

**Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting of the Taloja Monitoring Committee held through video conference on 30/04/2021, constituted as per the order dated 17.8.2018 passed by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi in Original Application No. 125/2018.**

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Considering the Covid-19 pandemic condition and lock down situation and as per the directions of "Hon'ble Chairman, Taloja Monitoring Committee", 10<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting with all stakeholders was held online by using Microsoft Teams application to discuss compliance of various Orders / judgments passed by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Principal Bench), New Delhi regarding Original Application No. 125/2018 (M.A. No.334/2018).

Shri Arvind Mhatre filed an Original Application bearing No.125/2018 against the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India & Others before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi regarding discharge of effluents into river Kasardi through a CETP which is being managed by Taloja CETP Co-Operative Society Ltd., the problems continue.

In compliance of Hon'ble NGT order dated 17/08/2018 a three Members Monitoring Committee was constituted of to execute the various orders. Actions have been taken by the stakeholders in line with action framework suggested

by the said monitoring committee. The Hon'ble NGT had passed an order dated 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020 & directed to CPCB and MPCB to continue the monitoring and give its report and the grievance of applicant to be considered by the committee constituted by the Tribunal.

This 10<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting of Talaja Monitoring Committee held on 30/04/2021 was attended by all the Members and Stakeholders i.e. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Talaja CETP Co-Operative Society Ltd. (Talaja CETP), Talaja MIDC, Talaja Manufacturers Association (TMA), Talaja Industries Association (TIA), Panvel Municipal Corporation, City and Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (CIDCO) and Ors. Following Members of the committee, officials/ representatives of the stake holders were present during the meeting:

S.No.	Name		
1.	Hon'ble Shri Justice V.M.Kanade, Retd. High Court Judge, Mumbai	...	Hon'ble Chairman of Monitoring Committee
2.	Shri Prasoon Gargava Regional Director (W), CPCB	...	Member of Monitoring Committee
3.	Ms. Nidhi Choudhari (IAS) District Collector, Raigad	...	Member of Monitoring Committee
4.	Shri D.B. Patil, Convener	...	Regional Officer, MPCB, Navi Mumbai
5.	Shri. S. R. Wagh	...	Chief Engineer, MIDC
6.	Shri R.P. Patil	...	Executive Engineer MIDC, Alibaug
7.	Shri. Dhairyashil Jadhav,	...	Asst. Commissioner,

S.No.	Name		
			Panvel Municipal Corporation
8.	Shri. Shekhar Shingare	...	Representative of TMA
9.	Shri Satish Shetty	...	Representative of TIA
10.	Shri Arvind Mhatre	...	Petitioner
11.	Shri Madhukar Naik	...	CETP Contractor and Operator appointed by MIDC.
12.	Smt. Smita Gaikwad	...	Law Officer, MPCB, Sion, Mumbai

Regional Officer-Navi Mumbai welcomed all members and participants of the meeting and gave brief presentation about progress of the CETP along with present status. RO Navi Mumbai also briefed about compliance / present status of suggestions / actions directed by Talaja Monitoring Committee in its last review meeting dated 28.12.2020. He further informed that upgradation / rehabilitation work of Phase-I of capacity 12.5 MLD, Phase-II of capacity 10 MLD are already completed and Phase-III of capacity 5 MLD is commissioned and taken in operation. Average outlet analysis results of the parameter COD for the months from December (2020) to March (2021) are 571 mg/l, 514 mg/l, 1081 mg/l & 263 mg/l respectively and remarked that outlet parameters are exceeding and however near to compliance.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee inquired about action plan of restoration work of Kasadi River. RO, Navi

Mumbai informed that Board has sought proposal from IIT, Mumbai and NEERI, Nagpur. Further, Board vide their office order no.916 dated 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 has constituted the committee for evaluation of these proposals. Based on Board's evaluation, District Collector, Alibaug vide letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 issued offer letter to IIT Mumbai for preparation of DPR for restoration of Kasadi River.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee enquired about the status of extension of treated effluent disposal pipeline by 3.3 km into deep sea as per recommendation of NIO.

Shri R.P. Patil, Executive Engineer, MIDC, Alibaug informed that the Administrative Approval proposal for this work is accorded by the Competent Authority of MIDC, amounting to Rs. 90.92 crores and Rs. 104.56 crores vide Order No. CEO/AA/4579 of 2020 dated 17/06/2020. Simultaneously MIDC has appointed consultant for obtaining permission from MoEF & CC for this work. The consultant has already started the work and completed the EIA/Rapid EIA and also CRZ mapping with IRS, Anna University, Chennai. The application is submitted to MCZMA for their recommendations on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and the same was kept before the committee in the

152<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of MCZMA dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The MCZMA has recommended the proposal to MoEF & CC, New Delhi. Accordingly, the application is further submitted to MoEF & CC on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 for getting the CRZ clearance. Now the proposal is in the process of getting CRZ permission from MoEF & CC. After getting the permission from MoEF & CC, the work of extension of effluent disposal line will be executed.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee enquired that how much time it will take to complete the extension work after getting CRZ permission.

