

MINUTES OF THE 37TH MEETING OF HIGH POWER COMMITTEE HELD ON 11TH JUNE 2015 AT 2 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

The following members or their representatives and officials attended the meeting:

1. Dr. Subrat Mukherjee, Member Secretary, WBPCB & Chairman, High Power Committee
2. Dr. Dhruvajyoti Ghosh, Wetland Expert – Member
3. Dr. Arunabha Majumdar, Visiting Faculty, School of Water Research, Jadavpur University - Member
4. Mr. Haradhan Sinha Roy – Member
5. Mr. Manik De, Director, River Research Institute, Member
6. Ms. Susmita Sen, Associate Professor, Shri Sikshayatan College – Member
7. Mr. R. Foning Lepcha, Additional Director, Fisheries Department – Member
8. Mr. Tapan Saha, Senior Scientist, IESWM – Member
9. Ms. Mira Roy, Additional Secretary, Urban Development Department – Member
10. Shri Siddhartha Ray, IFS, Senior Environment Officer, Environment Department and Member-Convenor, High Power Committee

The following attended the meeting as invitee:

1. Shri Dipankar Mitra, President, Mars Plywood Industries Pvt. Ltd

Proceedings

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed all the members in the meeting, introduced the newly joined Member-Convenor and initiated the meeting.

Issues were discussed and resolved in the following broadly given subjects.

1. Status report on the decisions taken in the 36th meeting :

In the 36th meeting of the High Power Committee, the following decisions were taken:

- i) A list of all proponents who applied for clearance prior to the 36th meeting along with their land schedule will be sent to the ADM & DL&LRO, Hooghly for a physical verification report.
- ii) All project proponents will submit details of porcha, mouza, plot no. along with the geographical co-ordinates of the location of the plot, a map, and approximate distance from the Durgapur Expressway to the Member Convenor, High Power Committee.

A letter with details of 128 applications were received and sent to ADM & DL&DRO, Hooghly vide Memo No. 3147/EN/3C-08/2011(Pt. III) dated 18.12.2014 against item no. ii above. Again a reminder was sent to the ADM & DL&DRO vide letter no. 1173/EN/3C-08/2011 (Pt.III) dated 14.05.2015, incorporating details of land schedule, porcha, mouza, khatian, plot no. projects taken up, etc. The reply is still awaited.

2. Status of applications received and fixing of criteria related to the projects applied to the lowlands at Dankuni

The Member-Convenor apprised in the meeting that after issuance of letter as per item no. ii above, the initiation records of a total of 158 applications were sent to the ADM & DM&LRO.

Out of 158 applications received, 29 cases were duplicate or triplicate, so the number of applications came down to 129. Among these, one owner, Mr. Dilip Kr. Saha, Alipore, submitted that he had sold out the land and did not want to pursue the matter any further, and another owner, Mr. Rajkumar Aggarwal, Hooghly submitted that he was unaware about the application process and did not submit the same. So these two were struck off from the list and the number of applications came down to 127. Out of 127 applications, only 48 applications (list attached) were completely filled up and submitted.

As it was found that that the physical verification report of ADM & DL&LRO, Hooghly, was still pending, the members of committee were of the opinion that each individual case should be sent to the DL&LRO, Hooghly, separately to expedite the case for the 48 completed applications, with a copy to the incumbent.


The following points were considered to be arrived at on the basis of High Court judgement:

1. Every physical and recorded water body should be preserved and an undertaking to the effect should be given by the PP
2. The project coverage area is to be fixed as a percentage of the total area.
3. 33% of the area in each project should be left for afforestation.
4. Connectivity up to the canals should be taken up by the industries themselves through construction of common drainage and ETP/STP in consultation with WBPCB.
5. All statutory provisions regarding protection of environment should be mandatorily followed by the industries and accordingly an undertaking to the effect should be given by the Project Proponent.

3. Discussion on special cases

1. The President, Mars Industries Pvt. Ltd. presented his case in the meeting whereby he stated that Mars Ply Wood is running for the last 20 years, having obtained all pollution clearances from WBPCB. Now they want to extend the unit. They already have water bodies and cattle within their project area, however they need more water bodies for running their business. The Committee decided that the matter be discussed by the Member Convenor with the DL&LRO, Hooghly, and the report be sent to the President, Mars Industries Pvt. Ltd.
2. Shri Nanda Lal Taparia, s/o Late Sohan Lal Taparia of Hijalpukuria, Dist : North 24 Parganas has appealed for reconsideration of order issued by the High Power Committee vide letter with memo No. EN/2824/3C-08/2011 dated 18.11.2013. However, the incumbent has not submitted any documents for proving that he had purchased the land at Habra along with the building constructed in 1979. So it was decided that he needs to submit proper proof that the building was constructed prior to 1979 and he purchased the land along with the building. A letter thus may be issued to Shri Nanda Lal Taparia by the Member-Convenor asking for the same.

The meeting ended with thanks from and to the Chair.


(Dr. Subrat Mukherjee)
Chairman, High Power Committee &
Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board