

BY SPEED POST

CP-99/39/2024-IPC-I-HO-CPCB-HO-7367

December 13, 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, on the basis of non-compliance observed by the inspection team, CPCB on 21.03.2024 issued direction under section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to the unit to close down all operational activities with immediate effect till the directives as stated in the concerned directions are complied with and written permission to resume operations is obtained from CPCB.

WHEREAS, the Unit submitted notarized copy of compliance of directions, and self-certificate that the Unit has stopped production w.e.f 01.04.2024 which was verified by State Pollution Control Board, Odisha (OSPCB); and

WHEREAS, CPCB has constituted a three-member committee vide office order dated 01.01.2024 having representative(s) from CPCB and MoEF&CC for examination and recommendation for revocation of the closure directions issued by CPCB; and

WHEREAS, the submissions of the unit regarding compliance of directions and the action plan submitted for complying with directions of CPCB were examined and deliberated upon by the revocation committee in its meeting conducted on 23.04.2024; and

WHEREAS, after the deliberations, the Committee recommended that conditional revocation of closure directions may be given for 90 days subject to conditions (mentioned in upcoming para) to be complied by the Unit.

WHEREAS, on the basis of recommendations of the Revocation Committee in its meeting dated 23.04.2024, CPCB on 29.04.2024 had issued Conditional Revocation Direction to the unit with following conditions:

1. The Unit shall be permitted to operate for 90 days from the date of commencement of the plant operation.
2. The Unit shall ensure that treatment of generated effluent and its reuse in the process so as to maintain Zero Liquid Discharge during non-monsoon season. It shall maintain the connectivity to ensure real time data from cameras and online flow meters for verification of ZLD compliance. The records of quantity of effluent generated, treated and reused shall be maintained.
3. IIT Kharagpur shall assess generation of effluent and efficiency of currently installed ETP as well as feasibility of ZLD during non-monsoon season by 5th June, 2024. Further, effluent generation during monsoon shall also be assessed in the study report considering contaminated run off generation which require treatment & their channelization to ETP, effluent management from ponds, recycling, etc. vis-a-vis installed ETP capacity and capabilities to meet the discharge standards prescribed by OSPCB.
4. The Unit shall maintain logbook /records of old gypsum pond and perimeter ditch w.r.t accumulated water in pond area, rain water and/or seepage collected into perimeter ditch, its characteristics, treatment, etc. on daily basis and shall submit monthly report to CPCB and SPCB. The Unit shall get permission from OSPCB for reusing wastewater from gypsum ponds in Phosphoric acid plant. Log books shall also be maintained on the quantity of water being used form old and new gypsum ponds after treatment, the treated water quality including the quantity being transferred from old pond. Further the Unit shall complete the lining of perimeter ditch of the old gypsum pond as per

CPCB guidelines by December 2024. NEERI shall monitor the effectiveness of lining and strengthening 2.2 km long peripheral ditch

5. The progress report on activities of NEERI as per the specified scope shall be submitted to CPCB and OSPCB on monthly basis. Further, based on the detailed assessment report of NEERI the Unit shall prepare Detailed Project Report (DPR) for remediation, if applicable, by engaging an agency having expertise in assessment and remediation of contaminated site. The assessment and remediation work shall be supervised by OSPCB through a technical expert committee. If remediation work is applicable, the Unit shall deposit BG towards remediation liability to OSPCB for execution of remediation activity as per DPR.
6. The Unit shall ensure that all process effluent be transferred through properly colour coded and closed pipelines to ETP for treatment and no process effluent shall be transferred in open drain to ETP.
7. The Unit shall ensure periodic calibration of all OCEMS and ensure real-time data transmission to SPCB and CPCB servers
8. The Unit shall install the requisite Ammonical nitrogen analysers and fluoride analysers at all the treated effluent / storm water discharge outlet points by 07.06.2024 with data connectivity to CPCB and SPCB server.
9. The Unit shall treat the scrubber effluent as per CTO conditions. In case, the Unit desires to recycle scrubber effluent in the process, a permission from OSPCB shall be obtained for the same. Further, the Unit shall maintain scrubber system attached to phosphoric acid plant so as to comply with prescribed norms.
10. The Unit shall complete the lining of all four compartments of old gypsum pond in phased manner with minimum liner thickness of 1.5mm of HDPE geo-membrane and shall also provide leachate collection, surface run off collection etc as outlined in CPCB guidelines. Lining of north-western and south-west compartments shall be completed by March 2027 and similarly, lining of north-eastern and south-east compartments shall be completed by June 2028. A quarterly progress report in this regard shall be submitted to SPCB/CPCB till the work is completed. Further, utilisation of lined / evacuated space of Gypsum Pond –I shall be done after obtaining permission from OSPCB.
11. The Unit shall intimate the date of resumption of plant operation to CPCB.

