

ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION (PREVENTION & CONTROL) AUTHORITY
for the National Capital Region

Dr. Bhure Lal
Chairman

EPCA-R/2019/L-53
November 01, 2019

Urgent directions regarding GRAP

Dear Sir,

The air quality Delhi and NCR has deteriorated further as of last night and is now at the Severe+ level. We have to take this as a public health emergency as air pollution is now hazardous and will have adverse health impacts on all, but particularly our children. As I have explained in my letter of October 31, 2019, current air quality is a combination of the accumulated toxins because of local pollution, which was further spiked because of cracker burning on Diwali night, combined with stubble burning and extremely adverse weather. The IMD informs us that the weather will improve in the next few days, but it is difficult to say if this improvement will lead to substantial reduction in pollution.

In this circumstance, we are constrained to take further measures to combat this pollution, over the above the measures that have already directed. These measures are as follows and you are requested to direct immediate compliance with these:

1. **Construction activities in Delhi, Faridabad, Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Noida and Greater Noida to remain closed till morning of November 5, 2019** (current ban on construction was only 6 PM to 6 AM and this is now extended to be complete banned till Monday, November 5, 2019, morning).
2. **Hot mix plants, stone crushers to be closed till morning of November 5, 2019 in all NCR districts** (current ban is on operation between 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM).
3. **All coal and other fuel based industries, which have not shifted to natural gas or agro-residue (with exemption to power-plants) to remain closed in Faridabad, Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Sonapat, Panipat and Bahadurgarh, Bhiwadi till morning of November 5, 2019. In Delhi industries, which have not yet shifted to PNG to remain closed during till morning of November 5, 2019.**
4. **Cracker burning is completely banned for this entire winter period.** We note that there are festivals coming and given the experience over Diwali, when in spite of all efforts, cracker burning was extremely high and led to accumulation of toxins in the air, this measure is needed.

This is in addition to the directions already issued on October 7, 25, 31, 2019. The list of currently issued directions is given below for your easy review and action.

Furthermore, as I have stated in my previous correspondence, it is imperative that we take urgent steps to stop local sources of pollution, as this will only add to the already polluted air. This requires stringent vigilance and punitive action against all cases of local pollution, from plastic and garbage burning to dust pollution. I am also constrained to say that in spite of all our efforts, there are still many instances of local pollution and therefore, enforcement needs to be stepped up further.

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Central Pollution Control Board

Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Near Karkardooma Courts, Shahdara, Delhi 110 032
Tel/Fax: 22301955 (CPCB), Tel: 43102414 Dr. Bhure Lal, Chairman

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Please also issue advisories to the public widely and urgently as follows:


1. **Air pollution is at severe+ levels, which is hazardous for health. People are advised to ensure that they minimise personal exposure as far as possible/do not exercise in the open till pollution levels are reduced and in particular minimise the exposure of children, aged and vulnerable.**
2. **Schools are advised to work to minimise exposure of children by curtailing all outdoor activities and sports for this period.**

Please ensure that vigilance is stepped up and that all cases of non-compliance are taken up immediately and action is taken against the officials concerned.

This is a grave situation and I am hoping for your personal intervention so that there is stringent enforcement and full compliance with the directions issued.

Please ensure compliance with the above directions.

Yours faithfully


Dr. Bhure Lal,
Chairman, EPCA

To

**Shri Devendra Bhushan Gupta, IAS,
Chief Secretary, Govt. of Rajasthan,**

Copy to:

1. **Shri. Pawan Kumar Goyal, IAS, Chairman, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board**
2. **Smt. Sreya Guha, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Rajasthan**
3. **Smt. Shailaja Deval, IFS, Member Secretary, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board**

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List of all actions/measures directed for compliance with the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), 2019, as of November 1, 2019

1. Increased vigilance and enforcement in the following hot spots:

- a) **Delhi:**
1. Okhla phase 2, 2. Dwarka, 3. Ashok Vihar, 4. Bawana, 5. Narela, 6. Mundka, 7. Punjabi Bagh, 8. Wazirpur, 9. Rohini, 10. Vivek Vihar, 11. Anand Vihar (including Mandoli), 12. R K Puram, 13. Jahangir Puri, 14. Mayapuri
- b) **Haryana:** 1. Faridabad 1 and 2, 2. Bahadurgarh, 3. Gurgaon (including Udyog Vihar);
- c) **UP:** Sahibabad, and
- d) **Rajasthan:** Bhiwadi

Day and night patrolling will be done to ensure that there are no instances of waste and garbage burning; that there is full compliance with approved fuel notification and that there is no pollution from stacks and that there is all effort made to mitigate all sources of pollution.

- 2. **The use of diesel generator sets is banned (other than exclusion/emergency services) in Delhi and in vicinity towns – Ghaziabad, Noida and Greater Noida, Faridabad and Gurgaon, Sonapat, Panipat, Bahadurgarh. EPCA has already issued the list of the exclusion and emergency services that were permitted in NCR Delhi.**
- 3. **Coordination with the State Electricity Boards to ensure special efforts are made for 24x7 electricity in these towns to avoid requirement of operating DG sets and inconvenience to public.**
- 4. **Only those brick kilns, which have converted to zigzag technology will be allowed to operate in all NCR districts. This requires enforcement as EPCA has noted and brought to your attention, non-compliant brick kilns continue to operate in violation of these directives.**
- 5. **Mechanized sweeping machines to be used for regular cleaning of roads/streets in shifts both day and night. Road dust must be controlled with multiple applications of water sprinkling or along with dust suppressants.**
- 6. **Construction activities in Delhi, Faridabad, Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Noida and Greater Noida to remain closed till morning of November 5, 2019.**
- 7. **Hot mix plants, stone crushers to be closed till morning of November 5, 2019 in all NCR districts.**
- 8. **All coal and other fuel based industries, which have not shifted to natural gas or agro-residue (with exemption to power-plants) will be closed in Faridabad, Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Sonapat, Panipat, Bahadurgarh and Bhiwadi till morning of November 5, 2019. In Delhi industries, which have not yet shifted to PNG to remain closed till morning of November 5, 2019.**

9. **Cracker burning is completely banned for this entire winter period.** We note that there are festivals coming and given the experience over Diwali, when in spite of all efforts, cracker burning was extremely high and led to huge accumulation of toxins in the air, this measure is needed.
10. Zero tolerance to operation of illegal industries and also use of unauthorized fuel which may be ensured by district administrations of Delhi-NCR.
11. The states of Punjab and Haryana must take immediate stringent actions to curb stubble burning. Biomass burning in Delhi and other NCR towns must also be strictly checked.

All states are also required to publish in newspapers and disseminate widely the following information for the general public:

- i) **The need for public to minimize exposure.**
- ii) **Enumerate and list all actions that have to be taken under GRAP, so that people are informed and can act as stakeholders in the efforts to control pollution.**
- iii) **Publish list of penalties that have been imposed and actions taken against people/industries found polluting. This information will provide a deterrence and help improve enforcement.**


Dr. Bhure Lal,
Chairman, EPCA