



A-19014/45/Comm. AQM-NCRAA/2020-21

December 23, 2020

Order

Sub.: Deterioration in Air Quality in Delhi-NCR- steps to be taken - reg.

Central Pollution Control Board has been reviewing air quality and meteorological scenario in Delhi-NCR on continuous basis. It has been observed that PM_{2.5} concentration in Delhi NCR had exceeded 250µg/m³ at 11.00 hours on 22rd December, 2020. Further, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, had predicted that air quality in Delhi NCR will improve slightly on 23rd December, 2020 but will remain in Very Poor to Severe category. IITM had also predicted that air quality will improve further on 24 December, 2020 and stay in Very Poor category. However, it has been observed that PM_{2.5} concentration in Delhi NCR exceeded 300µg/m³ at 03.00 hours on 23rd December, 2020 and is persisting in the same category for more than 10 hours. Currently, the AQI is in Severe category.

2. The Commission on Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas, in its meeting held on 10.11.2020, decided that in view of deteriorating air quality in NCR region, there is a need to invoke the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) already notified by Central Govt. and entrusted the task of operationalizing and monitoring the GRAP measures to Central Pollution Control Board, till a mechanism is set up by the Commission.

3. Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), notified by Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change in December 2016, enlists actions as per different Air Quality Index (AQI) categories namely, Moderate & Poor, Very Poor, and Severe as per National Air Quality Index and a new category named "Severe+ or Emergency". The actions under Severe (ambient PM_{2.5} or PM₁₀ concentration value is more than 250 µg/m³ or 430µg/m³ respectively) category consist of (i) Closing brick kilns, Hot Mix plants, Stone Crushers; (ii) maximizing generation of power from existing natural gas based plants to reduce operation of coal based power plants in the NCR; (iii) Intensifying public transport services and introducing differential rates to encourage off-peak travel; and (iv) Increasing frequency of mechanized cleaning of road and sprinkling of water on roads along with identify inroad stretches with high dust generation.

4. As per Hon'ble NGT order dated October 15, 2019, in the matter of Utkarsh Panwar Vs. Central Pollution Control Board, all brick kilns in NCR are closed.

5. In view of above and considering likely increase in activities during Christmas and New Year celebrations, following actions are to be ensured by implementing agencies:

- Hot mix plants and stone crushers shall remain closed all the time till January 02, 2021.
- Frequency of mechanized cleaning of roads and water sprinkling to be increased particularly on the road stretches with high dust generation potential.

- c) It shall be ensured that guidelines/standard operating procedures for dust mitigation at construction sites are strictly adhered to. In case of violations, strict action should be taken against the violators like imposition of penalty/ temporary stoppage of construction activities.
- d) Agencies must ensure compliance of orders of Hon'ble Courts and National Green Tribunal regarding banning of sale and use of firecrackers.

The order shall come into force with immediate effect.



(Shiv Das Meena)
Chairman

To:

1. **Sh. Sanjeev Khirwar**
The Chairman
Delhi Pollution Control Committee
5th and 6th Floor, ISBT Building
Kashmere Gate, Delhi – 110 006
: To ensure compliance by all concerned agencies
2. **Shri J.P.S Rathore**
The Chairman
U.P. Pollution Control Board
3rd Floor, PICUP Bhawan, Vibhuti Khand,
Gomti Nagar
Lucknow - 226 020
: To ensure compliance by all concerned agencies
3. **Sh. Ashok Kheterpal**
The Chairman
Haryana State Pollution Control Board
C-11, Sector - 6, Panchkula – 134109
: To ensure compliance by all concerned agencies
4. **Smt. Veenu Gupta**
The Chairperson
Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board
A-4, Jalane Dungri Institutional Area, Jaipur -
302 004
: To ensure compliance by all concerned agencies
5. **Head, IT Division**
Central Pollution Control Board
: With request to upload on the CPCB Website

Copy to:

1. **Dr. M. M. Kutty**
Chairperson
Commission on Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas
3rd Floor, Indian Oil Bhawan 1, Aurobindo Marg
Yusuf Sarai, New Delhi - 110016
2. **Sh. R. P. Gupta**
Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of India
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi, 110003


(Shiv Das Meena)
Chairman

copy