

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI
Original Application No.71 of 2025**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTO based on the News Item in The New Indian Express Newspaper Chennai edition dt:02.04.2025 titled "GCC's waste incinerator in Manali working illegally for last five years".

And

The Principal Secretary to Govt of Tamil Nadu,
Department of Environment,
Climate Change & Forests,
Chennai and Others.

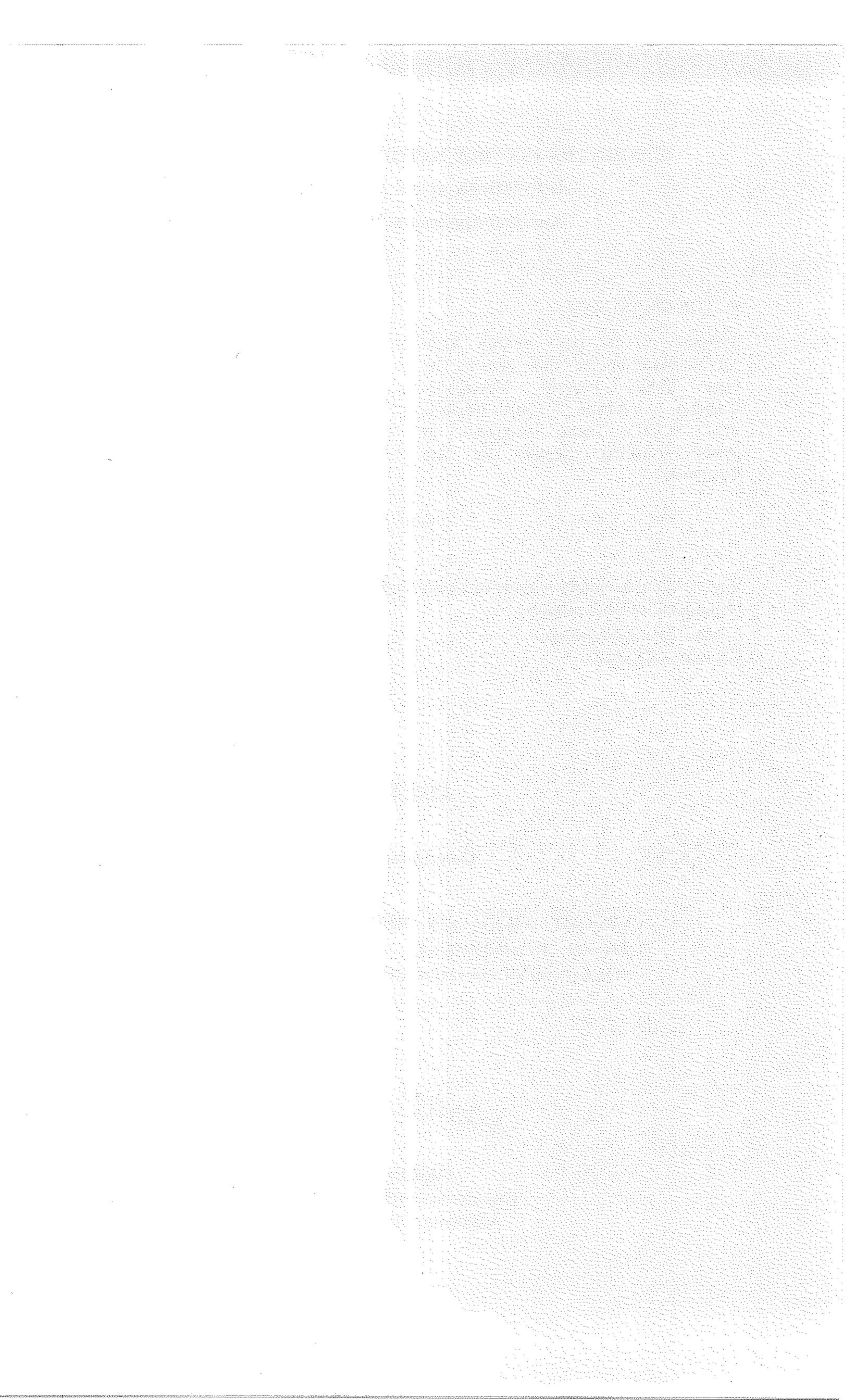
.....Respondents

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



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**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE THIRD RESPONDENT-
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

I, Mr. S. Bharathidasan, son of Thiru. M.Selvaraj, aged about 59 years, having office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai 600 032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I submit that I am working as the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai - 600032 and I am authorized to file this report on behalf of the Third Respondent (TNPCB) and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the office records.
2. It is respectfully submitted that based on the News Item appeared in 'The New Indian Express' Newspaper Chennai edition dt:02.04.2025 titled "GCC's waste incinerator in Manali working illegally for last five years", the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, SZ, Chennai has taken as Suo Motu on 16.4.2025 and directed the respondents to file their replies/reports.

For 15/04/2025
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032.

