

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, NEW DELHI
(PRINCIPAL BRANCH)**

Original Application No. 414 of 2023

Avtar Singh and Ors.

.....Applicant(s)

V/s

State of Punjab & Ors

.....Respondent(s)

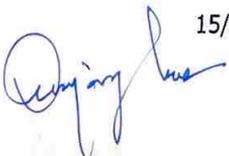
Reply of Punjab Pollution Control Board through Er. Vijay Kumar, Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Fatehgarh Sahib.

Respectfully showeth:

- 1) That briefly submitted the applicants of Village Jargari, Tehsil Payal, District Ludhiana have filed an application before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal alleging that Jargari drain constructed by the villagers crosses under the First Patiala Feeder Canal and outfalls into the Lassara drain and that Lassara, which is a interstate drain, has no outfall and it has become a pond. It is further alleged that 29 MLD sewage treatment plant was constructed for Khanna Town but the said STP plant is not operating and sewage water is flowing to Jargari drain and finally the pipeline has been left open upstream of siphon below the first Patiala Feeder Canal which is not cleaned because the downstream of the siphon i.e. Lassara Drain does not have any outfall. Resultantly, the flow of water is obstructed and the water stagnates in the drain and further overflows and stands in the fields of the applicants and other residents of the area.

It is further alleged that stagnating water is leading to Killing/ drying of the trees in the area and that the test report of the sample of the untreated water shows that BOD Level and Fecal Coliform Level is more than the prescribed standards. It is also the grievance of the applicant that since there is no outfall for flow of the effluent, the untreated/partially treated effluent either keeps on seeping underground or getting stagnated in the ponds or private land of the applicants and other landowners of Village Jargari which has become a constant health hazard.

- 2) That after consideration of the matter, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated 15/09/2023 has constituted a joint committee comprising of the members of the Central



Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Secretary, State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) and District Magistrate, Ludhiana. The District Magistrate, Ludhiana was directed to act as a nodal agency.

- 3) That in compliance to the directions, of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), a Sub-Divisional Magistrate with the members of Joint Committee had conducted the spot inspection of area on 6/10/2023. The Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board has informed that the sewerage treatment plant of 29 MLD capacity was established in the year 2020 for the treatment of domestic effluent of Khanna city. The work of maintenance of the said plant has been given to the Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board for a period of 10 years and the maintenance cost of the plant is to be borne by the Municipal Council, Khanna. The entire Khanna city is connected with sewerage pipeline of approximately 187.51 Km. The untreated water of Khanna city is coming through sewerage pipeline to the sewerage treatment plant of capacity 29 MLD, where the water is treated and cleaned as per prescribed standards. After that, the treated water is used by the farmers through the pipeline laid in the fields by the Department of Soil Conservation. This water flows through the gravity main line and falls into the drain near Jargari from Village Ikolaha, Isadu-Jalajan. According to the record available, this pipeline has been handed over by Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board to Municipal Council, Khanna on 2/12/2021.

This pipeline after entering the Village Jargari passes the village through drain. After that, this pipeline passes under the pond of the Village. Patiala Feeder Canal drains water by going into the siphon below. This place is the starting point of Lasara drain. The land around this drain belongs to Forest Department and is planted with trees. The villagers have been demanding the closures of this pipeline complaining that the pipeline leaks from place to place which get dirty water into the drain and pond of the village. The water stagnates and due to lack of further drainage, all the water enters the Forest Department and affecting the trees and causing foul smell.

