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EPABX: 2561909/2562847
Tel: 2562822, 2560955
Email: Paribesh1@ospcboard.org
Website: www.ospcboard.org

STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ODISHA

[DEPARTMENT OF FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA]
Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakanthanagar, Unit – VIII,
Bhubaneswar – 751 012, INDIA

No. 2784

Date: 24/02/2023

VII – L – Misc – 952

To

E-mail

The Registrar
National Green Tribunal
Principal Bench, New Delhi
E-mail: judicial-ngt@gov.in

Sub: OA No.565/2022/PB – Asuthosh Mekap v. State of Odisha.

Ref: This Board letter No.1267 dtd.03.02.2023.

Sir,

In continuation to our aforesaid letter, I am forwarding the joint committee report in compliance to direction dtd.23.08.2022 of the Hon'ble Tribunal and request you to please place the same before the Hon'ble Tribunal on dtd.27.02.2023, the date fixed for hearing of this case for kind perusal of the Hon'ble Tribunal.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,


Member Secretary

JOINT INSPECTION REPORT IN THE MATTER OF OA NO 565/2022/EZ (ASHUTOSH MEKAP & ANR.VS STATE OF ODISHA) AS PER ORDER DTD. 23.08.2022 OF HON'BLE NGT, NEW DELHI.

The OA No.565/2022 has been filed before National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi by One Ashutosh Mekap. This application is against the industrial pollution at Joda Block of Keonjhar district it is stated therein that River Sona is polluted as slurry pipe is being installed under the river bed of the said river for which heavy machinery is being used to dig up the river for transporting slurry of mines and minerals, resulting blockage of sewerage and river line system due to continuous digging and disposal of industrial waste/slurry. Discharge of mineral/slurry will pollute the river Baitarani and other rivers.

Hon'ble National Green Tribunal heard the application and passed order on 23.08.2022 and directed to constitute a joint committee for visit of the site and to furnish a factual and action taken report within a period of three months.

In pursuance to the Order dtd 23.08.2022 of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Principal Bench, New Delhi in O.A. No. 565 / 2022 / EZ (Ashutosh Mekap & Anr. vs State of Odisha) and subsequent Letter No. 15515 dtd 26.08.2022 of the Member Secretary State Pollution Control Board Odisha a virtual meeting was conducted on 21.09.2022 & then site visit was conducted on dtd 27.10.2022 followed by discussion on 28.10.2022 by the joint committee constituted with following officials:

1. Sri Jadumani Mahala, ADM (Revenue), Keonjhar
(Representative of the Collector & District Magistrate, Keonjhar)
2. Dr G P Singh, Scientist-D, CPCB, Kolkata
3. Sri Sandeep Nandi, Scientist B, MoEF & CC, Bhubaneswar
4. Er Pranab Kumar Nayak, Superintending Engineer, Baitarani Irrigation Division, WR Department, Keonjhar.
5. Er Prasanta Kar, Regional Officer, SPCB, Keonjhar

Following officers of different Departments accompanied the Committee.

1. Smt Nibedita Das Bebartta, Dy Environmental Engineer, RO, SPCB, Keonjhar
2. Sri Lalmohan Mohapatra, Revenue Supervisor, Tahasil Office, Barbil, Keonjhar

Sri S K Sharma, VP Slurry Pipeline, Sri Ashis Ranjan Mohanty, GM, Sri V B Mishra, DGM of JSPL; Sri D Upadhyay, Head Beneficiation Plant Dubuna & Sri Ajit Singh Head Pipe Line of AMNS were present during the visit.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE IRON ORE SLURRY PIPE LINE PROJECTS OF KEONJHAR DISTRICT

The details of different slurry pipe lines operating & under construction for conveying Iron ore fines from Keonjhar to different parts of Odisha in slurry forms are as follows.

S L N o	Name of the Slurry Pipeline Projects	Length of Pipeline in Km	Dia (Ø) of pipe in inch	Project Status	Water Demand in Cusecs	Water Source	Clearance status CTE/CTO/WR Department	No of crossings at Rivers/ water bodies	Leakages if any reported
1	Brahmani River Pellets Ltd, Tanto, Bhadrasahi, Barbil, Keonjhar	212 (Tanto to Kalinga Nagar)	13.00"	Operating (Since June 2013)	4.70	Kanpur Baitarani River	WR Permission dtd 24.06.2010. CTO valid up to 31.03.2025	12 nos	On 10.07.2021 (Near Sona River Joda)
2	Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Ltd, Dabuna, Joda	253 (Dabuna to Paradeep)	20.00"	Operating (Since January 2014)	11.77	Basantapur, Baitarani River	WR Permission dtd 24.12.2009. CTO valid up to 31.03.2025	29 nos	Nil
3	Jindal Steel & Power Ltd, Soyabali, Barbil	202 (Barbil to Anugul)	26.00"	Under construction	23.00	U/S of Kanpur Reservoir, Baitarani River	WR agreement dtd 23.06.2009 CTE granted dtd. 07.01.2022	64 nos	Yet to commission
4	JSW Steel Ltd.	302 (Joda to Paradeep)	32.00"	Under Construction	39.00	U/S of Kanpur Reservoir, Baitarani River	WR approval dtd 29.09.2022 CTE granted dtd. 23.12.2017	57 nos	Yet to commission

