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WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

(Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal)

Paribesh Bhawan, 10A, Block – LA, Sector III, Bidhannagar

Kolkata – 700 106, Ph. No.: 2202-3097/3096

Website: www.wbpcb.gov.in, Email: net.wbpcb-wb@bangla.gov.in

Memo No.

-7/WPBD-Cont(4951)/11(Part-I)

Date: /12/2024

DIRECTION

WHEREAS, M/s. Durgapur Steel Thermal Power Station (DSTPS) (hereinafter referred to as the industry) located at **NH-2, Andal P.O. & P.S.-Andal, Dist.-Paschim Bardhaman, Pin-713321** was inspected by the **West Bengal Pollution Control Board** (hereinafter referred to as the State Board) official on 24.07.2024 in connection with a complaint submitted by Bhumiraksha Committee (Paschim Bardhaman). The complainant submitted a letter regarding their grievance on flying of ash from the ash pond of DSTPS due to movement of dumpers and handling of ash. They stressed that the all moving dumpers are not covered due to which ash is pouring on road. The complainant submitted that due to ash, the local public health especially of the minors are getting adversely affected.

AND WHEREAS, the Board official visited the Gopalmath village and DSTPS, Andal ash pond area and the following observations were made during inspection:-

A) Visit to Gopalmath Village:-

The inspecting officials met with the members of Bhumiraksha Committee (Paschim Bardhaman), and then the members of the Bhumiraksha Committee showed the affected spot to the inspecting officials. The members of the committee guided the inspection team to the Railway Field adjacent to the Gopalmath village. From the railway field the ash pond bank, situated to the west, was visible. The ash pond bank is situated at higher level from the field. The members complained that dumpers, loaded with ash without proper covering, ply over the ash pond bank from 24 hrs every day. They also complained about storage of ash on the bank resulting in deposition of ash dust in the residences of the Gopalmath village located on the eastern side of the ash pond. No movement of dumper was found at that time though excavator was seen on the bank. Ash layer was visible on the bank at two places of bank slope.

Then the numbers guided inspection team to a cremation ground situated on the south east side of ash pond bank. From there ash pond southern bank was visible and two excavators was found on the bank. Thereafter a small bridge on the Singaran nullah was visited. Members complained about the deteriorating water condition of nullah. Canal water was found clean with growth of aquatic plants. Another concrete bridge adjacent to the southern boundary wall of the industry was visited. Members complained about the deteriorating condition of the Singaran nullah. Nullah is covered with majorly water hyacinth and other plants.

B) Visit to Durgapur Steel Thermal Power Station

After due visit of Gopalmath village, inspecting official reached DSTPS to verify the present status of ash pond. The ash ponds are situated on the land leased from DSP. There are two ash ponds i.e. Lagoon 1 & Lagoon 2. Lagoon 1 with holding capacity of 18.57 lakh m³ with an area of 12.38 hectares and depth of 16.5 mtrs. Lagoon 1 is in presently in service. Lagoon 2 having capacity of 35.03 lakh m³ with an area of 23.35 hectares and depth of 16.5 mtrs. Lagoon 2 was not in service. Evacuation of ash was under progress though work is stopped since last 5 days due to expiry of contract with the existing vendor. Work will be resumed after deployment of agency as informed by the unit representatives.

Andal village is located on northern side at a distance of 86 mtrs. from the bank of Lagoon 1. Dubchuria village is located on north eastern side at a distance of 180 mtrs. from the bank of Lagoon 1. Gopalmath village is located on eastern side at a distance of 278 mtrs. from the bank of Lagoon 1 & Lagoon 2.

AND WHEREAS, thereafter the inspecting official visited the ash pond and the followings observations were made:-

- Ash slurry was being poured into Lagoon 1 from northern side of ash pond. Lagoon 2 was found excavated to the bottom level in the major part of its area. Water was found accumulated in patches in most of the area. Inside lagoon 2 cavity excavations is under progress in south eastern side. No dumpers were found in the ash pond area.
- The ash pond bank is not paved. Gravel road covered with ash is used for movement of the vehicles. DSTPS informed that there is no provision for paved road on the bank. They cited reason of elevating the height of ash pond if required in future.
- No green belt was found on the eastern side of the ash ponds. Plantation of large trees on bank is not feasible as stated by DSTPS. The eastern side of the ash pond banks is low land with a waterbody.
- As informed DSTPS has engaged water dispensing truck for watering the ash pond banks. However, no such truck was found during inspection.
- DSTPS also stated that tree plantation initiative covering an area of 40 hectares (including the eastern side of banks facing Gopalmath village) in collaboration with West Bengal Forest Department has been undertaken. The plantation will be done in this monsoon.
- Erection of 108 numbers water sprinklers along banks covering eastern and northern side of ash ponds is in tendering phase as stated by DSTPS.

