

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH,
NEW DELHI**

Original Application No.1229 of 2024

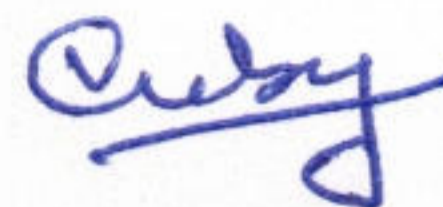
In Re: "News Item titled "Over 1200 sources polluting water bodies in Punjab reveals govt. report" appearing in the Tribune dated 16.09.2024.

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Date: 30-01-2025

Place: Barnala


 (Vicky Bansal)
 Environmental Engineer,
 Punjab Pollution Control Board,
 Regional Office, Barnala

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH,
NEW DELHI**

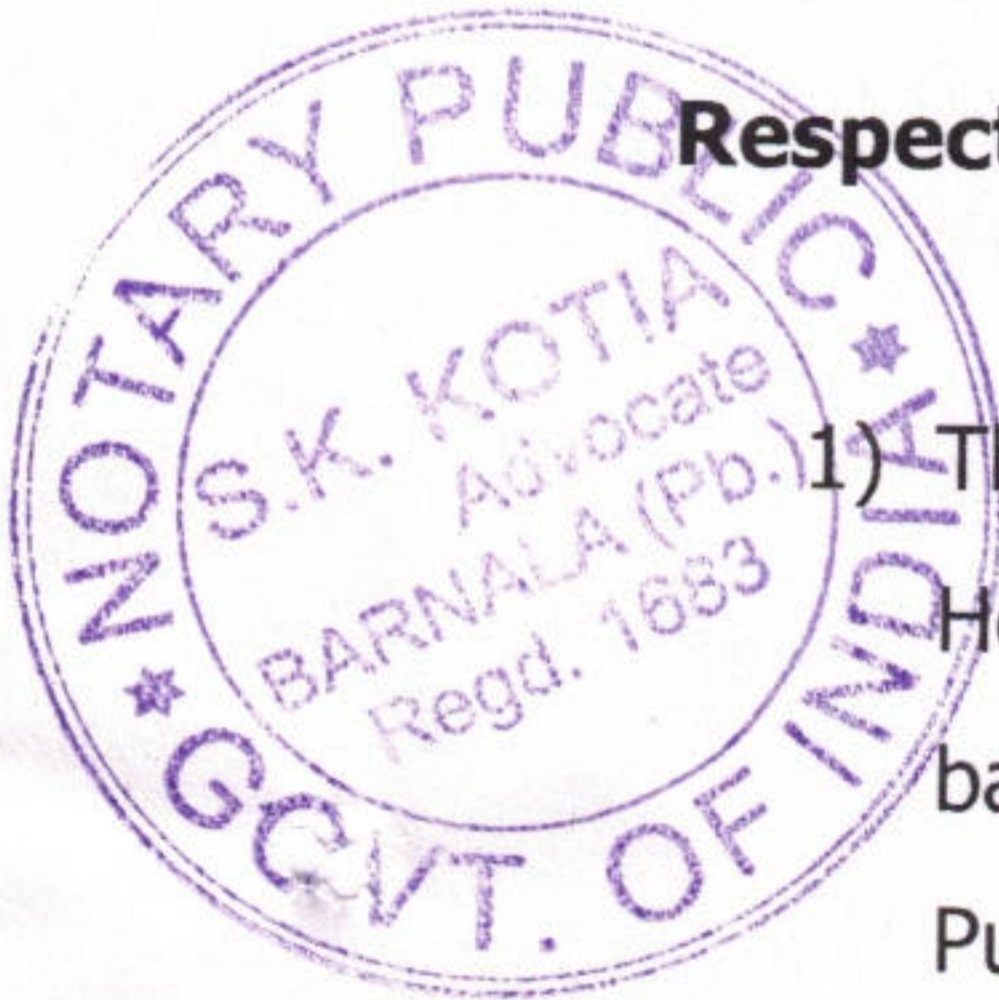
Original Application No.1229 of 2024

In Re: "News Item titled "Over 1200 sources polluting water bodies in Punjab reveals govt. report" appearing in the Tribune dated 16.09.2024.

