Chapter 9

Online monitoring of STPs, CETPs and Yamuna

Issues

Regular monitoring of the functioning of STPs and CETPs with respect to the quality of treated waste water is essential not only for timely management intervention but also to ensure accountability and transparency in the functioning of public bodies. The judgement dated 13-01-2015 and subsequent orders directed that:

I. All the STPs and CETPs should have online monitoring system installed which should function 24*7, provided with power back up for uninterrupted functioning and linked to the servers of CPCB and DPCC.

II. DPCC and CPCB should also monitor on a real time basis water quality in Yamuna by setting appropriate water quality testing station.

Present Status:

The review carried out with DJB, DPCC and CPCB in the two meeting that the MC had with these agencies brought out that despite a lapse of three and a half years since the judgement delivered on 13-01-2015 the connectivity between the servers of DJB, DPCC and CPCB has not become operational though equipment is said to be in place and the DJB is receiving the data on real time basis. Also, out of 13 CETPs to which 17 industrial clusters are attached, only nine (9) have been linked with the servers of DPCC and CPCB and four (4) CETPs are still to be linked. Also, one of the DJB STPs has no equipment for online connectivity. Despite clear orders of NGT, the information available through online monitoring is not available in public domain. DJB has also no system of generating alerts in the event of some STPs exceeding parameters.

There is a clear violation of NGT orders not only by the DJB, DSIIDC, and the CETP societies but even by the DPCC and CPCB-the regulatory bodies.

Action Plan

The Instructions issued are at Annexure VIII.
1. DJB has been directed to provide connectivity to their server to CPCB and DPCC for real time connectivity for data transfer in respect of the quality parameters of treated waste water from each of the STPs. CPCB and DPCC shall also liaise with DJB to make it functional. Within one month a system of generating SMS alerts for all the STPs in the event of parameters being exceeded by any of the STPs is a goal now accepted by the three agencies and will be monitored by the MC who arranged for exchange of basic formats and exception reporting. Such SMS alerts will also go to the CEO, DJB and the MC.

2. CPCB and DPCC will designate Scientists/Engineers within their respective organizations to be responsible for monitoring such online reports from DJB and send SMS alerts to CEO DJB. If corrective action is not taken even after a lapse of one week, DPCC and CPCB shall report the matter to the Monitoring Committee.

3. DJB has been directed to take steps to put the test results, manual and real time online data, in public domain by providing access to its website for each of the STPs.

4. DJB shall ensure that the online connectivity for data transfer is provided for all the STPs under its control.

5. DJB has been asked to prepare an action plan to improve the functioning of two STPs, namely, Keshopur Ph II and Phase III, which as per Chief Engineer DJB, are not meeting the design parameters. This has been asked to be done within one month.

6. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for calibration of sensor transmitting data online shall be observed in letter and spirit to ensure that the results of online monitoring correspond with manual testing, within acceptable margin of error. CE, DJB informed that such calibration is done once a month although it is required to be done once in a fortnight.

7. DPCC shall while carrying out inspection jointly as directed by this MC on 29-08-2018 shall also measure effluent received at each CETP, its quality both at the inlet and outlet, and compare the total flow so measured with the total discharge from all the industries as contained in the Consent to Operate order. The DPCC has been directed to take action against the CETPs/industries concerned strictly in accordance with the law and submit a compliance report. If inspections show continuance of hazardous activity in non-conforming areas it will be treated as dereliction of duty and reported to NGT.

8. The Joint inspection as ordered on 29-08-2018 has asked for inspection of selected Clusters out
of the 11 clusters which do not have CETPs to ensure that they do not release any liquid effluent.

The DPCC has made statements before NGT and the MC and have been directed to ascertain facts through inspection and report as to how and where the auto service stations discharge their hazardous waste like the used oil, grease etc. This was also covered in the direction given by NGT in its order dated 05-08-2015 also.

The above directions will be monitored monthly and progress reported to NGT.

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