WHEREAS, the unit was again inspected on 14th and 15th July, 2024 by officials of Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Directorate, Kolkata for verification of compliance of directions issued by CPCB ; and

WHEREAS, the inspection team observed that all the conditions of conditional revocation direction dated 29.04.2024 were found complied, however, inspection team observed the following violations:

1. The Sulphuric acid plant (SAP) of Unit is currently exceeding emission limits in respect of SO₂ (1.78 kg/T against the standard of 1.5 kg/T prescribed by SPCB Odisha) and acid mist (116 mg/Nm³ against the standard of 50 mg/Nm³ prescribed by SPCB Odisha).
2. Water from the storm water drains having concentration of Fluoride ranging from 2.12 mg/l to 75.47 mg/l (against the standard of 2 mg/l prescribed by SPCB Odisha) and concentration of Phosphates ranging from 2.13 mg/l to 594.58 mg/l (against the standard of 5 mg/l prescribed by SPCB Odisha) is being discharged to the low lying area which is unlined.

WHEREAS, on the basis of non-compliance observed, CPCB issued directions (notice) to the unit on 30.09.2024 to show cause including that why Environmental Compensation amounting to Rs.40,50,000/-, be not imposed on the unit for disposal of untreated effluent to the environment; and

WHEREAS, in reply to the show cause notice, the unit submitted that the unit has started operating Alkali scrubber on continuous basis and that has reduced the emission level to 1.38 Kg/T. The unit submitted report of stack monitoring conducted on 19th and 20th September, 2024 by State Pollution Control Board, Odisha showing compliance with the prescribed emission standards; and

WHEREAS, in reply to the show cause notice, the unit also informed that entire storm water drain was cleaned and old residue silt was removed out and mixing up of any effluent with surface run off water was eliminated by executing all improvement works as recommended by IIT Kharagpur like increasing height of effluent drain, converting open drain to closed pipe system etc. ; and

WHEREAS, in reply to the show cause notice, the unit has also submitted report of monitoring of water collected from low lying area of unlined pond on 19.09.2024 conducted by State Pollution Control Board, Odisha which shows that that the quality of water collected in unlined storm water pond is meeting prescribed standards. The unit also submitted time bound action plan stating that the dewatering of unlined storm water pond shall be completed by December, 2024 and its lining shall be completed by June 2025 ; and

WHEREAS, the unit deposited Environmental Compensation amount of Rs. 40,50,000/- to CPCB on 23.10.2024 and requested to allow further operation; and

WHEREAS, the submissions of the unit and its status of compliance of directions issued by CPCB were examined and deliberated upon by the Revocation Committee in its meeting conducted on 21.11.2024 and the Revocation Committee recommended that the unit may be allowed to operate subject to conditions to be complied by the Unit;


AND WHEREAS, the Ministry of Environment & Forests, 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 exercise of powers vested to Chairman CPCB under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and in view of compliance with relevant directions under reference, the unit is hereby allowed to operate, subject to compliance of following conditions:

1. The Unit shall complete the dewatering of low lying storm water collection area by the end of December 2024 and shall complete its lining work by June, 2025. The water so removed shall be treated and reused in the process, with proper record maintenance.
2. The Unit shall take action w.r.t. remediation of the contaminated site and groundwater strictly in accordance with recommendations of NEERI and shall submit action taken report to State Pollution Control Board, Odisha (OSPCB) and CPCB.
3. The Unit shall complete the lining of perimeter ditch of the old gypsum pond as per CPCB guidelines by December 2024. NEERI shall monitor the effectiveness of lining and strengthening 2.2 km long peripheral ditch and report in this regard be submitted to CPCB and OSPCB.
4. The Unit shall complete the lining of all four compartments of old gypsum pond in phased manner with minimum liner thickness of 1.5mm of HDPE geo-membrane and shall also provide leachate collection, surface run off collection, etc., as outlined in CPCB guidelines. Lining of north-western and south-west compartments shall be completed by March 2027 and similarly, lining of north-eastern and south-east compartments shall be completed by June 2028 as per the action plan submitted by the unit.
5. The progress report on activities of NEERI as per the specified scope shall be submitted to CPCB and OSPCB on monthly basis. Further, based on the detailed assessment report of NEERI the Unit shall prepare Detailed Project Report (DPR) for remediation, if applicable, by engaging an agency having expertise in assessment and remediation of contaminated site. The assessment and remediation work shall be supervised by OSPCB through a technical expert committee.
6. State Pollution Control Board, Odisha shall monitor the progress of lining of low lying storm water area, lining of perimeter ditch and the gypsum ponds and assessment and remediation of contaminated site, as above, w.r.t. time bound action plan submitted by the unit including other conditions stated in Consent to operate and shall submit the quarterly monitoring report to CPCB in this regard.

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


(Tanmay Kumar)
Chairman



Copy to:

1. The Chairman
State Pollution Control Board, Odisha
Paribesh Bhawan, A-118,
Nilakanta Nagar, Unit –VIII,
Bhubaneswar – 751012.
2. The Executive Engineer
TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited,
AT- Paradeep Ghar,
NRLOCK P.S., Paradeep
Bhubaneswar, Odisha 754141.
3. 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.
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

With request to arrange to submit quarterly monitoring report to CPCB as stated in this direction.

For uploading on CPCB website pl.


(Bharat Kumar Sharma)
Member Secretary