



Pollution Control Board, Assam

(Department of Environment & Forests, Government of Assam)

অসম প্রদূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণ পৰিষদ

(অসম চৰকাৰৰ বন আৰু পৰিৱেশ বিভাগ)

NABL Accredited Testing Laboratory : Certificate No. TC-11384



No. WB/GUW/T-2242/12-13/179

Dated Guwahati, the 01st July, 2023

To

M/s Halco Aluminium Extrusions
Vill. Tetelia, Sonapur
Kamrup (M), Assam-782403
Email: rohan.sureka@halcoaluminium.com



Sub: Revocation of Closure Notice with imposition of Environmental Compensation Fine – reg.

Ref: Closure Notice vide No. WB/GUW/T-2242/12-13/153/805 dtd. 23.06.2023.

WHEREAS, under Section 17 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act - 1974, one of the functions of the SPCB is to plan a comprehensive programme for prevention, control or abatement of pollution of streams and wells in the state and to secure the execution thereof; under Section 17 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act - 1981, one of the functions of the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) is to plan a comprehensive programme for prevention, control or abatement of air pollution and to secure the execution thereof;

WHEREAS, under Section 25 of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act - 1974 and Section 21 of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act - 1981 no person shall, without the previous consent of the State Board, establish or operate any industrial plant in an air pollution control area;

WHEREAS, you are operating your unit in the name and style of M/s Halco Aluminium Extrusions, Vill. Tetelia, Sonapur, Kamrup (M), Assam-782403;

WHEREAS, it is obligatory on the part of industry to install and operate Effluent Treatment plant (ETP) to comply with the effluent discharge standards as notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rules framed thereunder and also to meet the consent conditions stipulated by Pollution Control Board, Assam (PCBA);

WHEREAS, there was report in various print media of Assam, as published on 17.06.2023, regarding death of fishes in the Duani beel and M/s Halco was blamed for releasing toxic chemicals from the industry and that was cited as the reason for death of fish in the wetland;

WHEREAS, the unit was monitored on 17.06.2023 by a team of officials from PCBA. The unit was found in operation. Effluent samples were collected from the discharge point of the ETP. The sample was analysed for pH (3.55), DO (3.5 mg/l), TDS (3066 mg/l), Chloride (175 mg/l), Total Chromium (8.769 mg/l), Zinc (17.046 mg/l), Nickel (8.86 mg/l) and residual Chlorine (1.8 mg/l). The unit has been found violating the effluent discharge standards severely. It was observed that the effluent were discharged into a surface drain, which led to the Duani beel;

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Head Office : Bamunimaidam, Guwahati - 781021, Assam : India.

Phone : 2652774 & 2550258 : Fax : 0361-2550259 ; Gram : POLUTIONCONTOL

E-mail : membersecretary@pcbassam.org; Website : www.pcbassam.org

Regional Offices at : Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Sibsagar, Tezpur, Guwahati, Bongaigaon, Nagaon & Silchar.



WHEREAS, the sample was also collected from the drain in which effluent was discharged from the unit at the Railway culvert point. The sample was analysed for pH (5), TDS (3066 mg/l), Chloride (16 mg/l) and Total Chromium (1.962 mg/l) besides other parameters;

WHEREAS, the Board officials, during their visit on 17.06.2023, observed that the unit has been discharging untreated sewage generated in the residential quarters to the storm drain leading finally to the Duani beel;

WHEREAS, the Board officials, during their visit on 17.06.2023, observed that the unit has not installed signboards at the entry gate displaying the name of the industry and status of consent, even after repeated stipulation of the condition in the CTO order;

WHEREAS, the Board officials, during their visit on 17.06.2023, observed that hazardous wastes like empty containers of hazardous chemicals were dumped in the open ground within its premises haphazardly;

WHEREAS, the Board officials, during their visit on 17.06.2023, observed that plastic wastes were dumped in the open ground within its premises haphazardly;

WHEREAS, the unit was monitored again on 22.06.2023 by a team of officials from PCBA. The unit was found in operation. Effluent samples were collected from the discharge point of the ETP. The sample was analysed for pH (4.88) and the unit was again found violating the norms severely. The effluent samples collected from the drain leading to the Duani beel near railway culvert was analysed for pH (4.5). The water sample at Duani beel was also analysed pH (4.7) at the downstream of confluence point of the drain and the Duani beel. The pH at the upstream of the said confluence was analysed for pH (6.2);

WHEREAS, the inspecting officials observed that the effluent from the acidic stream storage tank have been evacuated by your unit. The Board officials have assessed that discharge of effluent with very low pH have resulted in lowering of pH in the drain, in which effluent is discharged, leading to the Duani beel and also resulted in lowering of pH in the beel leading to acidic condition in the water body and death of fishes;

WHEREAS, the Board has observed serious negligence by the unit, by continuing discharge of acidic effluent to the surface water body even after the media reports and observation of the PCBA;

WHEREAS, Closure direction was issued against M/s Halco Aluminium Extrusions, Tetelia, Sonapur, Kamrup (M) vide letter No. WB/GUW/T-2242/12-13/153 dtd. 23.06.2023 for severe violations of environmental norms with the following directives:

1. The unit shall revamp the ETP to meet with the discharge standards, as mandated by the Board. Online pH meter shall be installed at neutralization tank as well as effluent discharge point and such online effluent monitoring system shall be connected with PCBA server.
2. The unit shall take necessary action for net zero liquid discharge from the unit by applying 100% recycling and reusing method.
3. The unit shall install flow meter at the Bore well to quantify the water consumption.
4. The unit shall install flow meter at the discharge point of the ETP.
5. The unit shall improve housekeeping.



