

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, CHENNAI.  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 127 OF 2024 (SZ)

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Neena. S  
Mangaluru Thotta Village,  
Mangalore & Ors

.....Applicant

Versus

The Joint Chief Controller of Explosives,  
South Circle, Chennai and Ors.

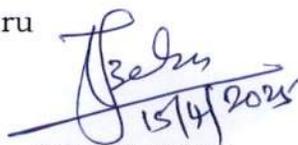
..... Respondents

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Signed and verified on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025 at Bengaluru

  
COUNSEL FOR  
CPCB

  
15/4/2025  
DEPONENT

J. Chandra Babu  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - BENGALURU  
(MIN. OF ENV, FOREST & CC, GOVT OF INDIA)  
BENGALURU - 560 079. MOB: 9868278903



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.... Respondents

**RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL  
BOARD (CPCB)**

**MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:**

1. That, a case has been registered by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Bench Chennai as Original Application No.127 of 2024(SZ) based on the petition filed by the applicant. In the said Original Application, Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as CPCB) is not a Respondent, however Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated 23.01.2025 directed as follows:

*“.....However, we notice that as per the siting criteria issued by the CPCB, so far as the petroleum tanks are concerned, if they are installed between 50 and 100 meters, there should be double walled tanks or concrete protection walls*



*J. Chandra Babu*  
15/4/2025

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*around the Underground Storage Tank (UST). Similar such safety measures are not available as on date for dispensing CNG.*

*5. Let the Karnataka SPCB, CPCB and the PESO file their respective replies, including the above-referred aspect....”*

2. That, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) Southern Zone, Chennai vide order dated 23.01.2025 issued notices to KSPCB, CPCB and PESO to file their respective replies. Thereby, the reply on behalf of CPCB, herein, is made in succeeding paragraphs.
3. That, CPCB is a statutory Board constituted under Section 3 of The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. It performs the functions under The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
4. That, it is respectfully submitted that an expert committee was constituted by CPCB in compliance of the order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in OA No. 86/2019 Gyanprakash @ Pappu Singh vs UoI & Others, in which the issue of setting up of large number of petrol pumps without any environmental



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15/4/2025  
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concern was considered by the Hon'ble NGT, and subsequently, guidelines for setting up of new petrol pumps, addressing the environmental pollution aspects, were framed under the guidance of the Expert Committee.

5. That, it is respectfully submitted that the said expert committee had also deliberated on the aspects related to environmental guidelines for new CNG retail outlets/dispensing stations, upon requests received from District Magistrate-Dharwad (Karnataka) and SPCBs of Punjab and Rajasthan, in a meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.
6. It is further submitted that the Committee had noted that fugitive methane emissions from CNG stations are minor, compared to the volume of CNG transported across India, and that leakages are important from safety point of view, and these are taken care of under technical and safety guidelines/standards/regulations, prescribed by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO), Oil Industry Safety Directorate(OISD) and other statutory bodies.
7. It is also submitted that the committee had concluded that additional environmental guidelines may not be required for new CNG retail



*J. Chandra Babu*  
15/6/2025

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outlets/dispensing stations, however, measures prescribed with respect to fire, safety and leakages by various authorities should be strictly adhered to. A copy of the minutes of the meeting is enclosed as **Annexure I**.

8. That, CPCB vide letter No. B-13011/1/2020-21/AQM-CNG Guidelines dated 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 had informed Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Additional District Magistrate & Commissioner of Police, Hubli-Dharwad, Karnataka, Punjab Pollution Control Board and Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board, that environmental guidelines/siting criteria may not be required for CNG retail outlets/dispensing stations. However, all other existing guidelines prescribed by PNGRB, PESO, OISD and other statutory bodies would be applicable to CNG Retail outlets/dispensing stations. Further, measures prescribed with respect to fire, safety and leakages by various authorities should be strictly adhered to. Copies of the CPCB letters are enclosed as **Annexure II**.

