

**EFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

**Original Application No.41 of 2024  
[(Earlier O.A. No. 788 of 2023(PB))]**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU  
based on the news item in The New Indian  
Express dt: 05.12.2023 titled, "Change location  
of sewage treatment plant from Coimbatore's  
Ukkadam, over 100 residents stage stir".

And

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board  
and Others.

...Respondents

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**Advocate  
Thiru.S. Sai Sathya Jith,  
Advocate, Chennai.**



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**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE FIRST RESPONDENT  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

I, S.Palanisamy, Son of S.Santhappan, aged about 59 years, having office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

2. I submit that I am working as the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai and I am authorized to file this report on behalf of the first respondent, (TNPCB) and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case available from our office records.
3. It is respectfully submitted that a Suo Motu has been registered on 11.1.2024 by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi as Original Application No.788 of 2023 (PB) based on the news item published in 'The New Indian Express' dated 05.12.2023 titled "Change location of sewage treatment plant from Coimbatore's Ukkadam, over 100 residents stage stir" which has been transferred to this Bench and renumbered as Original Application No.41 of 2024(SZ) by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, (SZ), Chennai.

  
**JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, GUNDIR,  
CHENNAI-600 032.**

4. It is respectfully submitted that the said news item refers to the grievance of the residents of Anbu Nagar in Ukkadam against the Sewage Treatment Plant and garbage collection and transportation facility in the location concerned. As per the said news report, sewage water treatment plant in the area is causing several health hazards in addition to the foul odor from the nearby dump yard which is making matter much worse. The children are affected by itching and other health ailments due to improper management of these facilities. There is a demand by the local residents to the civic body to shift these facilities which are making their life difficult. The news item raises substantial issues relating to compliance of the environmental norms and provisions of the Scheduled enactments.
5. It is respectfully submitted that as directed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, SZ, Chennai on 25.3.2024, the first respondent submits the report herein.

***"...The above case has been SuoMotu registered by the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal, New Delhi as Original Application No.788 of 2023 (PB) based on the news item published in 'The New Indian Express' dated 05.12.2023 titled "Change location of sewage treatment plant from Coimbatore's Ukkadam, over 100 residents stage stir"***

6. It is respectfully submitted that the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation has 100 Wards at present. The Sewage generated in zones I, II V & VI covering about 24 wards with an estimated population 4.65 Lakhs is being treated at Ukkadam Sewage Treatment Plant. The Sewage Treatment Plant at Ukkadam has capacity of 70 MLD. The Treated effluent water is being pumped to Vellalore pond and same is used for Agricultural purpose.
7. It is respectfully submitted that the unit of M/s. Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Sewage Treatment Plant, Ukkadam located at S.F.No.146/2,3,147/2 etc., Ward No. Ap-42, Block No:17 Coimbatore Town, Coimbatore South, Coimbatore District is an existing common sewage treatment operated by the Coimbatore Municipal Corporation since 2011.

  
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8. It is respectfully submitted that the Coimbatore Corporation has adopted the following Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) Technology in the Sewage Treatment Plant operated at Ukkadam.
- Capacity of the sewage treatment plant is 70.0 MLD. At present the STP was operated with 30-32 KLD capacity only.
  - The area of the sewage treatment plant is 13.94 Acres.
  - Total length of sewerage system for the sewage treatment plant at Ukkadam is 166.72 Km.
  - The Coimbatore Corporation is divided into 8 Zones. The sewage generated from Zone I, II, V & VI covering 24 wards (Ward No.10-15, 20-25 & 75-86) with a population of 4.68 lakh is treated in the Sewage Treatment Plant at Ukkadam.
  - The Sewage Treatment Plant at Ukkadam was proposed to be connected with 21,101 numbers of Household Service Connection (HSC). At present, out of 21,101 HSC, around 10,000 HSC is connected to the underground sewage system of Ukkadam STP.
9. It is respectfully submitted that a news clip was published on The Hindu Daily on 27.01.2024 titled "Residents grapple with foul odour and contaminated groundwater" where the residents of Ward 62, includes parts of Ukkadam and Ramanathapuram situated in the Central Zone have expressed concern over foul odour and groundwater contamination originating from the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Ukkadam.
10. It is respectfully submitted that the unit has obtained Consent to Operate for "70 MLD sewage Treatment Plant -70 MLD" and dispose the treated sewage for "Inland Surface Water/Irrigation" vide Proc. No. T7/TNPCB/F.20887/CBE/RL/W&A/2012 Dated: 28/02/2013 under Water Act & Air Act and subsequently consent was renewed to the unit with validity up to 31/03/2023. The unit has applied for Renewal of consent through OCMMS on 22/04/2023 and the same was returned to the unit for want of additional particulars on 14/12/2023.
11. It is respectfully submitted that an inspection was carried out on 09.02.2024 by the official TNPCB, Coimbatore South at Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation STP, Ukkadam, around the premises of the unit and Raw