- 4) That in compliance to the orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana has filed an affidavit dated 13.12.2023 thereby placing on record the report of the Joint Committee. However, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal was pleased to pass an order dated 15.12.2023 thereby directing for the filing of a Comprehensive Action Plan with regard to remediation and sustainability of steps taken for treatment of effluent/ sewage and protection of Environment.
- 5) That thereafter, a meeting of the officers of Municipal Council, Khanna; Drainage



Department; Central Pollution Control Board; Punjab Pollution Control Board, Block Development Panchayat Officer and Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board was taken by the Sub Divisional Magistrate, Payal, District Ludhiana on 20.12.2023. Thereafter, the meetings were held on 26.12.2023 and 27.12.2023. In the said meetings, it was decided that the sampling would be conducted from the ponds of Village Jargari, Ikolaha, as well as from the manhole and Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). Accordingly, sampling was carried out by the aforementioned Joint Team on 26.12.2023 and 27.12.2023 and the analysis results of the sampling are tabulated below:

S. No.	Parameters	Manhole from Vill. Ikolaha	Manhole from Vill. Nasrali	Surface Water Sample collected from Village Ikolaha		From Pond Vill. Jargari	From Lassara Drain, Vill Jargari, Tehsil Payal	Prescribed Standards
				Pond No. 1	Pond No. 2			
1	pH	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.8	7.6	6.0-8.5
2	TSS	19	19	178	161	22	18	<100
3	BOD	12	10	87	84	12	14	30
4	F.Coli	810	780	70,000	70,000	910	810	<1000
5	SAR	-	-	-	-	-	4.6	-
6	RSC	-	-	-	-	-	4.7	-
7	Ammon. Nitrogen	-	-	-	-	-	BDL	-

- 6) That the examination of the above results reveals that the concentration of TSS, BOD and F. Coli in the wastewater of Village Ikolaha ponds are beyond the permissible limits as prescribed by the Punjab Pollution Control Board.
- 7) It is relevant to mention here that the aforementioned Joint Team of Officers has also collected groundwater samples in the area from the tubewells at different locations of Village Jargari, Tehsil Payal, District Ludhiana on 27.12.2023. The analysis results of the groundwater samples collected by the team of officers are given below:

Sr. No.	Parameters	Tubewell of Gurjat Singh, Village Jargari-downstream of Lassara Drain	Tubewell Installed in Gurudwara Sahib, Village Jargari-upstream of Lassara Drain
1	pH	7.6	7.7
2	Turbidity mg/l	BDL	BDL
3	TDS mg/l	866	303
4	Aluminium mg/l	BDL	BDL
5	Ammonia mg/l	BDL	BDL
6	Boron mg/l	BDL	BDL
7	Calcium mg/l	144	68
8	Chloride mg/l	98	12
9	Copper mg/l	BDL	BDL

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Sr. No.	Parameters	Tubewell of Gurjat Singh, Jargari- upstream of Lassara Drain	Tubewell Installed in Gurudwara Sahib, Jargari- downstream of Lassara Drain
10	Fluoride mg/l	0.6	BDL
11	Iron mg/l	0.4	BDL
12	Magnesium mg/l	36	11
13	Manganese mg/l	BDL	BDL
14	Nitrate as NO3 mg/l	1.72	0.3
15	Total Alkanity mg/l	378	172
16	Total Hardness mg/l	508	215
17	Zinc mg/l	BDL	BDL
18	Cyanide mg/l	BDL	BDL
19	Lead mg/l	BDL	BDL
20	Mercury mg/l	BDL	BDL
21	SAR	3.92	1.72
22	RSC	3.03	0.68
23	F.Coli MPN/100ml	BDL	BDL

- 8) That the survey conducted by the Joint Team of Officers has revealed that the treated wastewater from STP Khanna is currently being discharged into Lassara Drain via a 17 Km concrete pipeline and Village Ikolaha is releasing wastewater from two village ponds into the pipeline designated for the discharge of treated effluent from STP Khanna. Thus, the treated effluent from STP Khanna and untreated effluent from Village Jargari is accumulating in Lassara Drain. It is relevant to mention here that the Department of Water and Soil Conservation has established a pipeline network primarily designed for irrigation with a capacity of 2 MLD. However, the remaining 27 MLD of treated wastewater is currently accumulating and stagnating in the Lassara Drain.
- 9) That it is also observed by the Punjab Pollution Control Board that Municipal Council, Khanna and Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board have not obtained the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 for the 29 MLD capacity STP at Khanna and the STP is currently being operated without the consent to operate of the Punjab Pollution Control Board.
- 10) That keeping in view the facts of the case, the Punjab Pollution Control Board has issued show cause notice for violation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Khanna; Executive Engineer, Punjab Water supply and Sewerage Division, Ludhiana; Executive Engineer, Divisional Soil Conservation Officer, Ludhiana; Block Development & Project Officer, Doraha, District