6. The unit shall install chimneys of adequate height with all the DG sets.
7. The unit shall not dump any hazardous waste like empty containers of chemicals in the open areas but stack all those wastes under shed.
8. The unit shall install STP for treatment sewage generated in the residential quarters.
9. The unit shall install display board at the entry gate as per PCBA's notification No. PCBA/LGL-95/2021/notification/01 dtd. 11.11.2021
10. The unit shall stop dumping of any plastic waste haphazardly.
11. The unit shall quantify the consumption of chemicals like H₂SO₄, HCl, etc.

WHEREAS, the Unit vide its letter dtd. 26.06.2023, had submitted an action taken report confirming suspension of all the manufacturing processes w.e.f. 23.06.2023 and various steps taken towards compliance of the Board's directions vide No. WB/GUW/T-2242/12-13/153/805 dtd. 23.06.2023.

WHEREAS, the unit was monitored again on 30.06.2023 by a team of officials from PCBA. The unit was under total shutdown, as observed by the PCBA officials. The unit was asked to pump out treated effluent from the treated water tank of the ETP and subsequently effluent samples were analysed at ETP treated water tank (pH=7.46), discharge point (pH=7.37), drain near railway culvert (pH=6.16), 50 meter upstream of confluence point of drain and Duani beel (pH=6.6) and downstream of confluence point of drain and Duani beel Duani Beel (pH=6.5),

WHEREAS, the inspecting official observed that the unit has complied with 8 of the 11 directions fully and necessary action has been initiated to comply with the remaining 3 directions against the closure directions of the Board dtd. 23.06.2023.

WHEREAS, Hon'ble NGT vide its order dtd. 19.02.2019 in O.A. No. 593/2017 (Paryavaran Suraksha Samiti & Anr. Vs Union of India & Ors.) directs SPCBs to collect Environmental Compensation from the defaulting units as per the formula mentioned herein under:

Environmental Compensation is assessed as below –

$$EC \text{ (Environmental Compensation)} = PI \times N \times R \times S \times LF$$

PI = Pollution Index of industrial sector (80 for Red category)

N = Number of days of violation took place from 17.06.2023 to 30.06.2023=14 days.

R = A factor in Rupees (₹) for EC (250)

S = Factor of scale of operation (0.5 for micron or small)

LF = Location factor (1.00)

Accordingly, EC to be paid by M/s Halco Aluminium Extrusions is assessed as

$$EC = 80 \times 14 \times 250 \times 0.5 \times 1.00 = \text{Rs. 1,40,000/-}$$

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NOW THEREFORE, in view of the compliance made by the unit against the directions of the Board dtd. 23.06.2023 and in exercise of powers vested under Section 33 (A) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 31 (A) of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, as amended till date, M/s Halco Aluminium Extrusions, Vill. Tetelia, Sonapur, Kamrup (M), Assam-782403 is allowed to resume its manufacturing operations subject to the following conditions:

1. The unit shall pay Environmental Compensation Rs. 1,40,000/- (Rupees one lakh forty thousand) only within seven (7) days to Pollution Control Board, Assam (Account Name- Pollution Control Board, Assam, A/c No. 50100159537391; IFSC Code – HDFC0004678).
2. Industry shall intimate the date of resumption of manufacturing operations to PCBA.
3. The data from the online pH meters installed at the ETP as well as final effluent discharge point of ETP shall be connected with PCBA server.
4. The unit shall prepare a water balance diagram with specific inputs for water withdrawal, water consumption at various units including residential purposes, quantity of effluent generation, quantity of water inflow to the ETP, water being discharged from the ETP at present, etc.
5. Time targeted action Plan shall be prepared for maximum reuse or recycling of treated water and achieving of Zero Liquid Discharge criteria. The task shall be completed within 180 days from the issue of this modified direction.
6. A well designed Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) shall be put into place within 180 days from the date of issue of this direction to treat the entire of quantity of sewage generated in the unit premises.
7. Bar Screen shall be placed at the natural storm water drain, which is entering into the plant premises and passing through the unit. The unit shall maintain the drain properly. The unit shall not dump any debris or waste into the drain.
8. The unit shall quantify the Hazardous Waste generation based on the chemical mass balance with respect to the chemicals, which are used in the manufacturing process as well as in effluent treatment. The characteristics of the hazardous wastes shall be analysed from a NABL accredited laboratory for Hazardous waste analysis.
9. The unit shall submit monthly compliance report till compliance of all of the above directions.

In case the unit fails to comply with the above conditions, PCBA will be constrained to initiate further action against the unit including withdrawal of revocation direction, in accordance with provisions of Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, without any further notice.


(Arup Kr. Misra)
Chairman



Memo No. WB/GUW/T-2242/12-13/179-A,

Dated Guwahati the, 01st July, 2023

Copy to:

1. The Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Department of Env. & Forests, Dispur, Guwahati-6 for favour of information.
2. The Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup Metro District, Pin-781001 for information.
3. The Commissioner of Police, Kamrup Metro District for information.
4. The Chief General Manager (D), APDCL, Lower Assam Region, Bijulee Bhawan, 5th Floor, Paltan Bazar, Guwahati-781001 for favour of information.
5. The Sr. Env. Engineer, Regional Office, Guwahati, PCBA for information.
6. P.A. to the Chairman, PCBA for kind appraisal of Hon'ble Chairman.

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(Shantanu Kr. Dutta)
Member Secretary