

Minutes of First meeting of Task Force on Graded Response Action Plan held on February 03, 2017 at CPCB, Delhi

First meeting of Task Force on Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), constituted in pursuant to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated December 02, 2016 in the matter of M. C. Mehta vs. Union of India regarding air quality in National Capital Region Delhi, was convened on February 03, 2017 at Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi. List of participants is annexed.

Dr. A. B Akolkar, Member Secretary, CPCB and Chairman, Task Force, welcomed the members, and explained the need for bringing clarity in monitoring mechanism for implementation of GRAP through EPCA. He emphasized the need for better co-ordination among agencies and providing scientific & technical insight towards further improvement of GRAP, as required.

Dr. Prashant Gargava, provided brief background on the plan and implementation mechanisms. Mandate of the Task Force including review of air quality status, information to public, suggesting special measures during emergency, and local measures in pollution hotspots, etc. was explained. MoEF & CC notification on entrusting implementation of GRAP to EPCA was placed before the Task Force for information.

The actions on part of Task Force were deliberated in detail and following were agreed upon:

1. The average value of AQI (PM₁₀ or PM_{2.5}, which ever higher) for at least 50% of the continuous monitoring stations in NCT Delhi will be used for establishing overall AQI for Delhi for the purpose of implementing GRAP.
2. The AQI value will be informed by CPCB through bulletin at 17:00 Hrs and forecasting information will be provided by IMD to Task Force. The period of 48 Hrs for declaring emergency actions in case of severe plus category may be considered from 17:00 Hrs onwards (2 days) based on IMD forecast.
3. IMD, who's representative did not attend the meeting, may be requested to provide inputs regarding weather and air quality forecast and modalities for sharing this with the Task Force.
4. The special measures in case of emergency conditions will be deliberated in second Task Force meeting.

Dr. A. B. Akolkar expressed the need for indigenous database on health effects from air pollution. Dr. T. K. Joshi, opined that the hospitals situated in Delhi and NCR towns with 100 or more number of beds may be asked to submit data to Task Force every week on number of deaths in hospitals due to heart attack, cerebral stroke, asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) during October 15- February 15. For rest of the period, the data to be submitted on monthly basis. The data will be provided in prescribed format, to be circulated later. The issue of life expectancy of Indian populace may also be discussed with the MoH & FW.

The meeting ended with thanks to and from the chair.

List of Participants

1. Dr. A.B. Akolkar, Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board.
2. Mr. S.M. Ali, Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee
3. Dr. T.K. Joshi, Supreme Court Commissioner
4. Dr. Rajeev Upadhyay, CEO, Lucknow, UP Pollution Control Board
5. Dr. M.P George, Scientist D, Delhi Pollution Control Committee
6. Mr. Paras Nath, RO, Ghaziabad, UP Pollution Control Board
7. Dr. BB Awasthi, RO, Noida, UP Pollution Control Board
8. Dr. Charanjit Singh, Punjab Pollution Control Board
9. Mr. Kuldeep Singh, RO, Gurugram (S), Haryana State Pollution Control Board
10. Mr. K.C.Gupta, RO, Bhiwadi, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board