



SPEED POST

AQM/AP/2019-20/

October 09, 2019

Additional Chief Secretary, Environment
Government of Assam
Secretariat, Dispur
Assam – 781001

Sub.: Directions under Section 31A of The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 regarding preparation of action plans for non-attainment cities as per Hon'ble NGT order dated 08-10-2018-reg.

WHEREAS, under Section 16 (2) (b) (d) (g) and (j) of The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, mandates Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as CPCB) to execute nation-wide programme, provide technical assistance and guidance to the State Boards for prevention, control or abatement of air pollution; collect, compile and publish technical and statistical data relating to air pollution control and abatement of air pollution and perform such other functions as may be prescribed;

WHEREAS, air pollution particularly PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} has emerged as a major health concern in most of the cities & towns, with air quality reaching to alarming levels;

WHEREAS, based on the data for the period 2011–2015 and WHO report 2014/2018, 102 cities failed to meet the prescribed standards are identified as non-attainment cities;

WHEREAS, seven regional workshops were organized to sensitize SPCBs and Stakeholders to develop city specific action plan for control of air pollution in these non-attainment cities;

WHEREAS, in pursuant to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal order dated 08-10-2018, all the States and Union Territories with non-attainment cities were required to constitute Air Quality Monitoring Committee (AQMC), and AQMCs to prepare appropriate action plans within two months aimed at bringing the standards of air quality within the prescribed norms within six months from date of finalization of the action plans;

WHEREAS, as per order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, a three member committee shall examine the Action Plans and on the recommendations of the said Committee, the Chairman, CPCB shall approve the same by 31.01.2019;

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WHEREAS, the plans received till January 23, 2019, was examined by three member committee on 24-25 January, 2019, and compliance report submitted to Hon'ble NGT on February 15, 2019;

WHEREAS, the city action plans of Guwahati, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sibsagar and Silchar received on 29-04-2019, were not approved by the committee and accordingly direction was issued to Additional Chief Secretary, Environment on 16-05-2019;

WHEREAS, the revised city action plans of Guwahati, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sibsagar and Silchar received on 29-07-2019, were not approved by the committee and accordingly D.O. letter was send to Chairman, Assam Pollution Control Board on 02-09-2019;

WHEREAS, the second revised city action plans for Guwahati, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sibsagar and Silchar were submitted to CPCB on 30-09-2019;

WHEREAS, the three member committee examined the city plans of Guwahati, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sibsagar and Silchar on October 01, 2019 and recommendations of committee is placed at Annexure-I and Annexure-II;

WHEREAS, based on the recommendations of the three member committee, Chairman, CPCB has approved the city action plan for Guwahati, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sibsagar and Silchar cities for ground implementation with immediate effect;

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers under Section 31 A of The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, you are directed to implement the city action plans and submit progress report of the same to CPCB on quarterly basis;

Receipt of this direction shall be acknowledged immediately and action taken shall be communicated to CPCB within 07 days.


(S. P. S. Parihar)
Chairman


11/219

Annexure – I

- State: Assam
- City: Guwahati (Second Revised)
- Plan received on date: 30-09-2019

Key Component	Action plan dated 29-04-2019		Revised action plan dated 29-07-2019	Second Revised action plan dated 30-09-2019	
	Observations	Remarks			
Air Quality Monitoring Network	The plan is not properly prepared. It is general in nature and lacks specificity.	Plan needs to be re-done and submitted as per the format addressing key components.	Include monitoring network	Included	
Source Identification					Major sources identified except Domestic fuel and Construction Activities
Source Apportionment (SA) and Emission Inventory (EI) Action Points					Included
Long-term Strategy			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare action plan for Domestic Fuel and Construction Activities • The plan provides general information for most of the action points and lacks specific action plan related to source group (e.g. Vehicle: Point No. 3, 5 & 8, Road Dust: Point No. 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6, Open Burning: Point No. 2 and Industries: Point No. 2) 	Included	
Timeframe			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timelines proposed for various actions (up to two years) • Specify time period for Long/Mid/Short term measures • Time target is missing in most of the actions. 	- Timelines proposed for various actions (up to Three years)	
Executing Agencies			Included	-	
Public Awareness and Complaint Redressal Mechanism			Included	-	
Budget Support			Provided	-	
Overall Recommendation	Recommended.				

- State: Assam
- City: Nalbari (Second Revised)
- Plan received on date: 30-09-2019

Key Component	Action plan dated 29-04-2019		Revised action plan dated 29-07-2019	Second Revised action plan dated 30-09-2019
	Observations	Remarks		
Air Quality Monitoring Network	The plan is not properly prepared. It is general in nature and lacks specificity.	Plan needs to be re-done and submitted as per the format addressing key components.	Include monitoring network	Included
Source Identification			Major sources identified except Domestic fuel and Construction Activities	Included
Source Apportionment (SA) and Emission Inventory (EI)			Included	-
Action Points			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare action plan for Domestic Fuel and Construction Activities • The plan provides general information for most of the action points and lacks specific action plan related to source group (e.g. Vehicle: Point No. 3, 5 & 8, Road Dust: Point No. 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6, Open Burning: Point No. 2 and Industries: Point No. 2) 	Included
Long-term Strategy		Included	-	
Timeframe		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timelines proposed for various actions (up to two years) • Specify time period for Long/Mid/Short term measures • Time target is missing in most of the actions. 	Timelines proposed for various actions (up to Three years)	
Executing Agencies		Included	-	
Public Awareness and Complaint Redressal Mechanism		Included	-	
Budget Support		Provided	-	
Overall Recommendation	Recommended.			

