

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH

AT CHENNAI

OA No.314 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

NEWS ITEM TITLED "RESIDENTS STAGE PROTEST AGAINST POLLUTION CAUSED BY VIJAYAWADA THERMAL POWER STATION" APPEARING IN THE HINDU DATED.04.11.2024.

..... Applicant

Vs

ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD AND OTHERS

.... Respondents

REPORT FILED BY THE APPCB 1st RESPONDENT

DATE-15.01.2025



**M/s MADHURI DONTI REDDY
ADVOCATE**

STANDING COUNSEL FOR GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

A.P. POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

#26, S2, Royal Castle, 26, Gill Nagar Extension, Choolaimedu, Chennai – 600 094.

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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (N.G.T)
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI.**

Original Application No.314 of 2024(SZ)

News Item titled "Residents stage protest against pollution caused by Vijayawada Thermal Power Station" appearing in The Hindu dated.04.11.2024.

And

Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB),
Through its Member Secretary.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB),
Through its Member Secretary.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEF)
Regional Office, Andhra Pradesh Ministry of Environment,
Forest & Climate Change, Regional Office (Southern).

District Magistrate (DM),
Office of the District Magistrate, Vijayawada.

.....Respondent(s)

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Place: Vijayawada

Dt:10.01.2025

Prinival
Environmental Engineer
APPCB, RO, Vijayawada

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
A.P.Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Vijayawada

Status report of the A.P. Pollution Control Board in O.A. No.314 of 2024 (SZ) (Earlier, O.A. No.1302/2024(PB)) title "Residents stage protest against pollution caused by Vijayawada Thermal Power Station".

It is to humbly submit that a case was filed before the Hon'ble N.G.T (PB), New Delhi on its own motion **SUO MOTU** based on the news item published in The Hindu newspaper dated.04.11.2024, under the caption "**Residents stage protest against pollution caused by Vijayawada Thermal Power Station**", vide O.A. No.1302 of 2024 (PB).

A hearing was held on 19.11.2024 at the Hon'ble N.G.T (PB), Delhi and O.A. was transferred to the Southern Zonal Bench as the matter relates to the Southern Zonal Bench.

The Member Secretary, A.P. Pollution Control Board is one of the Respondent in the above O.A. No.314 of 2024(SZ).

In this regard, it is to submit that M/s. Dr. Narla Tatarao Thermal Power Station (Formerly M/s. Vijayawada Thermal Power Station (VTPS)) is a Thermal Power Plant of 2560 MW capacity operating at Ibrahimpatnam (V&M), NTR District.

The APPCB has issued to Consent To Operation (CTO) order to the industry on 24.04.2023 to produce Electric Power-1760 MW (6 x 210 MW (Stage-I, II & III) +1 x 500 MW (Stage-IV)), which is valid upto 31.12.2027. The APPCB has issued Consent To Operation (CTO) order to the industry on 28.04.2023 to produce Electric power-800 MW (Stage-V), which is valid upto 30.04.2026.

It is to humbly submit that the industry has installed 2 no. of coal fired boilers of 700 Tons/hour each to Unit-I & II and 4 nos. of coal fired boilers of 690 TPH each capacity installed in phased manner as Unit-III to Unit-VI from the year, 1979 to 1995, as Stage-I to III. The electrical power generation from each boiler is 210 MW and total power generation is 1260 MW. Electro Static Precipitators (ESPs) provided to each boiler as air pollution control equipment (APCE) along with 6 no. of stacks provided to the above 6 Boilers in a bundle of 2 nos. of stacks.

The industry has installed 500 MW power plant with One (1) boiler of 1625 Tons/hour capacity under Stage-IV and Electro Static Precipitator (ESP) provided as air pollution control equipment with stack height of 275 meters in the year,2009. The industry installed a boiler of 2600 Tons/hour for the production capacity of Electric power-800 MW under Stage-V in the year,2023. ESP provided as air pollution control equipment with chimney of 275 meters height. The industry installed 3 nos. of coal crushers with bag filters as air pollution control equipment.

The APPCB is closely monitoring the industry and reviewed the industry in the External Advisory Committee (EAC) meetings held on 28.12.2022 & 25.01.2024 in view of the complaints received on pollution problems caused by the industry to the surrounding Environment.

The APPCB has issued certain directions to the industry on 06.01.2023 & 02.02.2024 for control of pollution and comply to the air quality and water quality standards prescribed to the industry.

M/s. Dr. NTPPS vide its letter dated.31.07.2024 has informed that Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGENCO) has sanctioned an amount of Rs.10 Crores on 06.12.2023 to control Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM), rectification of ESP fields etc., An additional budget of Rs.18 Crores sanctioned on 01.04.2024 by APGENCO Ltd. to improve the performance of the existing ESPs, fly ash evacuation systems and to strengthen the existing ash handling system. Further, APGENCO Ltd. management has requested M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Ltd for supply of high grade coal.

