

**ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION (PREVENTION & CONTROL) AUTHORITY
for the National Capital Region**

Dr. Bhure Lal
Chairman

EPCA-R/2020/L-38
October 08, 2020

Most Urgent

Dear Sir,

The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) at its meeting held today, October 8, 2020 reviewed urgent action that needs to be taken for the implementation of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), which has been notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) on January 12, 2017.

EPCA has been advised by Task Force on Graded Response Action Plan, which is chaired by the member secretary of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) that the region has slipped into the 'Poor' category as weather conditions are turning adverse. The winter period sees worsening air quality because there is less dispersion and lower temperatures trap pollutants close to the ground. It is therefore, necessary to ensure that the levels do not rise further, even with coming winter weather conditions in the days to come.

As you know, GRAP is designed to take proactive and immediate measures to contain pollution.

Accordingly, EPCA is directing the following measures under Very Poor/Severe category of GRAP from October 15, 2020. As done in the past year, based on the air quality, CPCB-led Task Force and EPCA will review the situation frequently and direct additional measures if the need arises.

As of October 15, 2020 the following measure will come into force:

1. The use of diesel generator sets will be banned (other than essential/emergency services) in Delhi and in vicinity towns – Ghaziabad, Noida and Greater Noida in UP and Faridabad and Gurgaon in Haryana. In 2019, the states of UP and Haryana had informed EPCA that they will put in the required measures by winter 2020 so that electricity from the grid can be supplied without disruptions in these areas, which would then obviate the need for diesel generators. EPCA will send a guidance list of the exclusion and emergency services that were permitted in NCR Delhi in the last winter for the use of all state governments to adopt.
2. Large construction projects, including highways and metro will provide undertaking to the state pollution control boards/pollution control committees that they will assure adherence to the prescribed norms/guidelines for dust management.
3. Industries, particularly in the Red and Orange category, will provide an undertaking to the state pollution control boards/pollution control committees that they will use only authorised fuel and will not operate without adequate pollution control measures.

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Central Pollution Control Board

Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Near Karkardooma Courts, Shahdara, Delhi 110 032
Tel/Fax: 22301955 (CPCB), Tel: 43102414 Dr. Bhure Lal, Chairman

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This measure is in addition to the steps/measures that have already been directed, which are as follows:

4. **Ensure enforcement and full compliance of the action plan on the identified pollution Hot-Spots through ground-level surveillance; night patrolling so as to ensure zero-tolerance for all sources of pollution, including waste burning and dust. Chairman EPCA has, based on visits to the Hot Spot has identified the problems that need to be urgently addressed before the coming winter season. Please ensure compliance with these measures that need to be taken so that pollution sources are controlled. Needless to say, control of air pollution during winter will require greatly enhanced vigilance on ground so that sources, such as industrial stacks and garbage dumping and use of illegal fuel are checked and penalised. The use of all technologies for dust management, including smog-guns, should be extensively used during this period.**
5. **Ensure long-term solutions to the growing problem of solid waste dumping, which is of particular concern because of scattered fires that greatly contribute to air pollution. EPCA chairman has noted during monitoring that even as the area is cleaned and the pollution source removed/repared, the problem surfaces again. This is particularly the case when it comes to waste that is found dumped across the different Hot Spots, particularly in the vicinity of industrial areas. It is therefore, necessary that there is a plan for remediation of this garbage, through its processing and long-term arrangements for collection and treatment.**
6. **Direct mechanized sweeping machines for regular cleaning of roads/streets in shifts both day and night where available. Sprinkle water and take other necessary measures to control dust from roads.**

As mentioned above, CPCB-led task force and EPCA will continue to review the situation and if the weather-pollution turns adverse, then will revert back to you for the additional steps that will be required to be taken, including steps to do the following:

7. **Closure of power plants in NCR, which do not adhere to the 2017 emission norms; restraints on private transport through measures as listed in GRAP to enhance parking fees, augment public transport and others, ban on construction activity, ban on industry not using PNG as fuel and other such measures.**

However, in this winter 2020 with all the combined efforts of the Union and state governments, we should try and avert the need to use these additional emergency measures for pollution control. We recognise that the economy is already under stress post-lockdown and therefore, our combined effort is to ensure that there is no further disruption.

However, we also recognise that co-morbidity is a huge challenge in the pandemic as there is enough evidence that pollution will make COVID-19 more dangerous. Therefore, we must have a zero-tolerance for air pollution in this period as it will come at huge human health cost.

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It is for this reason that we must take all steps to control and mitigate sources of pollution in this coming period. We would urge you to set up a control room and to monitor action personally so that we can enforce enforcement and compliance with these measures.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,

(Signature)
(BhureLal)
Chairman, EPCA

To
Shri Vijay Kumar Dev, IAS
Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT Delhi

Copy to:

1. Shri. Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment
2. Government of NCT of Delhi.
3. Shri. Arun Mishra, Member Secretary Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC)
Government of NCT of Delhi

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