Sewage/Septage unloading Point at Ukkadam. Based on the inspection some of the instructions were issued to the unit and request to submit the action taken report for the same vide letter dated: Lr No. F.CBS0916/DEE/TNPCB/CBE(S)/2024 Dated: 13/02/2024 (Enclosed as Annexure - 1). Reply is awaited from the City Municipal Corporation.

12. It is respectfully submitted that again the unit M/s. Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Sewage treatment Plant, Ukkadam was inspected on 27/03/2024 and it was observed that,

- a. The Sewage treatment plant was not under complete operation. The Sewage Treatment Plant operation was found to be affected due to the discharge of waste water containing oil substances into the sewage treatment units. They have stated that the discharge of unauthorized sewage/effluent through tanker Lorries at the collection point. Hence untreated/partially treated sewage was directly to the odai.
- b. The unit has stored the plastic waste collected from the STP inside the premises in an open land.
- c. The unit has stored the fine grits and bio sludge collected from the treatment units inside the premises in an open land as a heap.

13. It is respectfully submitted that a letter has already been addressed to the Commissioner, Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation, to take the essential steps to avoid the discharge of unauthorized sewage/effluent through tanker Lorries at the collection point vide Lr.No.F.CBS0916 / DEE / TNPCB / CBE(S) / 2023 Dt:06/11/2023 and 13/02/2024 ((Enclosed as Annexure – I)).

14. It is respectfully submitted that during inspection, it was noticed that the STP sludge with grit was stored inside the premises.

15. It is respectfully submitted that in the unit M/s. Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Sewage treatment Plant, Ukkadam is requested to comply the following Lr.No.F.CBS0916 /DEE/TNPCB/CBE(S)/2023 Dated: 03/04/2024,

  
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- a. The City Municipal Corporation is requested to operate the sewage treatment plant efficiently and continuously so as to achieve the standards prescribed by the Board.
- b. The unit shall not dispose the partially treated/untreated sewage into nearby land/ water sources directly or indirectly at any cost of time.
- c. The unit shall dispose the stored plastic waste, fine grits and STP sludge immediately then there without any accumulation in the surroundings of the Treatment plant as per Solid Waste Management Rules as amended.
- d. The unit shall install the EMFM and maintain proper logbooks for the discharge of Treated sewage to M/s. Golf Club, Chettipalayam and Vellalore lagoon.
- e. The City Municipal Corporation is requested to maintain the uninterrupted power supply to the STPs and operate continuously.
- f. The unit shall maintain the logbooks for the continuous operation of the STP by entering the details like EMFM readings, chemical consumption, running hours and power consumption and submit to the Board periodically.
- g. The City Municipal Corporation is requested to undertake the essential steps to implement and functioning of a GPS tracking system for monitoring the discharge of sewage through tanker Lorries at the collection point.
- h. The City Municipal Corporation is requested to ensure the installation of appropriate fencing around all sides of the sewage/ septage unloading point, in addition to providing round-the-clock security with CCTV cameras at the entrance and its surroundings.
- i. The unit shall maintain a comprehensive logbook containing vehicle details, date and time of discharge, sewage quantity, and other relevant information to prevent any instances of illegal or unauthorized discharge into the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP).