It is further to submit that on 04.11.2024, the surrounding residents of Ibrahimpatnam and Kondapalli villages staged a dharna / agitation in front of the thermal power station alleging that the power plant was creating pollution in the area causing health hazards to the locals.

The Board officials have inspected the industry on 05.11.2024 and verified the compliance of the directions issued by the Board. The RO, Vijayawada has submitted a detailed report to the Board office, Vijayawada on 05.11.2024 to take necessary action against the industry for control of pollution.


The issue of pollution caused by the industry, the status of implementation of the air pollution control measures, directions issued by the Board were reviewed by the Monitoring (Task Force) committee of APPCB, Head office, Vijayawada on 25.11.2024 and the committee recommended to obtain plan of action from the industry within 2 weeks along with budgetary estimations to rectify the violations within 3 months.

The APGENCO Ltd. has further sanctioned an amount of Rs.31 Crores for improvement of the ESPs performance and fly ash extraction systems.

This report is submitted for kind consideration. The APPCB will abide by all such directions as the Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and appropriate.

Place: Vijayawada

Dt:10.01.2025


Environmental Engineer
APPCB, RO, Vijayawada

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
A.P. Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Vijayawada



ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

D.No.33-26-14D/2, Near Sunrise Hospital, Pushpa Hotel Center,
Chalamalavari Street, Kasturibaipet, Vijayawada – 520010
Phone: 0866-2463200, Website: <https://pcb.ap.gov.in>

Order No.31/APPCB/ERM/TF/VJA/2022-

Date:06/01/2023.

DIRECTIONS

Sub:APPCB – ERM - TF - Dr. Narla Tatarao Thermal Power Station (NTTTPS), (Formerly M/s. Vijayawada Thermal Power Station), Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada, Krishna District – Discharge of ash slurry - Non compliance of the Board directions – EAC meeting held on 28.12.2022 - **Directions - Issued - Reg.**

- Ref:**
1. CTO order no. APPCB/VJA/VJA/24/CFO/HO/2016- Dt.25.02.2022.
 2. Order No.31/APPCB/UH-II/TF/VJA/2019-273, Dt.29.05.2019.
 3. Officials of RO, Vijayawada inspected the industry and surroundings on 19.12.2022.
 4. Show cause notice issued to the industry on 19.12.2022.
 5. External Advisory Committee (Task Force) meeting held on 28.12.2022.

WHEREAS, you are operating the thermal power plant in the name and style of Dr. Narla Tatarao Thermal Power Station (NTTTPS), (Formerly M/s. Vijayawada Thermal Power Station), at Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada, Krishna District to produce Thermal Power of 1760 MW (6 x 210 MW + 1 x 500 MW) capacity.

WHEREAS, the Board vide ref. 1st cited, has renewed Consent & HW Authorization valid up to 31.12.2022.

WHEREAS, the Board issued directions to your industry on 04.04.2016, 23.07.2016, 22.11.1016, 27.12.2018 and on dt. 29.05.2019 (ref 2).

WHEREAS, the Hon'ble NGT and CPCB directed the Board for furnishing action plan for bringing down the pollution load in the industrial areas covered under CPA & SPA (Kondapalli is one among them), as per the orders of Hon'ble NGT in O.A. 1038 / 2018, Dt.10.07.2019, 23.08.2019 & 14.11.2019 and O.A. No.593/2017, Dt.19.02.2019 & 28.08.2019.

WHEREAS, as per the continuous stack emission monitoring systems data and the Board monitoring data your Thermal Power Plant is not meeting the prescribed standards at all the stacks continuously. The RO, Vijayawada issued notice to your industry on 08.12.2022 for not complying with the prescribed emission standards.

WHEREAS, the Board Officials inspected the industry as part of random inspection and observed certain non compliance's.

WHEREAS, the RO, Vijayawada received a telephonic complaint regarding water pollution being caused by NTTTPS due to leakage of ash slurry into drains.

WHEREAS officials of RO, Vijayawada have attended the complaint and inspected the

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surroundings of ash pond of M/s. NTTPS, Ibrahimpatnam (V&M), NTR District on 19.12.2022 in the presence of your officials and reported the status.

WHEREAS, vide ref. 4th cited, the RO, Vijayawada issued show cause notice to your industry for the violations observed while directing to submit the remedial plan.

WHEREAS a hearing was conducted before the External Advisory Committee (Task Force) of A.P. Pollution Control Board during the meeting held on 28.12.2022. The representatives of the industry and EE, RO, Vijayawada attended the meeting in person. The representative of the industry informed that the leakage in the ash slurry was rectified and controlled. He informed that the ash deposited in the drain is being removed which would be disposed in the existing ash pond. He also informed that action is being taken for compliance with the standards and conditions stipulated in the consent to operate order / fly ash notification. The committee was also informed that the consent renewal granted up to 31.12.2022 is being renewed only for a period of three months to closely monitor the compliance status of the conditions stipulated. There are complaints regarding water & air pollution due to this industry.

