DIRECTION

WHEREAS, M/s. Santaldih Thermal Power Station (WBPDCL) [hereinafter referred to as the industry] located at Santaldih, P.O. & P.S.- Santaldih, Dist.- Purulia, Pin – 723 146 is a coal based thermal power plant (2X 250 MW units).

AND WHEREAS, a public compliant was lodged before the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as the Board) by the residents of Nabagram, Aguitard, Kumordih, Santaldih bustee & B.C.W. Colony alleging severe air pollution due to spreading of ash during transportation of fly ash in uncovered vehicles.

AND WHEREAS, the industry was inspected by the Board official on 11/05/2016. During inspection the industry was found in operation. Outlet of old guard pond overflow was found to be diverted and joined with the outlet of new guard pond overflow. Outlet of ash pond overflow was found to be stopped by valves and this water was being reused. During inspection no ash evacuation activity from ash pond was going on. As reported, after evacuation from ash pond, ash is disposed to barren land in the state of Jharkhand. No ash was found to be deposited on the road from ash pond to disposal point including Nabagram village during inspection. Approach road towards the ash pond was under repair. It was reported during inspection that ash disposal activity had been stopped since last one month due to public complaint.

AND WHEREAS, the Consent to Operate of the industry is valid upto 31/12/2018.

AND WHEREAS, both the industry and the complainants were called for a hearing at the Head office of the Board on 16/06/2016.

AND WHEREAS, the General Manager of M/s. STPS appearing in the hearing submitted that presently 10,000 MT/month ash is disposed in dry form directly from silo and action is in progress to enhance this quantity to 60,000 MT/month (approx.) phasewise within 3 (three) months. He assured that they would take utmost care to prevent spillage/leakage of ash during transportation and a surveillance/ monitoring committee in this regard will be constituted. He also mentioned that concretization work of the road (approx.750m) will be started very soon and arrangement will be made for soil layering on closed ash dumping area at Jharkhand. The industry will also take up the matter regarding permission for disposal of ash in the abandoned coal mines with M/s. BCCL.

AND WHEREAS, the complainants appeared in the hearing and alleged that they are facing great inconvenience due to spillage of ash during transportation. They mentioned that the villages are situated at one and half kilometer away from ash dumping site at Jharkhand and the dumped dry ash is blown by wind and cause air pollution in the locality.
NOW THEREFORE, considering the above, M/s. Santaldih Thermal Power Station (WBPDCL) located at Santaldih, P.O. & P.S.- Santaldih, Dist.- Purulia, Pin – 723 146 is hereby directed as follows:-

1. **That**, the industry shall always operate its emission control system efficiently for compliance of emission standard in respect of particulate matter and will also comply with the effluent discharge standards on a regular basis.

2. **That**, the industry shall excavate ash from the ash pond with adequate water sprinkling arrangement for minimizing the secondary dust emission and excavated ash should be transported in adequately covered trucks/browsers to avoid spillage of ash during transportation.

3. **That**, the industry shall constitute a surveillance and monitoring committee to closely monitor ash handling and transportation.

4. **That**, the industry shall cover the closed ash dumping sites with soil layer and vegetation to suppress dust emission.

5. **That**, the industry shall take up the matter with M/s. BCCL regarding ash disposal in the abandoned coal mines.

6. **That**, the industry shall take necessary steps on urgent basis for maximum disposal of fly ash in dry form.

7. **That**, the industry shall submit a time bound action plan within one month from the issuance of this direction regarding proper management and disposal of ash including dry ash disposal and removal of ash from the ash ponds.

The Environmental Engineer, Asansol Regional Office of the Board is requested to oversee the compliance of this direction.

This direction is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under the provision of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules made thereunder after being approved by the Competent Authority.

By Order,

*Sd/-*
Chief Engineer
Operation & Execution Cell
West Bengal Pollution Control Board