



WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

(Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal)

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Memo No. 521-WPBA/Complaint(2)/2009

Date: 02/07/2014

DIRECTION

WHEREAS, M/s., Asansol Division, Eastern Railway (hereinafter referred to as the unit) is engaged in loading and unloading activities at the Asansol Goods Shed Siding near Apcar Garden, P.O.- Asansol, P.S.- Asansol (S), Dist.- Burdwan.

AND WHEREAS, the **WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD** (hereinafter referred to as the Board) had issued several directions to Asansol Goods Shed Siding, Eastern Railway to comply with the specific direction of the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta. The Railway authority was earlier directed by the Board vide order dated 20/06/2012 to stop the clinker unloading activity at the siding and also to take action for phasing out of unloading of coal in a time bound manner. The railway authority was further directed on 12/06/2013 to take necessary steps to complete the construction work of Barachak Goods shed to offload Asansol Goods shed within December 2013. The Public Grievance Cell of the Board issued a direction on 17/07/2013 through Record of Proceedings mentioning that the unit shall not carry out loading and unloading of coal, iron ore etc. But it was observed during successive inspections conducted by the Board officials that the unit is still carrying out loading and unloading of coal, iron ore etc. at the present location.

AND WHEREAS, observations made during inspection on 16/09/2013 by the officials of Board are as follows:

- Coal unloading activity was observed.
- Water sprinklers were found to be installed along the loading/unloading bay, but these were found to be non-functional during the unloading of coal.
- Although fugitive emission from the unloading activities was on lower side, but during the vehicle movements huge fugitive emission was observed.
- No mobile tanker was observed to spray water to minimize the dust emission caused due to vehicle movements.
- Length of Guard wall was found not to be increased to the desired extent.

AND WHEREAS, during inspection on 12/11/2013 by the officials of Board, water sprinklers were found to be non-functional and high fugitive emission was observed from the stowing activity of materials.

AND WHEREAS, unloading of coal, iron ore was going on during inspection on 01/04/2014 by the officials of the Board.

AND WHEREAS, the Board is still receiving public complaints from the residents of Apcar Garden, Asansol, Burdwan against the Railway Siding for causing severe air pollution in the locality due to unloading of coal, iron ore etc.

AND WHEREAS, the unit was called for a hearing on 27/05/2014 at the head office of the board for the non-compliance of environmental norms as observed during inspections by the Board officials.

AND WHEREAS, the representatives of the unit appearing in the hearing submitted that a number of steps have been taken to reduce environmental pollution viz., installation of water sprinklers, deployment of mobile tankers, concretizing of wharf and roads, covering the dumpers carrying coal with tarpaulin, increasing the height of boundary wall and stoppage of clinker and slag unloading. They stated that the construction work for the Barachak Goods shed has been completed except work of signal system; it is expected to be operational within 15th July 2014. They also submitted that augmentation of existing Goods shed at Tropsi will be done to divert bulk consignments destined for Asansol Goods shed. They agreed to undertake plantation at different locations in the ensuing rainy season.

NOW, THEREFORE, considering the repetitive public complaints against the railway siding, the Board hereby directs **M/s. Asansol Goods Shed Siding, Asansol Division, Eastern Railway** located near Apcar Garden, P.O.- Asansol, P.S.- Asansol (S), Dist.- Burdwan to comply with the following :

1. **That**, the Railway Authority shall take necessary steps to complete the construction work of Barachak Goods shed to offload Asansol Goods shed positively by 15th July, 2014.
2. **That**, the Railway Authority shall ensure continuous functioning of water sprinklers and mobile tankers to minimize dust emission during materials unloading activity and vehicle movements at the siding area.
3. **That**, the Railway Authority shall start the augmentation work of Tropsi Goods shed to enhance its handling capacity as early as possible.
4. **That**, the Railway Authority shall develop green buffer along the inside periphery of the siding and also undertake extensive plantation at different locations during rainy season.

The Environmental Engineer, Asansol Sub-Regional Office of the State Board is requested to keep strict vigil on the unit and if the unit is found to operate violating the Board's direction, the Board will be at liberty to take stricter action.

This direction is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under provisions of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and 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