

Meeting of the

Minutes of the Working Committee and Local Area Environment Committee held on 3rd May 2005 at Environment Training Institute class room, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai on mercury contamination due to M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd (Thermometer Factory), Kodaikanal.

Present :

Working Committee :

1. Thiru G Rengasamy - Chairman
Former Member Secretary, TNPCB
2. Thiru Karthikeyan - Member
District Environment Engineer, TNPCB
3. Thiru Navroz Modi - Member
Tamil Nadu Alliance Against Mercury
4. Thiru L.Sabarathinam - Member.
Madras Chamber of Commerce & Industry
5. Thiru G.S. Ganapathy - Member
Chemical Industries Association
6. Thiru R.Ramachandran - Convenor
Member Secretary, TNPCB

Local Area Environment Committee (LAEC) :

1. Thiru K. Karthikeyan - Convenor
District Environment Engineer, Kodaikanal
2. Thiru Goolakrishnan - Member
District Environment Engineer, Kodaikanal
3. Thiru S. Raja Mohamed - Member
Ponds Hindustan Lever Ex-Employees Association

Special Invitees & *additional Member*

1. Dr Tapan Chakrabarthy - Direct Grade Scientist, NEERI,
Nagpur
2. Dr S Srikant - Scientist, National Metallurgical *Laboratory*
Research Institute, Chennai.
- 3 Thiru Mahendra Palil - Scientist, NEERI, Nagpur

Officials of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) :

1. Thiru Jayakumar T.C. Ethiraj - Joint Chief Environmental Engineer.
2. Thiru V.Rohit Kumar - Assistant Engineer, TNPCB.

hirumathi N.Sujatha Prakash	- Assistant Engineer, TNPCB.
Thiru J. Jeyasingh	- Assistant Engineer, TNPCB

Representatives of M/s Hindustan Lever Limited (HLL), Kodaikanal :

1. Thiru Gurdeep Singh
2. Dr. Thirumala Rajgopal
3. Thiru Ashok Gupta
4. Thiru John George.

The Member Secretary (i/c) and convenor of the Working Committee welcomed members of the Working Committee, members of Local Area Environment Committee , special invitees , NEERI officials and representatives of M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd. The visit of the Supreme Court Monitoring Committee to the unit of M/s Hindustan Lever Limited Kodaikanal on 20.09.2004 was highlighted by the Convenor- Working Committee. Emphasis was laid on the following action points specified in the minutes of the VII Meeting of the SCMC .

- The visit to Kodaikanal to assess the effect of uncontrolled release of mercury into the natural environment by the thermometer manufacturing unit of HLL confirmed that complete remediation of the site including decontamination of plant and machinery is necessary.
- Over and above the remediation effort, HLL has been advised to implement a social rehabilitation package also consisting of setting up of a new non polluting industrial unit, or a training institute in tune with the ecology of Kodaikanal to re-employ as many of the workers as possible and also to set up or provide access to a health clinic for the victims of mercury poisoning.
- The existing Local ^{Area} Committee set up by TNPCB has been reconstituted and strengthened to supervise the remediation programme.
- TNPCB is directed to make an assessment of the extent of contamination and to calculate the costs involved in rehabilitation/remediation of the contaminated areas in Kodaikanal, in association with a reputed organization such as NEERI. TNPCB is further responsible for ensuring that the costs of such remediation are borne by HLL, if necessary by invoking Rule 16(2) of the HW Rules.

Subsequently the SCMC visited Chennai during 31 Jan 2005 to 2February 2005 and suggested the following in respect of Hindustan Lever Limited (Thermometer Factory) Kodaikanal for expeditious action and implementation.

NEERI to expedite the report regarding assessment of the extent of contamination and calculation of costs involved in rehabilitation/remediation of the contaminated areas in Kodaikanal. Some amount may be taken from HLL as an advance based on block estimates to be provided by NEERI immediately.