Ludhiana; Executive Engineer, Drainage-cum-Mining and Geology Division, Department of Water Resource, Sangrur and Executive Engineer, Panchayati Raj, Zila Parishad, Ludhiana vide letter no. 4685-90 dated 12.01.2024 to show cause why action under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 should not be taken within an opportunity of hearing before the Chairman of the Board on 19.01.2024. A copy of show cause notice dated 12.01.2024 is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-A**.

- 11) That in reference to the show cause notice dated 12.01.2024, the officers of various departments namely Sh. Rajesh Kansal, Xen, Panchayati Raj (PR), Ludhiana; Sh. Gurpreet Singh, Block Development and Panchayat Officer (BDPO), Doraha; Sh. Arpit Sharma, SDO, Panchayati Raj Department; Smt. Amitpal Kaur, SDE, Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board; Sh. Ramandeep Singh, JE, Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board; Sh. Harminder Singh, SDO, Drainage Department, Barnala; Sh. Prince Modi, JE, Drainage Department, Barnala; Sh. Harvinder Singh, Sub Divisional Soil Conservation Officer (SDSCO), Samrala and Sh. Charanjit Singh, Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Khanna appeared before the Chairman of the Board for hearing on 19.01.2024.
- 12) That after hearing the officers of the Board and that of the various departments as mentioned in para no. 11 above and after considering the material facts of the case, the Chairman of the Punjab Pollution Control Board decided as under:
- a) The Executive Officer, MC, Khanna shall apply for consents to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 to operate the STP's outlet immediately.
 - b) The Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board (PWSSB) shall operate & maintain the STP regularly & effectively, so as to achieve the prescribed effluent standards for all the times.
 - c) The MC, Khanna shall submit a detailed Action Plan focusing on the strategic utilization of treated effluent from the STP within one month. This plan should explore innovative approaches for using treated water in construction, road dust suppression, dual plumbing and other municipal activities. The plan should include technical specifications, feasibility assessments and implementation timelines.
 - d) The MC, Khanna shall install outlets along the pipeline that carries treated wastewater within one month. These outlets shall facilitate the use of treated wastewater for irrigation purposes by the local farmers. The MC must ensure that



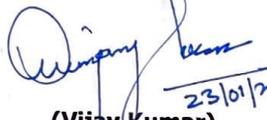
the installation of these outlets is done in a manner that maximizes accessibility for agricultural lands, while maintaining the integrity and efficiency of the pipeline system. The design and placement of these outlets shall consider the ease of access for farmers and the potential agricultural benefits, promoting sustainable water use practices in the region.

- e) The MC, Khanna shall explore the possibility regarding extension of the pipeline connected to STP's outlet by atleast 500 meter into the Lassara drain. This extension should be designed to ensure efficient dispersion of treated effluent, preventing any potential buildup or stagnation near Jargari village after getting approval of the drainage department. The design must include hydraulic modeling to ascertain the impact on the drain's flow characteristics and the surrounding environment.
- f) The Drainage Department shall carryout the de-silting of the syphon and starting point of Lassara drain, so as to facilitate the stagnated wastewater flow through the drain and shall submit the action taken report within 15 days.
- g) The Department of Soil and Water Conservation shall submit a comprehensive Action Plan for the construction of an additional pipeline to utilize the remaining 9 MLD of treated wastewater for irrigation purposes within a period of one month. The Action Plan shall include detailed project timelines, technical specifications with the existing infrastructure.
- h) The Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board is directed to ensure the integration and synchronization of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) with flow meter data to the CPCB/ PPCB Portals. This integration must facilitate real-time data transmission, ensuring data accuracy and reliability for regulatory compliance and monitoring.
- i) The PWSSB shall establish a routine maintenance and calibration schedule for the online monitoring systems. This includes ensuring sensor accuracy, data integrity, and system functionality to provide continuous and reliable monitoring results.
- j) Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj shall be responsible for ensuring that no untreated wastewater from village ponds enters the STP-treated wastewater pipeline. The ponds in villages such as Ikolaha and Jargari are to be desilted and upgraded within three months using specified technology to meet environmental standards.