  
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16. It is respectfully submitted that the Commissioner Coimbatore corporation has furnished the action taken report vide their letter dated: 08/07/2024 and stated as follows.

**A. CONTAINMENT AND CLEAN UP:**

CCMC has appointed a specialized clean-up crew to address the contamination within the treatment units and assured to satisfy the standards prescribed by the Board. In this connection the tanker lorry was seized and imposed fine of Rs.1,00,000/-.

**B. ENHANCED MONITORING:**

CCMC has denied that the STP unit ever disposed the partially treated/ untreated sewage into nearby lands/ water sources directly/Indirectly. CCMC has increased surveillance at the collection point to prevent unauthorized discharge by the tanker lorries.

**C. WASTE MANAGEMENT:**

The accumulated plastic waste, fine grits and bio sludge are being cleared and disposed of in compliance with solid waste Management Rules. The disposal protocol are established for the timely disposal of plastic waste, Fine grits and STP sludge with regular monitoring to prevent accumulation.

**D. SECURITY MEASURES:**

CCMC has implemented security measures around the sewage/ septage unloading point, including fencing and round the clock security guards. CCTV cameras are installed at the entrance and surrounding areas for real time surveillance.

**E. SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM:**

CCMC will be installing GPS tracking system to all the tankers lorries to monitor and control their movements, ensuring the authorized routes and discharge points. Nearly 50% of sewage transportation vehicles are installed with GPS tanker not adhering to the prescribed protocols are penalized.

**F. POWER SUPPLY:**

CCMC has assured to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the STP for its continuous operation

  
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**G. UPGRADED TREATMENT PROCESSES:**

CCMC would be upgrading the secondary containment system i.e, oil-water separation systems, to ensure that no oil substance enter the STP including advance filtration systems.

**H. CONTRACTOR COMPLIANCE:**

A rigorous compliance program for all third- party contractors involved in sewage/ effluent transportation has been initiated including regular audits and mandatory training on environmental regulations.

**I. LOGBOOK MAINTENANCE:**

Logbooks for the discharge of treated sewage to M/s. Golf Club, Chettipalayam and Vellalore lagoon, including EMFM readings, Chemical consumption, running hours and power consumption will be maintained and submitted periodically to the Board.

**J. VEHICLE AND SEWAGE TRACKING:**

CCMC has maintaining comprehensive logbooks containing vehicle details, date and time of discharge, sewage quantity and other relevant information to prevent any instances of illegal or unauthorized discharge into the STP.

**K. COMMITMENT TO COMPLIANCE:**

CCMC has assured to adhering to all TNPCB regulations and ensuring the proper treatment and disposal of sewage.

17. It is respectfully submitted that the consolidated RoA of the treated sewage samples collected from March 2023 to February 2024 were tabulated below,

**Details of the Consolidated RoA of the treated sewage samples from  
March'23 to Feb'24:**

Sl. No	Parameters	Standards	07	08	Apr '23	May '23	Jul' 23	Aug '23	Sep' 23	Oct' 23	Dec' 23
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1.	PH at 25°C	5.5-9	7.63	8.26	8.4	7.72	7.73	7.72	7.89	8.13	8.4

  
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2.	Total Suspended Solids	20	10	14	10	6	18	18	10	4	8
3.	BOD	10	6	8	4	2	18	12	9	3	4
4.	COD	50	24	32	16	16	112	80	48	40	24
5.	Total Nitrogen	10	1.68	2.1	1.98	1.62	3.96	16.92	6.84	5.64	7.24
6.	Phosphate	1.0	0.006	1.02	0.72	0.78	0.47	0.98	0.68	0.29	0.44

