

BEFORE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

OA No. 492/2024

News items titled "NCR sees second landfill fire in 3 days, this time in Bandhwari" appearing in The Times of India dated 24.04.2024

**Reply filed by Sh. Nirmal Kumar, SEE, Regional  
Officer, Haryana State Pollution Control Board  
in compliance of Order dated 25.04.2024**

1. In present OA Hon'ble Tribunal noted the contents of the news article as "The news item relates to the massive fire which has erupted at Bandhwari landfill in Gurugram. The news item discloses that the combustion of methane gas and sparking may have caused the blaze and that there is a higher concentration of gas at the landfill. It appears that there was lack of precautionary measures to ensure that such incident does not take place. The news item also discloses that this is the fourth fire incident reported at Bandhwari landfill in April. Earlier also the landfill had witnessed blazes on April 6, 7 and 17. The report mentions that a thick haze has engulfed the villages around Bandhwari, especially Mangar and such fire in landfill site is a threat to biodiversity and poses health hazard to citizens of NCR. It also discloses that leftover, after processing of the legacy waste, is indiscriminately dumped in surrounding villages which is contaminating the soil."

***Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated 25.04.2024 has directed as follows:-***

*".....5. Hence, we implead the following as respondents in the matter:*

- (1). Haryana State Pollution Control Board through its Member Secretary.*
- (2). RO, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Chandigarh.*
- (3). District Magistrate, Gurugram.*
- (4). Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Gurugram.*



*(5). Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas through its Chairman.*

*(6). Central Pollution Control Board through its Member Secretary..”*

*6. Respondents No. 1, 3 and 4 are represented through Mr. Rahul Khurana, Advocate who has prayed for four weeks’ time to file the report.....”*

2. The answering respondent has asked for Action Plan and remedial measures as site being taken by the MCG to prevent such incidents and to handle such cases. The MCG has reported as under:

**a) General Cause of Fire at SLF**

The most common cause of landfill fires is due to an increase in the oxygen content during the Bio-remediation at landfill which increases bacterial activity and raises temperature (aerobic decomposition) and they are so called “Hot Spots” which come into contact with pocket of methane gas and result in fire. The reflection of the sun rays on the metal and glass present in the waste also causes creation of “Hot Spots”.

**b) Incident at the different SLF at Bandhwari, Gurugram.**

- i. Date: 22/04/2024 Time: around 8.00 PM (Extinguished within 3 hours)
- ii. Date: 21/05/2024 Time: around 03:10 PM (Extinguished within 5 hours)
- iii. Date: 29/05/2024 Time: around 03:00 PM (Extinguished within 30 minutes)
- iv. Date: 01/06/20224 Time: around 01:20 PM (Extinguished within 14 hours)
- v. Date: 04/06/2024 Time: around 03:00 PM (Extinguished within 2 hours)
- vi. Date: 09/06/20224 Time: around 03:40 PM (Extinguished within 4 hours)

**c) Remedial of Fire Incident**

- i. Identification of the Hot Spots by using portable Methane Gas Detectors.

- ii. Excavation of the Hot Spots by using the excavator to create vent.
- iii. Slide cuts of waste.
- iv. Availability of fire Tenders round the clock. (24x7)
- v. Adequate compacting of waste to ensure that there is less air or methane pockets formed that could lead to subsurface fire at SLF site.
- vi. Round the clock monitoring of site. CCTV cameras are also installed for the said purpose.
- vii. Leachate being sprayed by using the Pump and HDPE pipes.

**d) Remedial steps to extinguish fire at Bandhwari site.**

- i. Excavation of area to create gap between area under fire and adjoining area and continuously sprinkling of water/leachate over fire effected waste.
- ii. Water sprinkling & leachate sprinkling by using the pump.
- iii. Step cutting to release methane identified by the detector.
- iv. 24x7 Fire tenders have been deployed by fire department at site

**e) Future step to prevent fire at Bandhwari SLF.**

Fire Action Plan as per CPCB guidelines has been prepared and got approved from fire department, Haryana. However, due to site constraints with respect to treatment of legacy waste in the tune of 8000 TPD and dumping of fresh waste in the tune of 2000-2500 TPD, there is excessive vehicular movement and regular bio remediation activities, the installation of the fixed pipe network required as per approved Fire Action Plan is not possible. Hence, pumping and spraying of water and leachate with the flexible pipe is being done. The storage capacity of water and leachate has already been created at site.

**f) Fire brigade facility**

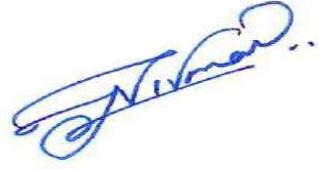
24x7 Fire tenders have been deployed by fire department at site.

**3. Action Taken by HSPCB**

It is humbly submitted that site was jointly visited by CPCB and HSPCB on 25.06.2024. This office has imposed Environmental Compensation @10 lacs per month in compliance of order(s) passed by this Hon'ble NGT in OA No. 606/2018 for the non-compliance of Solid Waste

Management Rules, 2016 at Landfill site at Bandhwari and MCG has deposited EC amount of Rs. 2.80 crore.

The report is being submitted for kind consideration of this Hon'ble Tribunal.



**Nirmal Kumar, SEE  
Regional Officer  
Gurugram Region (N)**