

Proceedings of the Fifth meeting of NGT Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Pritam Pal, Former Judge, Punjab & Haryana High Court on 23.07.2019 at 3.00 PM to review the progress on implementation of Action Plans for abatement of pollution in Rivers

AgendaNo.5.1 Leave of Absence

1. The following Members of the Committee attended the Meeting:

Members of the Committee	Sh. Subodh Agrawal
	Sh. Sanjay Kumar, IAS, ACS, Special Invitee
	Dr. Babu Ram
	Sh. Balbir Singh Seechewal
	Sh. Prema Lal, RPCB on behalf of Sh. Niraj Mathur, RPCB

2. Sh. J.Chandra Babu, CPCB member of NGT Monitoring Committee and Sh. Satish Chandra, IAS, ACS, Department of Home Affairs & Justice, Special Invitee could not attend the meeting because of their pre-occupations.
3. The following Officers from various Departments attended the meeting:

Department of Science, Technology & Environment	Sh. Rakesh Kumar Verma, IAS, Principal Secretary Sh. Pardeep Garg, Joint Director Sh. Gurharminder Singh, SSO Ms. Manak Bola, JRF
Department of Local Government	Sh. Mukul Soni, Chief Engineer Sh. Chand Singla, SDO
PWSSB	Sh. K.P. Goyal, EIC/TA, Sh. Harinder Singh, CE, Amritsar Sh. Jitin Vasudeva, EE, Div-I, Jalandhar Ms. Lata Chauhan, XEN, Patiala
MC, Ludhiana	Sh. Sanyam Aggarwal, IAS, Additional Commissioner Sh. Ekjot Singh, SDO Sh. Harinder Tiwari, GIS Expert
MC, Jalandhar	Sh. Kishor Bansal, SE Sh. Satinder Kumar

PPCB	Sh. S.S. Marwaha, Chairman Sh. Krunesh Garg, Member Secretary Sh. Gulshan Rai, CEE
Department of Water Resources	Sh. R.P. Singh, SE Sh. Ajit Singh, XEN Sh. Ashutosh Kumar, EE, Dr. Arun Kumar, Asstt. Geologist, Sh. Balbir Singh, SDO Sh. Raghav Garg, SDO Sh. Nishant Garg, JE
Department of Water Supply & Sanitation	Sh. Rajinder Singh, CE Sh. N.K. Sharma, Senior Design Expert
Department of Rural Dev.& Panchayats	Sh. Devinder Kumar, SE
Department of Industries & Commerce	Sh. S.K. Sharma, PSIEC Sh. Sandeep Singh, SDE, PSIEC
Department of Soil & Water Conservation	Sh. G.S. Dhillon
Department of Housing & Urban Development	Sh. Tarun Aggarwal, DE, GLADA Sh. Khushpreet Singh, GLADA
Department of Health & Family Welfare	Dr. Jaspal Kaur, DHS, Pb. Dr. Gurjot Kaur

AgendaNo.5.2 Confirmation of the proceedings of the 4th Meeting

Proceedings of the 4th meeting of Monitoring Committee held on 20.06.19 were confirmed.

AgendaNo.5.3 Action taken on decisions of previous meetings and Field visits of the Committee

While reviewing the action taken on decisions of previous meetings of the Committee and field visits made by the Committee, Sant Baba Seechewal, member of the Committee raised the issue of incomplete reports and no action taken reports by the concerned departments and agencies defeating the very purpose of review and monitoring committee set up by NGT.

He cited several instances where no follow up action has been taken by the concerned departments and agencies on the decisions and recommendations of the Committee. He rued at the slow pace of action and continued non-compliance in treating the domestic and industrial effluents. He called for strict

penalties against the concerned responsible officers.

Principal Secretary, Environment while concurring with the delays in the action taken reports, explained that compliance of the decisions and recommendations of the Committee is being followed up not only on case to case basis but also devising suitable regulatory, technical, financial and managerial policies, guidelines and instructions to abate pollution in the rivers.

The Committee noted with concern non-submission of timely action taken reports and directed all the departments that no laxity in this regard shall be tolerated and they shall submit the reports in time failing which concerned officers shall be penalized. The Committee also directed that all the necessary policies, guidelines and instructions to strengthen regulatory, technical, financial and management systems must be in place in next 30 days before the next meeting.

Further, in order to strengthen regulatory system and make it effective, audit of regulatory bodies be also carried out as directed by NGT and report be submitted in the next meeting.

