ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
PARYAVARAN BHAVAN, A-3, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,
SANATHNAGAR, HYDERABAD - 500 018.

Regd. Pet. with Ack Due

Order No. 2204/APPCB/UH-II/TF/NLR/2017-
Date: 29.06.2017

Cheruvukommupalem, Ongole (M), Prakasam District – Fire accident
occurred on 20.05.2017 at 03.30 AM in the Production Block No. 3 of
the industry – Legal hearing held on 22.06.2017 - Directions - Issued - Reg.

Ref: 1. Consent Order No. APPCB/VJA/NLR/10491/CFO/HO/2015-434,
dt.21.04.2015.
4. Complaint received through MoE&F, New Delhi filed by Shri Y.V.Subba
Reddy, Hon’ble Member of Parliament (LOK SABHA) against the
industry.
6. Fire accident occurred on 20.05.2017 at 3.30 AM.
8. External Advisory Committee (Task Force) meeting held on 02.06.2017.

WHEREAS you are operating a pesticide manufacturing industry in the name & style of
M/s. Bhagiradha Chemicals & Industries Ltd., at Cheruvukommupalem (V), Ongole (M),
Prakasam District.

WHEREAS vide references 1st cited, the Board issued Consent for Operation to the
industry on 21.04.2015 to manufacture Pesticides products and liquid formulations
(Group-A – 5 Nos. – 13.2 TPD and Group-B – 13 Nos. – 65 KLD), which is valid up to
28.02.2018.

WHEREAS vide references 2nd cited, the Board received public complaint from Sri
Y.V.Subba Reddy, Hon’ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Ongole, Andhra
Pradesh against the industry regarding severe air pollution and ground water pollution
due to dumping of waste material near the unit.

WHEREAS vide reference 3rd cited, the Board reviewed the industry before External
Advisory Committee (Task Force) meeting held on 11.11.2016 and issued certain
directions to the industry on 30.11.2016 for non-compliance of Board directions.

WHEREAS vide reference 4th cited, the Board has once again received a complaint
through MoE&F, New Delhi filed by Shri Y.V.Subba Reddy, Hon’ble Member of
Parliament (LOK SABHA) regarding unbearable pollutants discharged by
M/s.Bhagiradha Chemicals & Industries Ltd., Prakasam District.

WHEREAS vide reference 5th cited, the Board has reviewed the status of pollution
control measures taken by the industry before External Advisory Committee (Task
Force) meeting held on 04.02.2017 and committee recommended to forfeit the Bank
Guarantee of Rs.5.0 Lakhs and to issue certain directions. Accordingly, the Board
issued certain directions to the industry on 01.03.2017.

WHEREAS vide reference 6th cited, an accident has occurred at M/s.Bhagiradha
Chemicals & Industries Ltd., Cheruvukommupalem, Ongole (M), Prakasam District on
20.05.2017 at 03.30 AM in the production block no.3.
WHEREAS vide reference 7th cited, the Officials of Zonal Office, Vijayawada and officials of Regional Office, Nellore inspected the industry on 20.05.2017 and following are the observations:

1. The fire accident took place in M/s.Bhayratha Chemicals, Ongole on 20.05.2017 at 3.30 AM.
2. The industry is a Rs. 80.0 Crores investment industry engaged in production of "Pesticide Technical (Pesticides, weedicides, Fungicides).
3. The fire took place in ‘Block No.3’ where Fungicides technical – Azoxystrobon is manufactured using Sodium methoxide, Methanol and Toluene as raw material.
4. It appears, due to a spark generated from one of the 25 reactors, the Sodium methoxide kept in 10 Kgs bag near a reactor caught fire and subsequently other solvents like methanol and toluene caught fire spreading thick dense smoke in the area.
5. The fire was controlled at 7.00 AM. Due to the fire, the 3 storey buildings of block no.3 is damaged.
6. There is no casualties, but one person by name Sri Kiran was admitted in the hospital.
7. The industry has a fire hydrant of two X 250 KL. The waste water generated during the fire put off is about 200 KL, which is collected in a collection tank. A sample waste water joining the tank was collected for analysis.
8. The industry is supposed to inform about the accident in Form-14 where as the industry has not informed the APPCB about the accident.
9. Still, pungent odour is coming from the industry due to burning of Sodium Methoxide, Toluene, Methanol other raw materials and products. The ZO monitored the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) through VOC meter around the production block no.3 and the VOCs are upto 343 PPM against the standard of zero. The nearest village is Vengumukkipalem at a distance of 500 mts.
10. The industry is still discharging part of the effluents on 5 acres of land located on the southern boundaries of the industry and ploughing the land with tractor. The effluent discharging and salt depositions due to evaporation of high TDS effluents where observed on the land.