9. That it is respectfully submitted that the requirement of double walled tanks or concrete protection walls around the Underground Storage Tank (UST) for petrol pumps coming up within 50m-100m from the nearest point of surface water body, was prescribed by CPCB in addendum dated 16.08.2021 to CPCB guidelines for setting up of new petrol pumps, so as to prevent the possibility



*J. Chandra Babu*  
15/7/2025

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of contamination, and that further safety aspects are in the purview of other agencies such as PESO, OISD, PNGRB etc.

10. That this answering respondent craves leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal for filing additional reply, if required, in future.
  
11. That, in light of the above submission, it is respectfully submitted that CPCB, shall abide by any order(s) or direction(s) passed by this Hon'ble tribunal in the instant OA and render justice.

Dated at Bengaluru on this day of 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2025

  
**COUNSEL FOR  
CPCB**

  
**DEPONENT**

J. Chandra Babu  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
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.... Respondents

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, J Chandra Babu, son of late Shri. J Balaramaiah, aged 57 years, having office at the Regional Directorate (Bengaluru), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Floors, Nisarga Bhavan A- Block, Thimmaiah Main Road, 7<sup>th</sup> D Cross, Shivanagar, Bengaluru – 560 079, Karnataka, do hereby solemnly affirm, declare on oath and state as under: -

1. That I, the deponent herein is authorized representative to represent the Respondent CPCB in the present case, and as such, I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case on the basis of the information derived from the official records, and hence, I am competent to verify, sign and swear this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent CPCB.



J. Chandra Babu  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
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2. That the accompanying reply may be read part and parcel of the present affidavit.
3. That the accompanying reply has been drafted and filed under my instructions and authority the contents thereof are true and correct on the basis of the record maintained during ordinary course of business of CPCB and available records and documents and the contents of the same are read over and explained to me and are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.

Dated at Bengaluru on this day of 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2025



**DEPONENT**

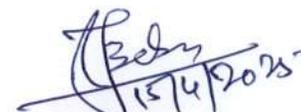
J. Chandra Babu

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - BENGALURU  
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### VERIFICATION

Verified at Bengaluru on this day of 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 that the contents of the above reply are correct and true on the basis of the record of the cases as mentioned in the day to day affairs of the CPCB. Nothing has been concealed therefrom or mis-stated.



**DEPONENT**

J. Chandra Babu

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - BENGALURU  
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SPEED POST/Email

## Annexure I

B-13011/1/2021-22/AQM

July 15, 2022

To,

As per list

**Sub: Minutes of the Expert committee meeting held on 14.06.2022 regarding environmental guidelines for new CNG retail outlets/dispensing stations- Reg.**

Sir,

Please find enclosed herewith the minutes of Expert committee meeting held on 14.06.2022 through video conferencing at CPCB on the subject matter for kind information please.

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully,

(P. K. Gupta)  
Director & DH,  
AQM Division

Copy to:

- |              |                                      |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. PS to CCB | : for kind information of CCB please |
| 2. PS to MS  | : for kind information of MS please  |

(P. K. Gupta)

## List:

1. Sh. Kushagra Mittal, Deputy Secretary (LPG & Mkt)  
Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas,  
Shastri Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road,  
New Delhi – 110001
2. Dr. Mukesh Sharma, Professor,  
Department of Civil Engineering,  
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur  
Kanpur-208016, Uttar Pradesh
3. Dr. Nitin Labhsetwar, Chief Scientist & Head,  
Energy and Resource Management Division,  
CSIR-NEERI, Nehru Marg, Vasant Nagar,  
Nagpur, Maharashtra 440020
4. Dr. Ajay Gupta,  
Principal Technical Officer,  
Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), Mohkampur,  
Dehradun, Uttrakhand
5. Ms. Meena Sehgal,  
Senior Fellow, Environment & Health,  
The Energy and Resources Institute,  
Darbari Seth Block, IHC Complex,  
Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003

**Minutes of the meeting held on 14.06.2022, for environmental guidelines for new CNG retail outlets/dispensing stations**

A meeting of expert committee was convened on June 14, 2022 to discuss the need for environmental guidelines for new CNG retail outlets/dispensing stations. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Mukesh Sharma, IIT Kanpur. List of participants is annexed.

