

F.No. 22-3/2008-HSMD
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(HSM Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi – 110003.

Dated: 9th December, 2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Minutes of the Project Review Meeting of the GEF funded project “Environmentally Sound Management and Final Disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyls in India”-reg.

The undersigned is directed to refer the Ministry’s Meeting Notice dated 10.11.2022 regarding the project review meeting of the GEF funded project “Environmentally Sound Management and Final Disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyls in India”.

2. The project review meeting was convened in hybrid mode under the Chairmanship of Dr. Satyendra Kumar, Director, MoEF&CC on 15.11.2022 at 10:00 AM.

3. In this regard, it is to inform that the minutes of the project review meeting has been approved by the Competent Authority. A copy of the minutes of the meeting is hereby enclosed for information and necessary action.

Encl: As stated

N. Subrahmanyam
09/12/22
(N. Subrahmanyam)
Scientist D

To,

1. Dr. Rene Van Berkel, UNIDO Representative, UN House, 55 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi-110003.
2. The Chief Executing Officer, Steel Authority of India Limited Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai-490001, Chhattisgarh.
3. The Director, Central Power Research Institute, C.V.Raman Road, Sadashivanagar P.O.Bangalore-560080, Karnataka.

Copy to:-

1. PPS to AS(NPG)
2. SO (HSMD)

Minutes of the Project Review Meeting for GEF Funded Project titled 'Environmentally Sound Management and Final Disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyls in India' held on 15.11.2022

The project review meeting of the GEF funded project titled 'Environmentally Sound Management and Final Disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyls' was held on 15.11.2022 at 10:00 am through hybrid mode.

2. The meeting was chaired by **Dr. Satyendra Kumar, Director, HSM Division, MoEF&CC**. The list of participants is annexed.

3. The meeting was commenced with a brief round of introduction of the participants. The Chair welcomed all the participants and informed the participants that the agenda of the meeting is to review the progress of the PCB project and activities yet to be completed as per the current completion timeline i.e. 31.12.2022.

4. Further, MoEFCC requested UNIDO to give a brief on the physical and financial progress of the PCB and proposal on extension of project, if any for the consideration of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting.

5. UNIDO informed that there has been good progress on the project since the last review meeting and all the necessary approvals/clearances have been obtained for both part A and B of the static facilities at BSP SAIL. However, there are still some technical issues to be resolved and it will necessitate the extension of the project.

6. It was further informed that the GEF grant for the project was USD 14.1 million out of which USD 13.1 million has been committed until 01.11.2022. There is approximately USD 1 million left for the project and it could be utilised to address the challenges which were associated with the commissioning of the plant. The disbursed amount is around 9.9 million USD since there is some payment still due on the commissioning of the static facilities.

7. UNIDO further explained that the current completion date of 31.12.2022 will not be enough for get everything operational and transferred. The technology and processes under the project are quite complex and technical challenges are being faced in completing the activities. UNIDO proposed the extension of 12 months for completing the commissioning the static facilities at BSP SAIL.

8. UNIDO further informed that there was some delay in the operation of the mobile facility (CPRI) during the COVID period. However, CPRI has work orders available for PCB de-chlorination which will bring the quantity close to the treatment target of 750

MT. It was highlighted that the equipment for static facilities was procured in 2018 and installed in 2019-20 and now been idle for 2-3 years and there are some issues with the warranty and services.

9. BSP SAIL made a presentation on the progress of the static facilities. It was informed that all work under BSP's scope has been completed. The preliminary acceptance certificate has been obtained, all the buildings and infrastructure work has been completed, all the major equipment have been erected and commissioned. The commissioning certificate has also been obtained. All statutory clearances (Building Permission, Air & Water Consents, HW Authorization, Factory License and Explosive License) have been obtained.

10. BSP SAIL further informed that they have sought help from UNIDO for maintaining equipment along with spares/ consumables supplied by UNIDO for minimum one year and for deploying of the technical experts in operation of PLASCON, sodium dispersion and laboratory functions. BSP SAIL also stated that they have deployed their own team for classroom and on the job training to operate the equipment. However, the team needs more hands-on training by technical experts.

11. Further, BSP SAIL presented the following status on the progress of the project:

Sn	Activity	Status as on 14/11/2022
1.	CTO from Part –A & B of the facility from CECB	CTO from Part-A & B of the facility from CECB issued on 19/01/2022
2.	Hazardous waste authorization from CECB	Hazardous waste authorization issued by CECB on 16.06.2022
3.	Explosive license from PESO for storage tanks	Explosive license obtained on 25.07.2022 from PESO
4.	All equipment under Part-A & B:(PLASMA,ITD System MEE, Tanks ,Utilities, Oil regenerative system, pumps, PLC system, Instrumentation , setting up the lab etc)	All equipment under Part A & B erected at site. Testing and commissioning of systems/equipment under Part B completed and under Part A are expected to be completed by 15.11.2022
5.	De-chlorination of Trials for Part B of the system	Commissioning of Part B completed on 24.09.2022
6.	Trails for MEE under Part A	Commissioning of MEE under Part A is done and presently under operation to