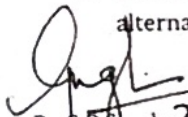
Observations:

- The iron ore slurry pipeline projects are coming under Green categories as notified by the SPCB, Odisha vide office order no. 8333/Ind-I-Con-1505, dtd 11.7.2018.
- River, Stream, Nallah & Other water bodies crossing permission are given by Water Resource Department, Govt. of Odisha & in Keonjhar district, it is the Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Baitarni Basin.
- Details of permission given by Water Resources Department for River crossing & water withdrawal from Baitarani River are highlighted in above table.
- The two operating iron ore slurry pipeline of BRPL & AMNS are commissioned in 2013 & 2014 respectively & crossed major Rivers & streams at many places. During visit to some of river crossing site of those pipe lines, no visible path (Right of way) of Pipe lines was observed as the path was not demarcated. Neither any obstruction of water course nor any adverse impact was observed at crossing sites.
- As per WR Department agreement with the Project proponent, Slurry Pipe Lines are normally laid at about 3m and more below the River bed (Scouring depth) at crossing site.
- WR Department has approved HDD technology for the Slurry pipe lines while crossing of water bodies. In case HDD is not practicable than any other methods with due approval can be followed but not open cut method.
- Laying of Iron Ore Slurry Pipe Lines at crossing of water bodies may have following impacts on water bodies & environment.
 - Laying of Pipe Lines by Open Cut method, the excavated materials may likely to be washed out if adequate preventive measures are not taken & it may lead to contamination & siltation problem in downstream.

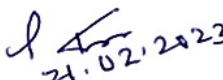
- ii. Further any leakage from pipe line may lead to contamination of water bodies & surrounding land which may cause due to any accident or poor maintenance of the pipe line.,
 - iii. The water demand of such Pipe lines involve withdrawal of significant quantity of Water from Rivers which follows Once through Process & non-recyclable. Hence there will be strain on water bodies in downstream during Lean period. So the slurry pipe line companies are to make separate arrangements for lean period by constructing their own reservoirs.
8. To avoid Leakage & for Leak detection, Pipe lines operators adopted following practices to minimize the adverse impact on surroundings.
- i. Cathodic Protection method to decrease corrosion & increase the life of Pipe line.
 - ii. Pressure drop techniques with optical fibers through Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA).
 - iii. En-capsulisation the Pipe with concrete laid below River bed as additional protective measures at River Crossings.

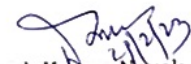
In view of the above observation, allegations made by the petitioner could not be established. However, the committee recommends following action Plan for Environmental friendly operation of Iron Ore Slurry Pipe Lines.

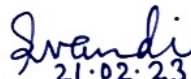
1. Water Resource Department should ensure that Iron Ore Slurry Pipe Line Projects should strictly follow the approved methods of River /Stream crossing & any violation may be reported for necessary action by appropriate authority.
2. Water Resource Department should ensure the Environmental Flow in all streams /Rivers/Nallahs during lean period & water allocation on priority basis as per State Water Policy while granting Water withdrawal permission to such projects.
3. Project Proponent has to implement advance Leak detection Technologies for Slurry Pipe Line projects to take immediate corrective measures in case of leakages to minimize adverse impacts on surroundings.
4. The Slurry Pipe Line Project integrated with Return Water Pipe Line may be considered as alternatives for water scarcity areas.


Dr G P Singh
Scientist-D, CPCB, Kolkata
21.02.2023


Sri Ashish Makare, IAS
Collector & District Magistrate, Keonjhar


Er Prasanta Kar
Regional Officer,
SPCB, Keonjhar
21.02.2023


Er Pranab Kumar Nayak
Superintending Engineer
Baitarani Irrigation Division,
WR Department, Keonjhar


Shri Sandeep Nandi
Scientist-B, MoEF & CC,
Bhubaneswar
21.02.23