Interim reply by way of affidavit of Er. Vicky Bansal, Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Barnala on behalf of Punjab Pollution Control Board i.e. respondent no.1 in compliance to order dated 15.10.2024.

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

Respectfully showeth:



- 1) That the above-mentioned Original Application was registered by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in exercise of its suo moto powers on the basis of "News Item titled "Over 1200 sources polluting water bodies in Punjab reveals govt. report" appearing in the Tribune dated 16.09.2024.
- 2) That after consideration of the matter, the Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to pass an order dated 15.10.2024 thereby impleading the Punjab Pollution Control Board, the Central Pollution Control Board and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office, Chandigarh as respondents in the case with direction to file their response / reply before the Tribunal.
- 3) That in compliance to the orders dated 15.10.2024 of the Hon'ble Tribunal and in view of the facts and circumstances of the case, the competent

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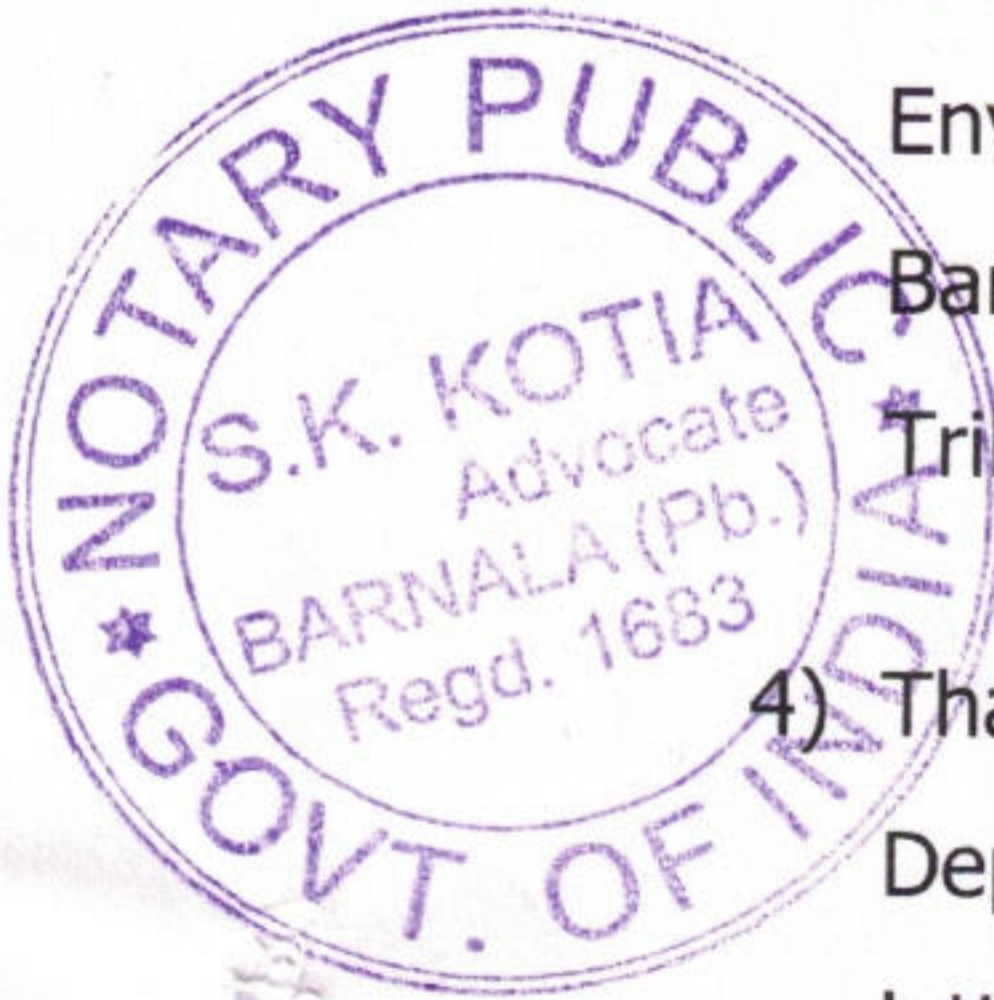
authority of the Board has constituted a committee of the following officers vide office order no. 475 dated 10.12.2024 to gather information and prepare status report in the case.

