

Press Release

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board

As per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006, issued by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, the building construction projects having built-up area more than 20,000 sq.m shall get prior environmental clearance (EC). Accordingly, in Tamil Nadu, the multistoried apartment buildings, IT Parks, Commercial establishments having built-up area more than 20,000 sq.m shall get prior EC from State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority-Tamil Nadu. After getting EC, consent to establish (CTE) shall be obtained from Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) under Section 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. While granting CTE, TNPCB imposes various conditions including for establishment of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), providing Online Continuous Effluent Quality Monitoring System (OCEMS) and connecting the same to the Water Quality Watch. (Water Quality Watch Online Portal of CPCB and TNPCB). Ensure proper collection and management of solid wastes, providing rain water harvesting facilities, providing acoustic control measures to the DG sets etc.

After establishment of the project, they shall get consent to operate (CTO) from TNPCB under the Water (P&CP) Act, 1974 and the Air (P&CP) Act, 1981. While granting the CTO, TNPCB imposes conditions for effective operation and maintenance of the facilities efficiently and continuously to satisfy/adhere to the standards prescribed by the Board.

Whereas, complaints are often received that the project proponents are not operating the STP effectively, discharging untreated sewage into the nearby storm water drain, vacant land, water bodies and causing pollution. In some places, the untreated sewage is being transported through tanker lorries and discharged in to the road side drains, water bodies etc. Complaints are also received about improper management of solid wastes. Litigations are also filed in Courts against the project proponents by the Public / residents and from Non Government Organizations (NGOs).

Water bodies need to be protected from pollution.

Considering the above, TNPCB issues this public notice as follows:-

1. All the building construction projects including multistoried apartment buildings, IT Parks, Commercial establishments having built-up area more than 20,000 sq.m shall get consent to operate from the TNPCB under the Water (P&CP) Act, 1974 and the Air (P&CP) Act, 1981. Thereafter, the proponents who have got consent shall apply and get renewal of consent regularly and they shall operate the facility only with valid consent of TNPCB. Even construction projects with built-up area less than 20,000

sq.m, if they are provided with Sewage Treatment Plant should also get consent of the Board for effective monitoring of operation of such plants.

2. In case of the Residential Apartment complexes, where the Promoter handed over the building to the Owners Association, the said Association shall apply and get consent of the TNPCB and subsequently renew the Consent regularly.
3. Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) shall be maintained and operated efficiently so as to meet the standards. The treated sewage shall be recycled, used for gardening, tree plantation as per consent order conditions.
4. They shall provide Online Continuous Effluent Quality Monitoring System (OCEMS) to monitor the treated sewage quality and connect the same to the CPCB and TNPCB's Water Quality Watch server.
5. Solid waste shall be properly collected and managed as per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. Banned single use plastic (SUP) shall not be used in the premises.

TNPCB officials will conduct surprise inspections in the multistoried apartment buildings, IT Parks, Commercial establishments etc. In case of any violations noticed action will be taken to close the premises, disconnection of power supply and even sealing of the premises as per the Water (P&CP) Act, 1974, the Air (P&CP) Act, 1981 and the Environment(Protection) Act, 1986. Environmental Compensation will be levied on the occupier. TNPCB will also take action to file case in the Court. In case of transporting untreated sewage through tanker lorries and discharging into road side, water bodies etc, the vehicle will be seized and legal action will be taken on the vehicle owner as well as the occupier of the buildings from where the sewage is collected.

TNPCB requests all the stake holders to comply with environmental standards and protect our water bodies and environment.

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