

B. K. Biswas
Regional Director
CPCB, Kolkata

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONAL BENCH, KOLKATA**

IN

O.A. NO. 175/2023/EZ

IN THE MATTER OF:

In the matter of OA No. 175/2023/EZ In Re: "Questions arise over limited AQI monitoring machines in Kolkata compared to Delhi, Mumbai"

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Mrinal Kanti Biswas

Mrinal Kanti Biswas
Regional Director
CPCB, Kolkata

Filed Through Counsel

Dated: _____

Place: Kolkata



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AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO.2 i.e. CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

I, Mrinal Kanti Biswas, S/o Shri Saroj Kumar Biswas, aged about 42, by Religion - Hindu, by Occupation - Service, having office at the Regional Directorate, Central Pollution Control Board, 1582, Rajdanga Main Road, Kolkata-700107 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That I am working as Regional Director in the Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as 'CPCB'), Regional Directorate Kolkata and have been authorized to file the present affidavit on behalf of the Respondent No. 2 i.e. CPCB. I am well conversant with the facts of the application from the records maintained by the offices of the CPCB hence, I am competent to swear this independent response on behalf of the CPCB.
2. That I have read and understood the contents of the present Counter Affidavit. The contents thereof are true and correct and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Brief Submissions

3. The Hon'ble NGT, Eastern Zone vide its order dated 29.11.2023 in the matter of News Item published in Lokmat Times English dated 27.11.2023 regarding "Questions arise over limited AQI monitoring machines in Kolkata compared to Delhi, Mumbai" directed all respondents to file counter-affidavit. In response to the order the reply of Respondent no. 2 is humbly submitted in following para:



4. Regarding number of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) installed in Kolkata, National Capital Region (NCR), and Mumbai, it is humbly submitted that each city is specific in terms of demography, land use, geo-climatic conditions etc. The monitoring network is developed based on various factors such as population, capturing air pollution from different activity profiles like transport, commercial activities, industries etc. Optimum blend of continuous and manual monitoring stations is required to fulfil the objectives of ambient air quality monitoring for notified parameters.
5. That population-based criteria for minimum number of air quality monitoring stations was developed in consultation with State Pollution Control Boards by CPCB in 2019. This was submitted before the Hon'ble NGT in the matter of 681/2018. The criteria define the minimum number of stations required in different areas (Residential, traffic dominant, commercial, industrial and background) of the city. States may setup more stations considering various activity profiles, hotspots etc. in the city. The minimum air quality monitoring network design criteria is annexed at Annexure-1.
6. That as per population-based criteria mentioned in para 5 above, Kolkata Municipal Corporation area having population of 44,96,694 (as per census 2011) is required to have a minimum of total 08 monitoring stations, a combination of 05 CAAQMS and 03 manual stations in different areas. At present, Kolkata Municipal Corporation area has 06 CAAQMS (including cantonment area) and 14 manual stations (including 01 station operated by CPCB RD Kolkata).
7. The Kolkata Urban Agglomerate (UA), comprising of - Barrackpore, Howrah & Kolkata area having population of 1,40,35,959 (as per census 2011 including 9.64 lakh population of non-municipal areas), is required to have a minimum of total 16 monitoring stations, a combination of 12 CAAQMS and 04 manual stations in different areas, as per the aforesaid population-based criteria. At present, Kolkata (UA) has 11 CAAQMS (7-Kolkata (including Bidhannagar area), 3-Howrah, 1-Barrackpore) and 36 manual

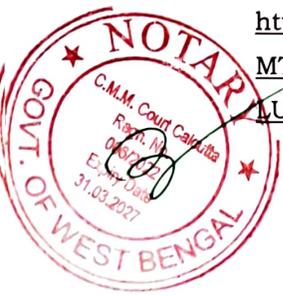


stations (14-Kolkatta, 10-North24Parganas, 05-Howrah, 07-Hooghly). Details of CAAQMS Stations Operating in Kolkata (UA) is attached at Annexure-2 and details of Manual Stations Under NAMP operating in Kolkata (UA) is attached at Annexure-3. The operation and maintenance of these monitoring stations is the responsibility of West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) except for 01 manual station which is operated by CPCB RD Kolkata. WBPCB is in the process of setting up 02 more CAAQMS in Howrah.