Agenda No. 5.4 Review of monitoring of Water Quality of Rivers

1. Installation of RTWQMS

The Committee directed PPCB that all the 11 RTWQMS shall be operational by 1st Dec 2019.

2. Development of IoT based river water quality monitoring system

The Committee was informed that Punjab State Council for Science and Technology is working with IIT Ropar to finalize an engagement for development of IoT based river water quality monitoring system. IIT Ropar has considerable strength in Water and IoT domains and will be in position to help the State with their research, innovation and expert advice.

A brief presentation on PSCST's study regarding the online monitoring system already installed by different vendors on STPs, CETPs and ETPs was also made. It was proposed that the individual dashboards installed by these vendors need lot of improvement. There shall be a single dashboard with requisite data storage supported by data analytics and artificial intelligence for providing requisite insights.

3. The Committee approved that engagement be finalized with IIT Ropar expeditiously and process for engaging IT partner shall also be expedited. It was also decided that the expenditure on setting up of these systems would be met by PPCB.

Agenda No. 5.5 Review of monitoring of Functioning of STPs in the catchment area

1. 100% Checking of STPs by PPCB for the month of June 2019

The percentage of non-compliance of STPs during the month @ 55% was found to be very high and unacceptable. It was directed that the concerned departments must make concerted efforts to bring it down to 15% during the next quarter and then to 5%.

Keeping in view high percentage of failure and non-compliance, PPCB was directed to continue with 100% inspection of all STPs.

2. Reasons for Non-Compliance of STPs

The Committee noted the reasons for non-compliance of STPs:

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|--------|--------------------------|-----------|
| (i). | Inadequate chlorination | : 10 STPs |
| (ii). | De-silting of ponds | : 6 STPs |
| (iii). | FPU's filled with sludge | : 4 STPs |
| (iv). | Component Breakdown | : 6 STPs |
| (v). | Lack of O&M | : 8 STPs |

In order to improve O&M of the STPs, PWSSB made a brief presentation regarding draft O&M manual. It was decided that

- (i) PWSSB shall start using the draft O&M manual and the same may also be used by other agencies.
- (ii) Further feedback of other concerned agencies involved in O&M such as Department of Water Supply, Urban Development Authorities etc. may be obtained on draft O&M manual. Comments of some of the professional agencies such as NEERI may also be obtained on O&M Manual. The final O&M manual should address all the aspects involved in O&M of STPs and shall be adopted by all the agencies.
- (iii) Expected expenditure on monthly/ annual O&M may also be worked out in respect of various STPs so that suitable policy for deducting the amount from GST devolutions by Department of Finance be made for making available dedicated funds for maintenance.

3. Action Taken by PPCB against Non-Compliant STPs

The Committee noted with concern 97 pending cases. The Committee directed that the pending cases shall be disposed of by PPCB within 45 days, the time limit prescribed in the Act. The Committee also concurred with the proposal that the powers to dispose of the cases shall be

delegated to Regional Officers for expeditious disposal and following an objective criteria, which may be laid down for guidance of the officers.

PPCB to ensure disposal of cases accordingly.

4. Action Taken by Agencies against the Operators/Contractors

The concerned stakeholder departments/ agencies shall make the operators fully responsible for achieving the prescribed discharge standards. In case of failure, penalties must be levied on the operators.

All the Departments were directed to report the details of the penalties levied on the operators as per prescribed format for review. Department of Environment to analyze the data and report in the next meeting.

5. Action Taken against Supervisory Staff

It was noted that no action has been taken against supervisory staff. The Committee decided that in case of continued failures and in the absence of any valid justification on the part of supervisory staff, action shall be initiated against the staff. The Department of Environment to analyze the data and present report in the next meeting.

6. Progress of installation of OCEMS/CCTV

It was informed that against total of 86 existing STPs, CCTVs has been fixed on 48 STPs by various agencies. However OCEMS has been fixed only on 3 existing STPs.

It was directed that all the STPs shall install OCEMs/ CCTVs by 30.11.2019 for effective monitoring, failing which Environmental Compensation be imposed on the concerned Departments / Agencies.

7. Sealing of Bypass System

PPCB shall submit compliance report that all the STPs have sealed their bypass systems as informed by Department of Local Government.

8. Submission of Monthly reports

As noted in agenda 5.3 regarding non-submission of action taken reports, the Committee directed the Department of Local Government & Department of Housing & Urban Development and other Departments/ agencies having failed to submit timely reports to ensure that monthly reports are submitted in time.

