

B-33014/30/2013/AQM

4232

July 29, 2021

To,

~~The Chairman,  
M/s Indian Oil Corporation Limited,  
Indian Oil Bhawan, G9, Ali Yavar Jung Marg,  
Bandra East, Mumbai,  
Maharashtra 400051~~

**Sub.: Modified Direction under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for extension of timeline for installation of Vapour Recovery Systems in petrol refueling stations other than Delhi- NCR- 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, are not complying with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, particularly with respect to particulate matter, and NO<sub>2</sub>, benzene and Ozone emissions are becoming a matter of concern;

WHEREAS, petrol refueling stations are a major source of benzene emissions, 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, petroleum refueling stations are also a source of other volatile organic compounds (VOC), which are emitted from loading/unloading operations, and refueling of individual vehicles, and that the VOCs get converted to secondary organic aerosols which contribute to PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration; therefore, requiring control of VOC emissions from such installations is an important step for improving air quality;

WHEREAS, in view of this and in exercise of the powers vested under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, CPCB issued directions to M/s. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited to install VRS in existing petrol pumps selling more than 300 KLPM and located in 46 million plus cities and new petrol pumps coming up with sale potential of 300 KLPM;

WHEREAS, M/s. IOCL reported completion of VRS installation in majority of petrol pumps located in 46 million plus cities and that work on remaining petrol pumps is under progress.

WHEREAS, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi vide order dated January 29, 2019 in O.A. No. 31/2019: K. Sathyadevan Vs Union of India & Ors. directed CPCB to look into the issue of extension of requirement of Vapour Recovery System (VRS) in petrol pumps other than those selling petrol more than 300 KLPM and located in cities with more than one million population;

WHEREAS, CPCB submitted report to Hon'ble NGT and recommended for installation of VRS at retail outlets selling more than 100 KLPM and located in million plus cities and retail outlets

selling more than 300 KLPM and located in cities with population between 01 Lakh to 10 Lakh; WHEREAS, the Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 22.07.2019 directed CPCB to finalize timelines for VRS installation;

WHEREAS, the matter was referred to MoPNG and MoPNG vide letter dated 22.08.2019 informed the timelines for installation of VRS by public sectors OMCs namely IOCL, BPCL and HPCL only;

WHEREAS, CPCB on January 07, 2020, in compliance of the Hon'ble NGT order dated 18.01.2019 in OA. No. 86/2019: Gyanprakash@ Pappu Singh vs Gol & Ors., issued guidelines for setting up of new petrol pumps recommending installation of VRS in all new petrol pumps having sale potential of more than 100 KLPM and located in million plus cities, and, petrol pumps with sale potential of more than 300 KLPM and located in cities with population between 01 Lakh to 10 Lakh;

WHEREAS, CPCB on 18.09.2020 issued directions under Section- 5 of the E(P) Act, 1986 to M/s. IOCL for installation of Vapour recovery system 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;

WHEREAS, M/s. BPCL (on behalf of all three public sector OMCs) vide its letter dated 12.05.2021 requested CPCB to extend the above timelines for VRS installation in view of delay in works during COVID-19 pandemic and availability of limited vendors for VRS supply;

WHEREAS, CPCB vide letter dated 04.06.2021 considered the issues raised by OMCs and communicated following timelines as the initial revised timelines:

- VRS Stage II: 100% retail outlets by October 2022 out of which 50% of retail outlets shall have VRS by June 2022
- VRS Stage IB: 100% retail outlets by June 2022 out of which 50% of retail outlets shall have VRS by Dec. 2021
- VRS stage IA (Storage Terminals): March 2024

WHEREAS, CPCB in letter dated 04.06.2021 indicated to OMCs that final decision on extended timelines will be taken post submission of details about the total number of vendors selected for VRS works, and, directed OMCs to communicate it by July end;

WHEREAS, M/s. IOCL vide its e-mail dated 22.07.2021 submitted its response regarding tendering status of VRS vendors and assured to put all efforts to comply with timelines mentioned in CPCB letter dated 04.06.2021;


WHEREAS, the response has been examined by CPCB and the timelines communicated by CPCB vide letter dated 04.06.2021 are treated as final extended timelines for VRS installation;

NOW, THEREFORE, in view of above, and, in exercise of the power vested under section 5 of the E (P) Act, 1986, the direction dated 18.09.2020 issued to M/s. IOCL are modified with respect to extension of timeline for VRS installation, and, M/s. IOCL is hereby directed to install VRS as per following timelines:

- VRS Stage II: 100% retail outlets by October 2022 out of which 50% of retail outlets shall have VRS by June 2022
- VRS Stage IB: 100% retail outlets by June 2022 out of which 50% of retail outlets shall have VRS by Dec. 2021
- VRS stage IA (Storage Terminals): March 2024

However, M/s IOCL shall make all efforts to complete VRS stage II and stage IB installation at fuel retail outlets by August 2022 and April 2022;

M/s IOCL shall submit monthly progress report of installation of VRS. In case of failure to comply with the above timelines, CPCB reserves the right to levy Environmental Compensation.

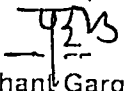
  
(Naresh Pal Gangwar)  
Chairman

**Copy to:**

1. Joint Secretary,  
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas,  
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi- 110001 :for information please

2. Joint Secretary,  
CP division :for information please  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor bagh road,  
New Delhi- 110003

✓ 3. Divisional Head,  
IT division, CPCB

  
(Prashant Gargava)  
(Member Secretary)

