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Environment

**WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

(Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal)

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Memo No.

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

Date: /05/2025

**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 14/01/2025 to verify compliance status of Direction of the State Board issued vide Memo No. 10401-7/WPBD-Cont(4951)/11(Part-I) dated 11/12/2024 and also in connection with complaint letters of Bhumiraksha Committee (Paschim Bardhaman) dated 19/12/2024 and 30/12/2024. During inspection the following observations were made by the inspecting official:-

- The ash pond dyke of DSTPS was observed from Railway Field adjacent to Gopalmath village when no plying of ash transportation vehicles was noticed. Although two poclains (earth moving equipment) were seen to be stationed on the dyke. No generation of ash dust was seen from the ash pond and the dyke.
- The power plant was in operation with both power generating units running. FGD stacks of both power generating units were being used to vent out the flue gas.
- On visiting the ash pond area, it was observed that out of the two ponds, Pond-1 was in service and Pond-2 was under evacuation stage. A number of poclains was seen to be stationed on the dyke and within Pond-2. However, no evacuation activity was going on during inspection.
- The causeway of dyke, although a Water Bound Macadam (WBM) road, was thickly covered with ash dust at major portion. Many depressions / undulations were seen on the road. Even movement of cars at slow speed was giving rise to enormous air borne dust.
- No water sprinkling arrangement exists on the dyke. No green belt has been developed along the dyke.
- The Secretary of Bhumiraksha Committee (Paschim Bardhaman) alleged that DSTPS carries out ash evacuation activities during the night time and that there was huge dust generation during the morning of 29/12/2024 from the ash pond dyke.
- However, the unit personnel informed that ash evacuation activity is not being done for almost a month and also produced ash utilization reports in support of his claim. No transportation of fly ash was noticed during inspection. However, the unit representative stated that ash transportation is carried out in covered and moist condition.
- Gopalmath village is most likely to be affected by the dust generated from the ash ponds and/or dyke when there is southerly wind.
- The unit is yet to comply with the Direction of the State Board dated 11/12/2024.

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

**AND WHEREAS,** the State Board had earlier issued a Direction to the industry vide Memo No. 10401-7/WPBD-Cont(4951)/11(Part-I) dated 11.12.2024 along with imposition of a Bank Guarantee (BG) of Rs. 20,00,000/-. But the industry did not submit the same. Instead, they have submitted a prayer dated 17.01.2025 requesting for waiver of the said BG. It appears from the inspection report dated 14.01.2025 that the unit is yet to comply with the said Direction of the State Board.

**AND WHEREAS,** the unit was called for a hearing on 04/04/2025 at the Head office of the Board. Shri Dhrubajyoti Mukhopadhyay, Bhumiraksha Committee (Paschim Bardhaman) was requested to remain present during the hearing. Accordingly, he was present in the hearing and alleged that they are suffering from severe air pollution due to dispersion of fly ash from the ash pond of the unit and they requested for relocation of ash pond of the unit. During hearing he showed a video clipping regarding dust pollution in the surroundings created by the industry. He said that 1 no. ash pond of the unit has already been filled up,

but no dredging of ash pond has been done. He also alleged that the unit has not taken any step for concretization of road and no plantation has been done in the ash pond area.

**AND WHEREAS**, the representatives on behalf of the unit appeared in the hearing on 04.04.2025 and submitted that they have taken necessary steps for compliance of Board's direction dated 11/12/2024. They stated that only bottom ash is being sent to ash pond and dry fly ash is being collected in silo. They mentioned that all ash laden dumpers are being covered with tarpaulin sheet to avoid any spillage/flying of ash particles during plying in the haulage route and bulkers carrying dry fly ash are being transported in closed container. However, they informed that pond ash evacuation and transportation are not being carried out from the ash pond since December, 2024. They submitted that tender notice has been floated for installation of mist cannon and water sprinkling arrangement surrounding the ash dyke for controlling of fugitive emission and MoU has been signed with the West Bengal Forest Development Corporation Ltd. for development of green belt surrounding the ash pond area.

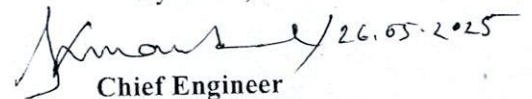
**NOW THEREFORE**, considering the above, **M/s. Durgapur Steel Thermal Power Station (DSTPS)** located at NH-2, Andal P.O. & P.S.-Andal, Dist.-Paschim Bardhaman, Pin-713321 is hereby directed as follows:-

1. **That**, the industry shall ensure that only bottom ash is being sent to the ash pond as per condition of Environmental Clearance. Ash dyke should be kept in moist condition to prevent fugitive dust emissions.
2. **That**, the industry shall submit documents regarding collection of 100% fly ash in silo along with year wise ash evacuation and re-filling plan of the ash pond to the State Board.
3. **That**, the industry shall take necessary steps for making water cushion/layer on the ash pond so as to mitigate the dispersion of fly ash and water cannon should be deployed within a month from hereof.
4. **That**, the industry shall comply with all environmental norms during movement of trucks carrying fly ash and submit details regarding fly ash management with supporting documents to the State Board.
5. **That**, the industry shall develop green belt surrounding the ash pond area on urgent basis.
6. **That**, the industry shall appoint a nodal officer and provide contact details of the nodal officer of the unit so that complainant can inform about any pollution related matter to him. A committee shall be formed by the unit including local people to keep watch on the environment.
7. **That**, the industry shall immediately submit the **Bank Guarantee (BG)** (proforma enclosed) of **Rs. 20,00,000/-** (Rupees twenty lakhs) only which was imposed earlier by the State Board vide Memo No. 10401-7/WPBD-Cont(4951)/11(Part-I) dated 11.12.2024, 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 Board's directions as well as environmental norms.

The Environmental Engineer & In-charge, Durgapur Regional Office of the Board is requested to conduct a fresh inspection of the industry in presence of the complainant to verify the present status of compliance of environmental norms and Board's direction. If the industry is found to be non-complying, the Board will take strict regulatory action against the industry.

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 thereunder after being approved by the Competent Authority.

By Order,

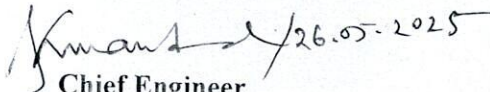
 26.05.2025

Chief Engineer  
(Operation & Execution)

West Bengal Pollution Control Board

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 Finance & Accounts Manager, WBPCB
6. T.A. to the Member Secretary, WBPCB
7. P.A. to the Chairman, WBPCB
8. Shri Dhrubajyoti Mukhopadhyay, Bhumeraksha Committee (Paschim Bardhaman), Mejedih, 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

  
Chief Engineer  
(Operation & Execution)  
West Bengal Pollution Control Board