



केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
(पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS, GOVT. OF INDIA)

No.B-12015/60(35)/2004-AS/ *10153*

June 7, 2004

To

The Member Secretary
Karnataka State Pollution Control Board
6,7,8th floors, Public Utility Building,
NSB Building, M.G. Marg,
Bangalore-5600 001

**Sub: Pollution caused by toxic heavy metal by West Coast Paper Mill,
(WCPM), Dandeli**

Sir,

Enclosed please find a copy of letter dated 10.3.2004 received from Shri Pandurang Hegde, Karnataka, on the subject mentioned above, which is self-explanatory.

You are requested to kindly look-into the matter and send the status of the complaint to this office, at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

(Ashok Kumar)
Administrative Officer(C)

Encl.: As above.

Copy to :

1. The Incharge, Zonal Office, Bangalore
2. Shri Pandurang Hegde
Parisara Sanmrakshana Kendra
Hulemalgi Bulding,
Sirsi, Distt.-Uttara Kannada,
Karnataka-581401

For necessary follow-up, please

With reference to his letter dated 10.3.2004, for information *pt.*

(Administrative Officer(C))

PARISARA SANMRAKSHANA KENDRA
Hulemalgi Brothers,
Chowkimath,
SIRSI (Dist. Uttara Kannada)
Karnataka-581 401 India

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Dr. B. Sengupta
Member Secretary
Central Pollution Control Board
Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-cum-Office Complex
East Arjun Nagar, DELHI - 110 032

March 10, 2004

Subject: Cattle deaths by effluents of WCPM Dandeli.

Dear Sir,

The Kali River is threatened by pollution from the effluents of West Coast Paper Mill in Dandeli. The water and air pollution from this mill has caused major hazards directly for about 70,000 people. There are reports that many chemicals are present far above the permissible limits in the Kali water.

Assessment of river water quality done clearly indicates that the paper mill has adversely affected the life of various communities. The release of effluents from WCPM affected their livelihood activities and posed health hazards. The analysis revealed the incidence of accumulation of *toxic heavy metal* like mercury in the river water. The paper mill effluent has altered the distribution pattern of benthic organisms in the Kali River. This is clear violation of E (P) Act 1986.

The polluted water has affected cattle in these areas. Most of the *Gowli* communities are animal herders. The *Gowli* community has lost 2568 buffaloes and 1689 cattle due to polluted water. This has adversely affected the lives of poorest people. It is essential that the people who have lost their cattle should get proper compensation for the loss incurred due to pollution. And further cattle deaths can be stopped by strict water treatment by Paper Mill.

We had discussed these issues with the President, KSPCB on September 19, 2003. However, we are not aware of any action taken place on the WCPM to properly treat the effluents.

We once again request you to take necessary action immediately before we have to seek other peaceful ways of halting the untreated effluents from the mill.

Waiting for your Reply

Pandurang Hegde
for *Parisara Sanmrakshana Kendra*

CC: KSPCB, Bangalore

PARISARA SANMRAKSHANA KENDRA
HULEMALGI BUILDING
SIRSI (Uttara Kannada)
KARNATAKA-581 401

Dr. Neeraj
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**Remarks of Central Pollution Control Board on WCPM Dandeli
(20.1.2003 to 24.1.2003)**

1. It was observed that the effluents from all three sections were in flowing to Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) units.
2. It seems due to non-availability of sufficient aeration system in both the lagoons the D.O was found to be NIL all times.
3. The oxidation ponds provided for STP were filled up with sludge and requires immediate de-sludging in order to achieve better results.
4. Lot of dismantling & expansion activities is going on through out the industry and it has affected the over all house keeping needs to be improved.
5. The MINARS point monitored under CPCB program is located near Bommnalli pick up dam and this may be shifted to upstream aside at 500 m from the confluence point in order to access the exact quality of the treated effluent discharged from the industry.
6. The industry claimed that by adopting latest technologies & reuse/recycle of the effluents from different sections are going to decrease & thus the industry is likely to discharge lesser pollution load to the environment. However, this can be verified or measured only after completion of all their work. The present day pollution load discharged by industry has to be matched & cross checked only after completion of up-gradation project.
7. As industry is in continuous process of modernization of plant, there is a probability in increase of shock loads to ETP. This requires strict surveillance by KSPCB.
8. There is less quantity of water available in the Supa reservoir and it is likely that there will be less flow in the coming summer season. Hence **the ETP upgradation work has to be on war foot basis, otherwise the DO in the river may be affected.**
9. The industry has to provide the electronic meters to record the flow of treated effluent immediately.
10. There is **much variation between the consented quantities of production (85500 MT/annum) against their actual production (119750/annum) leading to a big confusion.** Regional office KSPCB does not have any supporting record for that claim.
11. The industry already attained production capacity of 119759 MT/annum and after expansion the production will be further increased to 163750 MT/annum. The pollution load after increasing the production will be reduced by adopting latest technologies. This requires further detailed investigation.

Source: Central Pollution Control Board report on Pollution of Kali River due to discharge of effluents from West Coast Paper Mill Dandeli. January 2003.