Shri R.P. Patil, Executive Engineer, MIDC, Alibaug informed that as per the regular procedure after tendering, it will take 24 months, but may try to expedite the work within 18 months.

Executive Engineer, MIDC, Alibaug further informed that they have appointed M/s KDC-Aqua (JV) who are operating CETP and are regularly removing sludge from the CETP units and dry sludge are sent for scientific disposal to M/s. MWML, Taloja. The quantity of sludge disposal during the Months April (2020) to March (2021) was 1193.95 MT. Further, MIDC has appointed agency for periodical removal of sludge from effluent collection

sump at Ghot Village and sludge will be removed after each 3 months period. Recently entire sludge from the said sump was removed in month of March-2021.

Executive Engineer, MIDC, Alibaug further stated that as per the MPCB's directions all the member industries have provided positive discharge system for their treated effluent from ETP, as such there is less possibility of discharge of sludge. The effluent collected from Phase-II sump is pumped to CETP regularly as such, there is less possibility of accumulation of sludge. Further, MIDC has appointed agency for periodical removal of sludge from the said sump, as such there is no need of primary treatment.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee enquired about what is the present status of rehabilitation and commissioning work of CETP?

Executive Engineer MIDC, Alibaug stated that the rehabilitation and upgradation work of CETP for Phase-I & Phase-II is completed and commissioning work of Phase-III is completed and entire CETP is now taken in operation and it is in standardization and testing performance, i.e. in stabilization stage.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee then asked MIDC as to when the outlet treated effluent will achieve the MPCB prescribed standards.

Executive Engineer MIDC, Alibaug replied that CETP is now performing well and about 90% reduction achieved in COD load.

Shri Madhukar Naik, M/s KDC-Aqua (JV), Contractor and Operator of Taloja CETP presented the status of the work of CETP including various civil units and equipment along with the comparison of old and new situation with photographs. He further stated that the sludge has been removed from sump no.2 near Ghot Village and presently CETP is receiving the effluent having COD load between 2500 mg/l to 3000 mg/l as in past it was in the range of 5000 mg/l to 6000 mg/l.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee asked MIDC whether all the directions issued by Hon'ble NGT are complied and MIDC / KDC-Aqua operator stated that all the directions of Hon'ble NGT are complied with by MIDC.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee asked whether MIDC shall install CCTV at key points of Kasadi River so that any unauthorized and illegal discharge of effluent

from tankers will be prevented.

Executive Engineer, MIDC, Alibaug stated that the installation of CCTV at Key points of Kasadi River is not in purview of MIDC, however Police Department is on the job to install CCTV in MIDC Industrial Area, they are laying optical fibers for this purpose and we may request the Police Department to install the CCTV along the river side.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee directed District Collector, Raigad to request the Police Department to expedite the work of installation of CCTV at the key points of Kasadi River immediately.

Taloja Industrial Association (TIA) representative Shri Satish Shetty further informed that Industrial Association have contributed through their CSR fund about Rs.11 Lakhs to Police Department for the installation of CCTV.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee enquired how much duration it will take to complete the said work and TIA representative Shri Satish Shetty stated that the installation work of about 96 nos. of CCTV cameras are already installed and commissioning and testing work is completed. Hon'ble Chairman has appreciated for the said work.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee enquired about the provision of STP by Panvel Municipal Corporation to treat the sewage generated from township discharging domestic effluent to Kasardi River. MPCB is directed to take follow up with Panvel Municipal Corporation.

Regional Officer, M.P.C.B., Navi Mumbai informed that Executive Engineer Kalamboli, CIDCO Ltd. vide email dated 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 has communicated award of work for provision of STP at Navade Phase-II township of the capacity 3.5 MLD and the work is in progress.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee enquired about the 9<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting suggestion of restriction for expansion and new establishment of industrial unit in MIDC Taloja area.

Regional Officer, M.P.C.B, Navi Mumbai further stated that Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi vide its order dated 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019 has stated that "*There is no absolute bar to such units being set up if they are found to be viable. This clarification should take care of any possible apprehension that the order of the tribunal will obstruct any legitimate industrial activity. The MoEF & CC can forthwith devise an appropriate mechanism to ensure that new activity or expansion can take place after*

*due precautions are taken in the areas in question by 'red' and 'orange' category of units".* CPCB vide its letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019 has prepared mechanism with mitigation measures stipulating certain conditions for controlling Environment.

