

BEFORE THE HONORABLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
Principal Bench, New Delhi
OA No. 628/2024

In the Matter of:

Cdr. Alok Mohan (Applicant)

vs.

Kubota Tractor Industry and Others (Respondents)

Escorts Kubota Manufacturing Processes near Residential Area - Submission of Objections

Most Respectfully Showeth:

1. Background

During the hearing on **21 January 2025**, I, the undersigned applicant, was directed to submit detailed objections based on the manufacturing processes undertaken by the Kubota Tractor Industry. I hereby submit the following facts, observations, and concerns for the kind consideration of this Hon'ble Tribunal.

- 2.** The Applicant further respectfully submits that Sector 15-A is officially designated as a residential area as per the records of the Haryana State Urban Development Authority and the Faridabad Tehsil. It is pertinent to note that during the years 2016-2017, Respondent No. 1, Escorts Kubota, was fully aware of this fact. Therefore, the assertion made by the learned counsel for Respondent No. 1, on 21 Jan 2025, claiming that Sector 15-A is an industrial area, is factually incorrect and misleading.

3. Objections Related to Manufacturing Processes

While I am not an expert in tractor manufacturing, my research and understanding of industrial practices in this sector reveal several processes that contribute significantly to pollution. Major processes and their associated pollutants are summarized below:

(A) Key Manufacturing Processes

(i) **Raw Material Processing:** Involves extraction and preparation of metals, emitting particulate matter (PM), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and heavy metals.

(ii) **Machining and Assembly:** Generates noise, dust, and metal shavings. The use of coolants releases VOCs.

(iii) **Surface Treatment (Electroplating and Painting):** Includes cleaning, electroplating, and painting of tractor parts, generating VOCs, hazardous air pollutants, wastewater, and sludge.

(iv) **Welding and Fabrication:** Produces hazardous fumes containing metal oxides.

(v) **Quality Control and Testing:** Involves noise pollution and engine emissions during performance evaluation.

(vi) **Transportation:** Creates Air pollution due frequent traffic jams & exhaust of heavy duty vehicles and noise pollution

(B) Pollutants and Consequences

(i) **Air Pollution:** VOCs, nitrogen oxides (NOx), particulate matter, and isocyanates degrade air quality, posing health risks and contributing to climate change.

(ii) **Water Pollution:** Runoff containing heavy metals, cyanides, and chemicals contaminates local water bodies.

(iii) **Noise Pollution:** High noise levels from machinery and testing impact workers and nearby communities.

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4. Specific Concerns with Surface Treatment Processes

- (i) **Cleaning Processes:** Use of solvents, acids, and detergents releases VOCs, heavy metals, acid fumes, and oil residues, leading to water and air pollution.
- (ii) **Electroplating:** This process involves heavy metals like chromium, nickel, and cadmium, along with acid/alkaline mist and cyanides. Effluents from electroplating processes contribute to toxic sludge and contaminated wastewater.
- (iii) **Painting:** Solvent-based paints release VOCs, isocyanates, and particulate matter. Improper handling results in hazardous solid waste, such as spent filters and paint sludge.

5. **Mitigation and Limitations:** While modern pollution control measures (e.g., effluent treatment plants, VOC capture systems, scrubbers) are available, they are not 100% effective due to:

- (i) **Technical Limitations:** Incomplete capture of fugitive emissions and trace pollutants.
- (ii) **Residual Wastes:** Pollutants shifted into sludge or captured emissions require further disposal.
- (iii) **Human and Operational Factors:** Inefficient maintenance and non-compliance with protocols reduce effectiveness.
- (iv) **Cumulative Impacts:** Persistent pollutants like heavy metals and VOCs significantly affect local ecosystems. Even with mitigation, the cumulative environmental impact of multiple facilities in a region can be significant, particularly for persistent pollutants like heavy metals or VOCs. I am given to understand that the spectrometric analysis is commonly employed to assess water quality and determine its suitability for human consumption. However no such records are available with the respondents & have been provided by the respondents to the honorable tribunal.

6. **Incident Report** - I had personally noticed a strong chemical odor over several days near the industrial premises, which diminished only after complaints were raised, by me. Subsequently, I learned that the exhaust fan direction was altered, redirecting emissions presumably towards **Krishna Colony** on the Delhi-Mathura Highway. This raises grave concerns about the deliberate dispersion of pollutants towards residential areas.

7. **Prayer to the Hon'ble Tribunal** - In light of the above, I respectfully request this Hon'ble Tribunal to:

- (i) Direct, formation of a high-level committee comprising environmentalists, technocrats, and professionals to assess the environmental impact of the Escorts Kubota Tractor Industry on local communities.
- (ii) Ensure that stringent environmental audits are conducted, and comprehensive mitigation measures are implemented.
- (iii) Consider relocating such dangerously polluting operations away from residential areas to prevent further harm to the health and well-being of residents.