- k) Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Fatehgarh Sahib shall calculate the Environmental Compensation to be imposed on the MC, Khanna for operating its STP without obtaining consents to operate of the Board as required under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and causing stagnation, within 7 days.
- 13) That the proceedings of personal hearing held on 19.01.2024 before the Chairman of the Board containing the decisions explained in para no. 12 above were conveyed to the officers of the various departments vide letter no. 4773-78 dated 19.01.2024 for compliance. A copy of the letter no. 4773-78 dated 19.01.2024 is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-B**.
- 14) That in compliance to the hearing decision, the Environmental Compensation amounting to Rs. 2,82,00,000/- has been imposed on the MC, Khanna for operating its STP without obtaining consents to operate of the Board as required under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and causing stagnation.
- 15) That the Punjab Pollution Control Board undertakes to monitor the activities and actions of various departments in accordance with the decisions taken and conveyed to departments.
- 16) That the reply of the Board is hereby submitted for kind perusal and consideration of the Hon'ble Tribunal.

Dated: 23.01.2024
Place: Fatehgarh Sahib

Submitted by

23/01/2024
(Vijay Kumar)
Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Fatehgarh Sahib
(On behalf of Punjab Pollution Control Board)



ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਬੋਰਡ
PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

No. 4685-90

REGISTERED

Dated: 12/1/24

To

1. The Executive Officer,
Municipal Council,
Khanna
2. The Executive Engineer,
Punjab water supply and sewerage Division,
Ludhiana, Near Old Court,
Club Road Ludhiana.
3. The Executive Engineer,
Divisional Soil Conservation Officer,
Ludhiana
4. The Block Development & Project Officer,
Doraha, Distt. Ludhiana
5. The Executive Engineer,
Drainage-cum-Mining and Geology Division,
Deptt. of Water Resource, Punjab
Sangrur
6. The Executive Engineer,
Panchayati Raj, Zilla Parishad
Ludhiana

Subject: Show cause notice for violations of the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

Whereas it is mandatory on the part of the authority to obtain consent to operate of the Board u/s 25 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to operate an outlet for discharge of effluents arising from its premises.

And whereas, it is mandatory on the part of the authority to provide adequate and appropriate effluent treatment facilities, so as to contain the various pollutants in the effluents discharged by it within the standards laid down by the Board.

And whereas, it is mandatory on the part of the authority to provide adequate and appropriate disposal arrangements, so as to utilize the treated domestic effluent in the scientific manner in compliance of Environmental Laws.

And whereas, Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) with a capacity of 29 MLD was commissioned at Bahomajra Road, Khanna based on SBR Technology in the year 2020. The STP is being operated by Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board (PWSSB) Department. And whereas, MC Khanna and PWSSB have not obtained consent to operate under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 for the STP and is currently being run without consent to operate under the Water Act, 1974.

And whereas, an applicant has been filed by Sh. Avtar Singh, Village Jhargari, Tehsil Payal, District Ludhiana in the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi vide Original Application no. 414/2023 titled as Avtar Singh & Others V/s State of Punjab & Others

And whereas, the allegations of the applicant are reproduced as under:

"Jargari drain constructed by the villagers, crosses under the First Patiala Feeder Canal and outfalls into the Lassara drain and that Lassara, which is a interstate drain, has no outfall and it has become a pond. Their further plea is that 29 MLD sewage treatment plant was constructed for Khanna Town but the said STP plant is not operating and sewage water is flowing to Jargari drain and finally the pipeline has been left open upstream of siphon below the first Patiala Feeder Canal which is not cleaned because the drain downstream of the siphon i.e. Lassara Drain does not have any outfall. Resultantly, the

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VATAVARAN BHAWAN, NABHA ROAD, PATIALA

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flow of water is obstructed and the water stagnates in the drain and further overflows and stands in the fields of the applicants and other residents of the area.