- a) Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Amritsar- Nodal Officer
- b) Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Sangrur- Member
- c) Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Jalandhar-Member
- d) Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Patiala-Member
- e) Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Barnala-member
Convenor

A copy of office order no. 475 dated 10.12.2024 issued by the Punjab Pollution Control Board is enclosed as **Annexure-A**. It is pertinent to mention here that after the issuance of office order no. 475 dated 10.12.2024, the Board has appointed Er. Kuldip Singh, Senior Environmental Engineer to head the committee of the officers and the Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Barnala was assigned the duty to file before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

- 4) That keeping in view the facts of the case, the Chief Engineer (Drainage), Department of Water Resources, Punjab, Chandigarh was requested vide letter no. 919 dated 08.01.2025 to nominate nodal officer of the Department to provide the list of 1200 water polluting sources which are discharging into drains / river so that joint visit of these water polluting sources can be done and status report can be filed before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. A copy of letter no. 919 dated 08.01.2025 is enclosed as **Annexure-B**.

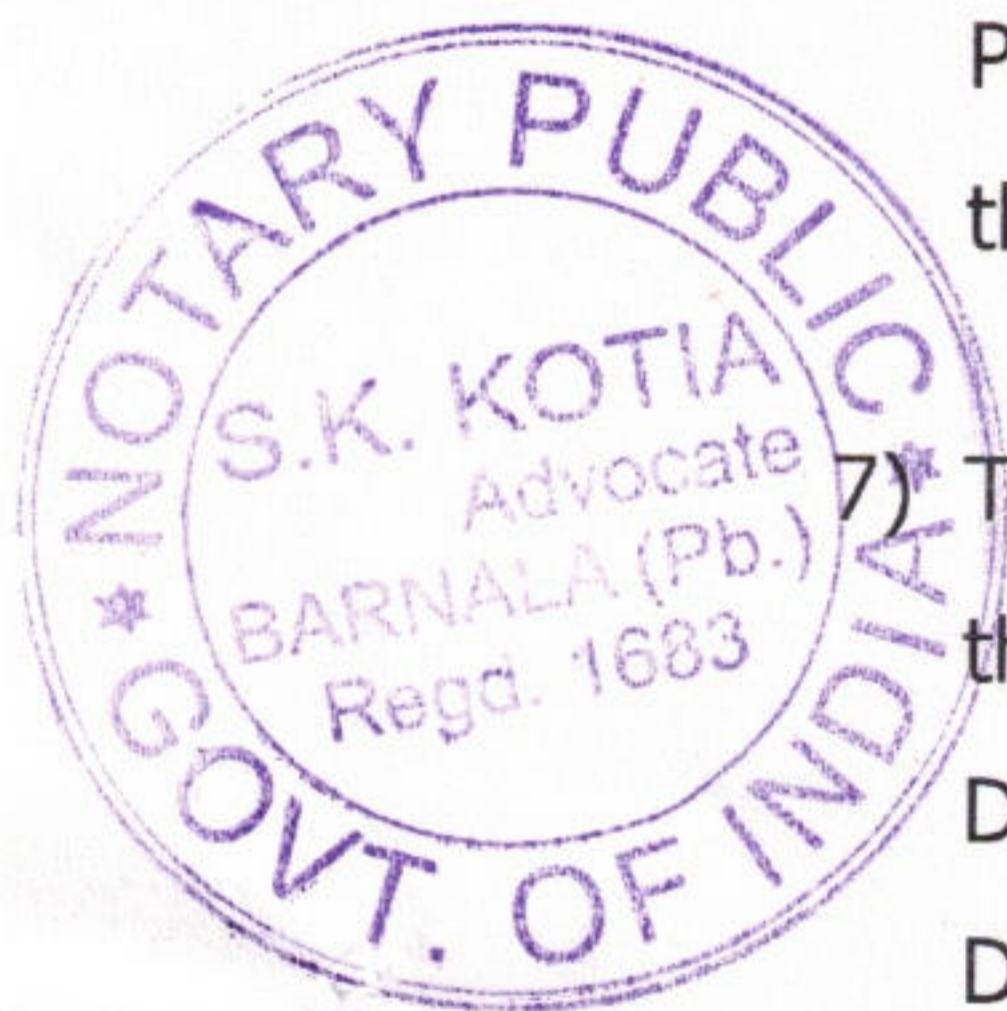
In reference to letter dated 08.01.2025 of the Punjab Pollution Control Board, the Chief Engineer/ Drainage-cum-Mining and Geology, Water Resources Department, Punjab, Chandigarh vide letter no. 36/2025/D&F dated 21.01.2025 has appointed Sh. Jayant Kaushik, ADE of



