

Department of Environment, Government of NCT of Delhi
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F.12 (585)/Env/NGT/OA 673 of 2018 | 7034-7045

Dated: 14/11/18

MINUTES OF MEETING

Kindly find enclosed the Minutes of the First Meeting of the River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) constituted in compliance to the directions of the Hon'ble NGT dt. 20.09.2018 passed in OA No. 673/2018 IN THE MATTER OF: NEWS ITEM PUBLISHED IN 'THE HINDU' AUTHORED BY SHRI. JACOB KOSHY Titled "More river stretches are now critically polluted: CPCB" held under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Environment) on 01.11.2018 at Delhi Secretariat, for necessary action please.

Encl. : As above.


(Nigam Agarwal)
Sr. Scientific Officer

Copy to:

1. S.S. Gill, Special Secretary, Urban Development Department, GNCTD.
2. Special Secretary (Environment) –cum- Member Secretary (DPCC)
3. Director, Department of Environment, GNCTD.
4. Dy. Commissioner, Industries Department, GNCTD
5. Mukul Bhandula, SE, DJB, GNCTD
6. D. K. Singh, SEE, DPCC
7. Dr. Nandita Moitra, Senior Scientist, DPCC

Copy for information to:

1. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board.
2. OSD to Chief Secretary, GNCTD.
3. PS to Pr. Secretary (Urban Development), Urban Development Department, GNCTD.
4. PS to Secretary (Environment) –cum- Member Secretary (DPCC).
5. PS to Commissioner (Industries), Industries Department, GNCTD.

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE RIVER REJUVENATION COMMITTEE (RRC) CONSTITUTED AS PER THE DIRECTIONS OF THE HON'BLE NGT DT. 20.09.2018 PASSED IN OA NO. 673/2018 IN THE MATTER OF: NEWS ITEM PUBLISHED IN 'THE HINDU' AUTHORED BY SHRI. JACOB KOSHY TITLED "MORE RIVER STRETCHES ARE NOW CRITICALLY POLLUTED: CPCB" CONVENED UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SECRETARY (ENVIRONMENT), GNCTD ON 01.11.2018 AT DELHI SECRETARIAT.

The First Meeting of the River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) constituted vide office order no. F.12 (585)/Env/NGT/OA 673 of 2018/6151-6155 dated 22.10.2018 (copy enclosed) in compliance to the directions of the Hon'ble NGT dt. 20.09.2018 passed in OA No. 673/2018 IN THE MATTER OF: NEWS ITEM PUBLISHED IN 'THE HINDU' AUTHORED BY SHRI. JACOB KOSHY Titled "More river stretches are now critically polluted: CPCB" was taken by Secretary (Environment) on 01.11.2018

The following Officers were present during the meeting:

1. Anil Kumar Singh, Secretary, Environment Department, GNCTD
2. S. M. Ali, Spl. Secretary (Env.)-cum-MS (Delhi Pollution Control Committee)
3. S. S. Gill, Spl. Secretary (UD), GNCTD
4. Dr. Anil Kumar, Director, Department of Environment, GNCTD
5. T.P. Singh, Deputy Commissioner (Industries), GNCTD
6. Mukul Bhandula, SE, DJB, GNCTD
7. Gajender Tomer, EE, DJB, GNCTD
8. D. K. Singh, SEE, DPCC
9. Dr. Nandita Moitra, Senior Scientist, DPCC
10. Dr. Rajesh Kr., DSIIDC, GNCTD
11. Nigam Agarwal, SSO, Environment Department, GNCTD

Record of attendance is enclosed.

At the outset, Secretary (Environment) welcomed all the participants and then requested Director (Env.) to deliberate upon the issue.

Director (Env.) spoke that as per the directions of the Hon'ble NGT, RRC has to prepare action plan within two months for bringing all the polluted river stretches to be fit at least for bathing purposes (i.e BOD < 3 mg/L and FC < 500 MPN/100 ml) within six months from the date of finalisation of the action plans. As per the Hon'ble NGT order, in case of Delhi, the polluted river stretch has been identified from Wazirabad to Asgarpur village (22 km).

