EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY REVOCATION OF CLOSURE ORDER


10. Minutes of External Advisory Committee (Task Force) Meeting held on 29.01.2019.

WHEREAS you are operating the industry in the name and style of M/s RAV’s Steels Private Ltd, Sy.No.4, 5 &7, Hirdehal (V), D.Hirehal (M), Anantapur District to manufacture Sponge Iron.

WHEREAS the Board vide reference 1st cited, issued Closure Order to the industry on 19.12.2015 for operating without air pollution control equipment i.e., ESP to the kilns inspite of ample opportunity and time.

WHEREAS the Board vide reference 2nd cited, issued temporary revocation of closure order on 23.05.2016 for six months i.e. upto 30.11.2016 with specific directions to comply with.

WHEREAS the Board vide reference 3rd cited, issued consent for operation to the industry on 06.09.2016 to manufacture sponge iron – 66,000 TPA (or) 200 TPD for the period upto 31.03.2017.

WHEREAS the industry vide reference 4th cited, was again reviewed by the External Advisory Committee (Task Force) meeting on 24.03.2017 and issued Extension of Temporary Revocation of Closure Order dt: 06.05.2017 for a period of 6 months i.e. upto 31.05.2017 with specific directions.

WHEREAS the Vigilance & Enforcement Dept., Govt. of A.P., through alert Note No.59 (1249/V&E/NR-2/2015) dt.12.06.2017 recommended to initiate action against 6 No. of Sponge Iron units at Ananthapur District vide reference 5th cited, which was received through the EFS&T Dept., Govt. A.P. vide Ir. Dt.28.06.2017. Wherein the Board was informed to initiate action as per the recommendations of the General Administration
(V&E) Dept., immediately and to report to the action taken to Govt. The observations of the V&E Dept., alert are as follows:

i) On verification of the records, it was observed that the above industry was carrying out production activity in violation of Board directions without obtaining CFO and also without obtaining valid revocation of closure order.

ii) Green belt is not upto the required extent.

iii) Internal roads were not developed.

iv) The Board has reviewed status of the industry on 10.07.2013 and noted the non-compliance of the earlier directions as well as commitment given by the industry to install APC equipment, but not complied.

v) Misused temporarily power restored for the production activity, instead of the purpose of restoration for installation of APC equipment.

vi) Operating the DRI unit without APCE to the kiln since inception in the year 2012.

Finally, it was recommended revocation of closure order shall not be given to the unit until pollution control equipments are erected.

WHEREAS the Board has reviewed status of pollution control measures taken by the industry before External Advisory Committee (Task Force) Meeting held on 28.12.2017 and issued closure order to industry on 09.01.2018 vide reference 6th cited for operating the unit without completing the installation of air pollution control equipments and causing pollution problems in the surroundings.

WHEREAS the Board vide reference 7th cited, has issued the temporary revocation of closure order on 02.02.2018 for a period of one month i.e. upto 28.02.2018 with a direction to the industry to use the power supply only for re-installation of pollution control equipments and not use for production activity.

WHEREAS vide reference 8th cited, the Board issued temporary revocation of closure order to the industry on 24.09.2018 with certain directions for the period upto 30.11.2018.

WHEREAS vide reference 9th cited, the officials of ZO, Kumool have inspected the industry and surroundings and observed the following points:

a. The industry utilizes water for cooling, gardening and domestic purposes. The industry has provided settling tanks for cooling bleed off and is re-using the cooling bleed off after settling. The domestic waste water is disposed into Septic tank followed by soak pit.

b. The main source of air pollution from the industry is due to the operation of the rotary kiln and fugitive emissions from the industry are due to the raw material handling, coal crushing, screening section, cooler discharge point, product separating houses and due to the vehicular movement.

c. The industry has 2 no. of Rotary kilns with pre-heater of capacity-100 TPD each. The industry has provided dust settling chamber with scraper, ABC followed by air cool condensers and bag house with 2 modules with 234 bags for Kiln-1 and 4 modules with 384 bags for Kiln-II. The industry has provided air pollution control equipments i.e., bag filters at raw material stock house, coal circuit, cooler discharge, intermediate bin, product house and charcoal bin to control dust emissions.

d. The industry has not provided port hole in the stack for carrying out stack monitoring and hence stack monitoring has been conducted in the duct leading to the chimney.

e. The industry has provided 35 permanent water sprinklers at the coal / iron ore crusher area, feed belt conveyors area, RM stock house area, cooler discharge belt area, ESP area, along the internal roads, etc. However, the industry has deployed 01 no. of water mounted tractor for sprinkling water along the roads to control the fugitive dust emissions.

f. The Board officials have conducted stack monitoring in the duct leading to the stack attached to kiln on 30.11.2018 and as per the analysis report the value of PM is 159 mg/Nm$^3$ (standard of 50 mg/Nm$^3$) and also conducted fugitive emissions
monitoring at 10 mtrs away from the coolers discharge in down wind direction and the value of the particulate matter is 3281 μg/m³ (standard of 2000 μg/m³).

g. As per the CFO order dt: 06.09.2016, the industry shall install continuous online stack monitoring equipment and also 4 nos. of CAAQM stations. Whereas, the industry has not installed continuous online stack monitoring equipment and also CAAQM stations till now.

h. The industry is storing the iron ore fines, charcoal and bag filter dust in the open area in the premises resulting in more fugitive emissions during wind blows. The industry shall lay concrete or asphalt internal roads to avoid fugitive dust emissions.

