

Minutes of Sixty Fifth meeting of Task Force on Graded Response Action Plan held on September 29, 2020 at CPCB, Delhi

Sixty fifth meeting of Task Force on Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), was convened on September 29, 2019 through Video Conference. The meeting was chaired by Dr Prashant Gargava, Member Secretary, CPCB. List of participants is annexed.

MS, CPCB briefed the members about the present air quality scenario and the overall improvement in air quality observed this year, owing to the restrictions placed on emission sources due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He informed that CPCB has been consistently interacting with State Pollution Control Boards and other implementing agencies to impress upon that pre-emptive actions are taken and appropriate mechanism is in place to tackle deterioration of air quality in coming winter season. He requested Dr V. K, Soni, IMD for meteorology forecast in coming days. Dr. Soni informed that dry conditions are prevailing in almost all of north India and strong winds (10-20 kmph) are expected to continue till 2nd October. As a result, air quality is expected to be in moderate category for the next 7-10 days.

Task Force took stock of the preparedness of DPCC and NCR Pollution Control Boards in view of the upcoming winter season. Representatives of DPCC, HSPCB, UPPCB and RSPCB informed about the actions being taken in their respective areas with emphasis on dust mitigation measures, MSW management and Management of C&D waste.

After deliberations, Task force recommended the following:

1. All implementing agencies must deploy adequate teams, especially in hotspot areas and take measures to check polluting activities.
2. Waste (C&D debris, plastic waste, MSW) dumped on open land and roadside must be cleared.
3. Industries, particularly Red & Orange category, to provide undertaking to State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committees assuring adherence to prescribed norms, use of only authorized fuel, taking due pollution prevention & control measures, and not to operate without adequate pollution control measures.
4. Large construction projects including highways and Metro to provide undertaking to State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees assuring adherence to prescribed norms/guidelines and taking adequate measures for dust management.
5. All implementing agencies to ensure that complaints received on SAMEER and social media platforms are resolved within 24 hours, and provide weekly action taken report to respective ROs of SPCBs/PCCs and compiled report to be forwarded by SPCBs/PCC to CPCB every Monday.

List of participants (All through video conferencing):

1. Dr. Prashant Gargava, Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board.
2. Dr. V. K. Soni, Scientist 'E', India Meteorological Department
3. Dr. M.P. George, Scientist, Delhi Pollution Control Committee
4. Sh. Praveen Kumar, RO (Noida), Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board
5. Sh. Utsav Sharma, RO (Ghaziabad), Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board
6. Dr Archana Diwedi, RO.(Greater Noida), Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board
7. Sh. Ashutosh Chauhan, RO (Bulandshahr), Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board
8. Sh. Yogender Kumar, RO (Meerut), Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board
9. Sh O.P Gupta RO (Alwar), Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board
10. Sh. Vivek Goel , Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board
11. Smt Neha Saharan,AEE from Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Gurugram North
12. Sh. P.K. Gupta, Additional Director, Central Pollution Control Board
13. Sh. Sharandeep Singh, Scientist 'D', Central Pollution Control Board