The stagnating water is leading to Killing/drying of the trees in the area and that the test report of the sample of the untreated water shows that BOD Level and Fecal Coliform Level is more than the prescribed standards. BOD Level of the sample is 55 mg per litre against the prescribed level of 30 mg per litre. Similarly, the Fecal Coliform Level in MPN/100 ML is 94000 against the prescribed standard of less than 1000.

Since, there is no outfall for flow of the effluent, the untreated/partially treated effluent either keeps on seeping underground or getting stagnated in the ponds or private land of the applicant and other landowners of Village Jargari which has become a constant health hazard."

And whereas, the Hon'ble NGT vide its order dated 15/09/2023 has constituted a joint committee comprising of Member of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Secretary, State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) and District Magistrate, Ludhiana. The District Magistrate, Ludhiana is directed to act as a nodal agency.

And whereas, in adherence to the directives from the National Green Tribunal (NGT), a meeting was convened in the village of Jargari by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) with representatives from MC Khanna, Drainage Department, Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) and the residents of Jargari. During this meeting, it was collectively decided to conduct additional sampling from four designated points i.e Manhole rising main Ikolaha, Manhole rising main Village Nasrali, Manhole rising main Village Jargari and the outlet of the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP).

And whereas, according to the above said decisions, sampling was carried out on 05.10.2023 from above said points in the presence of officials of MC Khanna and the results are tabulated as under:

S.no.	Parameters	Outlet STP	Manhole rising main vill. Ikolaha	Manhole rising main vill. Nasrali	Manhole rising main vill. Jargari	Prescribed Standards
1	pH	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.5	6.0-8.5
2	TSS	8	19	27	92	<100
3	BOD	7	24	28	62	30
4	T.Coli	1700	7000	7000	1,70,000	-
5	F.Coli	180	2100	2600	70,000	<1000

And whereas, the analysis results reveal that the concentration of BOD in the samples collected from Village Jargari & concentration of Faecal Coliform in the samples collected from manhole of Rising main Village Ikolaha, Nasrali and Jargari are beyond the permissible limits, as prescribed by the Board.

And whereas, SDM Payal instructed Regional Office, Fatehgarh Sahib on 11/10/2023 to collect the effluent samples from the manhole in Village Jargari, as the MC Khanna had closed the unauthorized inlets. Accordingly, effluent samples were obtained from the manhole in Village Jargari and sent to the Head Office Laboratory in Patiala and the analysis results are tabulated as under:

Sr. No.	Parameters	Manhole rising main vill. Jargari	Prescribed Standards
1	pH	7.6	6.0-8.5
2	TSS	55	<100
3	BOD	65	30
4	T.Coli	2,80,000	-
5	F.Coli	94,000	<1000

From above, it is clear that the concentration of BOD and F.Coli are beyond the permissible limits as prescribed by the Board.

And whereas, the analysis results of samples collected from the outlet of STP are within the permissible limits as prescribed by the Board. Further, It is intimated that the Board has conducted

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sampling of STP on monthly basis and as per the record file, the analysis results of samples collected from the outlet of STP for previous 3 months are within the permissible limits.

And whereas, a meeting was again taken by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate with the officials of MC Khanna, the Drainage Department, CPCB, PPCB, BDPO and PWSSB on 20/12/2023 & 27/12/2023. During the meeting, It was decided that sampling would be conducted from the ponds of Village Jhargari, Ikolaha as well as from the manhole and Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). In accordance with the decisions made in the aforementioned meeting, sampling was carried out on 26.12.2023 & 27.12.2023 and the results of sampling are awaited.

And whereas, the survey revealed that effluent from STP Khanna and untreated effluent from Village Jargari is accumulating in Lassara Drain. The treated wastewater from STP Khanna is currently being discharged into Lassara Drain via a 17 km concrete pipeline. Additionally, Village Ikolaha is also discharging its wastewater from two village ponds into the pipeline designated for the discharge of treated effluent from STP Khanna.