One sensor-based monitoring system is operating at Gopalmath Sishu Udyan.

AND WHEREAS, the Consent to Operate of the industry is valid upto 30/06/2029.

AND WHEREAS, the industry was called for a hearing on 03/09/2024 at the Head office of the Board. The complainant was also requested to remain present during the hearing. Accordingly, he was present in the hearing and alleged that they are suffering from air pollution especially during summer season due to dumper carrying fly ash without any cover. He also alleged that the unit has kept fly ash outside from the ash ponds for speedy transportation. During the course of hearing the complainant shown photographs regarding open dumper carrying fly ash.

AND WHEREAS, the representatives on behalf of the industry appeared in the hearing and submitted that they would take necessary steps to mitigate air pollution as complained against them and they stated that no discharge of effluent from the ash pond into Singaran Nullah is occurred. The unit was directed to submit a time bound action plan for minimization of air pollution in the surroundings within 7 (seven) days. But the unit did not submit the same.

NOW THEREFORE, considering the above, **M/s. Durgapur Steel Thermal Power Station (DSTPS)** located at NH-2, Andal P.O. & P.S.-Andal, Dist.-Paschim Bardhaman, Pin-713321 is hereby directed as follows:-

1. **That**, the industry shall monitor round the clock and ensure that dumpers carrying fly ash should be properly covered and it should not be overloaded. Fly ash should be transported in moist condition.
2. **That**, the industry shall install sufficient water sprinkler on the bank of ash ponds immediately and operate the same on a regular basis. Mist canon to be engaged on regular basis particularly during dry season.

3. **That**, the industry shall undertake massive plantation on urgent basis especially on the eastern side of ash pond.
4. **That**, the industry shall submit an action taken report in regard to the above mentioned direction to the State Board at the earliest.
5. **That**, the industry shall execute a **Bank Guarantee (BG)** (proforma enclosed) of **Rs. 20,00,000/-** (Rupees twenty lakhs) only valid for twelve (12) months within fifteen [15] days from the date of issuance of this direction in favour of the **WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (Union Bank of India IFSC Code UBIN0906638)** as an assurance to comply with the environmental norms as well as Board's direction.

The Environmental Engineer & In-charge, Durgapur Regional Office of the State Board is requested to keep a strict vigil on the unit. If the unit is found to be non-complying, the Board will take strict regulatory action against the unit.

This direction is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under the provision of Section 33A of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Section 31A of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules made there under after being approved by the Competent Authority.

By Order,

Sd/-

**Officer-on-Special Duty
(Operation & Execution)
West Bengal Pollution Control Board**

Memo No. 10401 (9) -7/WPBD-Cont(4951)/11(Part-I)

Date: 11 /12/2024

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:-

1. M/s. Durgapur Steel Thermal Power Station (DSTPS), NH-2, Andal P.O. & P.S.-Andal, Dist.-Paschim Bardhaman, Pin-713321
2. The Chief Engineer, Planning & EIM Cell, WBPCB
3. The Senior Law Officer, WBPCB
4. The Environmental Engineer & In-charge, Durgapur Regional Office, WBPCB
5. The FAM, WBPCB
6. T.A. to the Member Secretary, WBPCB
7. P.A. to the Chairman, WBPCB
8. Shri Dhruvajyoti Mukhopadhyay, Bhimiraksha Committee (Paschim Bardhaman), Mejedihi, Gopalmath, Durgapur-713 217
9. Technical Cell, WBPCB for updating the website
- 10 Environment Officer- Communication, WBPCB – for circulation through float file
- 11 Guard file of O & E Cell


**Officer-on-Special Duty
(Operation & Execution)
West Bengal Pollution Control Board**