any

the Department of Water Resources, Punjab as the Nodal Officer to provide the desired information. A copy of letter dated 21.01.2025 of the Chief Engineer, Drainage, Department of Water Resources, Punjab is enclosed as **Annexure-C**.

- 5) That the Nodal Officer appointed by the Department of Water Resources has shared the list of water polluting sources with the Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Barnala on 24.01.2025.
- 6) That considering the information supplied by Sh. Jayant Kaushik, ADE, Department of Water Resources, Punjab, the Board has taken up the matter with the officers of the Department of Local Government and the Department of Rural Development and Panchayats and a meeting of the concerned departments including the Regional Offices of the Punjab Pollution Control Board was convened by the Nodal Officer appointed by the Board on 27.01.2025 to take further action in the matter.
- 7) That online meeting on 27.01.2025 was attended by the Chief Engineer of the Department of Local Government; Superintending Engineer of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayats, Mohali; Assistant Divisional Engineer, Department of Water Resources and all the Environmental Engineers of Regional Offices of the Punjab Pollution Control Board. The Nodal Officer appointed by the Board has interacted with the officers of the above-mentioned departments and desired the relevant information so that status report is filed before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. The concerned departments have sought time of one month to verify the polluting sources and to submit the action taken report to the Board. After deliberations, following decisions were taken during the meeting.
 - a) The Department of Water Resources shall update the status of water polluting sources by 28.01.2025 and



File

shall share the updated list with the Board. The department shall also provide the contact details of all concerned Divisional Engineers for any query.

- b) The Department of Rural Development & Panchayats shall verify the point sources related to it and submit the action taken report of all water polluting sources mentioned in the list provided by the Department of the Water Resources, within one month.
- c) The Department of Local Govt. Punjab shall verify the point sources related to it and submit the action taken report of all water polluting sources mentioned in the list provided by the Department of the Water Resources, within one month.
- d) All the Regional Offices of the Board shall verify the water polluting sources falling under their area of jurisdiction and shall submit action taken report, within one month.



- 8) That the minutes of the meeting held on 27.01.2025 have been conveyed by the Board to the concerned departments vide letter no. 693-96 dated 28.01.2025 for information and compliance. A copy of letter no. 693-96 dated 28.01.2025 alongwith minutes of the meeting held on 27.01.2025 is enclosed as **Annexure-D**.
- 9) That after receiving the information from the concerned departments and Regional Offices, the Nodal Officer appointed by the Board will compile the data for filing of status and action taken report before this Hon'ble Tribunal. In this regard a time period of two month is requested for filing the final status report before this Hon'ble Tribunal.

for

It is, therefore, prayed that a time period of two months may please be granted to the Punjab Pollution Control Board to file the status and action taken report before this Hon'ble Tribunal.

Deponent


(Vicky Bansal)

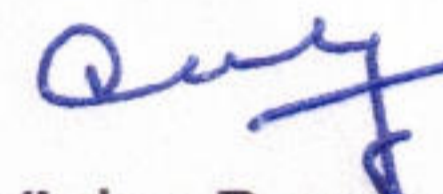
Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office, Barnala

Date: 30-01-2025

Place: Barnala

Verification:

I, the deponent above named, do hereby verify and state that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, as derived from the official record. No part of the above affidavit is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