As per the Hon'ble NGT order, the action plan will include components like identification of polluting sources including functioning/ status of STPs/ETPs/CETPs and solid waste management and processing facilities, quantification and characterisation of solid waste, trade and sewage generated in the catchment area of polluted river stretch. The action plan will address issues relating to; ground water extraction, adopting good irrigation practices, protection and management of Flood Plain Zones (FPZ), rain water harvesting, ground water

Nigam Agarwal

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charging, maintaining minimum environmental flow of river and plantation on both sides of the river. Setting up of biodiversity parks on flood plains by removing encroachment shall also be considered as an important component for river rejuvenation. The action plan should focus on proper interception and diversion of sewage carrying drains to the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and emphasis should be on utilization of treated sewage so as to minimize extraction of ground or surface water. The action plan should have speedy, definite or specific timelines for execution of steps. Provision may be made to pool the resources, utilizing funds from State budgets, local bodies, State Pollution Control Board/Committee and out of Central Schemes

The Action Plans may be subjected to a random scrutiny by a task team of the CPCB.

The Chief Secretaries of the State and Administrators/ Advisors to Administrators of the Union Territories will be personally accountable for failure to formulate action plan, as directed.

All States and Union Territories are required to send a copy of Action Plan to CPCB especially w.r.t Priority I & Priority II stretches for approval.

Director (Environment) also apprised that Hon'ble NGT has directed RRCs to send progress reports by e-mail at filing.ngt@gmail.com on or before 15.12.2018 and that the matter will be put up for consideration of the Report on 19.12.2018 by the Hon'ble NGT.

After this, Officers from DJB and DPCC told that as per the directions of Hon'ble NGT dt. 26.07.2018 in OA 6 of 2012 and OA 300 of 2013 titled "Manoj Mishra Vs. UOI and Ors." and "Manoj Kumar Mishra & Anr. Vs. UOI and Ors.," for Delhi, a two member Yamuna Monitoring Committee comprising of Ms. Shailaja Chandra, former Chief Secretary, Delhi and Mr. B.S. Sajwan former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and former Expert Member of Hon'ble NGT has been constituted as the Hon'ble Tribunal has identified that there is need for constant monitoring on day to day basis by a competent fulltime team as commissioners to execute orders of the Tribunal under Section 25 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. The mandate of the Yamuna Monitoring Committee is mentioned in detail in the Hon'ble Tribunal's order dt. 26.07.2018 (**Copy enclosed**) and covers all the points and is over and above the components to be included in action plan to be prepared by RRC constituted for Delhi in OA 673/2018.

Sh. Mukul Bhandula, SE, DJB informed that the 'Action Plan' of the Monitoring Committee for Rejuvenation of River Yamuna, appointed by the Hon'ble NGT vide Order dt. 26.07.2018 has already been prepared on 22.10.2018 and also submitted to the Hon'ble NGT. He had brought a hard copy of the Action Plan and showed it to the Secretary (Environment) and told that he will share a copy of the same by e-mail. At this, Secretary (Env.) said that for Delhi, since the action plan has already been prepared by the Yamuna Monitoring

Mukul Bhandula

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Committee comprising of Ms. Shailaja Chandra and Mr. B.S. Sajwan, the action plan for RRC may be prepared on the same lines and directed that a soft copy of the Action Plan already prepared in OA 6/2012 may be circulated to all participants by e-mail alongwith the minutes of this meeting. Secretary (Environment) also expressed concern that the RRC cannot work without participation of other concerned Departments/ Agencies including, DDA, three MCDs, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, DJB (officers already present), PWD, DSIIDC and Forest Department and directed that Concerned Officers from these be invited in the next RRC meeting.

While discussing the issues, officers from DJB and DPCC urged that while filing the status to the Hon'ble NGT, Delhi Govt. may request the Hon'ble Tribunal to exclude Delhi from the directions dt. 20.09.2018 in OA 673/2018 regarding formation of RRC and preparation of Action Plans by it since it will be a complete duplication of the 'Action Plan' already prepared by the Monitoring Committee for Rejuvenation of River Yamuna, appointed by the Hon'ble NGT vide Order dt. 26.07.2018.

At this, Secretary (Environment) agreed that a plea may be filed in the Hon'ble NGT by Delhi Govt. However, in the meanwhile, a similar action plan as already prepared in OA 6 of 2012 may be compiled by the RRC.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GNCTD

ATTENDANCE SHEET

Date: 01.11.2018/ 10.00 AM

Sub: First meeting of the River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) constituted as per the direction of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal order dt. 20.09.2018 passed in OA No. 673/2018 IN THE MATTER OF: NEWS ITEM PUBLISHED IN 'THE HINDU' AUTHORED BY SHRI. JACOB KOSHY Titled "More river stretches are now critically polluted: CPCB"

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