

Speed Post

B-33014/O-199/2019/IPC-II/ 7936

October 14, 2019

To

The Unit Head

M/s The Travancore Cements Ltd.,
Nattakom, Kottayam District,
Kerala - 586 013

Sub: Closure Direction under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

WHEREAS, the cement industries are identified as one of the 17 categories of highly polluting industries which have been discharging environmental pollutants directly or indirectly into the ambient air and water, having potential threat to cause adverse effect on the water and air quality; and


WHEREAS, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change has notified emission standards for Particulate matter, SO₂ & NO_x vide GSR 612 (E) dated 25.08.2014; and amended it vide GSR 496 (E) dated 09.05.2016 for all cement industries and vide GSR 497 (E) dated 10.05.2016 for cement industries carrying out co-processing of wastes in their cement kilns; and

WHEREAS, on request of cement industries, timeline was extended upto March 31, 2017 to comply with the aforesaid new notified emission standards; and

WHEREAS, the matter regarding reconsideration of notified standards was taken up by the cement industries with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and it was decided by MoEF&CC that general extension shall not be granted and any extension regarding compliance shall be based on due assessment and submission of clear/specific road map for compliance with notified standards in a time bound manner. Accordingly, Directions under Section 3 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have been issued by MoEF&CC to CPCB on 28.03.2017 to ensure implementation of new notified emission standards for cement industries; and

WHEREAS, the cement industries were reminded vide letter dated 30.03.2017 that new notified emission standards for cement industries have become effective from April 01, 2017 and directed to submit clear/specific time-bound action plan for compliance with new notified standards before April 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS, several meetings were convened by Regional Directorates of CPCB with cement industries and State Pollution Control Boards to expedite the submission of action plans and ensure compliance. A standard format was developed to facilitate cement industries in submission of action plans in a precise & scientific manner and the same was circulated among cement industries. Accordingly, all the cement industries were directed to submit the specific action plan as per the standard format before 30.04.2017; and


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WHEREAS, no extension of time beyond August 30, 2018 was granted to cement units to comply the revised notified norms; and

WHEREAS, a direction under section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 was issued on February 05, 2014, to all the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) for installation of online emission monitoring system w.r.t. PM, NO_x and SO₂ in cement industries ; and

WHEREAS, considering the requests/representations received from industries/ industrial associations/ SPCBs /PCCs, an extension of time upto June 30, 2015 for installation of online monitoring systems was granted vide direction dated March 02, 2015 under section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981; and

WHEREAS, concerned SPCBs/PCCs must have issued directions under section 33A of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and section 31A of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 to 17 category of highly polluting industries to install online monitoring systems by June 30, 2015 and submit bank guarantee of 100% of the cost of online emission & effluent monitoring system; and

WHEREAS, Show Cause Notice under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act 1986, was already issued on July 24, 2015 to all cement plants to show-cause as to why the unit should not be closed down, if the unit has not complied fully with the directions issued w.r.t. installation of online emission monitoring system; and

WHEREAS, OCEMS Guidelines for cement industry dated 23.12.2016 was also issued (available on CPCB website) with a direction to install online monitoring system in all notified process stacks and data transmission to CPCB server; and

WHEREAS, RD- Bengaluru carried out inspection of M/s The Travancore Cements Ltd., Nattakom, Kottayam District, Kerala, during 17.09.2019 w.r.t SMS alerts/offline status and made following observations:

1. As per emission monitoring results, unit was observed grossly exceeding the PM emission limit from packing section stack i.e 298 mg/Nm³ against limit of 30 mg/Nm³.
2. The CTO under the Air & Water Act expired on June 30, 2018 & the unit has applied for renewal of consent on July 31, 2019.
3. Spillages and fugitive emissions were noticed during operation of the packing section. Unit should control the fugitive emissions in packing section area.
4. Most of the times the online value of PM in all the stacks is recorded as zero though the unit is operational, indicating that online opacity monitors are not calibrated/maintained as per the guidelines/manual.



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Now, THEREFORE, in view of the non compliance of emission norms and other shortcomings as mentioned above and exercising the powers delegated to the Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, M/s The Travancore Cements Ltd., Nattakom, Kottayam District, Kerala is hereby directed to close down all its operations with immediate effect.

The unit shall submit compliance report within 15 days. In case of noncompliance of this direction, action as deemed necessary and appropriate under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 will be initiated.

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17-11-17
(S.P. S. Parihar)
Chairman

Copy to:

1	The Chairman Kerala State Pollution Control Board Plamoodu Junction Pattam Palace P.O. Thiruvananthapuram - 695 004 Kerala	For information & ensuring compliance please
2	The Regional Director Central Pollution Control Board (South) 1st & 2nd Floors, Nisarga Bhawan A- Block, Thimmaiah Main Road 7th D Cross, Shivanagar Opposite Pushpanjali Theatre Bangalore 560 010	For information please.
3	The Joint Secretary (CP Division) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Prithvi Wing, 2nd Floor, Room No. 216 Indira Paryavaran Bhawan Aliganj, JorBagh Road, New Delhi - 110003	
4	The Divisional Head, IT, CPCB, Delhi	
5	The Divisional Head, IPC-VI, CPCB, Delhi	
6	The DC/DM District - Kottayam, Kerala - 686002	For ensuring compliance Please
7	The Chief Engineers (Distribution South (KSEB office)) Nalanda, Moolavattom, Nattakom Kerala - 686013	<i>YB</i> (Prashant Gargava) Member Secretary <i>h</i>

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