

Minutes of the 20th meeting of Project Appraisal & Approval Committee (PAAC-EPC)

The 20th meeting of PAAC-EPC, chaired by Chairman, CPCB, was held on October 13, 2020 via video conferencing. List of participants is placed at Annexure – I.

02. Chairman, CPCB welcomed the members to the meeting. Head, AQM division briefed the committee members about the status of EPC funds. A total of 106 proposals have been received, of which 80 have been scrutinized and placed before the committee and 26 proposals are to be placed before the committee for consideration. So far, committee has sanctioned 28 projects and 16 projects have been rejected by the committee.

03. Chairman, CPCB enquired about the tentative cost for the 7 projects which were approved as per actual cost and desired that the same be informed to the committee in next meeting.

04. Subsequently, Head, AQM division apprised the committee about the agenda of the meeting. The final findings of two projects, two fresh proposals and one proposal for extension was placed before the PAAC-EPC for consideration. The observation and decisions of the committee are summarized below:

A. CPCB field visits for feedback on air polluting activities in Delhi-NCR

AQM division briefed the committee about the proposal to deploy 50 teams of CPCB officials in Delhi-NCR for carrying out field visits and subsequently identify issues and sensitize agencies in the area, with proposed expenditure of Rs. 54 lakh. It was informed that similar exercise was carried out in 2019 as well, with deployment of 46 teams. The Committee enquired whether the proposed activity can be considered as the proposal to be funded under EPC funds. In this regard, it was informed that a Concept Note on Utilization of Environment Protection Charge (EPC) Funds, was submitted by CPCB in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Subsequently, an expression of Interest & Proposals for Projects/ Studies on Improvisation & Management of Air Quality in Delhi NCR under EPC funds was published on CPCB website.

Under Section 2 (v), specific Projects to control pollution in Delhi – NCR & Punjab can be taken up. These include Air Quality management plan w.r.t Delhi-NCR region, Management



plan for averting severe episodic events and Location specific/hotspot air quality management plans. Since the field visits are to be made by the identified officials in designated areas, and are meant to address the air quality issues in the area, thereby attempting to mitigate deterioration in air quality, the activity may be funded under EPC funds.

The PAAC-EPC committee approved the project.

B. Deployment and Evaluation of air purification units for traffic junction pollution abatement in Delhi

Dr. Rakesh Kumar and Sh. Sunil Gulia presented the findings of WAYU (Wind Augmentation and Purification Unit) project to the committee. The project was awarded in August 2018 to NEERI at a cost of Rs 265.22 lakh plus taxes and additional civic charges. Under the project, 54 WAYU units were deployed at five traffic junctions viz., ITO, Shadipur, Wazirpur, Bhikaji Cama Place and Anand Vihar. WAYU units deployed had two designs viz., S-shape which was available with flow rates of 1,250m³/s and 2,500m³/s, and other mushroom shape which had a flow rate of 2,500m³/s. The study was completed in March 2020 and PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} filtration efficiency was reported to be between 32-49 % and 16-25%. Committee members expressed that the data and findings presented in the final report needs to be articulated in a better way and advised to re-submit the report for proper interpretation by the public. Dr. Rakesh Kumar agreed with the views of the committee.

Further, NEERI submitted a new proposal "Operation of Air Purification Units for Pollution Abatement at Traffic Intersection in Delhi". The objective of the proposal is to operate all WAYU units at the same five locations in Delhi where these units were deployed in 2019, to analyse particle size distribution pattern and chemical characterization of collected dust for each site for selected samples. The committee enquired about the new additions that can be incorporated in the proposal to add value to the study and whether the installed WAYU devices can be relocated, after considering the results of the last study. Director, NEERI informed that the last study did not quantitatively evaluate the reduction in VOCs and CO. Further, there are new filter designs for WAYU that have been tested, which could be implemented.



The committee was of the view that WAYU devices should be operated in current winter season only and asked NEERI to submit a revised proposal by including the new elements that can be incorporated in this study, after considering the optimizations based on the data gaps and findings of the previous study.

C. Does Poor Air Quality from Crop burning in close proximity to residential areas adversely affects respiratory health:

The committee was informed that the study had been awarded in November 2018 at a cost of Rs 50.19 lakh plus taxes to TERI for assessment exposure of nearby population in burning and non-burning seasons and assessing health effects. Dr. Meena Sehgal from TERI apprised the committee about the findings of the study. The committee recommended to forward the final report along with the findings and recommendations to DST for examination and comments.

**D. Evaluation of modelling techniques for Local air quality management planning in Delhi
&**

E. Proxy relationship of ultrafine particles number concentration, new particle formation and its growth rate in transport microenvironment in Delhi

Findings of the project could not be discussed and it was decided that it could be taken up in the next meeting.

05. Meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.





List of Participants:

1. Sh. Shiv Das Meena, Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board
2. Dr. Prashant Gargava, Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board
3. Sh. Sundeep, Director, CP Division, MoEF&CC (via VC)
4. Sh. Manoj Srivastava, Deputy Secretary, IFD, MoEF&CC (via VC)
5. Sh. S. K. Geeva, Under Secretary(MVL), MoRTH (via VC)
6. Sh. Sushil T Williams, Deputy Secretary (Oil Refinery), MoPNG (via VC)
7. Dr. J.B.V. Reddy, Scientist 'E', DST (via VC)
8. Dr. V.K. Soni, IMD (via VC)
9. Sh. R. K. Jaiswal, Development officer, DHI (via VC)
10. Member Secretary, RSPCB
11. Dr. Rashid Hasan, Advisor., SIAM (via VC)
12. Sh. Sakti Singh, RO, Gurugram, HSPCB (via VC)
13. Sh. Praveen Kumar, RO, Noida, UPPCB (via VC)
14. Representative, RO, Greater Noida, UPPCB (via VC)

List of Proponents:

1. Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Director, NEERI (via VC)
2. Sh. Sunil Gulia, NEERI (via VC)
3. Dr. Meena Sehgal, Fellow, TERI (via VC)
4. Ms. Mahima Uttreja, TERI (via VC)
5. Dr. Sumit Sharma, Asso. Professor, TERI (via VC)
6. Sh. Shivang Agrwal, TERI (via VC)
7. Sh. R. Suresh, TERI (via VC)
8. Dr. Rajeev Kumar Mishra, Asst. Professor, DTU (via VC)

CPCB Officials:

1. Sh. P. K. Gupta, Sc. 'E' and Head, AQM
2. Sh. Ankush Tewani, Scientist 'D', AQM
3. Sh. Sharandeep Singh, Scientist 'D', AQM
4. Ms. Sakshi Batra, SSA, AQM
5. Sh. Gautam Sharma, Scientist 'B', AQM
6. Sh. Toshesh Bhargava, SRF, AQM
7. Sh. Rajendra, SA, IT Division