The Chairman Working Committee retraced the events that had occurred and recalled the working committee meetings that had taken place. The action taken for removal of mercury in all forms, decontamination of machinery and removal of soil was informed,

Regarding the health study in Kodiakanal, NEERI can coordinate with ITRC, Lucknow, Director NEERI confirmed that he would take up the matter with ITRC on priority.

Rehabilitation/remediation of contaminated sites in Kodaikanal should be tackled on war footing by TNPC Board.

Dr. Tapan Chakrabarthy explained that soil remediation will be done according to standards of 10 mg/kg or 2 mg/kg as the case may be according to the International Standards. Decontamination of machinery will also be done according to standards. The whole work of decontamination will be done at the H.L.L. factory site of Kodaikanal since it will not be advisable to transfer the contamination to another area.

After decontamination TSDF procedures will be followed. Till the TSDF procedures is formulated the material will be stored in the H.L.L. factory.

The whole exercise of decontamination of soil and machinery will be taken up and completed speedily by perfect coordination between NEERI /NML/HLL and Local Area Committee.

In view of the directions issued and suggestions made by SCMC, the matter requires to be expedited without any further delay. After the briefing, the points mentioned in the agenda for the meeting were taken up for discussion.

1. Finalisation of the proposals on 'Decontamination of machineries and materials and remediation of mercury contaminated area' at Kodaikanal due to the operation of M/s Hindustan Lever Limited (Thermometer Factory) Kodaikanal and surroundings In light of the proposal furnished by NEERI, Nagpur.

1.1. NEERI proposal to undertake a study of environmental contamination and scope of work envisaged were explained to the members.

1.2. Dr Tapan Chakrabarthy of NEERI clarified queries raised by members.

1.3. It was decided to go ahead with the study by NEERI and TNPCB is asked to issue confirmation to NEERI on this. NEERI is requested to submit its report with its recommendations to the committee in two stages viz. First 'Decontamination of Machinery & Materials and disposal with specific reference to method of disposing the machinery scrap and material scrap'; Second 'Soil remediation of contaminated area'

1.4. HLL is to undertake 3D Topo Survey, which is required to facilitate NEERI study on soil remediation. HLL is required to inform TNPCB before taking up the survey.

1.5. Mr Navroz Modi wanted sufficient samples outside the factory premises to be taken to check the level of contamination.

Revamping of ETP at M/s HLL's factory site :

- 2.1 Revamping of ETP is required for treating the effluent from de-contamination process. TNPCB will accord permission by 10 May 2005. Hindustan Lever Limited assured that by 30.05.2005 ETP will be ready.
- 2.2 It was decided to undertake necessary repairs to ETP in presence of TNPCB officials and members of LAEC.
- 2.3 The sludge if generated during decontamination process , is to be packed in steel drums and kept separately for further disposal as per the approval from TNPCB.

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3. Occupational health issues and epidemiological study :

3.1. Mr F amachandran explained to the members that the Supreme Court Monitoring Committee has recommended to do a health study by ITRC, Lucknow . TNPCB has approached ITRC through the Director of NEERI. ITRC has expressed the willingness to take up a health study. Members of the working committee endorsed this view since earlier this was taken out of our scope and referred to labor department.

The Chairman of the Working Committee thanked all the members , Dr Tapan Chakarabarthi , Dr Srikant and other participants for their contribution and co-operation.

Name Signature

Working Committee :

1. Thiru G Rengasamy

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2. Thiru Karthikeyan

3. Thiru Navroz Moddy

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4. Thiru L.Sabarathinam

5. Thiru G.S. Ganapathy

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6. Thiru R. Ramachandran

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Local Area Environment Committee :

1 Thiru Gopalakrishnan

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2. Thiru S.Raja Mohamed.

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Special invitees and additional Members

1. Dr. S. Srikant

[Signature] 31/5/05

2. Dr. T. Chakarabarthi

3. Mathendra Patil