



WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

(Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal)

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MEMO NO.: 2375 -358-WPB-SEE-K.O.-GEN/2006

DATE: 07-11-2008

DIRECTION

WHEREAS, **M/S. MEJIA THERMAL POWER STATION (MTPS) OF D.V.C.** (hereinafter referred as MTPS) operating its thermal power plant at Durlabhpur, Mejia, Dist. – Bankura was directed by the Board through an order dated 20th April 2007 to take effective steps for controlling emissions from the coal crushing/ handling operations, fly ash handling from fly ash ponds as also direct emission from boiler stacks. Besides, they were also directed to comply with the CREP conditions specially commissioning dry fly ash collection system and stopping discharge of ash pond overflow.

WHEREAS, the **WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD** (hereinafter referred as the Board) had to issue further order in June 2008 for failure of the unit to comply with the earlier direction allowing six months time for compliance under a Bank Guarantee of Rs.15 lakhs and imposing a pollution const of Rs. 10 lakhs for the failure of the unit to comply with the Board's earlier direction within the stipulated time. This direction was issued on 20.06.2008.

WHEREAS, the Board recently received public complaints against the thermal power station from District Magistrate, Bankura, Upa Pradhan, Latiaboni Gram Panchayat, Shri Sunil Ranjan Mondal, General Secretary, Bankura District Congress Committee & Member – PCC (W. B.), Secretary, Thikadar Mazdoor Union, Mejia Thermal Power Station, Secretary, Latiaboni Gram Banchao Committee alleging non-compliance of Board's earlier order and continuing to cause air pollution affecting the Latiaboni villagers. It was also reported that evacuation of fly ash from one of the ash ponds was causing further increase of secondary emission of dust particles affecting the villagers of Latiaboni village.

WHEREAS, MTPS was inspected by the Board officials on 22-10-2008, 05-11-2008 and 06-11-2008 and following observations were made by the inspecting team:.

1. No dust suppression measure have been taken in the coal crushing unit which is situated very close to Latiaboni village affecting the village by dust gall generated from coal crushing operation.
2. The thermal power station continued to fail to comply with the emission standard with emission of high level of particulate matter from the stacks of the power plant boilers. The photographic evidence was also taken
3. Huge fugitive emission was generated during the excavation of fly ash pond as also during loading and unloading of fly ash in the carriage vehicle for disposing the same in abandoned coal mine pits.
4. The thermal power station is yet to arrange for dry fly ash collection for all the boilers.

WHEREAS, a public hearing was conducted at the Head Office of the Board on 07-11-2008 involving the MTPS and the representatives of the complainants.

NOW THEREFORE, in due consideration of the recent public complaints, recent inspection report of the unit conducted by the Board officials, the **MEJIA THERMAL POWER STATION** of **DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION** having its thermal power plant at Durlavpur, Mejia, Bankura is hereby directed as follows:

- A. M/s. Mejia Thermal Power Station (MTPS) will ensure installation of adequate number of dry defogging diffusers for suppression of coal dust arising out of coal handling and coal crushing operations by December, 2008.
- B. The emission from boiler stacks, especially Unit No.4 will have to be brought under compliance level within December, 2008.
- C. It is also to be ensured that boilers are operated with oil support for minimum possible time.
- D. The excavation operation of ash pond should be done with adequate water sprinkling arrangement for minimizing the secondary dust emission as far as practicable. Excavated ash to be carried in closed vessels. If the same is not available, ash should be transported in trucks adequately covered with tarpaulin so that there is no spillage of ash during transportation.
- E. The transport route, especially through villages should be adequately sprinkled with water using water tankers fitted with sprinklers. All these steps should ensure that no secondary emission of dust is generated during the excavation, loading & unloading and transportation of ash for ultimate disposal in abandoned mine pits. MTPS authority will demonstrate all these action before the representatives of the villagers and the representatives of the District Collectorate for allowing disposal of ash in abandoned mine pits. If the villagers are unhappy with the way of disposal of ash handling, the Board may have to act accordingly.
- F. MTPS Authority will engage medical consultant who will examine the villagers of Latiaboni to assess whether they are suffering from respiratory disorders or any other ailments caused due to exposure to ash and other air pollution problems arising out of the activity of MTPS. In case of any negative findings, MTPS Authority will have to make necessary arrangement for necessary treatment of the affected villagers.
- G. MTPS Authority will have to install air quality monitoring station in Latiaboni village to assess the effect of different steps taken by them.
- H. In case the MTPS Authority fails to ensure minimizing air pollution affecting the villagers, they may have to consider rehabilitation of the villagers in consultation with the District Authority.

This order has been issued after being approved by the Competent Authority of the Board exercising the powers conferred under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 & Rules made thereunder and its subsequent amendments.

In case the unit again fails to comply with the direction within the stipulated time, the Board may have to issue necessary regulatory order without any further reference.

This has the approval of the Competent Authority.

Order

Sd/-

(Dr. D. Chakraborty)

**Chief Scientist & Head-Technical Cell
West Bengal Pollution Control Board**