replaced with old used pipelines brought from Ennore Thermal Power Station (ETPS) and got completed during August 2020. They are Cast Basalt-lined having an outer diameter of 406 mm and Inner diameter of 356mm. Replacement of Line 2 & 3 is in progress with new Cast Basalt pipes, but for Line 4, the unit is yet to procure new pipes. The TANGEDCO has committed a timeline for replacement of all the 5 Nos. of pipelines by December 2021, to comply with the orders of the Hon'ble Tribunal in Applications No.8 of 2016, 152 of 2016 & 198 of 2016.
- iii) Accumulation of fly ash deposits still persists in Backwaters and Buckingham Canal, due to the leakage of ash slurry from the ageing pipes. The ash pond is found deposited with huge quantum of ash to an average depth of about 4 metre. Excavation and transportation of ash from the ash pond was noticed. The earthen bund is about 7 metre height surrounding the ash pond of which a portion of bund

has been raised another 3 metre height to augment the storage of ash. Raising of bund for the entire circumference is incomplete. The pond is devoid of Geomembrane lining. There are no mechanisms for spraying / trickling of water to control spreading of ash in the air causing air pollution.

- iv) The NCTPS Stage-I is taking breakdown maintenance works in the ash pipelines whenever leaks are detected. The unit has patrol team which keeps patrolling the pipeline area and the pumps are stopped soon after leaks are detected. However, by the time, the unit has identified any leaks and repair it with high capacity pumps, considerable quantity of ash slurry would have been disposed into surroundings (Buckingham canal & back waters). It was verified with the log book maintained by NCTPS Stage -I and found that leaks are taking place almost every week.
- v) Though the unit has taken measures to detect leakages and to repair the leaking pipe, the unit has not taken measures to clean up the fly ash dumped into surrounding area during leakage. Hence the fly ash is still found deposited in Buckingham canal and surrounding area.
- vi) NCTPS Stage-I has to replace all the old pipelines only with new pipes for permanently resolving the issue of slurry ash disposal into water bodies, as the Line 1 & 5 replaced with old used pipelines brought from Ennore Thermal Power Station (ETPS) is also even leaking and got damaged.
- vii) Hence directions were issued to NCTPS Stage-I vide Board's Proc. dated 15.04.2021, to carry out the improvement of the control measures provided for the boiler stacks so as to control the dust emission and to change the old pipelines completely with new pipelines to curtail the ash disposal into water bodies and avoid surface/ ground water contamination.
- viii) The unit has assured to complete the conversion of old pipelines before December 2021 and making steps to improve the ESPs provided to the Boilers to control the stack emission and also conducting study with IIT Madras to make suitable measures to strengthen/raise the bunds of ash dyke to avoid seepage and surface water/ground water contamination.

Whereas, the leakage of ash slurry pipelines of NCTPS Stage-I is a regular phenomena & often complaints received and news flashed in media, Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Monitoring, TNPCB, Chennai has recommended certain directions under Section 33A of Water (P&CP) Act 1974, as amended and under Section 31A of Air (P&CP) Act 1981 as amended to speed up the improvement works and to resolve the issues permanently.

Therefore, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 33 A of the Water (P&CP) Act, 1974 as amended, the Board issues the following directions to the unit of M/s. North



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Chennai Thermal Power Station (Stage-I), S.F.No. 44 & 45 of Puzhuthivakkam Village, Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur District for strict compliance.

1. The TANGEDCO shall comply with the findings of the committee constituted by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal order dated 20.05.2019 in O.A.No.8 of 2016, O.A.No.152 of 2016 & O.A.No.198 of 2016, communicated and agreed by the Hon'ble NGT within the time limit, as reported.
2. The TANGEDCO shall replace the existing ash slurry pipe lines no.1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 with new cast basalt lined pipes for entire length instead of using retrieved pipes from ETPS on or before 31.12.2021 as reported to comply with the above Hon'ble NGT direction so as to curtail the leakage from pipes permanently to avoid deposition of ash in Buckingham Canal, Kosasthalaiyar River and near Seppakkam hamlet.
3. The TANGEDCO shall carry out the removal of deposited ash near the Seppakkam hamlet on priority basis within 15 days.