WHEREAS, legal hearing was conducted before the External Advisory Committee (Task Force) of A.P. Pollution Control Board in its meeting held on 29.01.2019. The representatives of industry have attended the legal hearing. The Committee noted that industry is operating without valid revocation of closure orders and operating without CFO of the Board, the industry has not installed online stack monitoring and ambient air quality systems etc., and not provided activation recorder with recording facility to After Combustion Chamber (ABC) cap. The AEE, RO, Kumool informed that dust emissions at raw material handling area, improper maintenance of ESP and leakages are observed. It was informed that the industry has not provided ESP to the kilns and the emissions are being let-out through ABC cap. It was also informed that the industry has not provided water meters with totalizer facility, separate energy meter, and permanent water sprinklers, not laid concrete internal roads within the premises. Further, it was informed developed greenbelt within the premises. The Board officials have conducted stack monitoring and values of Particulate matter are exceeding the standards. The representative of industry has informed that the industry is operating the APCE i.e., Electro Static Precipitator (ESP) provided to each of the Kilns. It was informed that they provided interlocking system to air pollution control equipments attached to kiln. They will provide separate energy meter, water meters within one month. They provided 35 No's of water sprinklers along with the stock house area. They developed greenbelt in an area of 4 to 5 Acres within the premises. The management requested for revocation of closure order as they have to complete remaining pollution control measures. The president of A.P. Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association have requested for exemption for installation of online continuous stack monitoring systems as all plants are running with huge losses from the day of inception due to non availability of Raw Materials. The committee has not agreed for exemption of installation of online stack monitoring equipment.

After detailed review, the Committee recommended to issue Extension of Temporary Revocation of Closure Order for period of 3 months with certain directions. The Board is hereby issue Extension of Temporary Revocation of Closure Order for period of 3 months with 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 operate air pollution control equipment regularly and shall ensure compliance of the prescribed emission standards.
2. The industry shall install continuous online stack monitoring systems for all the major stacks within 2 months and shall connect to APPCB Website.
3. The industry shall operate inter locking system regularly.
4. The industry shall provide separate flow meters for assessing the water consumption used for cooling makeup, dust suppression and domestic purpose within one month.
5. The industry shall install separate energy meters for operation of APCE within one month and maintain records for the same.
6. The industry shall provide activation recorder with the recording facility to the After Combustion Chamber (ABC) cap within one month.
7. The industry shall continuously operate water sprinklers at the coal / iron ore crusher area, feed belt conveyors area, RM stock house area, cooler discharge belt area, ESP area to control fugitive dust emission.
8. The industry shall lay concrete or asphalt internal roads within 02 months to avoid fugitive dust emissions.
9. The industry shall ensure the validity CFO of the Board and ensure continuous compliance of the conditions issued by the Board.
10. The industry develop and maintain 33% greenbelt of the total area in the premises.

M/s A.P.S.P.D.C.L., has been requested to temporarily restore power supply to M/s RAV's Steels Private Ltd, Sy.No.4, 5 &7, Hirdehal (V), D.Hirehal (M), Anantapur District for period of 3 months.

You are hereby directed to note that, should you misuse this order to operate the unit beyond the time period given to you and violate any one of the conditions mentioned above, your unit will be closed under Sec.33 (A) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 1988, and under Section 31 (A) of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 1987, in the interest of Public Health and Environment and you will be also liable for prosecution in the Court of Judicial Magistrate First Class under Sec.41 (2) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 1988 and under Sec.37(1) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 1987, the punishment for which includes imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year six months and which may be extended to six years and with fine.

This Order comes into effect from today i.e., 27.02.2019.

Sd/-
CHAIRMAN
APPCB

To
M/s RAV's Steels Private Ltd,
Sy.No.4, 5 &7,
Hirdehal (V), D.Hirehal (M),
Anantapur District – 515 872.

Copy to:
1. The Managing Director, Southern Power distribution company of A.P. Limited, D.No.19-13-65/A, Srinivasapuram, Tiruchanoor Road, Tirupati – 517503, Chittoor dist for information and necessary action.
2. The Superintending Engineer (Operations), APSPDCL., Ananthapur, Ananthapur District for information.
3. The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office, Kurnool for information and necessary action.
4. The Environmental Engineer, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Kurnool for information and necessary action.

// T.C.F.B.O. //

JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
UH-II