And whereas, the Department of Soil & Conservation has established a pipeline network primarily designed for irrigation with a capacity of 2 MLD. However, the remaining 27 MLD of treated wastewater is currently accumulating and stagnating in the Lassara Drain.

And whereas, the MC, Khanna has failed to obtain consent to operate of the Board as required u/s 25/26 of the Water Act, 1974 and the Authorities have failed to manage the treated/untreated effluent in an environmentally sound manner in compliance of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, as the same is being stagnated in the drain and its surrounding area. Therefore, willfully causing water pollution in the vicinity, thus violating the provisions of said Act.

And whereas, it has now been proposed to initiate action against Authorities action under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 after affording an opportunity of show cause-cum-personal hearing, due to aforesaid violations.

As such, you are, hereby, afforded an opportunity to show cause in person before the Chairman of the Board, in his office at Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala on 19/01/2024 at 11.00 AM to explain, as to why the proposed action under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 should not be taken, failing which it will be presumed that authorities have nothing to say and the Board shall go ahead to take the proposed action under the said Act without giving any further notice/ opportunity.

Endst. No. 4691

Dated 12/1/24

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Fatehgarh Sahib for information. It is requested to get the letter delivered to the authorities through special messenger and he is also requested to attend the hearing on said date.


Environmental Engineer(ZP-2)
For & on behalf of Chairman


Environmental Engineer(ZP-2)
For & on behalf of Chairman

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VATAVARAN DHAWAN, NABHA ROAD, PATIALA

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ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਬੋਰਡ
PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

AIC, Khanna
Proceedings Chairman and AIS - NEW



No. 473-78

REGISTERED

Dated: 19/1/2024

To

1. The Executive Officer,
Municipal Council,
Khanna
2. The Executive Engineer,
Punjab water supply and sewerage Division,
Ludhiana, Near Old Court,
Club Road Ludhiana.
3. The Executive Engineer,
Divisional Soil Conservation Officer,
Ludhiana
4. The Block Development & Project Officer,
Doraha, Distt. Ludhiana
5. The Executive Engineer,
Drainage-cum-Mining and Geology Division,
Deptt. of Water Resource, Punjab
Sangrur
6. The Executive Engineer,
Panchayati Raj, Zila Parishad
Ludhiana

Subject: Proceedings of the personal hearing given by the Chairman of the Board for violation of the provisions of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 to The Executive Officer, The Municipal Council, Khanna, The Executive Engineer, PWSSB, Ludhiana, The Executive Engineer, Divisional Soil Conservation Officer, Ludhiana, The Block Development & Project Officer, Doraha, Distt. Ludhiana, The Executive Engineer, Drainage-cum-Mining and Geology Division, Deptt. of Water Resource, Punjab, Sangrur and The Executive Engineer, Panchayati Raj, Zila Parishad, Ludhiana on 19/01/2024.

The following were present:

From the Board:

- Er. Lavneet Kumar Dubey, SEE, ZO-II, Patiala
Er. Amit Kumar, EE, ZO-II, Patiala
Er. Vijay Kumar, EE, RO, Fatehgarh Sahib

From the Authorities :

- Sh. Rajesh Kamal, Xen (PR), Ludhiana
Sh. Gurpreet Singh, BDPO, Doraha
Sh. Arpit Sharma, SDO, PRD
Smt. Amitpal Kaur, SDE, PWSSB
Sh. Ramandeep Singh, JE, PWSSB
Sh. Harminder Singh, SDO, Drainaga, Barnala
Sh. Prince Modi, JE, Drainaga, Barnala
Sh. Harvinder Singh, SDSCO, Samrala
Sh. Charanjit Singh, EO, MC, Khanna

The officers of the Board brought out that the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) with a capacity of 29 MLD was commissioned at Bahomajra Road, Khanna based on SBR Technology in the year 2020. The STP is being operated by Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board (PWSSB) Department.