After detailed discussions, the committee recommended to issue directions to your industry. Accordingly, the Board hereby issues direction to your industry under Sec.33 (A) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Sec.31 (A) of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and amendments thereof:

- 1. The industry shall ensure proper monitoring mechanism for the ash conveying pipelines, replace eroded pipelines, provide necessary silt traps to prevent release of ash slurry into public drains / channels passing through agricultural fields / habitations finally joining River Krishna.**
- 2. The ash deposited in the drain due to the recent incident shall be removed and disposed in the existing ash pond within one month period and compliance reported to Board along with details of quantity of ash removed and photographs (before and after removal).**
- 3. The industry shall calibrate the online monitoring systems as per the schedule and ensure connectivity of the online emission / effluent monitoring systems for all the sources & CAAQM data to CPCB / APPCB Websites. The industry shall ensure continuous submission of online data.**
- 4. It is to be noted that the industry is located in severely polluted area and the industry shall ensure continuous compliance with the standards stipulated.**
- 5. The industry shall ensure compliance with consent conditions and conditions stipulated in the directions issued on 29.05.2019 and submit monthly compliance status to the Board.**

You are hereby directed to note that, should you violate any one of the directions mentioned above, action will be initiated under Sec.33 (A) of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 1988 and Sec.31(A) of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 1987 without any further notice, in the interest of Public Health and Environment.

This Order comes into effect from today i.e., 06/01/2023.

**Pravin Kumar Ias
MEMBER SECRETARY**

To
The Occupier,
Dr. Narla Tatarao Thermal Power Station (NTTSP),
(Formerly M/s. Vijayawada Thermal Power Station),
Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada,

File No.APPCB-11023/133/2022-TEC-TF-APPCB

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Krishna District.

Copy to:

1. The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Zonal Office, Vijayawada for information and necessary action.
2. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Vijayawada for information and necessary action.

Signed by Pravin Kumar
Ias
Date: 06-01-2023 12:48:22
Reason: Approved



ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
 Dr. YSR Paryavaran Bhavan, APIIC Colony Road,
 Gurunanak Colony, Autonagar, Vijayawada- 520007
 Phone. No.0866-2463200, Website : <https://pcb.ap.gov.in/>



Order No.31/APPCB/HO/ECS/VJA/2024-

Date: 02/02/2024.

DIRECTIONS

Sub:APPCB – HO - ECS - M/s. Dr. Narla Tatarao Thermal Power Station (Dr. NTPS) (formerly M/s. Vijayawada Thermal Power Station), Ibrahimpatnam (V) & (M), Krishna District – Public Complaints - Air pollution problems – Non-compliance of consent conditions and Board directions - Monitoring (TF) Committee Meeting held on 25.01.2024 – Status reviewed - Directions - Issued - Reg.

- Ref:**
1. CTO order APPCB/VJA/VJA/24/CFO/HO/2016, Dt.24.04.2023, valid upto 31.12.2027 (1760 MW).
 2. CTO order APPCB-11022/66/2022-TEC-CFO-APPCB, Dt.28.04.2023, valid upto 30.04.2026 (Stage-V-800 MW).
 3. Order no.31/APPCB/ERM/TF/VJA/2022-840, Dt.06.01.2023.
 4. Adverse news item published in Eenadu news daily on 24.11.2023.
 5. Notice No.K-24/PCB/RO-VJA/2023-999, Dt.16.12.2023.
 6. Inspection of your industry by the officials on 14.12.2023, 15.12.2023, 16.12.2023 & 06.01.2024.
 7. Monitoring (Task Force) Committee meeting held on 25.01.2024.

WHEREAS you are operating Coal based thermal power plant in the name and style of Dr. Narla Tatarao Thermal Power Station (NTPS), (Formerly M/s. Vijayawada Thermal Power Station) located at Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada, Krishna District and engaged in electrical power generation (coal based).

WHEREAS the Board vide ref. 1st cited, issued CTO & HWA order to your industry on 24.04.2023 for Electric power generation of 1760 MW (6 x 210 MW (Stage-I, II & III) + 1 x 500 MW (Stage IV)), for the period upto 31.12.2027. Further, the Board vide ref. 2nd cited issued CTO & HWA order to your industry on 28.04.2023 for Electric power generation of 800 MW (Stage-V), valid for the period upto 30.04.2026.

WHEREAS the Board received complaints against your industry regarding air pollution problems causing from operation of your industry. The issue was reviewed in the External Advisory Committee (Task Force) meeting held on 28.12.2022 and the Board vide ref. 3rd cited issued certain directions to your industry on 06.01.2023 to comply.

WHEREAS the Board received complaint filed by Sri EAS Sarma, Former Secretary to the Government of India vide letter dated.21.11.2023 regarding air and water pollution being caused from your power plant; lapses on greenbelt development at Stage-V, utilization of the Indian coal etc.,

WHEREAS an adverse news item published in the Eenadu newspaper on 24.11.2023 on the pollution issues, mismanagement of ash pond, greenbelt development and other lapses at your industry.

