

SPEED POST

B-33014/07/2020/IPC-II/TPP/

February 26, 2020

To,

13115
The General Manager,
M/s Kothagudem Thermal Power Station (O&M),
Stages I-IV, Telangana State Power Gen. Corp. Ltd,
New Paloncha Mandal, New Paloncha,
Bhadradri Kothagudem - 507 115, Telangana

Sub: Directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 regarding compliance of emission limit notified vide notification No.S.O.3305 (E) dated 07.12.2015 - reg.

WHEREAS, taking into consideration pollution from thermal power plants, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change had issued notification in the year 1984 laying out standards for thermal power plants. Further, the stack height regulation was notified in the year 1989, effluent standard for thermal power plants was notified in the year 1986, revised temperature limit of discharge of cooling water from the plants was notified in the year 1999. Thereafter, MoEF&CC vide Notification No.S.O.3305 (E) dated 07.12.2015 amended emission limit for particulate matter and notified new limits for Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x) and mercury emission, and water consumption limit for coal/lignite based thermal power plants. As per the notification dated 07.12.2015, thermal power plants are required to achieve the notified limit within two years from the date of the notification i.e. by 07.12.2017;

WHEREAS, with the implementation of the amendment in the notification dated 07.12.2015, it is expected that there would be reduction in emission of PM, Sulphur dioxide and oxide of Nitrogen, which in turn will help in improvement in Ambient Air Quality in and around thermal power plants, besides reduction of mercury emission, and reduction in water consumption in the thermal power plants;

WHEREAS, taking into consideration the technical challenges and time requirements for installation of Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) and other technologies to meet the new emission limits, the MoEF&CC vide its letter F. No. Q-15017/40/2007-CPW dated 07.12.2017 has directed CPCB to direct all the thermal power plants to ensure compliance with the norms laid down in the 07.12.2015 notification in accordance with the revised plan submitted by the Ministry of Power letter dated 13.10.2017 as well as NO_x by 2022;

WHEREAS, in compliance to MoEF&CC direction dated 07.12.2017, CPCB issued directions under section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to 414 units of 132 thermal power plants on 11.12.2017 to ensure compliance with the norms laid down in the 07.12.2015 notification in respective units in accordance with the revised plan submitted by the Ministry of Power vide letter dated 13.10.2017;

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WHEREAS, IIT, Kanpur in a study on "Air Pollution and Green House Gases (GHGs) in Delhi, January, 2016" indicated that there are 13 thermal power plants (TPP) with a capacity of over 11000 MW in the radius of 300 kms of Delhi, which are expected to contribute to secondary particles. Hence, considering the impact of coal based power plants on ambient air quality in Delhi-NCR, the timelines given by Ministry of Power for thermal power plants located within 300 kms radius of Delhi were revised as December 31, 2019;

WHEREAS, vide letter dated 27.12.2017 and 02.01.2018 CPCB had requested Ministry MoEF & CC to provide status of remaining 109 (1+67+41) units for which no plan/time schedule for ESP upgradation and FGD installation has been received;

WHEREAS, FGD phasing plan / unit phase out plan were discussed in the meeting held on 07.02.2018 in CPCB Head Office with senior officers of thermal power plants concerning 109 (1+67+41) units for which Ministry of Power had not proposed any action plan vide its letter No. FU-1/2017-IPC dated 13.10.2017;

WHEREAS, according to the information submitted in reference to the above meeting, 17 units proposed to install FGD with time lines varying from December 2021 to December 2022, 6 more units reported to have retired (in addition to 41 units reported earlier as already retired) and 86 units had retirement/phase out plan having various time line, up to December 2022;

WHEREAS, to decide time line for implementation of FGD and other technologies to meet new emission norms in power plants, a meeting was conducted with technology providers on February 09, 2018 and based on the assessment of time required to implement necessary measures to achieve revised emission norms, fresh time lines were worked out for implementation of new emission norms notified on 07.12.2015 in above mentioned Thermal Power Plants;

WHEREAS, vide No. Letter B-33014/7/2018/IPC-II/ dated February 13, 2018, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, was requested to consider the proposed time lines and grant approval for issuing directions.

WHEREAS, the MoEF&CC vide its letter F. No. Q-15017/40/2007-CPW dated 27.02.2018 has directed CPCB to take necessary action in the above matter under appropriate section of EPA, 1986;

WHEREAS, considering the plan proposed by individual units and time requirements for compliance of new emission norms and in compliance to MoEF&CC direction dated 27.02.2018 following directions under section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, were issued on 06.04.2018 to M/s Kothagudem Thermal Power Station (O&M), Stages I-IV, Telangana State Power Gen. Corp. Ltd, New Paloncha, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Telangana (Units - 1 to 8):

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- i. That plant shall retrofit/ install Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP) and install FGD by December 31, 2019 so as to comply with PM & SO₂ emission limits.
- ii. That plant shall take immediate measure like installation of low NO_x burners, providing Over Fire Air (OFA) etc. and achieve progressive reduction so as to comply NO_x emission limit latest by December 31, 2019.
- iii. That plant shall not operate beyond December 31, 2019, if it fails to comply with new/ revised emission limits for SO₂, NO_x & PM.

WHEREAS, the compliance status of the directions mentioned above (i to iii) for compliance of PM, SO₂ & NO_x emission limits was reviewed by CPCB periodically during review meetings with last such review on 25-26.07.2019 and M/s Kothagudem Thermal Power Station (O&M), Stages I-IV, TSPGCL confirmed that Unit - 1 to 8 of the plant will be phased out by 31.12.2019 in compliance to the directions issued by CPCB on 06.04.2018.

Whereas, it has been observed from the daily generation report of CEA that M/s Kothagudem Thermal Power Station (O&M), Stages I-IV, TSPGCL is still operating its Units - 1, 2, 4, 5 & 7 (up to 02.02.2020) and thus has failed to comply the directions issued on 06.04.2018 and impacting ambient air quality in and around thermal power plant.

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, vide Notifications No. S. O. 157 (E) of 27.02.1996 and S. O. 730 (E) dated 10.07.2002, has delegated the powers vested under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) to the Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, to issue directions to any industry or any local body or any other authority for violations of the standards and rules notified under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and amendment thereof.


NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of powers vested under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, M/s Kothagudem Thermal Power Station (O&M), Stages I-IV, TSPGCL is hereby directed to close down the operation of Units - 1, 2, 4, 5 & 7 to ensure compliance of CPCB directions issued on 06.04.2018.

In case of failure to the said directions by M/s Kothagudem Thermal Power Station (O&M), Stages I-IV, TSPGCL, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Telangana CPCB will be constrained to initiate appropriate action against the plant, in accordance with the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.


(Ravi. S. Prasad)
Chairman


Copy to:

1. The Chairman
Telangana State Pollution Control Board
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A-III, Industrial Estate, Sanathnagar,
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2. The Joint Secretary (CP Division)
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
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3. The Joint Secretary (Thermal),
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4. The Regional Director,
Central Pollution Control Board
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Shivanagar, Bengaluru -560 079
5. The Divisional Head - IT, CPCB


(Prashant Gargava)
Member Secretary