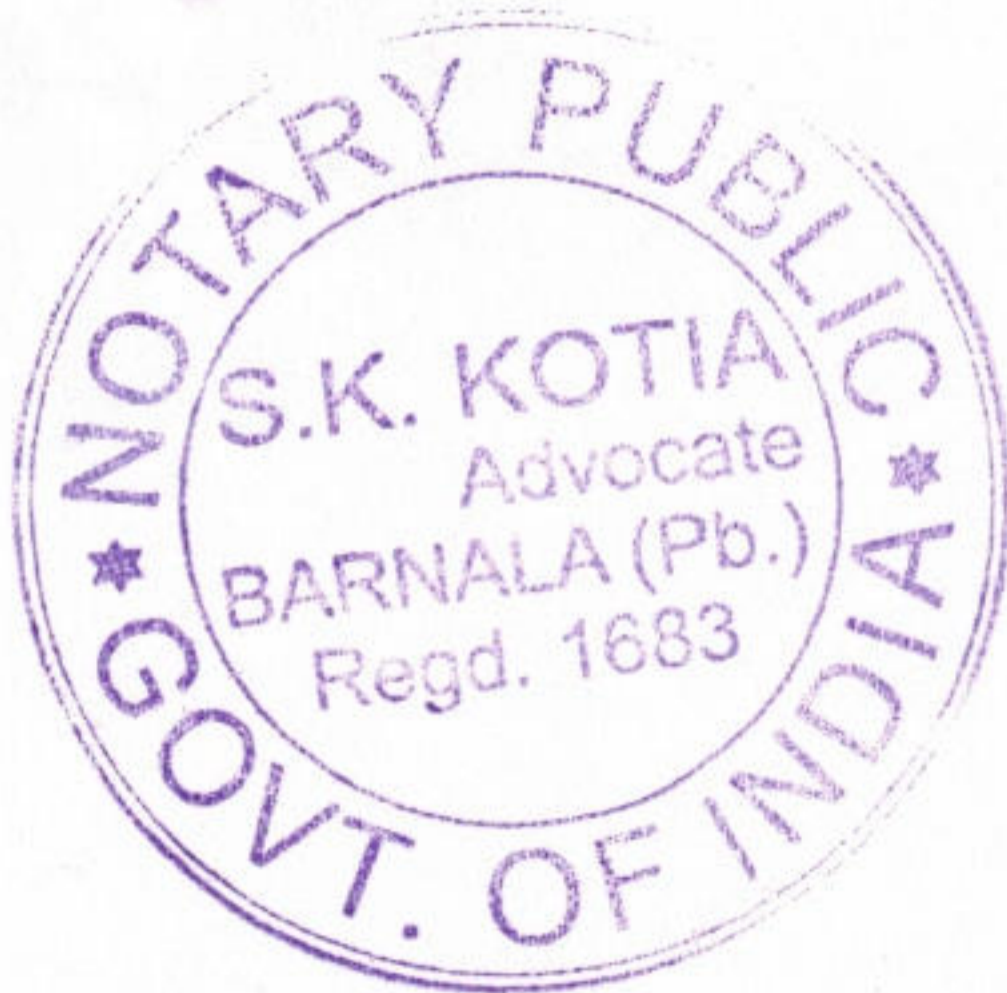
Deponent



(Vicky Bansal)

Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office, Barnala

Date: 30-01-2025

Place: Barnala.



ATTESTED

 NOTARY PUBLIC
 BARNALA (PB.) INDIA

30 JAN 2025

This Document/Affidavit is Entered at
 S. NO. 170 Page No. 26
 Date.....

30 JAN 2025

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਬੋਰਡ
PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

ਓ.ਓ. ਓ.ਓ. 1/2/24/ਪ੍ਰ.ਦ.ਇੰਜੀ./ਸੀ.ਐਮ.ਸਾਗਰ/ਪ੍ਰ.ਪਿ.ਓ.
ਨਦੀ ਡਾਕ

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No. 475
Date 10/12/24

Office Order

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has registered Original Application No. 1229 of 2024 in exercise of suo moto powers on the basis of a news item "Over 1200 sources polluting water bodies in Punjab reveals Govt. report" appearing in the Tribune dated 16.09.2024.