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MC Khanna and PWSSB have not obtained consent to operate under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 for the STP and is currently being run without consent to operate under the Water Act, 1974.

An application has been filed by Sh. Avtar Singh, Village Jhargari, Tehsil Payal, District Ludhiana in the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi vide Original Application no. 414/2023 titled as Avtar Singh & Others V/s State of Punjab & Others.

The allegations of the applicant are reproduced as under:

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Since, there is no outfall for flow of the effluent, the untreated/partially treated effluent either keeps on seeping underground or getting stagnated in the ponds or private land of the applicant and other landowners of Village Jargari which has become a constant health hazard."

The Hon'ble NGT vide its order dated 15/09/2023 has constituted a joint committee comprising of Member of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Secretary, State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) and District Magistrate, Ludhiana. The District Magistrate, Ludhiana is directed to act as a nodal agency.

In adherence to the directives from the National Green Tribunal (NGT), a meeting was convened in the village of Jargari by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) with representatives from MC Khanna, Drainage Department, Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) and the residents of Jargari. During this meeting, it was collectively decided to conduct additional sampling from four designated points i.e Manhole rising main Ikolaha, Manhole rising main Village Nasrall, Manhole rising main Village Jargari and the outlet of the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP).

According to the above said decisions, sampling was carried out on 05.10.2023 from above said points in the presence of officials of MC Khanna and the results are tabulated as under:

S.no.	Parameters	Outlet STP	Manhole rising main vill. Ikolaha	Manhole rising main vill. Nasrall	Manhole rising main vill. Jargari	Prescribed Standards
1	pH	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.5	6.0-8.5
2	TSS	8	19	27	92	<100
3	BOD	7	24	28	62	30
4	T.Coli	1700	7000	7000	1,70,000	-
5	F.Coli	180	2100	2600	70,000	<1000

The analysis results reveal that the concentration of BOD in the samples collected from Village Jargari & concentration of Feecal Coliform in the samples collected from manhole of Rising main Village Ikolaha, Nasrall and Jargari are beyond the permissible limits, as prescribed by the Board.

SDM Payal instructed Regional Office, Fatehgarh Sahib on 11/10/2023 to collect the effluent samples from the manhole in Village Jargari, as the MC Khanna had closed the unauthorized inlets. Accordingly, effluent samples were obtained from the manhole in Village Jargari and sent to the Head Office Laboratory in Patiala and the analysis results are tabulated as under:

Sr. No.	Parameters	Manhole rising main vill. Jargari	Prescribed Standards
1	pH	7.6	6.0-8.5
2	TSS	55	<100
3	BOD	65	30
4	T.Coli	2,80,000	-
5	F.Coli	94,000	<1000

From above, it is clear that the concentration of BOD and F.Coli are beyond the permissible limits as prescribed by the Board.

The analysis results of samples collected from the outlet of STP are within the permissible limits as prescribed by the Board. Further, it is intimated that the Board has conducted sampling of STP on monthly basis and as per the record file, the analysis results of samples collected from the outlet of STP for previous 3 months are within the permissible limits.

A meeting was again taken by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate with the officials of MC Khanna, the Drainage Department, CPCB, PPCB, BDPO and PWSSB on 20/12/2023 & 27/12/2023. During the meeting, it was decided that sampling would be conducted from the ponds of Village Jhargari, Ikolaha as well as from the manhole and Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). In accordance with the decisions made in the aforementioned meeting, sampling was carried out on 26.12.2023 & 27.12.2023 and the results of sampling are awaited.

The survey revealed that effluent from STP Khanna and untreated effluent from Village Jargari is accumulating in Lassara Drain. The treated wastewater from STP Khanna is currently being discharged into Lassara Drain via a 17 km concrete pipeline. Additionally, Village Ikolaha is also discharging its wastewater from two village ponds into the pipeline designated for the discharge of treated effluent from STP Khanna.

The Department of Soil & Conservation has established a pipeline network primarily designed for irrigation with a capacity of 2 MLD. However, the remaining 27 MLD of treated wastewater is currently accumulating and stagnating in the Lassara Drain.

