

Dated the 5th July, 2011

Office Memorandum

Sub: Consideration of projects for environmental clearance based on Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) - Lifting of Moratorium in respect of industrial clusters / areas of (i) Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh Part and Uttar Pradesh Part), (ii) Ib Valley, Jharsuguda (Orissa) - Regarding.

Ministry of Environment & Forests vide Office Memorandum of even no. dated 13.1.2010 had imposed a moratorium up to 31.8.2010 on consideration of projects for environmental clearance to be located in critically polluted areas / industrial clusters identified by Central Pollution Control Board. The details of the industrial clusters / areas were further specified in the Office Memorandum dated 15.3.2010. It was envisaged that during the period of moratorium, time bound action plans will be prepared by the respective SPCBs / PCCs for improving the environmental quality in these industrial clusters / areas. The action plans so prepared would be finalized by CPCB. Since, the action plans were not finalized within the prescribed time limit, the moratorium was extended up to 31st October, 2010. Based on the finalization of action plans and their initiation of implementation in respect of the five industrial clusters / areas of (i) Tarapur (Maharashtra), (ii) Pattencherru-Bollaram (Andhra Pradesh), (iii) Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), (iv) Vapi (Gujarat) and (v) Mandi-Govindgarh (Punjab) as confirmed by CPCB, the moratorium was lifted in respect of these five industrial clusters and for the remaining 38 industrial clusters, the moratorium was further extended up to 31st March, 2011 vide office memorandum of even no. dated 26.10.2010.

2. Subsequently, based on the initiation of implementation of action plans as reported by the respective State Pollution Control Boards / Union Territory Pollution Control Committees and taking into account the recommendation of Central Pollution Control Board, moratorium was lifted in 8 additional critically polluted industrial clusters namely; (i) Agra (Uttar Pradesh), (ii) Aurangabad (Maharashtra), (iii) Bhavnagar (Gujarat), (iv) Cuddalore (Tamil Nadu), (v) Dombivalli (Maharashtra), (vi) Ludhiana (Punjab), (vii) Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) and (viii) Varanasi-Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh) vide Office Memorandum of even no. dated 15.2.2011 and in another 7 namely (i) Angul Talchar (Orissa), (ii) Faridabad (Haryana), (iii) Gaziabad (Uttar Pradesh), (iv) Indore (Madhya Pradesh), (v) Junagadh (Gujarat), (vi) Noida (Uttar Pradesh) and (vii) Panipat (Haryana) vide O.M. no. of even dated 31.3.2011. The moratorium was further extended up to 30.09.2011 in respect of the remaining critically polluted industrial clusters/areas vide O.M. of even number dated 31.03.2011.

3. Further, based on the communication received from CPCB confirming the initiation of implementation of action plans in the critically polluted areas of (i) Bhadravati (Karnataka), (ii) Mangalore (Karnataka) and (iii) Greater Kochi (Kerala), moratorium was lifted in these three clusters vide O.M of even no. dated 23rd May, 2011. Thus, out of the 43 identified critically polluted industrial clusters/ areas, moratorium has already been lifted in 23 Industrial clusters.

4. Now, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) vide their communication no. B-29016/ESS/CPA/2010/716 dated 6.6.2011 and no. B-29012/ESS(CPA)/2010/892 dated 20.6.2011 have informed this Ministry, based on the statements received from respective State Pollution Control Boards that action have been initiated on the action plans in the critically polluted areas of (i) Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh Part and Uttar Pradesh Part), (ii) Ib Valley, Jharsuguda (Orissa).

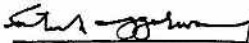
5. In view of the recommendation of the CPCB, It has been decided to lift the moratorium on consideration of projects for environmental clearance in respect of projects to be located in the above mentioned 2 clusters / areas namely; ((i) Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh Part and Uttar Pradesh Part), (ii) Ib Valley, Jharsuguda (Orissa) subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) CPCB and the respective SPCBs will immediately put the approved action plans on their respective websites.
- (ii) SPCBs will monitor the implementation of the action plans as per their schedule and ensure that there is no slippage either in terms of timeframe or the activities to be completed relating to the action plan. The report will be submitted to CPCB.
- (iii) CPCB will also develop a monitoring mechanism and put it in place within 30 days and monitor the implementation of these action plans, area-wise and also carryout random checks on the environmental parameters for their quality. The results will be put on their website.
- (iv) The Technical Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, CPCB in their next meeting will examine the possibility of:
 - (a) Undertaking a regional environmental study involving all the stakeholders including SPCBs. One of the SPCB could take the lead for coordinating the said study and the cost of such a study may be shared proportionately by various companies operating in the area. CPCB may provide the overall guidance in this regard.
 - (b) Incorporating additional control measures by suitably adopting environmentally benign mode of transportation for coal as well as ash.
 - (c) Additional safeguard measures for control of fugitive emissions at all transfer points.
 - (d) Enhancement of frequency of monitoring to see the effectiveness of the control measures provided in the action plans and to take mid course corrective measures, if any, required based on the monitored data.

- (v) The coal companies as well as the power producers in the area will setup continuous ambient air quality stations. The results of monitoring will be displayed at various locations and will also be put on the website of the respective State Pollution Control Boards. The location of the monitoring stations will be decided in consultation with the SPCBs.
- (vi) The respective SPCBs / UTPCCs will monitor the pollution levels in these areas on regular basis and if at any stage it is observed that the levels are increasing, it will be immediately brought to the notice of CPCB as well as MoEF and in such a situation the moratorium will be re-imposed.
- (vii) Independent third party periodic monitoring on the implementation of action plan will be supported. The results of the monitoring so carried out will be hosted on the website and also communicated to CPCB.
- (viii) Industrial cluster / area wise Committee comprising various stakeholders inter-alia representatives of locals and experts in the relevant field will be setup to oversee the implementation of the action plans.
- (ix) The EACs / SEACs will take extra precaution during appraisal of projects to be located in these areas and prescribe the requisite stringent safeguard measures, so that the environmental quality is not deteriorated further in these areas.

5. Comments / feedback, if any, on implementation of action plans may be sent to Chairman, CPCB (e-mail: ccb.cpcb@nic.in).

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(S.K. Aggarwal)
Director

To

- 1. All the Officers of IA Division
- 2. Chairpersons / Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
- 3. Chairman, CPCB
- 4. Chairpersons / Member Secretaries of all SPCBs / UTPCCs

Copy to:-

- 1. PS to MEF
- 2. PPS to Secretary (E&F)
- 3. PPS to SS(JMM)
- 4. Advisor (NB)
- 5. Website, MoEF
- 6. Guard File