2) The news item relates to a government report that identifies over 1,200 sources of pollution affecting water bodies in Punjab. As per the article, the highest number of pollution sources, 390, were found in Amritsar, followed by 159 in Sangrur. The article highlights that the report provides a district-wise breakdown of pollution sources, with other notable figures including 82 in Jalandhar, 66 in Patiala, and 59 in Barnala. As per the report, untreated water from villages, municipal committees, and other organizations is often discharged directly into rivers and drains, leading to significant water pollution. This practice violates both the Water Pollution Act and the Northern India Canals and Drainage Act of 1873. Furthermore, it is asserted that pollution is not just an environmental issue; it poses significant risks to public health, affecting drinking water supplies and increasing the risk of waterborne diseases.

3) After consideration of the matter, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated 15.10.2024 has impleaded the Punjab Pollution Control Board, Central Pollution Control Board and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India with direction to file their response / reply by way of affidavit at least one week before the next date hearing on 04.02.2025.

4) In view of the above facts and circumstances of the case, a committee of following officers is hereby constituted to gather information and prepare status report in the case.

- a) Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Amritsar -Nodal Officer
- b) Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Sangrur- Member
- c) Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Jalandhar - Member
- d) Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Patiala - Member
- e) Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Barnala – Member Convenor

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5) The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Amritsar will act as Nodal Officer and Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Barnala as member convener in the case. The Nodal Officer will file reply before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal well before the next date of hearing on 04.02.2025 after approval of the competent authority.

sd/-
Prof (Dr.) Adarsh Pal Vig
Chairman

Endst. No. 30661-65

Dated 16/12/24

A copy of the above is forwarded to the following for information and immediate necessary action:

1. Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Amritsar.
2. Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Sangrur.
3. Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Jalandhar.
4. Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Patiala.
- ✓ Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Barnala.

Adarsh Pal Vig
Chairman

Endst. No. _____

Dated _____

A copy of the above is forwarded to the following for information and for ensuring immediate necessary action and compliance:

- 1) The Chief Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Jalandhar Patiala and Ludhiana.
- 2) The Senior Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Bathinda, Patiala-1/2, Ludhiana-2.

sd/-
Chairman

Endst. No. _____

Dated _____

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala for information please.

sd/-
Chairman

any



ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਬੋਰਡ
PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



PPCB/No. 919

Dated: 08/11/25

To

The Chief Engineer (Drainage),
Department of Water Resources, Punjab
Sector 18B, Madhya Marg,
Chandigarh, Pin code: 160018.

Subject: Compliance of Hon'ble NGT order dated 15.10.2024 in the matter of OA No. 1229/2024; News Item titled "Over 1200 sources polluting water bodies in Punjab reveals govt. report" appearing in the Tribune dated 16.09.2024.

It is informed that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi has registered OA No. 1229 of 2024 in exercise of suo moto powers on the basis of a news item "Over 1200 sources polluting water bodies in Punjab reveals Govt. report" appearing in the Tribune dated 16.09.2024.

The news item relates to a government report that identifies over 1,200 sources of pollution affecting water bodies in Punjab. As per the article, the highest number of pollution sources, 390, were found in Amritsar, followed by 159 in Sangrur, 82 in Jalandhar, 66 in Patiala, and 59 in Barnala. As per the report, untreated water from villages, municipal committees, and other organizations is often discharged directly into rivers and drains, leading to significant water pollution. This practice violates both the Water Pollution Act and the Northern India Canals and Drainage Act of 1873. Furthermore, it is asserted that pollution is not just an environmental issue; it poses significant risks to public health, affecting drinking water supplies and increasing the risk of waterborne diseases.

After consideration of the matter, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated 15.10.2024 has impleaded the Government of Punjab & Government of India with direction to file their response / reply by way of affidavit at least one week before the next date hearing on 04.02.2025.

It is, therefore, requested to nominate one Nodal Officer of your department to provide the list of above mentioned 1200 water polluting sources which are discharging into drains/river so that joint visit of these water polluting sources can be done and status report can be filed before the Hon'ble NGT.

Treat it as most urgent.

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Member Secretary

OIC

ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਭਵਨ, ਨਾਭਾ ਰੋਡ, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ

Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala - 147001

E-mail : chairman.ptl.ppcb@punjab.gov.in, msppcb@gmail.com

E-2633/0

Chief Engineer/Drainage cum Mining & Geology,
Water Resources Department, Punjab, Chandigarh.