8. **Conclusion:** The pollutants emitted by the Kubota Tractor Industry pose significant risks to the environment and local communities. It is imperative that immediate and comprehensive action is taken to mitigate these impacts and safeguard public health. A comprehensive list of pollutants from tractor industry is attached herewith for information.

Submitted with utmost respect and sincerity.

Date: 26 January 2025

Place: Faridabad

Yours Faithfully,

Cdr. Alok Mohan (Applicant) M: 9871702724

House; 901/15-A, Faridabad-121007. Enclosure: As above

Enclosure – 1.

In the Matter of:

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v.

Kubota Tractor Industry and Others (Respondents)

Sub: Escorts Kubota Manufacturing Processes near Residential Area - Submission of Objections

Pollutants from the Manufacturing Industry

The manufacturing industry, including tractor manufacturing, generates a wide range of pollutants during various processes. These pollutants affect air, water, and soil, posing severe risks to the environment and human health. Below is an expanded overview:

1. Air Pollutants

- **Particulate Matter (PM):**
Fine dust, smoke, and fumes from welding, machining, and combustion processes contribute to respiratory illnesses and smog formation.
- **Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs):**
Released during cleaning, painting, and solvent use, VOCs contribute to ozone formation and smog.
- **Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs):**
Substances like benzene, toluene, and formaldehyde emitted during painting, coating, or chemical processes are toxic and carcinogenic.
- **Greenhouse Gases (GHGs):**
Carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O) are emitted from energy use and combustion processes, contributing to climate change.
- **Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) and Sulfur Oxides (SOx):**
Emissions from fuel combustion lead to acid rain, respiratory problems, and environmental degradation.

2. Water Pollutants

- **Heavy Metals:**
Chromium, nickel, cadmium, zinc, and lead from electroplating, metal finishing, and cooling processes accumulate in water bodies and aquatic life, causing toxicity.
- **Oil and Grease:**
Discharges from machinery maintenance contaminate water and disrupt aquatic ecosystems.
- **Chemical Effluents:**
Acids, alkalis, cyanides, and phosphates from cleaning, etching, and electroplating are toxic to aquatic life and human health.
- **Suspended Solids:**
Sediments, paint residues, and particulate matter in wastewater reduce water quality and affect aquatic ecosystems.
- **Thermal Pollution:**
Discharges of heated water from cooling systems raise water temperatures, harming aquatic life.

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3. Soil Pollutants

- **Sludge Contamination:**
Toxic sludge from effluent treatment plants contains heavy metals and hazardous chemicals, leading to long-term soil contamination.
- **Chemical Spills:**
Accidental spills or improper disposal of chemicals lead to soil contamination and leaching into groundwater.

4. Noise Pollution

- Generated from heavy machinery, testing, and assembly lines, noise pollution affects workers' hearing and causes stress and disturbance to nearby communities.

5. Solid Waste

- **Industrial Waste:**
Includes scrap metal, defective parts, and packaging materials that require proper disposal or recycling.
- **Hazardous Waste:**
Paint sludge, contaminated filters, and used chemical containers pose risks if improperly handled.

6. Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

- Many manufacturing processes release persistent pollutants, such as dioxins and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which remain in the environment for decades and accumulate in the food chain.

7. Cumulative Impact

- The combined emissions of air, water, soil, and solid pollutants from manufacturing industries significantly degrade environmental quality, affect biodiversity, and pose health risks to workers and nearby communities.

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Cdr. Alok Mohan (Applicant)

M: 9871702724

House; 901/15-A, Faridabad-121007.

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IN THE Principal Bench of National Green Tribunal, New Delhi.

Original Application No: 628/2024.

Cdr Alok Mohan S/o Dr. Mehta Vasishtha Dev Mohan
R/o H. No. 901, Sector-15A, Faridabad
(Applicant)

Vs.

Escorts Kubota (P) Limited & Ors
Sector 15-A, Faridabad, Haryana.
(Respondents)

I, Cdr Alok Mohan, make oath/solemnly affirm that I forwarded my reply/objections, to the respondents by E Mail, as was mentioned in the said order by honorable Principal bench of NGT, New Delhi, on 21 Jan 2025.

I have also posted my reply, to the respondents, to-date, by registered post

Sworn at Faridabad

This 24th day of January 2025

Before me.

VERIFICATION :-

Verified that the contents of my above said affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed therein.

ATTESTED AS IDENTIFIED

Notary Faridabad (Haryana)

DEPONENT

DEPONENT

I know the Dependent and He/She
Signed Print. His/Her Thumb
Impression in My presence