Whereas, for the unit's request vide reference third cited, above regarding exemption from levy of Environmental Compensation, the unit of NCTPS-I shall seek remedy from the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Region, Chennai.

Failure to comply with the above said directions, will lead to issue of further directions which may include closure and stoppage of power supply to your unit under Section 33A of the Water (P&CP) Act, 1974 as amended.

The receipt of this proceeding shall be acknowledged.

[Handwritten Signature]
12/10/2021
For Chairperson (FAC)

To

The Chairman cum Managing Director,
Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited,
6 th floor, TANTRANSO Building, 144, Anna Salai,
Chennai - 600 002
Email: chairman@tnebnnet.org

[Handwritten Signature]
12/10/21

Copy to:

1. The Chief Engineer,
M/s North Chennai Thermal Power Station,
Puzhuthivakkam Village, Ponneri Taluk,
Tiruvallur District-600120
2. ✓ The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer(M),
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,
Chennai.
3. The District Environmental Engineer,
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,
Gumidipoondi District.
4. File Copy

By Speed Post



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Proceedings No. T2/TNPCB/F.0048GMP/RL/A/2021 dated: 12.10.2021

Sub: TNPCB – Industries – M/s. North Chennai Thermal Power Station (Stage-I), S.F.No. 44 & 45 of Puzhuthivakkam Village, Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur District – Direction issued under Section 31A of Air (P&CP) Act 1981 as amended - To comply – Regarding.

- Ref:**
1. News flashed in Dinamalar daily dated 04.10.2021
 2. JCEE's Lr.No.F.GMP48 /JCEE(M)/TNPCB/CHN.ZONE/2021, dated: 04.10.2021
 3. Units Letter No.CE/NCTPS-I/SE/O/EE/Trg & Res /F.TNPCB/D.No.82, dated:07.09.2021

Whereas, a news appeared in daily newspaper "Dinamalar" stating that, the nearby villagers/fishermen surrounding the North Chennai Thermal Power Station (NCTPS) are affected due to the dust caused from the dried ash slurry of NCTPS, disposed into the ash pond and the disposal of ash slurry into water bodies and also near the Seppakkam hamlet located near the ash ponds, through the broken ash slurry pipes of M/s. North Chennai Thermal Power Station (Stage-I), S.F.No. 44 & 45 of Puzhuthivakkam Village, Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur District.

Whereas, Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Monitoring, TNPCB, Chennai vide reference second above reported the following present status of ash pipelines of NCTPS Stage I to Ash pond:

- i) The pipelines of Stage-1 were commissioned during 1994-95 and hence more than 25 years old. They have become rustic, corroded and brittle with numerous cracks.
- ii) Out of the above 5 Nos of ash slurry pipelines, Line 1 & 5 were replaced with old used pipelines brought from Ennore Thermal Power Station (ETPS) and got completed during August 2020. They are Cast Basalt-lined having an outer diameter of 406 mm and Inner diameter of 356mm. Replacement of Line 2 & 3 is in progress with new Cast Basalt pipes, but for Line 4, the unit is yet to procure new pipes. The TANGEDCO has committed a timeline for replacement of all the 5 Nos. of pipelines by December 2021, to comply with the orders of the Hon'ble Tribunal in Applications No.8 of 2016, 152 of 2016 & 198 of 2016.
- iii) Accumulation of fly ash deposits still persists in Backwaters and Buckingham Canal, due to the leakage of ash slurry from the ageing pipes. The ash pond is found deposited with huge quantum of ash to an average depth of about 4 metre. Excavation and transportation of ash from the ash pond was noticed. The earthen bund is about 7 metre height surrounding the ash pond of which a portion of bund has been raised another 3 metre height to augment the storage of ash. Rising of bund for the entire circumference is incomplete. The pond is devoid of Geo-

membrane lining. There are no mechanisms for spraying / trickling of water to control spreading of ash in the air causing air pollution.