8. Regarding the comparison with other metro cities, where it was mentioned that number of CAAQMS at Kolkata are much less and accordingly, needs installation of additional CAAQMS machines, this Answering Respondent reiterates the same as submitted in para no 4 to 7.
9. Regarding installation of 10 more CAAQM stations in some critical areas at Kolkata by WBPCB, this is humbly submitted that the network design criteria defines the minimum number of stations required based on population. West Bengal State Pollution Control Board may setup more stations, if required, based on various activity profiles, hotspots, land use pattern etc. of the city.
10. Regarding Operation and Maintenance & non-functioning of these CAAQMS, including display of the data at monitoring sites through display boards for public awareness, this is humbly submitted that the matter pertains to WBPCB, as these stations are operated and maintained by WBPCB.
11. It is further humbly submitted that CPCB has published Guidelines for the (i) Measurement of Ambient Air Pollutants for Manual Sampling and Analyses (ii) Real time sampling and analyses & (iii) Guidelines for Ambient Air Quality Monitoring available at:

https://prana.cpcb.gov.in/ncapDashboard/download_public_port al file/NAAQMS Volume-I.pdf,

<https://cpcb.nic.in/openpdffile.php?id=UmVwb3J0RmlsZXMvMjh fMTQ1ODExMDU4NV90ZX dJdGVtXzE5N190QUFRTVNfVm9sdW11 LUIJLnBkZg>,



https://prana.cpcb.gov.in/ncapDashboard/download_public_portal_file/2003_CPCB_Guidelines_for_Air_Monitoring.pdf

respectively for implementation by all stake holders including SPCBs/PCCs.

12. That for Air Quality Index (AQI) calculation (being done centrally at CPCB server), the concentration based data from all CAAQMS is transferred to CPCB Server continuously on real time basis. Based on 24hours/8 hours moving averages data of various pollutants, the AQI is calculated through Central Server of CPCB, following the defined set of algorithm available at CPCB website (<https://cpb.nic.in/displaypdf.php?id=bmF0aW9uYWwtYWlyLXF1YWxpdHktaW5kZXgvRklOUwtUkVQT1JUX0FRSV8ucGRm>).
13. The AQI and pollutant's concentration of all operating CAAQMS in the country is also displayed on CPCB website at https://airquality.cpcb.gov.in/AQI_India_Iframe/, and <https://airquality.cpcb.gov.in/ccr/#/caaqm-dashboard-all/caaqm-landing/> data respectively.
14. Daily AQI bulletin is also published at 4pm on CPCB website for all the cities connected with CPCB server, including Kolkata at (https://cpb.nic.in/aqi_report.php).
15. In view of the above facts indicated in earlier paras, it is respectfully prayed that this Respondent No. 2 shall abide by any order or direction, passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal.

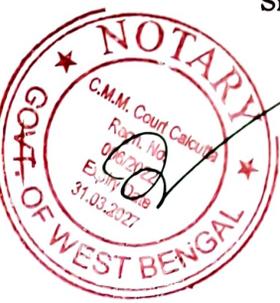


DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, Mrinal Kanti Biswas, the above named deponent do hereby verify that, the contents of the above Counter Affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge based on official records, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Signed and verified on this 30th Day of December, 2023 at Kolkata.



Identify

30 DEC 2023

SOLEMNLY AFFIRMED
&
Declared Before me
on Identification Adv.

NOTARY
N. DAS GUPTA
C.M.M. Court
Govt. W.B.



DEPONENT

NIRMALYA DAS GUPTA
Advocate Cum Notary
REGN NO.-006/2022
C.M.M. Court Calcutta

Annexure-I

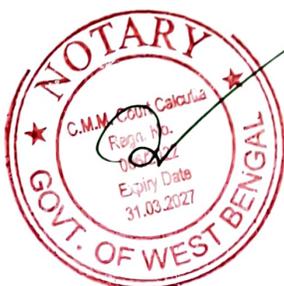
Criteria for designing the ambient air quality monitoring network

Population (Census 2011)	Minimum No. of manual station under NAMP	Minimum no of proposed CAAQMS	Total
1,00,000- < 5,00,000	1-Background 2-Residential/ Commercial	1-Residential	4
5,00,000- <10,00,000	1-Background 2-Residential/ Commercial	1-Residential 1-Traffic dominant area 1- Commercial	6
10,00,000- <50,00,000	1-Background 2-Residential/ Commercial	2-Residential 1-Traffic dominant area 1- Commercial 1-Industrial area	8
≥50,00,000	1-Background in upwind direction 1-Background in down wind direction 2-Residential/ Commercial	4-Residential 3-Traffic dominant area 3- Commercial 2-Industrial area	16

ANNEXURE-2

Details of CAAQMS Stations Operating in Kolkata (UA) Till 27.12.2023

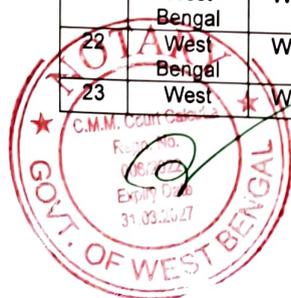
S.No.	State	City	Station Name
1	West Bengal	Barrackpore	SVSPA Campus, Barrackpore - WBPCB
2		Howrah	Belur Math, Howrah - WBPCB
3			Ghusuri, Howrah - WBPCB
4			Padmapukur, Howrah - WBPCB
5			Ballygunge, Kolkata - WBPCB
6		Kolkata	Bidhannagar, Kolkata – WBPCB (UA)
7			Fort William, Kolkata – WBPCB (Cantonment Area)
8			Jadavpur, Kolkata - WBPCB
9			Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata - WBPCB
10			Rabindra Sarobar, Kolkata - WBPCB
11			Victoria, Kolkata - WBPCB