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WHEREAS the Board officials, RO, Vijayawada inspected your industry and issued notice dt. 27.11.2023 to rectify the non-compliances observed during inspection.

WHEREAS you have submitted reply on 04.12.2023 duly informing the following status -

1. 500 MW power plant was hand tripped on 21.11.2023 for attending boiler tube leak and taken into service on 23.11.2023. The 5-6 fields of the ESP provided to the 500 MW (Stage-IV) are not in service due to under voltage and low currents. This is caused by accumulator of ash inside the ESP hoppers. These were rectified on 24.11.2023 are kept in service duly utilizing the unit breakdown opportunity.
2. The accumulated ash inside the ESP hoppers to the 500 MW (Stage-IV) was poked and unloaded during the above period and due to maintenance of evacuation system. The leakage of the fly ash was observed form the ESP of 500 MW.
3. At the time of unit trail operation during the month of November,2023. The ESP flue gas emissions are high due to not charging the ESP fields as it is the practice only as per OEM guidelines.
4. All units are performing with the ESP efficiencies ranging from 99.938% to 99.88%. When the ESPs are to be performed at such high efficiencies, any deviation in the coal quality will slightly deviate its efficiency. Presently, APGENCO is forced to use whatever Coal received from Coal suppliers due to severe shortage of coal suppliers by coal companies to avoid disturbance to integrated grid and distress to the consumers on account of reduction of power.
5. Online dust monitor of Units-1-3 and 6 are not working condition due to non-availability of spares. 2 nos. online dust monitors were already procured. The installation and commissioning of the online dust monitors is under progress.
6. Engineering consultancy services for installation of wet limestone based flue gas desulphurization (FGD) systems for Dr. NTTPS Stage-IV (1 x 500 MW) Unit-7 was awarded to M/s. STEAG energy Services India Pvt. Ltd on 14.07.2022 by APGENCO. Head Quarters. The job is under Progress
7. Health statistics from PHCs, observations of the Medical officers of PHCs, investigations during medical camps did not indicate any adverse pollution related medical cases in the influence zone evidencing the serious impact on human health due to Dr. NTTPS. The study report obtained from Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry, Nandigama regarding Health studies to the animals in influence and non-influence zones of Dr. NTTPS and observations of Deputy Director. Animal Husbandry, Nandigama, NTR District did not indicate any severe and adverse cases of diseases due to Water and Air pollution of Dr. NTTPS Greenbelt of 179.46 Ha. was already developed against 181 Ha. area of greenbelt to be developed (including Stage-V). The shortfall of 1.54 Ha. of greenbelt is including Stage-V Plant which is under construction.
8. Fire quenching systems with fire monitors are provided and operating at crushed coal yard to suppress fire and dust.

WHEREAS an adverse news item was published in the Telugu newspapers on 14.12.2023 & 16.12.2023 regarding illegal stocking of the pond ash in the private stock yards along the Vijayawada-Hyderabad National Highway in Ibrahimpattanam Mandal which is causing air pollution and health Hazards.

WHEREAS the Board officials again inspected your industry and stockyards on 16.12.2023 and reported the following observations –

- i. The ash is procured from the ash pond of M/s. Dr. Narla Tatarao Thermal Power Station through tippers and stocking in the yards.
- ii. The ash stored openly as heaps and is causing fugitive emissions to the surrounding

areas.

- iii. The stock yards are utilizing as transit point for disposal of the procured ash to brick units and for low-lying fill-up.
- iv. The ash storage yards are observed at the following areas.
 - a. D.No:8-87(2), beside NH, opp to ash pond road, Ibrahimpatnam(V&M), NTR District.
 - b. In the premises of sick stone crusher i.e., M/s Sri Venkateswra Engg company, Beside NH, Ibrahimpatnam (V&M), NTR District.
 - c. In the premises of sick stone crusher i.e., M/s Sri Srinivasa Stone Crusher, beside NH, Ibrahimpatnam (V&M), NTR District.
 - d. In the premises of Chittibabu stone crusher, beside NH, Jupudi(V), Ibrahimpatnam (M), NTR District.
 - e. In the premises of M/s Sri Lakshmi stone crusher (Sri Devi constructions), beside NH, Mulapadu (V), Ibrahimpatnam (M), NTR District.
 - f. In the premises of Sri Venkateswara Fly ash bricks, beside NH, Mulapadu (V), Ibrahimpatnam (M), NTR District.
 - g. In the premises of NVSR Fly ash bricks, beside NH, Jupudi (V), Ibrahimpatnam (M), NTR District.
 - h. In the premises of Pavan Sai constructions, Jupudi (V), Ibrahimpatnam(M), NTR District.
- v. No responsible persons are available at the above ash stock yards during inspection.
- vi. The ash loaded in the lorries to transport to various places of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states.

