
**FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE OVERALL
INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENT MANAGEMENT IN TALOJA MIDC INCLUDING
IMPROVED PERFORMANCE OF CETP**

(Prepared in compliance of order passed by Hon'ble NGT, PB, New Delhi
dated 17th Aug 2018 in OA No 125 of 2018 filed by Arvind Mhatre V/s
MoEF, CC and Others)

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1.0 BACKGROUND

Shri Arvind Mhatre filed Original Application No.125 of 2018, seeking various relief against the damage to environment due to discharge of effluents in the Kasardi River and Ghot River having adverse impact on the environment, though a Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) is being managed by the Talaja CETP Co-operative Society Limited. Shri Mhatre further requested Hon'ble Tribunal to appoint a fresh tender body/executive body for the maintenance of the CETP Talaja considering the failure of the existing managing committee for upgradation and proper O & M of the CETP.

Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi has passed an Order dated 17-08-2018 in the abovesaid matter considering the situation of the present nature of CETP Talaja requires continuous action not only to stop the pollution, but also damage is to be restored. Hon'ble NGT Principal Bench has constituted a Monitoring Committee (hereinafter referred as Committee) to ensure credible mechanism consisting of following members:-

- 1) Hon'ble Justice V.M.Kanade - Chairman
Former Judge of Bombay High Court
- 2) Shri Prasoon Gargava, Scientist-E, - Member
Representative of the Central
Pollution Control Board
- 3) Dr. Vijay Suryawanshi, - Member
District Collector – Raigad

The Hon'ble NGT has requested to Chief Secretary, Govt of Maharashtra to direct concern department to convene the meeting and make necessary arrangements. Accordingly, the Environment Deptt, Govt of Maharashtra has issued an office order dated 5.9.2018 regarding constitution of monitoring Committee. A Preliminary Meeting

of the above Committee was held on 05-09-2018 in which it was decided that there should be open dialogue with all stakeholders to get their issues & concern in compliance of the Order dated 17th Aug 2018 passed by Hon'ble NGT in OA No 125 of 2018 filed by Arvind Mhatra Vs MoEF & CC and Others.

Accordingly, the 2nd meeting held on 21-09-2018 at 3.00 a.m. at Parishad Sabhagruha No.5, 7th Floor, Main Building, Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400 032. The idea of the committee was to get the submissions of the stakeholders about their concerns/issues/suggestions before working on preparation of a draft strategic framework & monitoring mechanism for activities to be executed. The stakeholders presented about their roles, responsibilities & issues pertaining to present status of Taloja CETP and feasible measures to be taken for effective operation of Taloja CETP. The committee took stock of all the actions taken so far by stakeholders in light of the various directions of the Tribunal. Based on the inputs received from various stakeholders, the committee further worked on devising strategic framework for implementation with specific mention of tasks & responsibilities and with mechanism for reporting of measurable indicators of progress and success by all stakeholders.

2.0 VITAL FACTS FOR CONSIDERAION IN STRATAGIC FRAMEWORK & MONITORING MECHANISM

There are 229 industrial units out of 982 in Taloja MIDC generating effluent. There are 157 units having effluent generation less than 25 CMD, 57 units having more than 25 CMD and remaining 15 are Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD). An effective action plan requires critical inventorization & review of factors affecting the goal. Following are key stakeholders in overall effluent management system in Taloja MIDC:

- Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC);
- Taloja Manufacturers Association (TMA);
- Industries generating effluent in MIDC;
- Taloja CETP Co-op. Society Ltd.;
- Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB); and
- District Administration

It is gathered that industrial estate of MIDC Talaja has been struggling with responsibilities' sharing administrative issues among stakeholders which also resulted in haphazard effluent management & non-performance of CETP over the years. Following core issues are identified by the Committee with respect to the despoiled effluent management system in the industrial estate:

- ❖ There are only 229 industrial units out of 982 in Talaja MIDC generating effluent;
- ❖ Effluent generated from MIDC, Talaja is not meeting the desired inlet values of existing CETP;
- ❖ There are units generating effluent with high ammonical nitrogen content and high COD for which existing CETP is not equipped to deal with;
- ❖ Industrial units are discharging effluent in violation of consent conditions;
- ❖ CETP member industrial units are supposed to provide treatment/pre-treatment to the effluent generated but units are either lacking in adequate treatment system or reluctant to pay adequate attention to meet the treated effluent standards prescribed in consent or the inlet parameters of CETP, as the case may be;
- ❖ There are issues with maintenance of pipeline carrying effluent to CETP & from CETP to final disposal point;
- ❖ The existing final disposal point of treated effluent from CETP is not as per point decided in consultation with National Institute of Oceanography & mentioned in consent issued by MPCB.
- ❖ The existing CETP is not operated & maintained scientifically over the years;
- ❖ Structural units, pumps, equipments of CETP are not repaired & maintained regularly and have resulted in the situation of need for large scale overhaul.
- ❖ The CETP is lacking in trained manpower with suitable laboratory facilities for routine diagnostics for CETP;
- ❖ Improvement in performance of CETP resulted from temporary closure of certain industries by MPCB may be considered as temporary phenomena, unless these industries take effective measures for compliance at their end;