02. Prof. Sharma welcomed the participants to the meeting. AQM division, CPCB informed the committee that requests have been received from DM-Dharwad, Karnataka and, SPCBs of Punjab and Rajasthan, seeking guidance on siting guidelines for CNG retail outlets/dispensing stations. Subsequently, CPCB had sought the views of expert committee members on the matter and the same were received. Now, the meeting has been convened to discuss the views expressed and conclude the matter.

03. Dr. Nitin Labhsetwar, NEERI expressed that since CNG is primarily composed of methane, which is a greenhouse gas, and that CNG leakage is also a safety hazard, the emissions due to leakages should be addressed. He further expressed concern about the noise observed at the CNG stations, and enquired if the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 are applicable at the outlets. Sh. Ajay Kumar Gupta, IIP agreed with the views of Dr. Nitin, and expressed that the ISO document (16923: 2016 Natural Gas Fueling Stations-CNG) shared earlier, contains requirements of ventilation, safety, audit, etc. which may be looked at.

04. Prof. Sharma enquired about the quantum of leakages from CNG filling stations, existing procedure to detect leakages, and any specific reason for noise at the CNG stations. Sh. Jha, DS, MoPNG expressed that the Government is promoting use of CNG as it is one of the cleanest fuels, with very low emissions being released in form of fugitive emissions, due to minor leakages during dispensing. These leakages are negligible as compared with the volume of CNG transported across India. Further, since leakages are important from safety point of view, and these are taken care of with elaborate emergency response regulations, strict safety and technical standards, along with leakage detection methodology, which have already been prescribed by PNGRB, PESO, OISD, and other statutory bodies and thus, additional regulations may not be required. Regarding noise at the CNG stations, he expressed that it might be due to operation of compressor at the station.

05. Sh. PK Gupta, CPCB added that the noise standards in ambient environment have been specified, for different areas/zones, such as industrial, commercial, residential or silence areas / zones under Schedule to the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, which would take care of overall noise level in particular area irrespective of the source.

06. After deliberations, the committee expressed that fugitive methane emissions from CNG stations are minor and these are mostly taken care under technical and safety guidelines that are in place. Further, the committee noted that issue of air pollution due to fugitive emissions from CNG stations has not been reported in other countries also. The committee concluded that additional environmental guidelines may not be required for new CNG retail outlets/dispensing stations. However, measures prescribed with respect to fire, safety and leakages by various authorities should be strictly adhered to.

Meeting ended with thanks to chair.

\*\*\*

#### List of Participants:

1. Prof. Mukesh Sharma, IIT, Kanpur
2. Sh. P K Gupta, Director, CPCB
3. Dr. Nitin Labhsetwar, Chief Scientist & Head, CSIR-NEERI
4. Dr. Ajay Kumar Gupta, Principal Technical Officer, CSIR-IIP
5. Sh. Anand Kumar Jha, Deputy Secretary (GP), Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
6. Sh. Ankush Tewani, Sc. 'D', CPCB
7. Sh. Gautam Kumar Sharma, Sc. 'B', CPCB
8. Dr. Himani Varshney, RA, CPCB



SPEED POST

## Annexure II

B-13011/1/2020-21/ AQM-CNG Guidelines

July 18, 2022

To,

**The Member Secretary,**  
 Karnataka State Pollution Control Board  
 ParisaraBhavan, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> floors, Church Street,  
 Bangalore – 560 001  
 Karnataka

**Sub.: Guidelines for CNG Retail Outlets/ Dispensing Stations being established in the State/UT- reg.**

*Ref: PCB/17/COC/2019/2022/6678 dated 08.03.2022*

Sir,

This has reference to your above cited letter regarding subject matter. In this regard, it is to inform that the matter has been discussed with expert committee & it has been decided that environmental guidelines/siting criteria may not be required for CNG retail outlets/ dispensing stations. However, all existing guidelines would be applicable to CNG Retail outlets dispensing stations. Further, measures prescribed with respect to fire, safety and leakages by various authorities should be strictly adhered to.