WHEREAS it was informed to your industry to take immediate action on the illegal ash stock yards and ensure that the ash should be disposed as per the provisions of the Fly Ash Notification dated.14.09.1999 and its amendment thereof; to dispose to the end users and also to remove the accumulated ash in the drains / canals / channels. Further, informed that the Board earlier directed your industry to take necessary action on the complaint received from Sri K. Nageswara Rao, BJP Mylavaram Convener regarding illegal ash pond stockyards.

WHEREAS you have submitted reply to the Board notice dated.02.01.2024 stating that notices were served to the individuals of the stockyards and also stopped to issue pond ash to the individuals (stockyards).

WHEREAS the Board officials conducted Ambient Air Quality Monitoring (AAQM) and Stack monitoring at your unit and the values are exceeding prescribed standards, as follows –

I. Stack emission:

S.No.	Description of the stack	PM (mg/Nm ³)	
		Monitored value	Standard value
1.	Stack attached to 690 TPH Coal Fired Boiler - Stage - II (210 MW) of Unit - IV	231.0	100.0
2.	Stack attached to 690 TPH Coal Fired Boiler - Stage - III (210 MW) of Unit - V	329.0	100.0
3.	Stack attached to 1625 TPH Coal Fired Boiler - Stage - IV (500 MW) of Unit - VII	127.0	50.0

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II. Ambient Air Quality Monitoring:

S.No	Location of AAQ Monitoring	RSPM (PM ₁₀)	Standard
1.	At top of Guest house building of M/s. NTPPS, Ibrahimpatnam (V) 25.11.2023	139.0 µg/m ³	100 µg/m ³
2.	At top of the building located at B-Colony, Ibrahimpatnam (V)	148.0 µg/m ³	100 µg/m ³
3.	At top of the building of Railway Hospital, Rayanapadu (V)	90.0 µg/m ³	100 µg/m ³
4.	At top of the bank building near main gate of the M/s. NTPPS, Ibrahimpatnam (V)	243.0 µg/m ³	100 µg/m ³
5.	At top of the bank building near main gate of the M/s. NTPPS, Ibrahimpatnam (V)	206.0 µg/m ³	100 µg/m ³

During the inspection, the following lapses were observed -

1. Ash was observed in the drains located beside National Highway and Nimra College road.
2. Ash is observed in the drains.
3. The online stack monitoring provided to the stack of Boiler-II (Unit-I) is completely not in operation. The online Particulate Matter parameter is not working for the Boiler-I, III & VI. The online SO₂ values of Boiler-I, III, IV, V & VI are in between 1250 mg/Nm³ to 1320 mg/Nm³, as against the standard of 600 mg/Nm³. The online SPM values of the stack attached to the 500 MW Stage-IV (Unit-VII) is in between 90 to 110 mg/Nm³, thereby exceeding prescribed standard of PM. The SO₂ parameter recorded as 750 mg/Nm³, as against the standard of 200 mg/Nm³. The industry has not connected the Stage-V boiler stack to the APPCB Server. The CAAQM stations provided at B-Colony and towards railway wagon workshops are not in operation and not updating any data.
4. The Board officials conducted stack and AAQM monitoring on 14.12.2023 & 15.12.2023. The values are exceeding the Board stipulated standards.
5. The industry is not complying to the CTO order conditions such as i) not meeting the Board stipulated standards, ii) SPM & CAAQM stations are not working.
6. During inspection, it was observed the industry is using coal of ash content more than 33%, thereby violating the Board CTO order conditions. Coal dust emission was observed at coal stocking yard and transit points and at nearby residential area around the coal stockyard.

WHEREAS the Board received a complaint from Dr. K. Babu Rao, Scientist for People against your industry complaining that the 800 MW power plant is operated without taking DeSOX and DeNOX from flue gas. The Real Time stack monitoring shows very high values of SO₂ conforming the absence of gas cleaning with FGD.

WHEREAS the industry has not connected the Stage-V boiler online stack monitoring data to the APPCB server. The CAAQM stations provided at B-Colony and towards railway wagon workshops are not in operation and not updating any data.

WHEREAS the Board received a complaint from Sri V. Tirumala Rao, R/o. Ibrahimpatnam through e-mail on 21.12.2023 on air pollution problems due to un-controlled emissions from your TPP and ash spillages along roads from trucks carrying ash etc., and requested to take action against your industry to safeguard the public health.

WHEREAS the Board received another complaint from Sri N. Satyanarayana, President, A.P. United Forum for RTI Campaign, Andhra Pradesh State Committee, Arundalpet, Vijayawada, NTR District regarding spillages of the fly ash and bottom ash from transporting trucks and causing dust pollution at Kondapalli, Kotha Gate, Ibrahimpatnam and Gollapudi areas, thereby causing health problems and requested to take necessary action on transporters and against your industry.

WHEREAS the Board received a complaint from Sri K. Venkata Rao, Dr. NTPPS Tipper Lorry Owners Society, #9-73, VTPS Road, Ibrahimpatnam, NTR District on 09.01.2024 stating that the ash carrying trucks are transporting to the stockyards, instead of end users and also informed that due to the intermediate ash stocking / dumping yards air pollution is causing to the surrounding environment and also causing health hazards.