- iv) The NCTPS Stage-I is taking breakdown maintenance works in the ash pipelines whenever leaks are detected. The unit has patrol team which keeps patrolling the pipeline area and the pumps are stopped soon after leaks are detected. However, by the time, the unit has identified any leaks and repair it with high capacity pumps, considerable quantity of ash slurry would have been disposed into surroundings (Buckingham canal & back waters). It was verified with the log book maintained by NCTPS Stage -I and found that leaks are taking place almost every week.
- v) Though the unit has taken measures to detect leakages and to repair the leaking pipe, the unit has not taken measures to clean up the fly ash dumped into surrounding area during leakage. Hence the fly ash is still found deposited in Buckingham canal and surrounding area.
- vi) NCTPS Stage-I has to replace all the old pipelines only with new pipes for permanently resolving the issue of slurry ash disposal into water bodies, as the Line 1 & 5 replaced with old used pipelines brought from Ennore Thermal Power Station (ETPS) is also even leaking and got damaged.
- vii) Hence directions were issued to NCTPS Stage-I vide Board's Proc. dated 15.04.2021, to carry out the improvement of the control measures provided for the boiler stacks so as to control the dust emission and to change the old pipelines completely with new pipelines to curtail the ash disposal into water bodies and avoid surface/ ground water contamination.
- viii) The unit has assured to complete the conversion of old pipelines before December 2021 and making steps to improve the ESPs provided to the Boilers to control the stack emission and also conducting study with IIT Madras to make suitable measures to strengthen/raise the bunds of ash dyke to avoid seepage and surface water/ground water contamination.

Whereas, the leakage of ash slurry pipelines of NCTPS Stage-I is a regular phenomena & often complaints received and news flashed in media, Hence, Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Monitoring, TNPCB, Chennai has recommended certain directions under Section 31A of Air (P&CP) Act 1981 as amended to speed up the improvement works and to resolve the issues permanently.

Therefore, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 31A of the Air (P&CP) Act 1981 as amended, the Board issues the following directions to the unit of M/s. North Chennai Thermal Power Station (Stage-I), S.F.No. 44 & 45 of Puzhuthivakkam Village, Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur District for strict compliance.

1. The TANGEDCO shall comply with the findings of the committee constituted by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal order dated 20.05.2019 in O.A.No.8 of 2016, O.A.No.152 of 2016 & O.A.No.198 of 2016, communicated and agreed by the Hon'ble NGT within the time limit, as reported.



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

2. The TANGEDCO shall replace the existing ash slurry pipe lines no.1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 with new cast basalt lined pipes for entire length instead of using retrieved pipes from ETPS on or before 31.12.2021 as reported to comply with the above Hon'ble NGT direction so as to curtail the leakage from pipes permanently to avoid deposition of ash in Buckingham Canal, Kosasthalaiyar River and near Seppakkam hamlet.
3. The TANGEDCO shall carry out the removal of deposited ash near the Seppakkam hamlet on priority basis within 15 days.

Whereas, for the unit's request vide reference third cited, above regarding exemption from levy of Environmental Compensation, the unit of NCTPS-I shall seek remedy from the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Region, Chennai.

Failure to comply with the above said directions, will lead to issue of further directions which may include closure and stoppage of power supply to your unit under Section 31A of the Air (P&CP) Act 1981 as amended

The receipt of this proceeding shall be acknowledged.

[Signature]
12/10/2021
For Chairperson (FAC)

To
The Chairman cum Managing Director,
Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited,
6 th floor, TANTRANSCO Building, 144, Anna Salai,
Chennai - 600 002
Email: chairman@tnebnnet.org

[Signature]
12/10/21

Copy to:

1. The Chief Engineer,
M/s North Chennai Thermal Power Station,
Puzhuthivakkam Village, Ponneri Taluk,
Tiruvallur District-600120
2. ✓ The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer(M),
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,
Chennai.
3. The District Environmental Engineer,
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,
Gumidipoondi District.
4. File Copy