Sl. No	Parameters	Standards	Jan' 24	Feb' 24	Mar '24	April '24	May' 24	June' 24	July' 24
1.	PH at 25°C	5.5-9	7.82	7.9	7.62	7.84	8.08	7.24	7.82
2.	Total Suspended Solids	20	48	40	38	28	10	46	14
3.	BOD	10	21	21	18	15	9	26	8
4.	COD	50	136	120	80	88	56	160	48
5.	Total Nitrogen	10	21.22	15.58	7.52	5.03	4.33	11.25	4.74
6.	Phosphate	1.0	2.25	3.86	2.37	1.56	1.02	2.76	0.92
7.	Fecal Coliform	Desirable-100 permissible-230	--	--	659	73	408	394	613

18. It is respectfully submitted that the Consolidated RoA reveals that all the parameters are within the standards prescribed by the Board from March 2023 to July 2024 except the following parameters

- a. TSS in the month of Jan'24, Feb'24, Mar'24, April'24 and June'24

  
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- b. BOD in the month of July'23, Jan'24, Feb'24, Mar'24, April'24 and June'24
  - c. COD in the month of July'23, Aug'23, Jan'24, Feb'24, Mar'24, April'24 and June'24
  - d. Nitrogen Total in the month of Aug'23, Jan'24, Feb'24 and June'24
  - e. Fecal Coliform in the month of Mar'24, May'24, June'24 and July'24
- No foul odour is generated from STP operations.

19. It is respectfully submitted that the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation has installed the solid waste transit facility near to STP. The status of operation of transit facility is furnished as follows:

- a. The transit facility was operated near the Common Sewage Treatment plant- Ukkadam by the Coimbatore Corporation.
- b. The three types of wastes such as Wet waste and Dry waste collected from the houses and mixed wastes are collected from the road side. The transit facility handling the solid waste of 250-300 T/Day generated from the Central Zone (80%) and South Zone (20%) of Coimbatore Corporation.
- c. These collected solid wastes are reached to the transit facility through Solid waste collection vehicles (Tata ace, Open lorry etc.) and weighed. All the Solid wastes are compressed in the Compact Bin sand sent to the Coimbatore Integrated Waste Management Facility Vellalore through a Hook loader (12T capacity).
- d. The transit facility installed Compact bins 18 Nos having the capacity of 12 T (each).
- e. In the transit facility, there is no storage of solid wastes.
- f. The distance between transit facility and the, Vellalore have the aerial distance about 4 km and the road distance about 12 km.

20. It is respectfully submitted that the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation shall take the following steps to reduce the level of odour nuisance

- a. Storage of sludge generated from STP inside the premises may cause odour nuisance to the public. The CCMC shall carried

  
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out periodical removal of sludge and it will reduce the level of odour nuisance nuisance.

- b. Continuous and efficient operation of STP and implementation of action to avoid entry of other waste water into STP shall also eliminate odour nuisance.

Under the above circumstances, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) may be pleased to pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of this case and thus render justice.

  
 JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
 TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
 No.76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,  
 CHENNAI-600 032.

#### VERIFICATION

I, I, S.Palanisamy, Son of S.Santhappan, working as Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai, do hereby verify that the contents of above report are true to the best of my knowledge through records.

  
 JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
 TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
 No.76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,  
 CHENNAI-600 032.



## TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



From  
Dr. R.Chandrasekaran, M.E., M.B.A., Ph.D.,  
District Environmental Engineer,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
Coimbatore South,  
Plot No.E 55A, SIDCO Industrial Estate,  
Pollachi Main Road, Kurichi,  
Coimbatore- 641 021.

To  
The Commissioner  
Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation,  
Big Bazaar Street,  
Town Hall,  
Coimbatore - 641018.

Letter No.F.CBS0916/DEE/TNPCB/CBE(S)/2024 Dated:13.02.2024

Sir,

Sub : TNPC Board - O/o. District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Coimbatore South -Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Ukkadam STP - Complaint - Certain Instruction issued - reg.

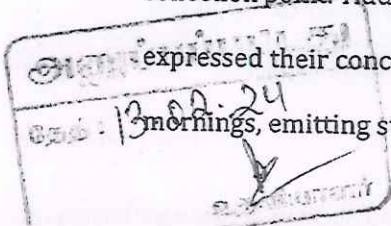
Ref : 1. Letter No.F.CBS0916 /DEE/TNPCB/CBE(S)/2023 Dated: 06.11.2023  
2. News Clip from The Hindu Daily dated 27.01.2024 - "Residents grapple with foul odour and contaminated groundwater".  
3. Inspection of the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Ukkadam STP by the Official of TNPCB on 09.02.2024.

