

SPEED POST

CP-99/87/2024-IPC-I-HO-CPCB-HO 5240

September 27 , 2024

To

M/s Vedanta Limited
Cairn Oil and Gas (Old Name Cairn India Limited)
DLF Atria, Phase 2, Jacranda Marg,
DLF City, Gurugram, Tehsil:Gurugram
District: Gurugram

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

Whereas the M/s Vedanta Limited, Barmer, Rajasthan (herein after referred as the Unit) is engaged in exploration, production and processing of crude oil and gas in Barmer area which covers Mangala Processing Terminal, Well Pads & surrounding villages of well pads; and

Whereas, a communication dated 01/08/2024 received from Lok Sabha Secretariat Office in a matter raised during Zero Hour on 30/07/2024 in Lok Sabha by Shri Ummeda Ram Beniwal, Hon'ble M.P. regarding environmental pollution in the agricultural lands and health hazards in Barmer Parliamentary Constituency, Jaisalmer caused due to discharge of chemical waste water into ground through bore-well by M/s Cairn Oil & Gas, Vedanta Limited, Barmer, Rajasthan; 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, the Unit was inspected by a team of official(s) from Regional Directorate, Bhopal Central Pollution Control Board during August 13-16, 2024 to find out the facts as well as to know the extent of problem and collected waste water samples, ground water samples, soil samples, conducted ambient air quality and ambient noise monitoring; and

Whereas the following observations / non-compliance was observed by the inspecting team during inspection:

1. The analysis report reveals that the treated effluent for re-injection in abandoned well is exceeding the prescribed standards limit for TSS -130.4 mg/l > 100 mg/l at Mangala 3/6, as per CTO issued by Rajasthan PCB.
2. The analysis results indicates that the solid liquid separation Unit (ETP) at Mangala 3/6 is not adequate as treated effluent contains high TDS -15330 mg/l, COD -279 mg/l, BOD - 112 mg/l, phenol - 2.092 mg/l, mercury- 0.3264 mg/l and chloride -8662.2 mg/l and discharged in to abandoned well of 1000 m below ground level.

3. The analysis results indicates that the produce water process plant at Mangala Processing Terminal of the Units not working properly as produce water contains high TDS - 8665 mg/l, COD - 323 mg/l , BOD - 134 mg/l, chloride - 4402.89 mg/l and phenol -3.14 mg/l and discharged in to abandoned well of 1000 m below ground level.
4. The analysis results indicates that the RO of the Unit is not adequate to treat the rejects for re-injection with respect to TDS -14407 mg/l, Sulphate -1007.2 mg/l, chloride - 7082.91 mg/l and phenol- 4.39 mg/l and discharged in to abandoned well of 1000 m below ground level.
5. The ambient air quality monitoring values for Particulate Matter (PM10) at Mangala well pad no. 17 and at Mangala well pad no. 2 are exceeding the prescribed NAAQ standards of 24-hour average limit for PM10 (103 & 102 >100 µg/m³).
6. The ground water samples collected from tube wells found blackish/light brown/brick red colored water in 4 locations. Further analysis results of Ground water of tube wells indicates exceedance of drinking water standard (IS 10500: 2012) w.r.t Turbidity - 5.5>5 NTU and Iron - 4.286 >0.3 mg/l (Tube well Chhitarkapar near MWP-12) (ii) Calcium -255.6 > 200 mg/l and Iron- 0.749 >0.3 mg/l (Tube well near MWP-7) (iii) Calcium -203> 200 mg/l, Mg -247>100 mg/l, Turbidity - 7.1>5 NTU and Iron- 71.23 >0.3 mg/l (Tube well near MWP-16) (iv) Iron - 2.19 >0.3 mg/l(Tube well near MWP-1) and (v) Iron - 2.907 >0.3 mg/l (Tube well between MWP-2 & 16) respectively.
7. The NOC issued from Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) for ground water abstraction is expired on 11.08.2023 and Unit has applied for renewal of the same but till date not renewed.
8. The Unit has not installed the online continuous water quality monitoring system at solid liquid separation Unit at Mangala 3/6 outlet and at produced water process plant outlet.
9. More than 100 no. of waste pits at well pads for storing the fluid generated during the maintenance of wells are not properly designed to prevent any leachate/seepage in to ground water and there are no piezometers and seepage detection system in place at the waste pits provided at well pads.
10. The excess hazardous wastes viz. drill cuttings, sludge containing oil and drill mud containing oil stored in the captive SLF are not emptied regularly by sending the waste for co-processing to avoid high quantity of hazardous wastes stored in the SLF.
11. The analysis results of the soil samples collected from well pad area and agricultural fields located near M/s Cairn Oil and Gas, Vedanta Ltd. Barmer reflects presence of Iron, Zinc, Nickel, Manganese, Chromium, Lead and Copper content in the soil of area.
12. Information/daily status of Hazardous waste is not updated on the Display board provided at the entrance of the Unit (Mangala Processing Terminal) as per Hon'ble Supreme Court order in WP 657/19S5.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, in view of above and in exercise of powers delegated to the Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, **M/s Vedanta Ltd. Barmer, Rajasthan** is hereby directed to show cause as to why the operation of the Unit should not be closed down for the above non-compliance.

The Unit is hereby given an opportunity to file its objection (if any) to the above directions within 15 days from the receipt of this notice, failing which necessary action as deemed fit under the provision of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 including issuance of closure directions / imposition of environment compensation will be taken by CPCB.

15/07/12
(Tanmay Kumar)
Chairman

Copy to:

1. The Chairman
Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board
A-4 Institutional Area, Jhalana Doongri
Jaipur – 302004, Rajasthan
2. The Additional Secretary (CP Division)
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
Prithvi Wing, 5th Floor,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj,
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110003
3. The Regional Director
Central Pollution Control Board
Regional Directorate
Parivesh Bhawan, Paryavaran Parisar,
E-5, Arera Colony,
Bhopal-462016, Madhya Pradesh
- ✓ 4. Divisional Head, IT, CPCB
5. Divisional Head, IPC-VI, CPCB

15/07/12
(Bharat Kumar Sharma)
Member Secretary