Report of the Committee constituted in compliance to order dated 17.04.2023 in OA no. 803/2022 in the matter of Ajit Singh Vs State of Punjab regarding violation of environmental norms for setting up of the housing project 'Omaxe Greens' at Ambala – Chandigarh Expressway, Village Jharmari, District Mohali, Punjab.

Background:

1. Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in its order dated 20.07.2023 in OA no. 803/2022 in the matter of Ajit Singh Vs State of Punjab regarding violation of environmental norms for setting up of the housing project 'Omaxe Greens' at Ambala – Chandigarh Expressway, Village Jharmari, District Mohali, Punjab considered the application filed by Sh. Ajit Singh resident of 'Omaxe Greens', wherein, it has been mentioned that Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) is non-operational for the last three years and untreated sewage is being discharged on the highway and other areas, to the detriment of environment and public health. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in Para No. 4 of order dated 20.07.2023 has directed as under:

   In light of above facts, we direct the Committee to submit a report onthe points as narrated above within two months from today particularlyon setting up and operation of adequate capacity of STP, itscompliance with standards and utilization of treatedsewage/consented mode of disposal by e-mail at judicialngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDFand not in the form of Image PDF.

In compliance to the above orders, the joint committee visited the project site on 04.10.2023 and contacted Sh. Harjot Singh Narang (Deputy Manager of Project Proponent). During visit, it was observed as under:

Observations of the Committee:

1. The project was granted Environmental Clearance vide letter no. 21-408/2007-IA.III dated 08.05.2018 for the construction a residential colony on a plot area of 62,120.99 sqm. The total built up area is 97,456.96 sqm (having 660 apartment – 3BR-450, 2 BR-150 and EWS -60). The total water requirement proposed is 526 KLD (fresh water 297 KLD). The capacity of STP proposed is 400 KLD. Treated waste water will be used for flushing of toilets 148 KLD, horticulture 81 KLD and balance 171 KLD will be used for irrigation of surrounding fields.
2. The project has installed 02 no. STPs based on MBBR Technology of capacity 250 KLD & 180 KLD to treat the domestic effluent generated from its premises. On the day of visit, these STPs were found operational. Both the STPs are based on MBBR Technology and have been provided with UV followed by UF

membrane for use of treated effluent for karnal technology and dual plumbing purpose. No foul smell was observed in the STP area as observed during earlier visit.

3. The STP has provided 1 plate and frame filter press and 2 sludge drying beds for dewatering of STP sludge.
4. The project proponent has installed 02 no. tubewell in its premises and as per record of flow meters maintained by the project proponent, around 525 KLD of freshwater is being abstracted (in the month Sep-2023). The Project Proponent has now providedelectromagnetic type flow meters in place of mechanical type flow meters as advised during previous visit.
5. As per record of flow meter installed at outlet of STP, around 188 KLD effluent has been treated in STP of capacity 250 KLD and around 157 KLD has been treated in the STP of capacity 180 KLD. As such a total of 345 KLD of domestic effluent is being treated on daily basis.
6. The project proponent has provided dual plumbing arrangement only in four towers out of nine towers for the re-use of treated water for flushing purpose, which was verified during the visit.However, no separate record regarding the same is being maintained by the project proponent.
7. The project proponent has now provided fixed pipe line for reuse of treated water in green areas developed within the premises of the project.
8. The promoter company has developed plantation area of 0.5 acre as per karnal technology for reuse of treated water for irrigation purpose. This area has now been maintained.
9. Further, the PP has carried out agreement for another 1.5 acre land behind the project which has been developed as per karnal technology and the project proponent has now provided dedicated pipeline for carrying the treated effluent to the said area.
10. The project proponent has now provided 05 no. of RWH pits in its premises. The rain water pits have now been cleaned and the filter media has been replaced as advised by the committee during earlier visit.
11. The project proponent has provided composter of capacity 100 kg/day for composting of bio-degradable waste generated from the project. Now, the project proponent has installed another mechanical composter of 700 kg/day, which is adequate, as required under the Environmental Clearance. Further, the project proponent has also provided 04 honeycomb compost pits for composting of wet waste.
12. The project proponent has provided 2 no. of DG sets of capacity 250 KVA with canopy and stack of adequate height.

13. Further, the committee observed that the stagnant water ponding area having massive aquatic growth adjacent to the backside boundary of the project has been removed. The project proponent has taken the said land on lease and is developing the said area as per karnal technology. However, stagnation was still observed in this area and the project proponent informed that this is due to the flow of sullage water from the upstream of village Jharmari, as seen by the committee.

14. The committee visited the village Jharmari and it was observed that a drain is continuously carrying untreated water from the nearby areas, which is being accumulated in the backside area of the project.