3. It is respectfully submitted that as per the above directions passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal the third respondent submits the report herein.
4. It is respectfully submitted that TNPCB issued the Consent to Operate - Direct to the incineration plant of Greate Chennai Corporation, Zone-2 Manali at S.F.No.176, Mathur Village, Madhavaram Taluk, Tiruvallur District vide Proceedings No F2483AMB / RS / DEE / TNPCB / AMB / A&W /2019 dated 10.12.2019 valid upto 31.03.2020 subject to the conditions stated therein for the following:

Product:

- i. Incineration of Non-Biodegradable MSW from GCC Manali Zone -10 TPD.

Effluent:

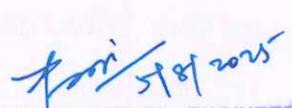
- i. Sewage- 0.4 KLD - On industry's own land
- ii. Trade effluent - 6 KLD- Recycled to process for scrubbing.

Emission & Noise:

- i. Incinerator- Venturi scrubber followed by wet scrubber with stack of height 30m from GL.
- ii. DG set- 62.5 KVA with inbuilt acoustic enclosures and stack of height 2 m from GL.

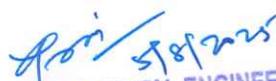
5. It is respectfully submitted that, based on the above news article, the incineration plant of GCC was inspected by the TNPCB Officials on 02.04.2025 and reported the followings:-

- a. During inspection, the plant was not in operation.
- b. The plant is operated and maintained by M/s. Triad Infratech
- c. The plant supervisor informed that,
 - i. Non-biodegradable MSW dry waste of about 10 TPD such as plastics, clothes, napkin, diaper and footwear are incinerated every day.
 - ii. The plant is not in operation for past 3 days. However hot bottom ash was noticed below the incinerator.
 - iii. Sewage is disposed through septic tank and soak pit arrangement.


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- iv. Trade effluent is treated in Collection cum settling tank and recycled to the process for using as scrubbing liquid.
 - v. The flue gas from the incinerator is scrubbed off in the venturi scrubber followed by wet scrubber and vent off through the stack of height 30m from ground level.
 - vi. The bottom ash is packed in sacks and sent to Kodungaiyur dump yard for making paved blocks.
- d. Venturi and wet scrubbers were found to be in dilapidated condition.
- e. Log book is maintained for operation of the plant and it was noticed that entry has been made till 31.03.2025.
- f. The plant has no facility to produce paver block and reported that the incinerated ash is being sent to Kodungaiyur dump yard for further process.
- g. The unit has stored about 500 kg of incinerated ash in plastic sacks and on the open ground. Ash Samples were collected and sent to Board laboratory for analysis.
6. It is respectfully submitted that vide letter No DEE/TNPCB/AMB/New paper article/2025 dated 02.04.2025, TNPCB has addressed to GCC "Not to Operate the plant until it applies and obtains Renewal of Consent from the Board". The plant was again inspected on 07.04.2025. During inspection, it was noticed that the unit was not in operation and no ash found under the bottom of the incinerator.
7. It is respectfully submitted that the AEL, Chennai vide letter dated 15.04.2025 has furnished the RoA of the incinerator bottom ash, which reveals that heavy metals analyzed in the incinerator bottom ash are very high.

Class	Cnstituents	Concentration limit	Concentration in ash reported in Newspaper	Actual Concentration in ash analyzed by TNPCB laboratory
		mg/l	mg/kg	mg/l
A3	Cadmium	1.0	19.22	291.6(Min.)* 364.5 (Max.)**


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A4	Chromium and/or Chromium (III) compounds	5.0	116.63	314.4(Min.) 393.0 (Max.)
A5	Lead	5.0	101.8	349.2(Min.) 436.5 (Max.)
A66	Copper	25.0	-	5425.2(Min.) 6781.5 (Max.)
A71	Zinc	250	-	31176 (Min.) 38970 (Max.)
A68	Nickel	20.0	-	150.0 (Min.) 187.5(Max.)
-	Total Iron	-	-	21667.2 (Min.) 27084.0 (Max.)
A7	Mercury	0.2	-	0.57 (Min.) 0.7125(Max.)
A11	Cyanide	20.0	-	0.06 (Min.) 0.075(Max.)

*(Min.) – considering the density as 1.2 kg/l

** (Max.) - considering the density as 1.5 kg/l

The above table reveals that, the limits of heavy metals present in the incinerator ash are more than the concentration limits prescribed under Schedule II attachment to the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016.