Considering this, the Board has started issuing consents for new activities / expansion for 'red' and 'orange' category in Taloja Industrial Area.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee enquired about Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) at inlet and outlet points and its connectivity to CPCB and MPCB Portal / Server.

KDC-Aqua Operator informed that small part of outlet OCEMS is under rectification and is sent to New Delhi, but due to Covid-19 pandemic situation is delayed.

Hon'ble Chairman has directed to complete the installation within 07 days after the Covid-19 pandemic situation is normal.

Regional Officer, M.P.C.B., Navi Mumbai has represented average monthly COD at the inlet and outlet of the CETP from January 2020 to March 2021 alongwith Graphs.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee asked about what is the reason for exceed of COD in the month of February-2021?

KDC-Aqua Operator informed that sometimes due to spike in the inlet effluent of CETP, outlet results are high, but as suggested by the Hon'ble Taloja Monitoring Committee, Expert Committee will be constituted having representatives of MPCB, MIDC, KDC-Aqua, TIA, TMA, PMC and the complainant and will keep vigilance to control such spike.

Regional Officer, Navi Mumbai has further informed that MPCB has taken meeting with the TMA, TIA and MIDC and informed that in case of exceeding the outlet parameters of their industrial effluent discharging to the CETP, the Board will take immediate action. The Board has earlier taken actions such as SCN, proposed Direction, closure Direction etc. against the defaulting industries in the past.

KDC-Aqua CETP Operator stated that they have installed setup for Bioassay Test and observed there is no death of single Fish during Bioassay Test and all 100% Fish survival. He further stated that about 7000 MT sludge has been removed and sent for scientific disposal to

CHWTSDF and regularly they have disposing the sludge to CHWTSDF.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee ensured that sludge shall be removed periodically from time to time and shall be scientifically disposed to CHWTSDF and further directed to constitute an Expert Committee having following representatives for addressing the grievance:

- 1) Representative from M.P.C. Board.
- 2) Representative from MIDC.
- 3) Representative from KDC-Aqua.
- 4) Representative from TMA.
- 5) Representative from TIA.
- 6) Representative from PMC.
- 7) Shri Arvind Mhatre-Petitioner

KDC-Aqua (CETP Operator) further stated that CETP sometimes receives some spike in inlet quality of effluent and thus need to identify the spikes whether it is due to tanker unloading or industry discharge etc. He further informed that MPCB has directed Taloja CETP to ensure compliance from all the effluent generating industries to make provision of positive discharge, Strainer, Lock &

Key arrangement, NRV with control equipment for discharge line, SCADA duly calibrated for pH, flow, BOD, COD, SS vide letter/ direction dtd. 07.01.2021. Thus, this mechanism will be useful for bringing the inlet parameters within limit.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee asked about time duration required for installation of said system to the industries.

KDC-Aqua CETP Operator informed that it may take about 3 months for installation of the said system. Considering the present Covid-19 situation, Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee directed to ensure the installation of said system within minimum 3 and maximum 6 months by MIDC, MPCB and KDC-Aqua CETP Operator.

KDC-Aqua CETP Operator further informed that they have installed the CCTV cameras in the CETP premises and done the tree plantation.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee enquired about the status of Kasadi River restoration work. The Regional Officer, M.P.C.B., Navi Mumbai stated that the Board has called proposal from IIT, Mumbai and NEERI, Nagpur.

Further, the Board vide its office order no.916 dated 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 has constituted the Committee for evaluation of these proposal. Based on Board's evaluation, District Collector, Alibaug vide letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 issued offer letter to IIT Mumbai for preparation of DPR for restoration of Kasadi River. But due to present Covid-19 situation, IIT Mumbai has delayed the work.

Shri. Prasoon Gargava, Regional Director, CPCB and Member of Talaja Monitoring Committee suggested following concluding points:

1. Significant works in terms of repair, maintenance, rehabilitation and augmentation has been done in CETP of Talaja. The trends of results showed significant improvements in terms of inlet concentration at CETP and outlet results consistently for quite a significant time during last year. However, it is gathered from the data presented during the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 that the inlet concentration values of COD are increasing again and ranged between 3760 to 6128 mg/l during the period of January, 2021 to March, 2021 against the designed inlet limit of 2700 mg/l. It is indication of going back to the scenario of the year 2018. Moreover, the outlet concentration of COD for the same period has been reported

ranging from 263 to 1081 mg/l against the prescribed limit of 250 mg/l. Further, the reduction with the help of dilution with fresh water cannot be ruled out, as the current treatment system cannot technically justify such a drastic reduction in concentration values of COD and TDS. The CETP has occasionally received acidic effluent also at inlet which is required to be controlled by proper joint surveillance mechanism to prevent damage to the newly augmented systems.