Yours faithfully,

**(P.K. Gupta)**  
 Director & DH  
 AQM Division



**केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड**  
**CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**  
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय भारत सरकार  
 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE GOVT. OF INDIA

**SPEED POST**

B-13011/1/2020-21/ AQM-CNG Guidelines

July 18, 2022

To,

**The Additional District Magistrate and Commissioner of Police,  
 Government of Karnataka, Police Department  
 Office of the Additional District Magistrate and Commissioner of Police,  
 Hubli-dharwad City, Navanagar, Hubli,  
 Karnataka-580025**

**Sub.: Guidelines for CNG Retail Outlets/ Dispensing Stations being established in the  
 State/UT- reg.**

*Ref: CP/MAG-3/NOC/08/2019-20 dated 16.02.2022*

Sir,

This has reference to your above cited letter regarding subject matter. In this regard, it is to inform that the matter has been discussed with expert committee & it has been decided that environmental guidelines/siting criteria may not be required for CNG retail outlets/ dispensing stations. However, all existing guidelines would be applicable to CNG Retail outlets/ dispensing stations. Further, measures prescribed with respect to fire, safety and leakages by various authorities should be strictly adhered to.

Yours faithfully,

**(P.K. Gupta)**  
 Director & DH  
 AQM Division



केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय भारत सरकार  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE GOVT. OF INDIA

SPEED POST

B-13011/1/2020-21/ AQM-CNG Guidelines

July 18, 2022

To,

The Member Secretary,  
Punjab Pollution Control Board,  
Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road,  
Patiala, Punjab

Sub.: Guidelines for CNG Retail Outlets/ Dispensing Stations being established in the State/UT- reg.

Ref: PPCB letter No. PPCB/SEE (HQ-2)/2022/26608 dated 15.12.2021 & PPCB letter No. PPCB/SEE (HQ-2)/2022/1793 dated 28.01.2022

Sir,

This has reference to your above cited letters regarding subject matter. In this regard, it is to inform that the matter has been discussed with expert committee & it has been decided that environmental guidelines/siting criteria may not be required for CNG retail outlets/ dispensing stations. However, all existing guidelines would be applicable to CNG retail outlets/ dispensing stations. Further, measures prescribed with respect to fire, safety and leakages by various authorities should be strictly adhered to.

Yours faithfully,

(P.K. Gupta)  
Director & DH  
AQM Division



केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
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पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय भारत सरकार  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE GOVT. OF INDIA

SPEED POST

B-13011/1/2020-21/ AQM-CNG Guidelines

July 18, 2022

To,

The Member Secretary,  
Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board  
A-4 Institutional Area, Jhalana Doongri  
Jaipur – 302004.  
Rajasthan

**Sub.: Guidelines for CNG Retail Outlets/ Dispensing Stations being established in the State/UT- reg.**

*Ref: F. Tech (Gen-785) RPCB/HOGM/267-268 dated 09.07.2021*

Sir,

This has reference to your above cited letter regarding subject matter. In this regard, it is to inform that the matter has been discussed with expert committee & it has been decided that environmental guidelines/siting criteria may not be required for CNG retail outlets/ dispensing stations. However, all existing guidelines would be applicable to CNG Retail outlets/ dispensing stations. Further, measures prescribed with respect to fire, safety and leakages by various authorities should be strictly adhered to.

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**RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF CENTRAL  
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (CPCB)**

**M/s.R.Thirunavukarasu  
Counsel for the CPCB  
M-9444012986**