



SPEED POST

AQM/AP/2019-20/

27/01/2021

Principal Secretary, Environment
Govt. of Maharashtra
Environment Department
Maharashtra Mantralaya
Mumbai – 400032

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;

Contd....

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 17 non-attainment cities of Maharashtra were already approved for implementation on 16-04-2019, 25-06-2019 and 09-10-2019;

WHEREAS, the city action plan for one newly added non-attainment city of Maharashtra received on 27-09-2019 was not approved by the committee and accordingly direction was issued to Principal Secretary, Environment on 23-01-2020;

WHEREAS, the revised city action plan for Thane city of Maharashtra was submitted to CPCB on 06-03-2020;

WHEREAS, the three member committee examined the revised city plan of Thane city on 18-12-2020 and recommendations of committee are placed at Annexure-I and Annexure-II;

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 Maharashtra;

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 Thane city keeping in view recommendation made as per Annexure-I including financial layout of each action 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



- State: Maharashtra
- City: Thane
- Revised Plan received on date: 06-03-2020

Key Component	Observations	Remarks	Comments on Revised Plan
Air Quality Monitoring Network	Existing and expansion plan proposed	CAAQMS not as per Guidelines (see attached)	Included
Source Identification	Vehicles, Road Dust, Industries, Construction Activities, Open Burning, Domestic Fuel	-	-
Source Apportionment (SA) and Emission Inventory (EI)	EI & SA not quantified	Carryout EI & SA estimates	Study proposed
Action Points	Addresses all major sources	The detail comments are at Annexure I(b).	Included
Long-term Strategy	Long-term actions proposed	-	-
Timeframe	Timelines proposed for various actions (up to five years)	The detail comments are at Annexure I(b).	Timelines proposed for various actions (up to four years)
Executing Agencies	Identified for some actions	Identify executing agencies in Vehicle Emission Point No. 11, 15 & 17, Biomass Burning Point No. 4, DG Sets Point No. 8(ii)	Identify executing agencies in Vehicle Emission Point No. 11 & 17
Public Awareness and Complaint Redressal Mechanism	Specific plans and public complaints redressal mechanism outlined	-	-
Budget Support	Budget estimates given	-	-
Comments for improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In previous plan mining activity is one of the sources of pollution in city but in revised plan no action related to mining activity included. Please clarify. • Action for control air pollution from Brick kiln industries was part of pervious plan but not included in revised plan. Please clarify. • Clarify Vehicle point no. 3 category of implementation time (Short/Mid/Long). 		
Overall Recommendation	Not recommended. Plan needs to be re-done and submitted as per the format addressing key components (See comments on revised plan including comments for improvement).		

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.