\*\*\*\*\*

I invite your kind attention to the reference cited above, whereas a news clip was published on The Hindu Daily on 27.01.2024 titled "Residents grapple with foul odour and contaminated groundwater" where the residents of Ward 62, includes parts of Ukkadam and Ramanathapuram situated in the Central Zone have expressed concern over foul odour and groundwater contamination originating from the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Ukkadam. In this regard, an inspection was carried out on 09.02.2024 by the official TNPCB, Coimbatore South at Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation STP, Ukkadam, around the premises of the unit and Raw Sewage/Septage unloading Point at Ukkadam.

During the inspection, it was observed that, the Treatment Plant operation was found to be affected due to the intrusion of effluent into the treatment units. The raw sewage/septage unloading point was inadequately covered and hence create odour nuisance to the surroundings and leads to unauthorized discharges into the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), which will eventually, affects its operation and efficiency of treatment units. In this regard a letter dated 06.11.2023 has already been addressed to Respected Commissioner, Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation, to undertake the essential steps to avoid the discharge of unauthorized sewage/effluent through tanker Lorries at the collection point. Additionally, the residents in the surroundings of the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)

expressed their concern about the discharge of untreated water from the STP at midnight and early mornings, emitting strong odour.



In this regard, the following are instructed,

1. The City Municipal Corporation is requested to operate all the Three STPs in Ukkadam, Nanjundapuram and Ondipudur efficiently and continuously so as to achieve the standards prescribed by the Board.
2. The unit shall not dispose the partially treated/untreated sewage into nearby land/water sources directly or indirectly at any cost of time.
3. **The unit shall dispose the grits and sludge collected from the treatment units immediately then there without any accumulation in the surroundings of the Treatment plant as per Solid Waste Management Rules as amended.**
4. The unit shall install the EMFM and maintain proper logbooks for the discharge of Treated sewage to M/s. Golf Club, Chettipalayam and Vellalore lagoon as mentioned in the work order.
5. The City Municipal Corporation is requested to maintain the uninterrupted power supply to the STPs and operate continuously.
6. The unit shall maintain the logbooks for the continuous operation of the STP by entering the details like EMFM readings, chemical consumption, running hours and power consumption and submit to the Board periodically.
7. The City Municipal Corporation is requested to undertake the essential steps to implement and function a GPS tracking system for monitoring the discharge of sewage through tanker Lorries at the collection point.
8. The City Municipal Corporation is requested to ensure the installation of appropriate fencing around all sides of the sewage/septage unloading point, in addition to providing round-the-clock security with CCTV cameras at the entrance and its surroundings.
9. The unit shall maintain a comprehensive logbook containing vehicle details, date and time of discharge, sewage quantity, and other relevant information to prevent any instances of illegal or unauthorized discharge into the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP).
10. The City Municipal Corporation is requested apply and obtain consent for the New Sewage Treatment Plants established inside the premises of Coimbatore Corporation as per Water (P&CP) Act and Air (P &CP) Act as amended.

Therefore, it is requested that necessary actions be taken adhere to the aforementioned points and a copy of the action taken report may be forwarded to this office for our records.

The receipt of this letter shall be acknowledged.

  
District Environmental Engineer  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board  
Coimbatore South.

*(93574)*

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL  
GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN  
ZONE, CHENNAI**

**Original Application No.41 of 2024  
[(Earlier O.A. No. 788 of 2023(PB))]**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU  
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And

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...Respondents

**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF  
THE FIRST RESPONDENT -TAMIL  
NADU POLLUTION CONTROL  
BOARD.**

**Advocate for Respondent: TNPCB  
Thiru.Sai Sathya Jith,  
Advocate, Chennai.**

**Date:02.01.2025**

**Date of Hearing on:09.01.2025**