15. On the day of visit, committee has also taken grab sample from drain carrying untreated waste water from nearby village Jharmari and also stagnation water in the furrow of growing plant as per karnal technology. Sample analysis results of the same are presented below:

Sampling locations	**Parameters**							
	pH	TSS	TDS	COD	BOD	NH_3-N	O&G	SAR
Drain of village Jharmari	7.4	36	998	54	15	7.0	BDL	3.7
Stagnated water in Karnal Technology	8.6	44	724	40	10	6.2	BDL	3.3

All values are in mg/l except pH & SAR

16. On the day of visit, Committee observed that these STP having common inlet and individual outlet of STPs 250 KLD and 180 KLD respectively. Committee has taken grab sample on 04.10.2023 from inlet and outlets of these STPs (250 KLD & 180 KLD). Sample has been analysed by PPCB HO lab, Patiala. Sample analysis results of the same are presented below :

Sampling locations	Parameters							
	pH	TSS	TDS	COD	BOD	NH_3-N	O&G	SAR
Common inlet of STPs	7.1	112	942	280	75	12	7.8	4.0
Outlet of STP 250 KLD	8.8	13	912	38	07	5.0	< 4	2.7
Outlet of STP 180 KLD	7.8	10	808	44	09	4.0	< 4	2.5
Prescribed norms by PPCB	6.5-9.0	100	2100	-	30	-	10	26

All values are in mg/l except pH & SAR

17. It is evident from the above analysis results, the samples at the outlet of STPs of capacity 250 KLD & 180 KLD are generally complying with the prescribed standards of the Board.

18. It was informed by the project proponent that after the first visit of the committee on 06/07/2023 vide which the committee showed displeasure regarding the performance of the first STP; they started complete renovation of the first STP. It was also noticed during the current visit that the STP was

completely renovated. The pungent smell in the air was also not felt during the present visit unlike during the first visit. However, it was noted that the STP has not been stabilized completely.

19. Project proponent has not submitted the adequacy certificate of both the STPs yet.

Recommendations:

1. The Project Proponent shall submit adequacy assessment certificate of both the STPs by reputed institutes and submit an ATR report to PPCB.
2. Punjab Pollution Control Board shall issue the CTO only after the stabilization of the first STP and receipt of the third part adequacy certificate.
3. The Project Proponent shall construct a distribution network of impervious conduits to cover the irrigated area.
4. The Project Proponent shall carry out the analysis of prescribed effluent/soil/ground water quality parameters from the NABL/EPA/ SPCBs/PCCs recognised/accredited laboratories. Similarly, the groundwater quality should also be monitored twice in a year. Samples should be collected from the first water bearing strata from existing hand pumps or by installing the same for sampling purpose only. The sampling points should be uniformly spread in the command area and near effluent storage area.
5. The physico-chemical characteristics of the soil under irrigation with treated effluent should be monitored twice in a year to assess conditions in summer and post monsoon seasons, in order to determine the deterioration of soil quality.
6. Reports regarding compliance of effluent quality standards and status of soil and ground water quality shall be submitted to SPCBs/PCCs twice in a year, in first week of January and July.

Er. Ravdeep Singh, AEE
RO Mohali, PPCB

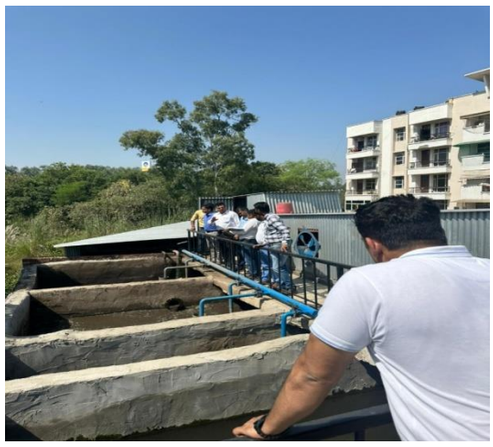
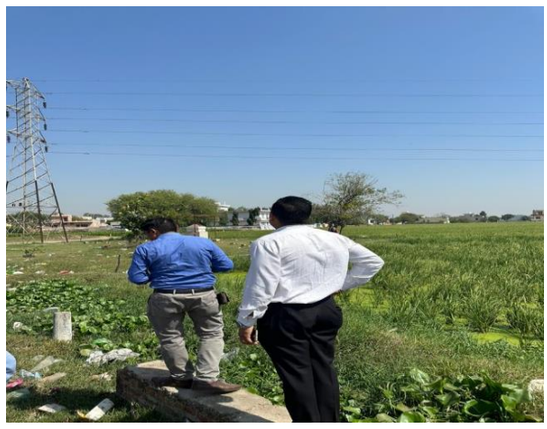
19/10/2023
Er. GD Garg, EE
RO Mohali, PPCB

Er. J.P. Meena, Sc. 'D',
CPCB, RD Chandigarh

19/10/2023
Dr.Vimal Kumar Hatwal,
Addl. Director/ Scientist 'E'
MoEF&CC

Smt. Aashika Jain (IAS),
Deputy Commissioner,
Mohali

Photographs taken during Visit:

	
View of STP Treatment Units	View of Karnal technology
	
View of Compost Pits	View of Jharmari Village drain