ANNEXURE-3

Details of Manual Stations Under NAMP operating Sin Kolkata (UA) Till 27.12.2023

S. No.	STATE	AGENCY	CITY	UA	LOCATION	TYPE
1	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Kolkata	Kolkata	Picnic Garden-Rooftop of Milan Tirtha Club, 143/96A, Picnic Garden Road, Kolkata	Residential
2	West Bengal	RD, Kolkata	Kolkata	Kolkata	Kasba, Kolkata	Residential
3	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Kolkata	Kolkata	Hyde Road-Rooftop of Administrative Building, Braithwaite & co Ltd, 5, Hyde Road	Industrial
4	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Kolkata	Kolkata	Beliaghata-Rooftop of infectious, Diseases and B.G. Hospital Building, 57, Beliaghata Main Road	Residential
5	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Kolkata	Kolkata	Topsia-Rooftop of M/s Elite India Rubber Products Pvt. Ltd. 61, Topsia Road	Industrial
6	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Kolkata	Kolkata	Ultadanga-Rooftop of Manicktala Fire Station Building, 17, Bagmari Lane	Residential
7	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Kolkata	Kolkata	Mominpore, Rooftop of Mominpur KMC Drainage, Pumping Stations, 9, Mominpur Road, Kolkata	Residential
8	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Kolkata	Kolkata	Shyambazar, Rooftop of Shyambazar Tennis Club Building, 45-46, Canal West Road, Fariapukur, Shyambazar, Kolkata	Residential
9	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Kolkata	Kolkata	Gariahat, Rooftop of CESC Building, 6, Mandeville Gardens, Kolkata- 700019	Residential
10	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Kolkata	Kolkata	Moulali, Kolkata	Residential
11	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Kolkata	Kolkata	Minto Park, Kolkata	Residential
12	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Kolkata	Kolkata	Behala Chowrasta, Kolkata	Industrial
13	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Kolkata	Kolkata	Baishnabghata, Kolkata	Residential
14	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Kolkata	Kolkata	Tollygunge, South Suburban	Residential
15	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Barrackpore	N. 24 Paragana	Dum Dum, Barrackpore	Residential
16	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Barrackpore	N. 24 Paragana	Khardah, Barrackpore	Industrial
17	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Barrackpore	N. 24 Paragana	Barrackpore, Barrackpore	Industrial
18	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Barrackpore	N. 24 Paragana	Subhash Colony, 195, Barasat Road, Subhash Colony, Chakraborty Para, Barrackpore, WB - 700120	Residential
19	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Barrackpore	N. 24 Paragana	Muktapukur, Old Calcutta Rd, Muktapukur, Barrackpore, WB - 700120	Residential
20	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Kolkata	N. 24 Paragana	Paribesh Bhawan	Residential
21	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Kolkata	N. 24 Paragana	Dunlop Bridge, Kolkata	Industrial
22	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Kolkata	N. 24 Paragana	Salt lake, Kolkata	Residential
23	West Bengal	West Bengal	Madhyamgram	N. 24	Madhyamgram Municipality	Residential



	Bengal	SPCB		Paragana		
24	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Barasat	N. 24 Paragana	Barasat, Barasat Municipality, 73, Rishi Bankim Chandra Rd, Barasat, Kolkata-700127, West Bengal.	Residential
25	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Howrah	Howrah	Howrah Municipal Corporation, Howrah	Industrial
26	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Howrah	Howrah	Bandhaghat, Howrah	Industrial
27	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Howrah	Howrah	Naskarpara Pump House, Ghuseri, Howrah	Residential
28	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Howrah	Howrah	Bator, Howrah	Residential
29	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Howrah	Howrah	Uluberia, E.S.I. Hospital, Nurshing Building, 3rd Floor, Near Shib Mandir, Nimdighi, Uluberia, Howrah 711 316	Residential
30	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Sankrail	Howrah	Dhulagarh, Sankrail	Industrial
31	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Sankrail	Howrah	Sankrail, Sankrail	Industrial
32	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Chinsurah	Hoogly	Chinsurah, Chinsurah Municipality Pipulpati Auto Stand, Vivekananda Rd, Chinsurah, Hooghly, West Bengal 712103	Residential
33	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Dankuni	Hoogly	Dankuni, Krishnanagar Municipality, R.N. Thakur Road, P.O-Krishnanagar, Nadia - 741101.	Residential
34	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Rishra	Hoogly	Rishra, Rishra Municipality, 49/56 & 57, Rabindra sarani Rd, Rishra, West Bengal 712248	Residential
35	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Tribeni	Hoogly	Tribeni, Tribeni Health Center (Under Bansberia Municipality) Near Tribeni Shibpur P.O. – Tribeni, Dist. – Hooghly, Pin. – 712 503	Residential
36	West Bengal	West Bengal SPCB	Uttarpara	Hoogly	Uttarpara General Hospital	Residential