WHEREAS a hearing was conducted before the Monitoring (Task Force) Committee Meeting of A.P. Pollution Control Board held on 25.01.2024. The representatives of the industry attended the meeting in person; JCEE, ZO and EE, RO, Vijayawada attended the meeting in person. The representatives of the industry informed that they have taken the following measures –

1. The 5-6 fields of the ESP provided to the 500 MW (Stage-IV) are not in service due to under voltage and low currents. This is caused by accumulator of ash inside the ESP hoppers. These were rectified on 24.11.2023 are kept in service duly utilizing the unit breakdown opportunity.
2. The accumulated ash inside the ESP hoppers to the 500 MW (Stage-IV) was pocked and unloaded during the above period and due to maintenance of evacuation system.
3. At the time of unit trial operation during the month of November,2023. The ESP flue gas emissions are high due to not charging the ESP fields as it is the practice only as per OEM guidelines.
4. All units are performing with the ESP efficiencies ranging from 99.938% to 99.88%. When the ESPs are to be performed at such high efficiencies, any deviation in the coal quality will slightly deviate its efficiency. Presently, APGENCO is forced to use whatever Coal received from Coal suppliers due to severe shortage of coal suppliers by coal companies to avoid disturbance to integrated grid and distress to the consumers on account of reduction of power.
5. Online dust monitor of Units-1-3 and 6 are not working condition due to non-availability of spares. 2 Nos. online dust monitors were already procured. The installation and commissioning of the online dust monitors is under progress
6. Engineering consultancy services for installation of wet limestone based flue gas desulphurization (FGD) systems for Dr. NTPPS Stage-IV (1 x 500 MW) Unit-7 was awarded to M/s. STEAG Energy Services India Pvt. Ltd on 14.07.2022 by APGENCO. Head Quarters. The job is under progress
7. Health statistics from PHCs, observations of the Medical officers of PHCs, investigations during medical camps did not indicate any adverse pollution related medical cases in the influence zone evidencing the serious impact on human health due to Dr. NTPPS. The study report obtained from Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry, Nandigama regarding Health studies to the animals in influence and non-influence zones of Dr. NTPPS and observations did not indicate any severe and adverse cases of diseases due to Water and Air pollution of Dr. NTPPS
8. Greenbelt of 179.46 Ha. was already developed against 181 Ha. area of greenbelt to be developed (including Stage-V). The shortfall of 1.54 Ha. of greenbelt is including Stage-V Plant which is under construction.

File No.APPCB-11023/133/2022-TEC-TF-APPCB

9. Fire quenching systems with fire monitors are provided and operating at crushed coal yard to suppress fire and dust.

During the review, the EE, RO, Vijayawada informed that -

1. The industry is discharging the floor washing effluents of Stage-I to III into Budameru drain without treatment except settling tanks. The settling tanks are filled up with ash sludge.
2. The industry has not provided hydro bins for Stage-I, II & III for bottom ash disposal and not provided cooling tower for Stage-I to III as per consent conditions of CTO order dated.24.04.2023.
3. The industry has not provided hydro bins for Stage-V for bottom ash disposal as per the condition of CTO order dated.24.04.2023 and also not provided ash water recycling system.
4. The 5-6 fields of the ESP provided to the 500 MW power plant are not in operation. Leakage of the fly ash was observed from the ESP of 500 MW.
5. The dust collected from the ESP of 500 MW is disposing beside the ESP openly. The dust is loading into trucks through JCBs instead of pneumatic system. The open storage of the ash and loading into trucks is causing fugitive emissions.
6. The ESP provided to the 800 MW is not in operation and the emissions are letting out into atmosphere through Chimney by bypassing the ESP.
7. The industry has not improved the performance of the ESPs attached to the Unit-I to Unit-VI and thick smoke emissions are observed. The online stack monitoring system provided to boiler 1-3 & 6-7 are not in operation and not showing the SPM values.
8. The industry has not provided Flue Gas De Sulphurization (FGD) System for control of SO₂ emissions.
9. The industry has not submitted the Health studies for Human beings and Animals in influence zone and Non influence zone in coordination with DM & HO and Animal Husbandry departments.
10. The industry is disposing the Once Through Cooling water to Budameru channel and not operating the cooling towers.
11. The industry has not developed green belt to meet 33 % of the total area of industry.
12. The ash sludge from the ash pond was observed on the road leading to ash pond to National High way due to spillages from the ash carrying trucks and thereby causing fugitive emissions to the surrounding area.
13. Fugitive coal dust emissions observed at coal crushing, unloading of coal from Railway wagons area due to not providing adequate fugitive dust mitigation measures. The industry has not provided proper coal dust collection system (vacuum collection) at coal transfer points to avoid fugitive emissions on to the surroundings.
14. Open storage of crushed coal was observed without providing any fugitive dust containing measures such as covering the surface of coal stockpiles with tarpaulin sheets.
15. The ash is procuring from the ash pond of M/s. Dr. Narla Tatarao Thermal Power Station through tippers and stocking in the yards. The ash stored openly as heaps and is causing fugitive emissions to the surrounding areas. The stock yards are utilizing as transit point for disposal of the procured ash to brick units and for low-lying fill-up.
16. The industry submitted its reply to the Board notice dated.02.01.2024 informing that notices were served to the individuals of the private stockyards and also stopped the pond ash issues to the individuals (stockyards).
17. The Board officials conducted Ambient Air Quality Monitoring (AAQM) and Stack monitoring to the boilers and the values are exceeding the Board stipulated

standards.