The MC, Khanna has failed to obtain consent to operate of the Board as required u/s 25/26 of the Water Act, 1974 and the Authorities have failed to manage the treated/ untreated effluent in an environmentally sound manner in compliance of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, as the same is being stagnated in the drain and its surrounding area. Therefore, willfully causing water pollution in the vicinity, thus violating the provisions of said Act.

Accordingly, show cause notice for violation of the provisions of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 have been Issued to the Authorities with an opportunity of personal hearing before the Chairman of the Board on 19/01/2024.

The representatives the authorities attended the hearing and submitted their respective replies, which were taken on record. The matter was discussed and deliberated in detail.

After hearing the officers of the Board and considering the facts submitted the representatives of the authorities the Chairman of the Board decided as under:

1. The Executive Officer, MC, Khanna shall apply for consents to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 & Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 to operate the STP's outlet immediately.
2. The Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board (PWSSB) shall operate & maintain the STP regularly & effectively, so as to achieve the prescribed effluent standards for all the times.
3. The MC, Khanna shall submit a detailed Action Plan focusing on the strategic utilization of treated effluent from the STP within one month. This plan should explore innovative approaches for using treated water in construction, road dust suppression, dual plumbing and other municipal activities. The plan should include technical specifications, feasibility assessments and implementation timelines.
4. The MC, Khanna shall install outlets along the pipeline that carries treated wastewater within one month. These outlets shall facilitate the use of treated wastewater for irrigation purposes by the local farmers. The MC must ensure that the installation of these outlets is done in a manner that maximizes accessibility for agricultural lands, while maintaining the integrity and efficiency of the pipeline system. The design and placement of these outlets

- shall consider the ease of access for farmers and the potential agricultural benefits, promoting sustainable water use practices in the region.
5. The MC, Khanna shall explore the possibility regarding extension of the pipeline connected to STP's outlet by atleast 500 meter into the Lassara drain. This extension should be designed to ensure efficient dispersion of treated effluent, preventing any potential buildup or stagnation near Jharkharl village after getting approval of the drainage department. The design must include hydraulic modeling to ascertain the impact on the drain's flow characteristics and the surrounding environment.
 6. The Drainage Department shall carryout the de-silting of the syphon and starting point of Lassara drain, so as to facilitate the stagnated wastewater flow through the drain and shall submit the action taken report within 15 days.
 7. The Department of Soil and Water Conservation shall submit a comprehensive Action Plan for the construction of an additional pipeline to utilize the remaining 9 MLD of treated wastewater for irrigation purposes within a period of one month. The Action Plan shall include detailed project timelines, technical specifications with the existing infrastructure.
 8. The PWSSB is directed to ensure the integration and synchronization of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) with flow meter data to the CPCB/PPCB Portals. This integration must facilitate real-time data transmission, ensuring data accuracy and reliability for regulatory compliance and monitoring.
 9. The PWSSB shall establish a routine maintenance and calibration schedule for the online monitoring systems. This includes ensuring sensor accuracy, data integrity, and system functionality to provide continuous and reliable monitoring results.
 10. Department of Rural development and Panchayat Raj shall be responsible for ensuring that no untreated wastewater from village ponds enters the STP-treated wastewater pipeline. The ponds in villages such as Ekolaha and Jarkhari are to be desilted and upgraded within three months using specified technology to meet environmental standards.
 11. Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Fatehgarh Sahib shall calculate the Environmental Compensation to be imposed on the MC, Khanna for operating its STP without obtaining consents to operate of the Board as required under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and causing stagnation, within 7 days.

You are requested to ensure the compliance of hearing decisions, within stipulated period and submit report at Regional Office.

Endst. No. 4779


Environmental Engineer (ZP-II)
For & on behalf of Chairman
dated 19/1/2024

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Fatehgarh Sahib for Information and necessary action. He is requested to ensure the compliance of decisions of the hearing and submit report at the earliest.


Environmental Engineer (ZP-II)
For & on behalf of Chairman