

BY SPEED POST

CP-99/39/2024-IPC-I-HO-CPCB-HO

March 21, 2024

To

M/s Paradeep Phosphates Limited
PPL Township,
P.O. Paradeep,
Dist. Jagatsinghpur
Odisha-754145

Sub: Directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 -reg.

WHEREAS, fertilizer 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, the Central Government has notified the standards for discharge of environmental pollutants from various categories of industries under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rules framed there under; and

WHEREAS, it is obligatory on the part of industries to install and operate Effluent Treatment plant (ETP) to comply with the effluent discharge standards as notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rules framed thereunder and also to meet the consent conditions granted by Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB); and

WHEREAS, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of Paryavaran Suraksha Samiti Vs Union of India & Others dated 22/02/2017 directed that no industry which requires "consent to operate" from the concerned Pollution Control Board, is permitted to function, unless it has a functional effluent treatment plant, which is capable to meet the prescribed norms for removing the pollutants from the effluent, before it is discharged; and

WHEREAS M/s Paradeep Phosphates, Limited, PPL Township Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754145, (the Unit) was inspected on January 30 and 31, 2024 by officials of Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Directorate, Kolkata for verification of compliance to the prescribed standards; and

WHEREAS, the inspecting team observed the following non-compliance:

- i. The Unit was found operational during visit and manufacturing Di Ammonium Phosphate(DAP) & Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Potassium (NPK) Fertilizers, Sulphuric acid and Phosphoric acid.
- ii. As per Consent to operate(CTO) granted by OSPCB, the unit has to maintain zero liquid discharge during non-monsoon season; however, during inspection the plant was found discharging its untreated effluent in the low-lying area. The aforementioned discharged effluent was observed having pH -3.9, Fluoride - 102.62 mg/l and Phosphate -654.73 mg/l thereby violating Odisha State Pollution Control Board prescribed norms w.r.t pH 6.5-8.5, Fluoride 10 mg/l, and Phosphate 5 mg/l.

- iii. The treated effluent from ETP outlet was found violating the discharge norms of OSPCB with respect to Fluoride 19.43 mg/l against 10 mg/l, phosphate 53.67 mg/l against 5 mg/l.
- iv. It was observed that the ground water quality at the 5 test wells as well as in the village located near the gypsum pond are not meeting with the norms as prescribed by BIS for drinking water with respect to pH which varies from 9.5-12 against 6.5-8.5, fluoride ranged from 1.34 to 1.73 mg/l against the norms of 1 mg/l, which indicates contamination of ground water due to the leachate from the gypsum pond. The lining of gypsum pond has been damaged/ cracked.
- v. All the surface water bodies were found contaminated with the effluent from the unit with respect to Fluoride ranged from 16.10 mg/l to 981.50 mg/l against the prescribed norms 2 mg/l and Phosphate ranged from 19.47 to 3081.85 mg/l against the prescribed norms 5 mg/l prescribed by OSPCB.
- vi. The Atharabanki creek near Gypsum Pond was found contaminated w.r.t Fluoride 3.49 mg/l against the norms 2 mg/l and phosphate 17.11 mg/l against the norms 5 mg/l.
- vii. The Storm water drains were filled with the Industrial waste water and found violating the discharge norms with respect to pH 2.7, fluoride 90.44 mg/l, and phosphate 355.39mg/l against the prescribe norms of Odisha State Pollution Control Board i.e. pH 6.5-8.5, Fluoride 2 mg/l, and Phosphate 5 mg/l respectively.
- viii. As per Stack monitoring of DAP-B, the concentration of Fluoride was found 11.15 mg/Nm³ against the prescribed value of 10 mg/Nm³.
- ix. At the east side, unlined pond of approx. 450 m x 80 m x 1.5m dimensions was found filled with wastewater having pH 2.2, fluoride 981.50 mg/l phosphate 3081.85 mg/l. The degree of contamination in the water body on east side of gypsum pond indicates the improper handling of the effluent and dumping untreated effluent and its sludge in the water body. The surface water samples were collected from the 6 water bodies nearby to Gypsum ponds and except North side of Gypsum pond near culvert. All the surface water bodies including creek were found contaminated with the effluent from the unit with respect to Fluoride and Phosphate.
- x. In the Sulphuric Acid Plant -C unit, major leakage was found in the Gaseous emission carrying system. As informed, due to wear & tear, the Emission carrying pipe line damaged and causing for emission as the plant was operational.