18. The industry is using coal of ash content more than 33%, thereby violating the Board CTO order conditions. Coal dust emission was observed at coal stocking yard and transit points and at nearby residential area around the coal stockyard.
19. The Board received a complaint from Dr. K. Babu Rao, Scientist for People against the industry complaining the operation of the 800 MW power plant without taking DeSOX and DeNOX from flue gas. The Real Time stack monitoring shows very high values of SO₂ conforming the absence of gas cleaning with FGD.
20. The online stack monitoring provided to the stack of Boiler-II (Unit-I) is completely not in operation. The online Particulate Matter parameter is not working for the Boiler-I, III & VI. The online SO₂ values of Boiler-I, III, IV, V & VI are in between 1250 mg/Nm³ to 1320 mg/Nm³, as against the standard of 600 mg/Nm³.
21. The online SPM values of the stack attached to the 500 MW Stage-IV (Unit-VII) is in between 90 to 110 mg/Nm³, thereby exceeding prescribed standard of (50 mg/Nm³). The SO₂ parameter recorded as 750 mg/Nm³, as against the standard of 200 mg/Nm³.
22. The industry has not connected the Stage-V boiler online stack monitoring data to the APPCB server. The CAAQM stations provided at B-Colony and towards railway wagon workshops are not in operation and not updating any data.

After detailed review, the Committee recommended to obtain bank guarantee from the industry within 2 weeks for an amount of Rs.1.0 Crore valid for a period of two years towards their commitment to comply with directions and to issue directions. Accordingly, the Board hereby issues following directions to M/s. Dr. Narla Tatarao Thermal Power Station (Dr. NTTPS) (formerly M/s. Vijayawada Thermal Power Station), Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada, NTR District under Sec.33(A) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Sec.31(A) of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and amendments thereof

1. ***The industry shall maintain all the fields of ESPs intact in every unit of the TPP. The detailed plan of action to maintain and operate all the fields of ESPs at highest efficiency and implementation schedule to achieve compliance to the prescribed standards shall be furnished within a month.***
2. ***The ash and sludge accumulated in the settling tanks shall be desilted periodically and shall ensure adequate treatment to floor washing effluents generated from Stage-I to III to comply with prescribed standard prior to disposal.***
3. ***The industry shall furnish time bound action plan to provide hydro bins for Stage-I, II & III for collection of bottom ash and disposal.***
4. ***The industry shall furnish time bound action within 15 days to provide hydro bins and decanted ash water recycling system for Stage-V.***
5. ***The industry shall prepare contingency plan/retrofitting to arrest the leakage of the fly ash lines immediately for each unit wise and furnish to the Board within a month.***
6. ***The industry shall prevent re-occurrence of open stacking of ash in the plant premises to alleviate air borne fugitive dust emissions due to transit storage openly and loading/handling activities.***
7. ***The ESP attached to the 800 MW shall be placed into operation immediately and by-pass arrangement for disposal of tail gases shall be dispensed forthwith.***
8. ***The industry shall furnish time bound plan of action to improve the performance of the ESPs attached to the Unit-I to Unit-IV to ensure compliance to prescribed emissions standards.***
9. ***The industry shall immediately rectify online stack monitoring system provided to boilers 1-3 & 6-7 for continuous display of pollution levels for all the***