2. It is very much important to make the joint surveillance system functional in case of Taloja, as already suggested by the committee in the previous review meetings.
3. The quantity of industrial effluent discharge to CETP has been mentioned as 14.66 MLD by MPCB which is not matching with the hydraulic capacity of the CETP as well as not substantiating the need of the enhancement of hydraulic capacity by 5 MLD. MPCB was requested to recheck the aspect. It is also to mention that time series data of hydraulic load received and monitoring results have been emphasized by the committee in previous meetings but such data is not presented before the committee by CETP. The online effluent monitoring

system installed is again not functional and sent for repair. The CETP should have a robust system, as the online data of CETP is very crucial.

4. The presentation made by KDC-Aqua on behalf of CETP covered only the slides of old presentations to large extent. It was also suggested that any result, including of Bio-assay should be presented with date of result and time series data to show the trend. Trends of hydraulic loads received also not presented by CETP. The CETP is required to be very much focused on performance of CETP as well as compliance of member units to ensure controlled effluent at inlet. The CETP was also expected to keep a check on discharge of effluent by member units and action initiated in this regard is yet to be placed on record by CETP.
5. Besides implementation of restoration plan, it is important to expedite the works of extension of treated effluent disposal pipelines.

Shri. Arvind Mhatre - the Petitioner has raised and given in writing the following points: -

1. This meeting should not be the last and that the meetings should be held frequently, because CETP work has just started now.

2. Despite having list of violating Industries every month, MIDC has failed to take action on industries.
3. Inlet and outlet reports from Taloja CETP are not properly reported. It is shocking that Rs 75 crores have been wasted on the project, as results of Taloja CETP are still not met.
4. Many violating Industries, who have been given shut down notice for causing pollution, get to start their operations back immediately.
5. It is suggested that local level monitoring Committee be formed.
6. River cleaning work on the Kasardi River has not started yet. Rs. 15 crores fine, which has been collected from the Industries and deposited with the District Collector (Raigad), has not been used for Kasardi river restoration work.
7. The mangroves on the Kasadi River near the Navde village should not be destroyed, so the CIDCO has been directed to recognize the mangrove as a special zone.
8. 269 factories in Taloja MIDC pollute the river and have been ordered to close and shut down, so these Industries should be penalized.
9. The final bill should not be issued to the CETP contractor till the work of Taloja CETP is completed satisfactory.

10. MIDC Chief Engineer Mr. Rajendra Sonje and Executive Engineer Mr. R P Patil, from the very first meeting of the Talaja Monitoring Committee had remarked that tender process for 3km extension of discharge point of CETP into the deep sea was in progress. Further, they had informed that present discharge point is not as per National Institute of Oceanography (NIO). In addition, MIDC had said that it is on the verge of alignment of pipeline route, within 15-30 days, the tender will be finalized. This discharge point is near the Kharghar Railway station (Sector 2, 8 and 10-Kharghar). However, till date there is no sign of the work execution. These types of false promises should not be done in an important open forum in presence of the Honorable Talaja Monitoring Committee members. Immediate legal action should be initiated against these officials for misleading the Committee.
11. Measures should be taken for pipeline leakage. As on 26/4/2021, a large number of pipelines have broken and toxic chemicals have been carried into the Kasadi River, polluting the water, destroying the mangroves and killing the fish.
12. CSR Funds in Talaja MIDC should be spent in Talaja area. It should be used for ambulances,

hospitals, schools, Kasadi River, upliftment of local villagers and other works.

13. Air pollution is on a large scale, as companies like IGPL, Deepak Fertilizers, Dorf Ketal, Lasons India are discharging toxic effluents into the Environment.

All the stakeholders and Committee Members have informed Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee that they have complied all the directions / order issued by Hon'ble NGT.

The Chairman expressed his overall satisfaction towards work done by all the stakeholders and decided to dissolve the Committee. Hon'ble Chairman further directed MPCB to constitute an Expert Committee to address and monitor the grievance.

The Chairman also expressed his appreciation of the work done by Shri Madhukar Naik, Managing Director of Aquachem, JV Partner of KDC-Aqua (JV), in this project. The Committee expressed its deep sense of gratitude to Shri Madhukar Naik for completing the project despite many hurdles faced by him because of COVID-19 situation in the last 1½ year as, stated Shri Madhukar Naik, the work which

was not done for 30 years was completed by M/s KDC-Aqua within 2½ years.

Meeting ended with extending vote of thanks to the Chair.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'V.M. Kanade', is centered on the page.

**Justice V.M. Kanade (Retd.)  
Chairman, Monitoring Committee**