No: 36/2025/D8F

Dated: 21/01/2025

From

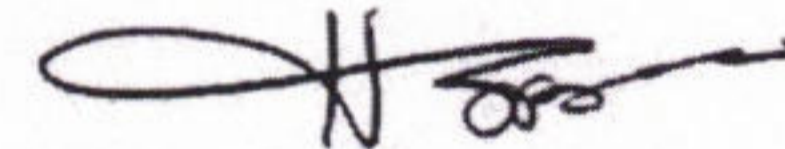
Chief Engineer/Drainage-
cum-Mining & Geology,
Water Resources Department,
Punjab, Chandigarh.

To

Member Secretary
Punjab Pollution Control Board

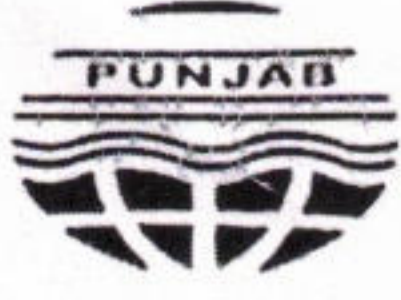
Subject: Compliance of Hon'ble NGT order dated 15.10.2024 in the matter of OA No. 1229/2024; News Item titled "Over 1200 sources polluting water bodies in Punjab reveals govt. report" appearing in the Tribune dated 16.09.2024.

- 1.0 Please refer to your letter no. PPCB/No. 914 Dated 08/01/2025 and subject cited above.
- 2.0 Sh. Jayant Kaushik, ADE (Mob: 62397-78760), is hereby designated as the Nodal Officer from Department of Water Resources, Punjab to provide the desired information.



Chief Engineer/Drainage cum
Mining & Geology,

End



ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਬੋਰਡ
PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



PPCB/2025/No. 693-96

Dated: 28/01/2025

To

1. Sh. Rajiv Sharma,
The Chief Engineer (Municipal Council),
Department of Local Govt., Municipal Bhawan,
Sector 35-A, Chandigarh.
2. Sh. Tejinder Singh Multani,
The Superintending Engineer,
Department of Rural Development and Panchayats,
Vikas Bhawan, Sector 62, Phase-8, Mohali.
3. The Environmental Engineers (All Ros)
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Punjab.
4. Sh. Jayant Kaushik, ADE,
Department of Water Resources, Punjab,
Sector 12-B, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh.

Subject: Minutes of the meeting held on 27.01.2025 at 3:00 p.m. through Video Conference to ensure the compliance of Hon'ble NGT order dated 15.10.2024 in the matter of OA No. 1229/2024; News Item titled "Over 1200 sources polluting water bodies in Punjab reveals govt. report" appearing in the Tribune dated 16.09.2024.

Please find enclosed herewith the copy of Minutes of the meeting taken by Sh. Kuldeep Singh, Senior Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office-2, Ludhiana on 27.01.2025 at 3:00 p.m. through Video Conference to ensure the compliance of Hon'ble NGT order dated 15.10.2024 in the matter of OA No. 1229/2024 for information and compliance.

DA/As above

Endst. No. 697-99

any
28/01/25
Environmental Engineer

Dated: 28/01/2025

A copy of the above is forwarded to the following for information, please:

1. The Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Patiala.
2. The Chief Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Ludhiana.
3. The Senior Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office-2, Ludhiana.

DA/As above

any
28/01/25
Environmental Engineer

any

ਖੇਤਰੀ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ, ਬਰਨਾਲਾ

B-013A/01569, ਲੱਖੀ ਕਲੋਨੀ, ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਨਾਨਕਸਰ ਠਾਠ, ਬਰਨਾਲਾ

Subject: Minutes of the meeting taken by Sh. Kuldeep Singh, Senior Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office-2, Ludhiana on 27.01.2025 at 3:00 p.m. through Video Conference to ensure the compliance of Hon'ble NGT order dated 15.10.2024 in the matter of OA No. 1229/2024; News Item titled "Over 1200 sources polluting water bodies in Punjab reveals govt. report" appearing in the Tribune dated 16.09.2024.

