



SPEED POST

AQM/AP/2019-20/

26/06/2020

Additional Chief Secretary, Environment
Govt. of Gujarat
Forests & Environment Department
Block-14, 8th floor, Sachivalaya
Gandhinagar, Gujarat- 382010

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;

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WHEREAS, 20 additional non-attainment cities has been identified based on data for the period 2014-2018;

WHEREAS, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal order dated 06-08-2019, directed concerned SPCBs to prepare city action plans for 20 newly added Non-attainment cities and submit to CPCB within two months;

WHEREAS, city action plans for two non-attainment cities of Gujarat was already approved for implementation on 15-04-2019;

WHEREAS, the city action plan for one newly added non-attainment city of Gujarat was submitted to CPCB on 28-11-2019;

WHEREAS, the three member committee examined the city plan of Vadodara on March 04, 2020 and recommendations of committee are placed at Annexure-I and Annexure-II;

WHEREAS, financial layout of actions is a key component of city action plan and has not been worked out by AQMC;

WHEREAS, in view of recommendations of the three member committee, Competent Authority has not approved the city action plan for aforesaid city in State of Gujarat;

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers under Section 31 A of The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, you are directed to submit revised city action plan for Vadodara keeping in view recommendation made as per Annexure-I including financial layout at the earliest;

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


(Shiv Das Meena)
Chairman



Annexure – I

- **State:** Gujarat
- **City:** Vadodara
- **Plan received on date:** 28-11-2019

Key Component	Observations	Remarks
Air Quality Monitoring Network	The plan is not properly prepared. It is generic in nature and lacks specificity & proposed actions.	Plan needs to be re-done and submitted as per the format addressing key components.
Source Identification		
Source Apportionment (SA) and Emission Inventory (EI)		
Action Points		
Long-term Strategy		
Timeframe		
Executing Agencies		
Public Awareness and Complaint Redressal Mechanism		
Budget Support		
Overall Recommendation	Not recommended. Plan needs to be re-done and submitted as per the format addressing key components (See Remarks).	

ANNEXURE II

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.