

2081

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 619 OF 2022

IN THE MATTER OF:

Mast Ram

...Applicant

Versus

State of Himachal Pradesh

...Respondent

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Filed by



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New Delhi

Dated: 18.09.2024

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NOTE PREPARED BY THE AMICUS CURIAE

FOR THE HEARING DT. 18.09.2024

1. This Hon'ble Tribunal appointed the Amicus Curiae vide Order dt. 21.08.2024 to assist the Tribunal on behalf of the Applicant and further granted liberty to the Amicus to inspect the site in question.
2. The Amicus accordingly made a visit to the Site / Plant of the Respondent no. 5 (project proponent) on 14.09.2024 in the presence of the officials of the Himachal Pradesh Pollution Control Board. During the visit, the Amicus interacted with the officials of the Respondent no. 5, the officials of the HPPCB and the Applicant (Mast Ram) and the Village Pradhan and other villagers of Masulkhana Village, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh.

3. Submissions and Recommendations by the Amicus:

- a. **The Common Equalisation Tank**, where the Effluent is being stored is open to air and thereby exposed to elements of nature. (See Photograph attached to the Note). The Tank needs to be covered to prevent any spillage or release of the untreated effluent.
- b. The unit should provide **additional standby Multi Effect Evaporator (MEE)** of adequate capacity to avoid any chance of failure of the system during the maintenance period of the existing MEE or any breakdown. (Also recommended by the HPSPCB in the Verification Report dt. 17.08.2024)
- c. The Boiler is currently being operated using Low Sulphur Heavy Stock (LSHS) as the fuel. In view of the serious complaints / concerns of the Applicant and the other villagers, regarding emissions and adverse effect on their health, the unit can be directed to shift the cleaner fuel options for the Boiler such as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) or High-Speed Diesel (HSD).
- d. The final treated effluent from the RO system is being used in Cooling Towers. The unit should provide more accurate final mode of disposal. The unit should provide

evaporator for the disposal of final treated effluent, or the unit should mix the treated effluent into intake water tanks.

- e. The Villagers have complained that Effluents are being released into the adjoining Nallah at night time when there is nobody to monitor the same. To assuage the fears of the Villagers, the Unit should install lights along the boundary wall facing the nallah to ensure proper recording of the nallah in night hours.
- f. The Unit should provide 4 additional cameras along entire stretch of boundary wall facing the nallah and the real time video feed should be provided to the HPSPCB to monitor the Nallah round-the-clock. The footage of the CCTV should be backed up for a period of 3 months to enable any future verification by the HPSPCB.

4. **Additional Submissions and Recommendations**

- a. In view of the complaints of the villagers regarding the air and water pollution, a health survey of villagers who are living in the close proximity of the Unit may be conducted by the Health Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh.
 - b. In view of the complaints regarding premature death of the cattle, a survey of domestic cattle of the villagers living in close proximity to the unit may be conducted by Animal Husbandry Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh.
5. The Amicus Curiae is ever obliged for the opportunity to assist the Hon'ble Tribunal and serve the cause of justice.

Filed by



New Delhi
Dated: 18.09.2024

D. ABHINAV RAO
Amicus Curiae

ANNEXURE: A-1

3

2084



4

2085



2086

5



14-Sept-2024 1:00:08 pm
30.8659843N 76.9518833E
Shalu Khurd
Shimla Division
Himachal Pradesh

2087

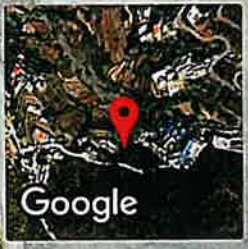
6



RESERVOIR
CAPACITY 20KL

GPS Map Camera

Shalu Khurd, Himachal Pradesh, India
Patta masulkhana village marg, VX82+98Q, Shalu Khurd, Himachal Pradesh 173220, India
Lat 30.866708°
Long 76.95069°
14/09/24 01:38 PM GMT +05:30



Google

2088

7



2089

M/s Morepen Laboratory (ETP Flow Chart)

8

Process Effluent (03 Type of Streams generated from process)

1st Stream (High COD, Low TDS, Average effluent flow = 7 KLD)

↓
→ Solvent Stripper (Capacity 12 KLD) → Solvent → Sale

2nd Stream (Low COD, High TDS, Average effluent flow = 28 KLD)

3rd Stream (Low COD, Low TDS, Average effluent flow 10 KLD)

Annexure A-2

↓
Common Equalization Tank (Capacity = 30.3 KLD, Retention time = 19 Hrs)

↓
Primary Settling Tank (Capacity = 7.4 KLD)

↓
4 Stage Multi Effect Evaporator (Capacity = 72 KLD)

← ↓ ↓
Distillate from MEE

← ↓ ↓
Concentrate from MEE

↓
Activated Sludge Process (1st & 2nd Tanks)
Total Capacity all 03 Tanks (251 KL)
ASP 1st & 2nd Tank total capacity - 162 KL

↓
ATFD (Capacity = 300 kg/hr)

↓
Secondary Settling Tank-1
(SST 1 capacity - 12.05 KL)

↓
Dry Salt for disposal (TSDF)

↓
Activated Sludge Process (3rd Tank)
(ASP 3rd Tank capacity - 89 KL)

↓
Secondary Settling Tank-2
(SST 2 Capacity = 12.05 KL)

↓
Dual Stage- Reverse Osmosis System
(RO Capacity = 60 KLD)
(RO Feed rate/pump capacity = 3.3 kl/hr)
(Anti-scaling dosing system provided)

← ↓ ↓
R.O. Permeate
(Average treated effluent = 27 KL)

← ↓ ↓
R.O. Reject
(Average RO Reject = 7.2 KL)

↓
Used in Cooling Towers

↓
Sent back to MEE for disposal