



SPEED POST

AQM/AP/2019-20/

April 15, 2019

Additional Chief Secretary, Environment
Govt. of Meghalaya
Additional Secretariat, Shillong
Meghalaya – 793001

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, city action plan for Byrnihat was submitted to CPCB on 07-02-2019;

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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;

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 three member committee examined the city plan of Byrnihat on March 29, 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 plan for Byrnihat, along with the recommendations enclosed at Annexure-I, 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 plan and submit the progress report of the same to CPCB on quarterly basis;

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



(S. P. S. Parihar)
Chairman

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ANNEXURE I

- **State:** Meghalaya
- **City:** Byrnihat
- **Plan received on date:** 07-02-2019

Key Component	Observations	Remarks
Air Quality Monitoring Network	Existing and expansion plan proposed	-
Source Identification	Vehicles, Road Dust, Open Burning, Construction Activities, Industries	Major sources identified except Domestic Fuel
Source Apportionment (SA) and Emission Inventory (EI)	EI & SA not quantified	Carryout EI estimates
Action Points	Addresses all major sources	-
Long-term Strategy	Long-term actions proposed	-
Timeframe	Timelines proposed for various actions (up to two years)	-
Executing Agencies	Identified	-
Public Awareness and Complaint Redressal Mechanism	Specific plans and public complaints redressal mechanism outlined	-
Budget Support	Budget estimates given	-
Overall Recommendation	Recommended with minor revisions (See Remarks).	

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.