

SPEED POST and E-MAIL

EQ-11099/20/2021-AQM-HO-CPCB-HO

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November // , 2024

To,  
The Chairman,  
M/s Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited,  
Bharat Bhavan, 4 and 6 Currimbhoy Road,  
Ballard Estate, Mumbai 400001

**Sub: Directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for non-installation of Vapour Recovery Systems at storage terminals - reg.**

WHEREAS, clean air is a matter of right and it is necessary to take steps towards improvement of Air Quality and for protecting public health National Ambient Air Quality Standards have been prescribed for 12 pollutants viz. PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, Ozone, NH<sub>3</sub>, Benzene, Benzo(a)pyrene, Pb, Ni, and As;

WHEREAS, many towns and cities, where ambient air is monitored under National Ambient Monitoring Programme, are not complying with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, particularly with respect to particulate matter pollution, and NO<sub>2</sub>, benzene and Ozone are becoming a matter of concern;

WHEREAS, petrol refueling stations are a major source of emissions of benzene, which is a carcinogenic compound, and the people in the vicinity of these stations including the workers engaged in the dispensing activities may potentially be at risk of benzene exposure;

WHEREAS, Benzene and other volatile organic compounds (VOC), which are emitted from loading operations at storage terminals, and during refuelling of individual vehicles and loading/unloading operations at refuelling stations are precursor to tropospheric ozone; therefore, requiring control of VOC emissions from such installations is an important step for improving air quality, particularly in regard to benzene and ozone.

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, vide Notification No. GSR 913 (E) dated 24.10.1989, has delegated the powers vested under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 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 the rules notified under the Environmental (Protection) Rules, 1986 and amendment thereof,

WHEREAS, CPCB on 18.09.2020 issued directions to M/s. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) for installation of Vapour Recovery System (VRS) at petrol pumps selling more than 100 KLPM and located in million plus cities, and, those selling more than 300 KLPM and located in cities with population between 01 Lakh to 01 million, and, at storage terminals catering to the petrol pumps in such cities;

WHEREAS, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai, vide order dated 23.12.2021 in Original Application No. 138 of 2020: V.B.R. Menon v/s The Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu and Ors., directed CPCB to take appropriate action, against those petroleum outlets and depots which failed to install VRS within the extended time fixed by the CPCB in direction dated 18.09.2020, as directed by the Principal Bench of National Green Tribunal, New Delhi in O.A. No.147 of 2016 (Aditya N. Prasad & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Ors.);

WHEREAS, M/s BPCL filed a Civil Appeal No. 1695 of 2022 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the said order and the order of Hon'ble NGT was initially stayed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 28.01.2022;

WHEREAS, the matter was further heard by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the Hon'ble Court vide its final judgement dated 14.03.2023 directed CPCB to ensure that the directions issued by the NGT as contained in para above is fully complied with;

WHEREAS, the status submitted by M/s Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited vide emails dated 10.05.2024 and 27.06.2024 show delay in VRS Stage 1A installation at 28 storage terminals (list enclosed), in violation of the timelines prescribed by CPCB;

WHEREAS, above status indicated non-compliance of timelines prescribed in CPCB directions dated 18.09.2020;

WHEREAS, CPCB issued a show cause notice (SCN) dated 04.09.2024 to BPCL under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to show cause as to why Environmental Compensation of Rs. One crore shall not be imposed upon it, for not installing VRS within the CPCB prescribed timelines;

WHEREAS, BPCL vide letter dated 24.09.2024 submitted its reply against the show cause notice, and the submissions made were deemed unsatisfactory;

NOW THEREFORE, in view of above and in exercise of power vested under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, **M/s Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited is hereby directed to pay Environmental Compensation of Rs. One crore for not installing VRS at 28 storage terminals within the CPCB prescribed timelines;**

The Environmental Compensation amount shall be deposited with CPCB within 15 days of receipt of this direction, failing which necessary action will be taken as per law.

  
(Tanmay Kumar)  
Chairman

**Copy to:**

1. **The Additional Secretary,** : for information please  
**CP Division,**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,**  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh road,  
New Delhi - 110003
  
2. **The Joint Secretary,** : for information please  
**Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas,**  
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001
  
3. **Divisional Head,** : with request to upload on CPCB website  
**IT division, CPCB**

  
**(Bharat Kumar Sharma)**  
**Member Secretary**

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**List of BPCL storage terminals violating VRS installation timelines**

S. No.	BPCL supply point	State / U.T
1	Kota	Rajasthan
2	Salawas	Rajasthan
3	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
4	Mughalsarai	Uttar Pradesh
5	Najibabad	Uttar Pradesh
6	Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir
7	Jalandhar	Punjab
8	Sangrur	Punjab
9	Lalru	Punjab
10	Budge Budge	West Bengal
11	Patna	Bihar
12	Sewree	Maharashtra
13	Pakni	Maharashtra
14	Borkhedi	Maharashtra
15	Koyali	Gujarat
16	Hazira	Gujarat
17	Navegaon	Gujarat
18	Manglia	Madhya Pradesh
19	Bakania	Madhya Pradesh
20	Rairu	Madhya Pradesh
21	Bhitoni	Madhya Pradesh
22	Karur	Tamil Nadu
23	Devangonhi	Karnataka
24	Cherlapalli	Telangana
25	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
26	Kondapally	Andhra Pradesh
27	Irimpanam	Kerala
28	Paradeep	Odisha