

**SPEED POST**

B-29016/04/06/IPC-I/ 4922

October 06, 2022

To

M/s Numaligarh Refinery Limited,  
Pankagrang,  
District Golaghat,  
Assam – 785699

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

WHEREAS, Oil Refineries 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 State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs); 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 Numaligarh Refinery Limited, District Golaghat, Assam** (the unit) was inspected on 17.08.2022 by a joint team of officials of Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Directorate, Shillong and Assam Pollution Control Board for verification of compliance to the prescribed standards; and

WHEREAS, the inspection team observed that the treated effluent is not meeting the standards w.r.t. Suspended Solids (23 > 20mg/l) and Oil & Grease (7.95 > 5 mg/l); and

WHEREAS, it has been observed that the treated effluent is used in fire services and the ongoing construction activities in the unit; and

WHEREAS, the Consent to operate issued to the unit by Assam Pollution Control Board stipulates that the unit shall achieve Zero Liquid Discharge and the treated effluent shall be used in process / utilities ; and

WHEREAS, the inspecting team observed that the Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) sensors are not placed at the outlet of Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP). It was observed that the OCEMS sensors are placed in the downstream of the ETP outlet pond from where the treated effluent is pumped to fire services; which shows that positioning of sensors is not suitable to ensure real time and continuous monitoring; and

WHEREAS, the inspection team has observed that depending upon the demand, whenever Flare Gas Recovery Unit is in line with Sulphur Recovery Unit, the concentration of Sulphur in fuel gas increases, thus resulting in high SO<sub>2</sub> emission from the stack connected to the reactor furnace of Diesel Hydro Treater Unit ; and

WHEREAS, the inspection team has recommended that necessary action should be taken urgently to modify the process scheme inside Diesel Hydro Treater Unit to ensure less sulfur concentration in the inlet fuel gas of reactor furnace; and

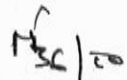
WHEREAS, the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, vide Notification No. S.O. 157 (E) of 27.02.1996 and S.O. 730 (E) dated 10.07.2022, has delegated the powers vested under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) to the Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board 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.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in view of the above observations, and in exercise of the powers vested to the Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, following directions are issued to the Unit (**M/s Numaligarh Refinery Limited, District Golaghat, Assam**) to comply with within 30 days :

1. The Unit shall use the treated effluent in process / associated utilities only so as to ensure Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) compliance. In case, the treated effluent has to be used in construction or in process other than petroleum refining or associated utilities, the unit shall obtain consent from the State Pollution Control Board; further, it shall be ensured that the treated effluent complies with the effluent discharge standards prescribed for petroleum refineries for the permitted use in process / associated utilities.
2. The Unit shall take necessary action urgently to modify the process scheme inside Diesel Hydro Treater Unit (DHTU) to ensure less sulfur concentration in fuel gas of reactor furnace, so that the emission from the stack of DHTU may comply with the prescribed standards.
3. The Unit shall install the OCEMS sensors at the outlet of Effluent Treatment Plant for ensuring real time and continuous monitoring. A photograph showing proof of re-locating the sensors shall be provided within a month.

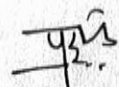
4. The unit shall submit analysis reports of treated effluent as well as the reports of source emission monitoring conducted at the stack of DHTU from Assam Pollution Control Board or any laboratory recognized under The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, regularly on monthly basis to Central Pollution Control Board till one year from the date of issuance of these directions.

In case of failure to comply with the aforesaid directions, necessary action as deemed fit under the provision of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 including issuance of closure directions / imposition of environmental compensation / legal action will be taken by Central Pollution Control Board.

  
(Tanmay Kumar)  
Chairman

Copy to:

- 1 The Chairman  
Assam State Pollution Control Board  
Bamunimaidan, Guwahati – 781021  
Assam
- 2 The Additional Secretary (CP Division)  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
Prithvi Wing, 2nd Floor, Room No. 216  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road  
New Delhi – 110003
- 3 The Regional Director  
Central Pollution Control Board  
"TUM-SIR", Lower Motinagar  
Near Fire Brigade H.Q.,  
Shillong – 793014
- 5 The In-charge, IT, CPCB
- 6 The In-charge, IPC-VI, CPCB

  
(Prashant Gargava)  
Member Secretary