In case of continued failure, explanation of the defaulting officers shall be called and action taken against the concerned officer.

AgendaNo.5.6

Review of monitoring of Functioning of CETPs in the catchment area

1. Monitoring of CETPs for the month of June 2019 by PPCB

CETP Leather Complex has been found consistently non-compliant during the last quarter even though performance has improved. The Committee decided that PPCB shall prepare SOP for Officers at different levels for ensuring that CETPs function effectively.

2. Action Taken against CETP for non-compliance

Action taken report against CETP, Leather Complex for non-compliance for past months is pending. PPCB shall take action against the non-compliance of CETP Leather Complex including environmental compensation and report the same.

3. Special Report regarding CETP for Electroplating

PPCB has not submitted report regarding CETP for electroplating units as it is not receiving effluents as per the capacity of the industries and some industries are not giving effluents to CETP at all or partly.

PPCB shall submit the report immediately.

It was informed that PSCST had organized a meeting with the CETP operator to study the existing system of monitoring and suggest further improvement and the same shall be incorporated in the report being prepared for waste water of Ludhiana.

AgendaNo.5.7

Review of monitoring of Functioning of ETPs installed by industries

1. Inspection of ETPs by PPCB during the Month of June, 2019

The Committee observed that PPCB has reduced the percentage of inspections of ETPs from 10% to 8%. Further, no inspections by CEE, Chairman or third party have been carried out as decided earlier by the Committee.

PPCB was directed to ensure compliance and the Department of Environment to take necessary action in case of failure of PPCB to comply with the decisions of the Committee.

The average Non Compliance of the ETPs during the last quarter has been observed to the tune of 29%, which is very high. The Committee directed that it must be brought down to 5% in the next quarter. PPCB shall focus on units, which have greater risk of non-compliance and are likely to pollute rivers.



2. Action Taken by PPCB against Non-Compliant ETPs

Out of the 39 ETPs found non-compliant during the last quarter, action has been taken only against 6 ETPs and action is pending against 33 ETPs.

The Committee directed that pending cases shall be disposed of by PPCB within 45 days, the time limit prescribed in the Act. The Committee also concurred with the suggestion that the powers to dispose of the cases shall be delegated to Regional Officers for expeditious disposal. Objective guidelines may be framed for guidance of the officers.

The Committee directed PPCB to take stern action against the defaulting ETPs by imposing Environmental Compensation. NGT also in its latest order dated 16.07.19 in Shobha Singh case has advised to impose Environmental Compensation. The Environmental Compensation shall be imposed by PPCB as per CPCB guidelines. The failure of the Regulatory Agency to take action shall make it liable for action including recovery of Environmental Compensation and disciplinary action against the erring officers including recoveries as per NGT direction.

4. Installation of OCEMS by Industries

All the 115 industries having discharge more than 50kld have been directed by PPCB to install OCEMS by 31.07.19. The progress for installation of OCEMS was found to be very slow.

The Committee directed PPCB to fix the responsibility of Regional Officers for not achieving the compliance of the order and also levy environmental compensation for non-compliance. PPCB shall submit a report in this regard.

AgendaNo.5.8 Review of progress of setting up of New/Up-gradation of STPs

The progress for setting up of New/up-gradation of STPs was found to be slow. The Department of Local Government has still not revised timelines as per NGT directions. The Department of Local Government to examine the low cost options as being explored for rural areas for the ULBs where funds have not been tied up.

AgendaNo.5.9 Review of Progress of Setting up of new CETPs

1. Action in case of 15 MLD CETP at Ludhiana

The Committee noted with serious concern that 15 MLD CETP, which was to be commissioned by 30th June, 2019 has not been commissioned. SPV has neither obtained electricity connection nor laid the pipes for final disposal of treated effluents. The Committee further noted that PPCB

failed to monitor the project and escalate and resolve the issues in time and thus rendered itself liable for action.

The Committee further noted that lack of commissioning of CETPs is holding further progress in ensuring abatement of pollution in Buddha Nallah and the issue has been pending since long.

The Committee also noted with concern that PPCB has not initiated any action in the matter and directed that PPCB must take action in the matter to penalize SPV including environmental compensation for failure to set up the CETP in time as per action plan.

The Department/ PPCB shall also initiate action against the concerned R.Os and other supervisory staff for not taking timely corrective actions.