WHEREAS, the Unit has provided only flow meter and pH parameters for online continuous effluent monitoring system, however since the unit has the permission to discharge treated effluent in monsoon, it is required provide online continuous effluent monitoring system for Ammonical Nitrogen and Fluoride also; and

WHEREAS, unauthorized discharge of untreated effluent with highly acidic, fluoride and phosphate content from the unit, contamination of surface water including creek and ground water with fluoride and phosphate is likely to cause grave injury to the environment; and

WHEREAS, as per Section 4, Sub section (5) of The Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986; in case where the Central Government is of the opinion that in view of the likelihood of a grave injury to the environment it is not expedient to provide an opportunity to file objections against the proposed direction, it may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, issue directions without providing such an opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and 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; and

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NOW THEREFORE, in view of the above violations and exercising the power delegated to the Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, M/s Paradeep Phosphates, Limited, PPL Township Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754145 (the unit) is directed herewith to close down all operational activities with immediate effect till the following directions are complied with and written permission to resume operations is obtained from CPCB:

1. The Unit shall maintain zero liquid discharge (ZLD) as per conditions of consent to operate issued by OSPCB.
2. The Unit shall augment / properly maintain its effluent treatment plant, so that treated effluent meets prescribed norms, in case the effluent has to be discharged as allowed by conditions of consent to operate.
3. The Unit shall treat the effluents stored in the east side pond and shall maintain records of treatment and disposal quality & quantity of treated effluent and disposed sludge. Under no circumstances the aforementioned untreated wastewater shall be discharged or mixed with other water bodies or the sea.
4. A time-bound action plan shall be submitted by the unit on detailed assessment & restoration of surface water including creek as well as groundwater in & around the unit.
5. All drains carrying process effluent within the unit shall be connected to Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) and any drain / arrangement for unauthorized discharge of effluent shall be immediately dismantled.
6. Industrial effluents shall be transported through properly colour coded pipelines or covered drains. Storm water drains shall be maintained separately to prevent contamination from effluents.
7. The online pH meter installed at ETP shall be properly calibrated.
8. The Unit shall provide online continuous effluent monitoring system for Ammonical Nitrogen and Fluoride also.
9. The leakage of Sulphuric Acid Plant -C unit shall be rectified immediately to prevent discharge of emissions.
10. The Unit shall augment / properly maintain the air pollution control system so that the discharged emissions comply with prescribed norms.
11. The Unit shall take necessary steps towards repair of lining of gypsum pond and shall provide proper leachate collection and treatment system so as to prevent further contamination of groundwater and surface water bodies. Necessary action shall be taken by the unit to minimize the environmental impact of gypsum ponds.
12. The Unit shall take necessary action to prevent any emission leakage in future. In case of any accidental leakage of emission / hazardous chemicals, immediate remedial action shall be taken by the unit with information to Odisha State Pollution Control Board and other concerned authorities.

For unauthorized discharge of untreated effluent to the environment, separate action including imposition of environmental compensation will be taken by Central Pollution Control Board.

In case of failure to comply with the aforesaid directions necessary action as deemed fit under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 will be taken by Central Pollution Control Board.

M³ 21/3/24
(Tanmay Kumar)
Chairman

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Copy to:

1. The Chairman:
Odisha State Pollution Control Board, A-118,
Nilakanta Nagar, Unit –VIII,
Bhubaneswar – 751012.
To ensure that the Unit remains closed till written permission to operate is obtained from CPCB
2. Executive Engineer
TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited,
AT- Paradeep Ghar,
NRLOCK P.S., Paradeep
Bhubaneswar, Odisha 754141
With request to disconnect industrial electricity supply of Unit, allowing supply only for domestic & security purposes.
3. The Additional Secretary (CP Division)
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate
Change, Prithvi Wing, 5 th Floor,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003
4. The Regional Director
Central Pollution Control Board
'South end Conclave' Block-502, 5th & 6th
Floor, 1582, Razidanga, Main Road, Kolkata-
700107
5. ✓ D.H., IT, CPCB
6. D.H. IPC- VI, CPCB


(Bharat Kumar Sharma)
Member Secretary