- State: Assam
- City: Nagaon (Second Revised)
- Plan received on date: 30-09-2019

Key Component	Action plan dated 29-04-2019		Revised action plan dated 29-07-2019	Second Revised action plan dated 30-09-2019
	Observations	Remarks	Comments	Comments
Air Quality Monitoring Network	The plan is not properly prepared. It is general in nature and lacks specificity.	Plan needs to be re-done and submitted as per the format and addressing key components.	Include monitoring network	Included
Source Identification				
Source Apportionment (SA) and Emission Inventory (EI)			Major sources identified except Domestic fuel and Construction Activities	Included
Action Points			Included	-
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare action plan for Domestic Fuel and Construction Activities • The plan provides general information for most of the action points and lacks specific action plan related to source group (e.g. Vehicle: Point No. 3, 5 & 8, Road Dust: Point No. 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6, Open Burning: Point No. 2 and Industries: Point No. 2) 	Included
Long-term Strategy			Included	-
Timeframe			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timelines proposed for various actions (up to two years) • Specify time period for Long/Mid/Short term measures • Time target is missing in most of the actions. 	Timelines proposed for various actions (up to Three years)
Executing Agencies			Included	-
Public Awareness and Complaint Redressal Mechanism			Included	-
Budget Support			Provided	-
Overall Recommendation	Recommended.			

- State: Assam
- City: Silchar (Second Revised)
- Plan received on date: 30-09-2019

Key Component	Action plan dated 29-04-2019		Revised action plan dated 29-07-2019	Second Revised action plan dated 30-09-2019
	Observations	Remarks		
Air Quality Monitoring Network	The plan is not properly prepared. It is general in nature and lacks specificity.	Plan needs to be re-done and submitted as per the format and addressing key components.	Include monitoring network	Included
Source Identification			Major sources identified except Domestic fuel and Construction Activities	Included
Source Apportionment (SA) and Emission Inventory (EI)			Included	-
Action Points			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare action plan for Domestic Fuel and Construction Activities • The plan provides general information for most of the action points and lacks specific action plan related to source group (e.g. Vehicle: Point No. 3, 5 & 8, Road Dust: Point No. 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6, Open Burning: Point No. 2 and Industries: Point No. 2) 	Included
Long-term Strategy			Included	-
Timeframe			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timelines proposed for various actions (up to two years) • Specify time period for Long/Mid/Short term measures • Time target is missing in most of the actions. 	Timelines proposed for various actions (up to Three years)
Executing Agencies			Included	-
Public Awareness and Complaint Redressal Mechanism			Included	-
Budget Support			Provided	-
Overall Recommendation	Recommended.			

- State: Assam
- City: Sivsagar (Second Revised)
- Plan received on date: 30-09-2019

Key Component	Action plan dated 29-04-2019		Revised action plan dated 29-07-2019	Second Revised action plan dated 30-09-2019
	Observations	Remarks	Comments	Comments
Air Quality Monitoring Network	The plan is not properly prepared. It is general in nature and lacks specificity.	Plan needs to be re-done and submitted as per the format addressing key components.	Include monitoring network	Included
Source Identification			Major sources identified except Domestic fuel and Construction Activities	Included
Source Apportionment (SA) and Emission Inventory (EI)			Included	-
Action Points			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare action plan for Domestic Fuel and Construction Activities • The plan provides general information for most of the action points and lacks specific action plan related to source group (e.g. Vehicle: Point No. 3, 5 & 8, Road Dust: Point No. 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6, Open Burning: Point No. 2 and Industries: Point No. 2) 	Included
Long-term Strategy			Included	-
Timeframe			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timelines proposed for various actions (up to two years) • Specify time period for Long/Mid/Short term measures • Time target is missing in most of the actions. 	Timelines proposed for various actions (up to Three years)
Executing Agencies			Included	-
Public Awareness and Complaint Redressal Mechanism			Included	-
Budget Support			Provided	-
Overall Recommendation	Recommended.			

General observations made by three member committee for further improvements in the plans:

1. Emission Inventory , Source Apportionment and Carrying Capacity Assessment: Vehicular Pollution, Industrial Emissions, Population Density, Construction Activities

The AQMCs should duly address the above issues so that the cities remain air quality compliant in future and some activities, if required, are restricted in future planning. It is expected the knowledge from EI, SA and carrying capacity assessment will upgrade the action plans.

2. Interim Emission Reduction Targets

The plans should include auditable and verifiable interim emission reduction targets. This will ensure continuous and timely implementation of actions.

3. Challenges in Implementation: Role of Central Agencies

Some actions proposed in the plans (e.g. supply of CNG or PNG) will require coordination and commitment from Central agencies. It is desirable that such actions are discussed with concerned agencies for effective implementation.

4. Consideration to Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

The GRAP is an important contingency plan in NCR. The SPCBs may give due consideration to the GRAP and develop a suitable plan relevant to the emissions in the city and likelihood of their impact on air quality.

5. District Level Monitoring Committee

Besides AQMC, a monitoring committee headed by the Municipal Commissioner or District Magistrate comprising senior officers from concerned departments may be considered to review the progress and ensure smooth implementation of the plan.