2. Action in case of 40 MLD and 50 MLD CETP at Ludhiana

The Committee directed PPCB to ensure to operationalize the 40 MLD & 50 MLD CETPs as per timelines in action plan failing which action including environmental compensation shall be taken. The Committee directed the Department of Environment/ PPCB to put in place a legally binding system for successful operation & management of the CETPs. This issue has been pending since long time and PPCB to expedite the action in this regard.

3. Action in case of 0.15 MLD CETP at Jalandhar

PPCB reported that it has examined the matter for stoppage of work for setting up of 0.15 MLD CETP for electroplating on public protest and reported that there is nothing against the project on merit. PPCB was accordingly advised by the Committee to seek the assistance of District Administration in going ahead of the project.

4. Action in case of other CETPs

PPCB was asked to expedite the work on identifying the need for CETPs across all the Focal Points for which Committee has already been constituted by Department of Industries.

Agenda No. 5.10 Reconciliation of Domestic Wastewater & Industrial Effluents for Ludhiana City

The Committee noted the progress w.r.t. joint mapping by MCL and PPCB of all the textile dyeing units, conveyance systems of three CETPs, major & minor outlets discharging directly into Buddha Nallah on GIS. The relevant data has been corrected and verified by MCL and PPCB.

The Committee was also apprised of the recommendations of various

committees/ agencies for abating pollution in Buddha Nallah in the past including monitoring carried out by Hon'ble High Court. The Committee was apprised that the draft report includes recommendations on various policies and directions to ensure abatement of pollution in Buddha Nallah. The Committee was apprised that PPCB has already drafted legal framework for operation of CETPs, levy of environmental compensation, directions for continuous monitoring and other requisite actions required.

The Committee directed that the report be finalized at the earliest and must address all issues concerning segregation of waste water and treatment of industrial effluents including legal framework so that lasting solution to the pollution in Buddha Nallah could be ensured:

- (i) No new connection or enhancement of existing connection to municipal sewer by MC Ludhiana for discharging industrial effluents
- (ii) No new consent or enhancement of existing consent to discharge industrial effluents into municipal sewer by PPCB
- (iii) All CETPs to be operational as per time schedule given in Action Plans and failing which PPCB shall take action against industry including levying of Environmental Compensation
- (iv) Connections to municipal sewer to be disconnected once connection to CETP conveyance system is established, which shall carry industrial effluents as well any domestic waste from the industrial unit
- (v) Industrial Area cluster comprising some 25-30 units shall also set up CETP and land measuring approximately 3 acres shall be made available for the same.
- (vi) Legal framework for operation and management of CETPs to be put in place
- (vii) Regulatory audit to ensure efficacy of regulatory system in preventing pollution in Buddha Nallah
- (viii) Performance based project for augmenting facilities for domestic waste water, which should take into account actual discharges rather than normative design
- (ix) It shall also cover the capacity of conveyance system in the catchment areas and ensure that no outlet is directly discharging in Buddha Nallah
- (x) Dairy waste shall also be covered in the project ensuring no dairy waste is discharged in Buddha Nallah. Dairies shall also be brought under regulatory regime by PPCB

- (xi) Adequate provisions of maintenance of the facilities being setup
- (xii) Reuse of treated waste water for irrigation and other purposes
- (xiii) Stringent policy for the scattered units not covered by CETPs
- (xiv) Other relevant issues for abatement of pollution in Buddha Nallah

Necessary action shall be taken by the Department in next 30 days. The matter will be reviewed in the next meeting in detail.

AgendaNo.5.11 Review of progress of other miscellaneous issues

1. Progress of setting up of ETPs/Biogas Plants for Dairyand Misc.Waste

MCL reported that it has been decided not to shift the Tajpur Dairies. The Committee directed MCL & MCJ to provide firm timelines for setting up of ETPs & Biogas Plants for management of dairy waste.

2. Release of 200 cusec water to Buddha Nallah

PPCB & MCL have jointly agreed to fund the proposal of Rs. 5.77 crores prepared by Department of Water Resources for release of 200 cusec of water to Budha Nallah on 50:50 basis.

3. Feasibility of reuse of treated waste water of STPs of Ludhiana City

The Committee noted the progress.

4. Feasibility of revival of lower BuddhaNallah

The Committee noted the progress.

5. Preventing dumping of Solid Waste into Buddha Nallah

The Committee noted the progress.

6. Review of the progress regarding organization of Health Check-up Camps

The Committee directed Department of Health to coordinate with PGI for carrying out the epidemiological studies to establish correlation with the diseases caused due to water pollution.

AgendaNo.5.12 Review of Progress for Setting up of Treatment Facilities in Villages

The Committee noted the progress.