

Minutes of Third meeting of Task Force on Graded Response Action Plan held on May 04, 2017 at CPCB, Delhi

Third meeting of Task Force (TF) on Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was convened on May 04, 2017 at Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Dr. A. B. Akolkar, Member Secretary, CPCB & Chairman, TF. List of participants is annexed.

Dr. Prashant Gargava briefed the members about issues for discussion – (i) Information/data flow on AQI and air quality & weather forecast to EPCA and TF; (ii) local action plan for the hotspot, Anand Vihar. It was informed that IMD was supposed to provide real-time air quality data from 15th April, however, they now wish to continue sending the daily data through email citing data validation issues. Representative of IT division of CPCB maintained that the automated AQI system require online data, and cannot use data sent manually through email. Members felt that CPCB, DPCC and IMD monitoring instruments, protocol, etc. are more or less same. Moreover, data from 35 cities & towns are transmitted on real-time basis. As such, there should not be any difficulty in online data connectivity from IMD stations. The validated data, if required, can be sent through email on a later date.

IMD has also been mandated to provide air quality and weather forecast data to the TF. IMD had earlier shared weblinks for online information, but it is required that IMD notifies to EPCA & the TF about severe & severe plus AQI and episodic pollution or weather events. Air Quality Laboratory of CPCB will ensure that overall AQI is calculated, and AQI along with number of monitoring stations and concentration values of PM₁₀ & PM_{2.5} are made available on daily basis. Necessary IT support will be provided by IT Division of CPCB.

Dr. A. B Akolkar, Member Secretary, CPCB and Chairman, TF emphasized that TF may deliberate on mechanism for implementation of actions during emergency, which should be based on actions in the identified problem areas instead of entire Delhi & NCR. Dr. M P George, DPCC informed that local action plan for Anand Vihar is prepared and will be shared. IMD representatives were absent from two consecutive TF meetings; the Chairman, TF directed to ensure IMD participation in subsequent meetings.

During the meeting of Task Force following was agreed upon:

1. IMD will provide air quality and weather forecast, and notify about severe & severe plus AQI and episodic pollution or weather events to EPCA & the TF.
2. Overall AQI along with number of monitoring stations, and concentration values of PM₁₀ & PM_{2.5} will be made available on daily basis by Air Quality Laboratory of CPCB with necessary support from IT Division.
3. Daily AQI value will be calculated on the basis of data available at 15:00 Hrs. as per the present CPCB AQI bulletin protocol.
4. During severe plus situations, health advisory may also be issued for public information.

The next meeting of TF will be held on June 01, 2017. 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. Dr. T.K. Joshi, Health expert
3. Dr. Rajeev Upadhyay, CEO, Lucknow, UP Pollution Control Board
4. Dr. M.P George, Scientist D, Delhi Pollution Control Committee
5. Mr. Paras Nath, RO, Ghaziabad, UP Pollution Control Board
6. Dr. BB Awasthi, RO, Noida, UP Pollution Control Board
7. Mr. Kuldeep Singh, RO, Gurugram (S), Haryana State Pollution Control Board
8. Mr. K.C.Gupta, RO, Bhiwadi, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board
9. Dr. D. Saha, Head, Air Lab – I
10. Mr. Aditya Sharma, IT division