8. It is respectfully submitted that based on the recommendations of DEE, Ambattur vide letter dated 17.04.2025, the Board has issued the following directions under section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, as amended and under section 31A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, as amended to the incineration plant of GCC vide Proceeding No. T5/TNPCB/SWM//F.007169/2025 dated 13.05.2025

K. Srinivasan
5/5/2025
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032.

- a. The unit shall re-commission the operation only after revamping the existing air pollution control measures and providing suitable heat/energy recovery system.
 - b. The unit shall comply with the directions already issued vide Board letter dated 12.06.2020
 - c. The unit shall apply and obtain consent to operate for renewal before recommissioning.
9. It is respectfully submitted that on 29.4.2025, the Hon'ble Tribunal directed TNPCB to inspect and file a report. Based on the above direction, the TNPCB Officials inspected the unit on 14.05.2025. During inspection it was noticed that the unit is not under operation and premises has been kept locked. However no reply has been received from the Greater Chennai Corporation till date for the direction issued vide Board's Proc dated:13.05.2025

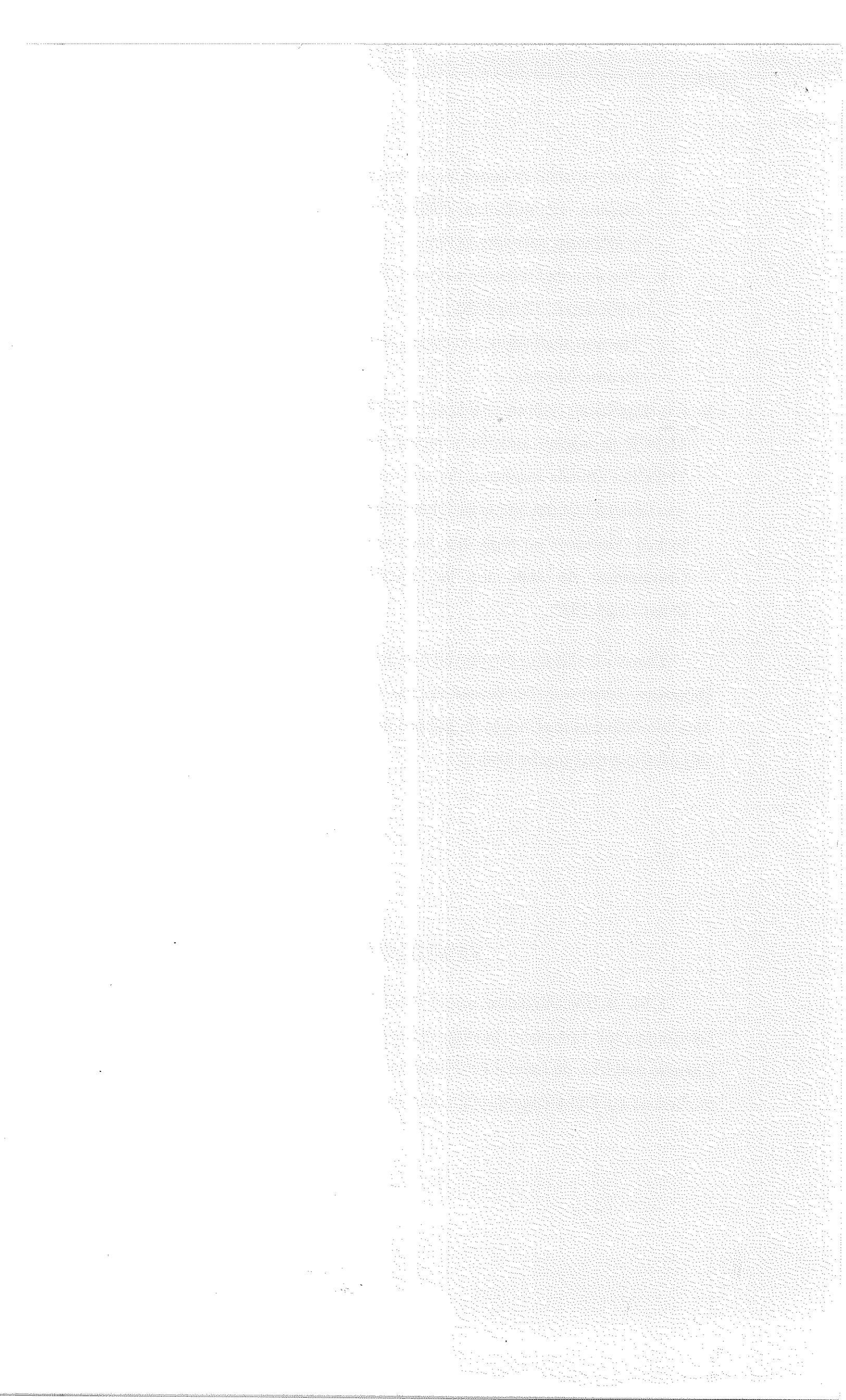
Therefore, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) may be pleased to pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of this case and thus render justice.

K. S. S. 5/8/2025
 JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
 TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,
 No.76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032.

VERIFICATION

I, Mr. S. Bharathidasan, son of Thiru. M.Selvaraj, working as Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, having office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai 600 032, do hereby verify that the contents of above report are true to the best of my knowledge through records.

K. S. S. 5/8/2025
 JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
 TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,
 No.76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032.



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NADU POLLUTION CONTROL
BOARD**

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

Date:05.08.2024

Date of hearing on: 11.08.2025.