The following were present in the meeting: -

1. Sh. Kuldeep Singh, SEE, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office-II, Ludhiana.
2. Sh. Rajiv Sharma, CE, Department of Local Govt. Punjab, Chandigarh.
3. Sh. Tejinder Singh Multani, SE, Department of Rural Development and Panchayats, Mohali.
4. Sh. Jayant Kaushik, ADE, Department of Water Resources, Punjab, Chandigarh.
5. All the Environmental Engineers, Regional Office's, Punjab Pollution Control Board.

At the outset, Sh. Vicky Bansal, Environmental Engineer, PPCB, RO, Barnala welcomed all the participants. He apprised the members regarding background of the subject cited case pending in the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi. He informed that OA No. 1229 of 2024 is registered suo-moto on the basis of a news item titled "Over 1200 sources polluting water bodies in Punjab reveals Govt. report" appearing in the Tribune dated 16.09.2024.

The news item relates to a government report that identifies over 1,200 sources of pollution affecting water bodies in Punjab. As per the article, the highest number of pollution sources, 390, were found in Amritsar, followed by 159 in Sangrur. The article highlights that the report provides a district-wise breakdown of pollution sources, with other notable figures including 82 in Jalandhar, 66 in Patiala, and 59 in Barnala. As per the report, untreated water from villages, municipal committees, and other organizations is often discharged directly into rivers and drains, leading to significant water pollution. This practice violates both the Water Pollution Act and the Northern India Canals and Drainage Act of 1873. Furthermore, it is asserted that pollution is not just an environmental issue; it poses significant risks to public health, affecting drinking water supplies and increasing the risk of waterborne diseases.

He further informed that the next date of hearing before the Hon'ble NGT is fixed for 04.02.2025.

He apprised that Punjab Pollution Control Board vide letter no. 919 dated 08.01.2025 had requested the Chief Engineer (Drainage), Department of Water Resources, Punjab to nominate one Nodal Officer of his department to provide the list of above mentioned 1200 water polluting sources which are discharging into drains/river so that joint visit of these water polluting sources can be done and status report can be filed before the Hon'ble NGT.

The Department of Water Resources, Punjab vide letter no. 36 dated 21.01.2025 has designated Sh. Jayant Kaushik, ADE (Mobile No. 62397-78760) as nodal officer to provide the desired information. Accordingly, Sh. Jayant Kaushik, ADE vide e-mail dated 24.01.2025 has provided the list of above said water polluting sources, which has been shared through whatsapp with all the members.

Sh. Paramjit Singh Multani, SE, Department of Rural Development and Panchayats told that they have scrutinized the list provided by the Department of Water Resources and according to this list, 619 water polluting sources are related to this department. Further he added

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-12-

that 181 more point sources are identified by their department, whose sullage water falls directly or indirectly in various rivers of State of Punjab, thus totalling 800 water polluting sources. He apprised that 10 years Action Plan has been prepared for rejuvenation of villages ponds. He further told that around one month is required to verify these 800 point sources by the filed officers and to submit action taken report in the matter.

Sh. Rajiv Kumar, CE, Department of Local Govt. Punjab said that they will identify point sources related to their department and shall take appropriate action in the matter. He further informed that at least one month is required to submit the action taken report in the matter.

The Officers from the Regional Offices of PPCB told that it will take one month time to verify these water polluting sources falling under their area of jurisdiction and to submit action taken report.

Sh. Jayant Kaushik, ADE, Department of Water Resources said that the field officers of his department are updating the status of point sources and will submit the final list by 28.01.2025. He informed that his department is also taking against the violators as per law. He further told that for any query related to any point source, concerned Divisional Engineer of his department can be contacted.

After deliberating the matter in detail, it was decided as under: -

1. The Department of Water Resources shall update the status of water polluting sources by 28.01.2025 and shall share the updated list with the Board. The department shall also provide the contact details of all concerned Divisional Engineers for any query.
2. The Department of Rural Development & Panchayats shall verify the point sources related to it and submit the action taken report of all water polluting sources mentioned in the list provided by the Department of the Water Resources, within one month.
3. The Department of Local Govt. Punjab shall verify the point sources related to it and submit the action taken report of all water polluting sources mentioned in the list provided by the Department of the Water Resources, within one month.
4. All the Regional Offices of the Board shall verify the water polluting sources falling under their area of jurisdiction and shall submit action taken report, within one month.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks

For
For