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- prescribed parameters.*
10. *The industry shall furnish time bound action plan within 15 days to provide cooling towers for stage – I, II & III units and to achieve specific water consumption of 3.5 m³/hr/MW as per MoEF & CC, Gol notification dated. 07.12.2015.*
 11. *The industry shall expedite installation of Flue Gas De-Sulphurization (FGD) System for control of SO₂ emissions as per MoEF & CC, Gol notification and progress shall be reported periodically to the Board.*
 12. *The industry shall implement adequate preventive measures to prevent leakage of ash during conveyance and transportation of boiler ash. The industry shall ensure periodical cleaning/desilting of public drains/ canals/ water bodies in the surroundings of the ash pond/ along National highway/ truck bay / roads leading to ash pond and other areas vulnerable for siltation with boiler ash, to prevent air borne dust emissions.*
 13. *The industry shall prevent open storage of crushed coal. The industry shall furnish time bound action plan within a month to provide MDSS to control fugitive dust emissions emanating from coal crusher, wagon unloading, transfer points/ stockpiles of coal.*
 14. *The industry shall ensure compliance of the Fly ash notification dated.14.09.1999 and amendments thereof.*
 15. *The industry shall ensure to dispose the boiler ash to end users only and there shall not be any stock yards/intermittent transfer points of ash. All the stock yards shall be dispensed henceforth, failing which the industry is liable to pay environmental compensation for any such violations, without further notice.*
 16. *The industry shall implement requisite measures to comply with prescribed standards and shall not cause any pollution problems in the surroundings.*
 17. *All the online pollution monitoring systems provided for monitoring of stack emissions, Ambient air quality and wastewater treatment shall be operated continuously and shall ensure uploading of the data to APPCB & CPCB websites regularly.*
 18. *The industry shall ensure compliance to the CPCB guidelines dated. 05.02.2014, 02.03.2015 and further notification issued for periodical calibration of online pollution monitoring systems from time to time.*
 19. *The industry shall maintain the ash content in the coal using for power generation to comply with notifications issued by MoEF&CC, Gol.*
 20. *The industry shall augment the existing greenbelt area to achieve 33% of the total project site.*
 21. *The industry shall undertake scientific study in consultation with expert organizations/ institutions to evaluate the possible impacts of pollutants emanating from the power plant activities in the influence zone and buffer zone to cover the impacts on the surrounding environment and incremental increase of heavy metals concentration exclusively in the influence zone. The study shall broadly cover the cumulative impacts on human health, animal, soil, agriculture/horticulture activities, water bodies; aquatic life; flora & fauna etc). The details of the study shall be updated to the periodically.*
 22. *The industry shall pledge bank guarantee within 2 weeks for an amount of Rs.1.0 Crore with validity period of one year towards commitment to comply with Board directions.*

The implementation progress of the above directions shall be submitted to RO, Vijayawada periodically.

You are hereby directed to note that, should you violate any of the directions mentioned above, action will be initiated against your unit under Sec.41(2) of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 1988 and Sec.37 of the Air (Prevention & Control of

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Pollution) Amendment Act, 1987 without any further notice, in the interest of safe guarding Public Health and Environment.

This Order comes into effect from today i.e., 02/02/2024.

**B Sreedhar Ias
MEMBER SECRETARY**

**To
The Occupier,
M/s. Dr. Narla Tatarao Thermal Power Station
(Dr. NTTPS) (formerly M/s.Vijayawa da Thermal Power Station),
Ibrahimpattam (V) & (M), Krishna District.**

Copy to:

1. The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Zonal Office, Vijayawada for information.
2. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Vijayawada for information. He is directed to periodically monitor the implementation progress of the above directions and to furnish the status.

Item No. 05

Court No. 1

15

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 1302/2024

News Item titled "Residents stage protest against pollution caused by Vijayawada Thermal Power Station" appearing in The Hindu dated 04.11.2024

Date of hearing: 19.11.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

ORDER

1. This original application is registered *suo-motu* on the basis of the news item titled "Residents stage protest against pollution caused by Vijayawada Thermal Power Station" appearing in The Hindu dated 04.11.2024.

2. The matter relates to the environmental pollution caused by the Vijayawada Thermal Power Station (VTPS) resulting in staging of protest by residents of Ibrahimpatnam and Kondapalli, two areas near Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. As per the article, Dust and ash emanating from the plant and is causing heart and lung ailments. Ash released by the power plant is polluting the villages in about a 10-km radius and damaging the nearby crops. The article highlights that ash from the power plant was falling on houses in nearby colonies such as Tummalapalem, Jupudi, Kilesapuram, Kethanakonda, Kondapalli, and Guntupalli.

3. The above matter indicates violation of the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
4. The news item raises substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment.
5. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors.*" reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.
6. Hence, we implead the following as respondents:
 - i. Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB), Through its Member Secretary
Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Poranki, Vijayawada -
521 137, Andhra Pradesh, India.
 - ii. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Through its Member Secretary
Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 110032, India.
 - iii. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEF) -
Regional Office, Andhra Pradesh
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Regional Office (Southern), 3rd Floor, D.No. 24-5-47/4, Lalithapuri, K.P. Road, Vijayawada - 520 010, Andhra Pradesh, India.
 - iv. District Magistrate (DM), Vijayawada
Office of the District Magistrate, Collectorate Complex, NTR Circle, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520 001, India.

7. Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit before the Southern Zonal Bench of the Tribunal at least one week before the next date of hearing. If any respondent directly files the reply without routing it through his advocate then the said respondent will remain virtually present to assist the Tribunal.

8. Since the matter relates to the Southern Zonal Bench, Chennai, therefore, OA is transferred to the Southern Zonal Bench. Therefore, the original record of this OA be transferred to the Southern Zonal Bench, Chennai for further action.

9. List before Southern Zonal Bench at Chennai on 10.01.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

November 19, 2024
O.A. No. 1302/2024
HB..