WHEREAS vide reference 8th cited, legal hearing was conducted before the External Advisory Committee (Task Force) Meeting of A.P. Pollution Control Board on 02.05.2017. The representatives of the industry attended the legal hearing. The Committee noted that a fire accident has occurred on 20.05.2017 at 3.30 AM in Block No.3 where Fungicides technical – Azoxystrobon is being manufactured using Sodium methoxide, Methanol and Toluene as raw materials. The EE, RO, Nellore has informed that the fire accident occurred due to a spark generated from one of the reactor and the Sodium methoxide kept in 10 Kgs bag near a reactor caught fire and spread to other solvents like methanol and toluene at 3.30 AM on 20.05.2017. A thick dense smoke was spread to the surrounding area. The fire was controlled at 7.00 AM. The 3 storey building of block no.3 was completely damaged during the accident. The representative of the industry informed that nearly 30 KL quantity of solvents (Toluene & Methanol) and other raw material was loaded in the reactors in block no.3, while fire accident took place. There was about 25 MT of intermediate products were available during the incident. The representative of the industry has informed that they have started the clearing of chemical debris generated during the fire accident by duly informing Deputy Chief Inspector of factories on 30.05.2017 and the quantity of chemical debris / hazardous waste will be around 15 Tons. A separate storage area is allocated for storage of waste/debris. The chemical debris / hazardous waste from production Block no.3 will be send to TSDF for further disposal.

The Committee after detailed discussions, recommended to issue certain directions. The Board hereby issue the following directions under Sec.33 (A) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 1988 and under Sec.31(A) of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 1987:

1. The industry shall rectify all the reactors which were involved in the fire accident and provide sufficient air pollution control equipment and safety systems before the start of the operations.
2. The industry shall dispose off chemical debris/Hazardous waste generated during fire accident to TSDF, Parawada for final disposal immediately.
3. The industry shall treat the waste water generated during the fire accident in the ETP immediately.
4. The industry shall provide water sprinklers at coal handing area to control fugitive emissions within one month.
5. The industry shall develop thick Green belt along the boundary in the industry premises.
6. The industry shall carryout HAZOP studies and submit report within 3 months.
7. The industry shall comply the all directions issued by the Board vide order dt.01.03.2017.
8. The industry shall ensure continuous compliance of the conditions issued in the CFO & HWA order.
9. The industry shall inform in writing to RO, Nellore about starting of operations in production Block no.3.

You are hereby directed to note that, should you violate any one of the directions mentioned above, action will be initiated under Sec.33(A) of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 1986 and Sec.31(A) of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 1987 without any further notice, in the interest of Public Health and Environment.

This Order comes into effect from today i.e., 29.06.2017.

Sd/-
MEMBER SECRETARY

To
M/s.Bhagiradha Chemicals & Industries Ltd.,
Cheruvukommupalem, Ongole (M),
Prakasam District 523072

Copy to:

1. The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Zonal Office, Vijayawada for information and necessary action.
2. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Nellore with a direction to furnish detailed report on air pollution, water pollution and solid/hazardous waste disposal after re-starting of production block no.3 for review.

T.C.F.B.O

JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
UH-II