Sn	Activity	Status as on 14/11/2022
		dispose the high TDS aqueous effluent from Plasma operations
7	Deployment of foreign experts and hot trials for Part A i.e. PLASCON	Foreign experts have been deputed from 2.11.2022 and presently at site till 15.11.2022. Plasma system has been commissioned including training of BSP team. PG test run under progress at present destruction rate is 30 kg/hr as the PCB concentration in oil is only 20%
8	Achieving PG parameters & submission of reports to state authorities	Before 15.12.2022
9	Final handing over to SAIL/BSP All dates are subjected to trials results	On or before 25.12.2022

12. The Chair enquired about the quantity of PCB oils that is going to be treated after the commissioning of the plant for one year. BSP-SAIL replied that around 100-125 tonnes/annum of PCB oils can be treated in one year after commission. The Chair raised his concern about optimising the use of the static facility in treatment of the total amount of PCB oils in the country inventory. The Chair further enquired UNIDO about the reason for the sought extension of the project by 12 months and how the extension is going to help in further execution of the project.

13. UNIDO stated that the chemical processes for PCB treatment are advanced as well as complicated, and requires close technical support to BSP SAIL personnel till the operation of the equipment is stabilized.

14. With regard to mobile facility for de-chlorination of PCBs oil, the Chair informed that MoEFCC had received representation from CPRI requesting MoEFCC for facilitation with respect to the utilities that were not coming forward for de-chlorination of PCB oils. MoEFCC had written to Central Electricity Authority and Ministry of Power to instruct the state electricity board which possess PCBs/PCB containing equipment to carry out de-chlorination work with the help of mobile facility facilitated by CPRI. The Chair highlighted that the mobile facility should not remain idle to achieve the treatment target of PCB oils.

15. CPRI informed that around 388 MT of PCB oils has been de-chlorinated till date through the mobile facility. It was further informed that one of the main reasons for the delay is that sodium dispersion cannot be prepared during rainy season. CPRI further stated they have work orders for total quantity of 245.14 MT. The road map for future activities is given below:

Sn	Name of the project	Quantity to be treated, KL	Expected date
1.	M/s NPCIL Tarapur atomic power station, Maharashtra	167.6	10.12.2022-20.03.2023
2.	M/s Panki Thermal Power Station, UP	54.2	01.04.2023-10.05.2023
3.	M/s Gandhinagar Thermal Power Station, Gujarat	66.6	20.05.2023-30.06.2023
	Total quantity	288.4 KL (245.14 MT)	

16. CPRI stated that 633 tonnes of PCB will be de-chlorinated by 30.06.2023. CPRI is expected to receive work orders from M/s CTPS to de-chlorinate 136.272 MT of PCB oil and M/s KSEB for de-chlorination of 315.95 MT of PCB oil. It was further informed that M/s Gandhinagar Thermal Power Station has given the work order more than a year back but they have not committed to any dates and have not prepared the site to carry out the de-chlorination activity. CPRI requested MoEFCC's help regarding the matter.

17. UNIDO stated that the technical assistance and maintenance request from BSP SAIL is justified and the assistance will be provided to BSP personnel for operating and maintenance of PCB destruction plant. The de-chlorination target by the mobile facility is going to be completed approximately by June 2023. It was also informed there will be an internal discussion with the project management team at the UNIDO headquarters regarding the extension of the project. UNIDO stated that the reasons for extension will be communicated with both the project management team and GEF so that another year of extension is granted.

18. MoEFCC stated that the trial runs, stabilisation and testing of parameters of static facility at BSP SAIL will require some more time. With regard to the mobile facility, it was commissioned in 2018. Further, it was stressed that the development of financial guidelines, covering the treatment cost and methodology for taking up treatment of PCB, is necessary for the sustainability of the project. The guidelines may be shared with the MoEFCC and the Ministry of Power (MoP) for vetting. The

guidelines may also be made available on public domain by MoEFCC and MoP for power utilities/companies. MoEFCC stressed that there are gaps that need to be addressed before closing the project.

19. MoEFCC further stated that the information on the 10,000 MT tons of contaminated PCB oils (as per NIP) may be made available mapping them to the concerned owner or agency. MoP may then write to the concerned agencies to get their PCB contaminated oil treated in the treatment facility. MoEFCC further highlighted that the MoEFCC notification vide dated 06.04.2016 states that the use of PCBs in any form shall be completely prohibited by 31st December, 2025.

20. CPRI stated that despite work order given by M/s Gujarat Electricity Board/ Gandhinagar Thermal Power Station work has not started.

21. After detailed deliberations, following action points were decided:

- i. UNIDO to compile the work carried out during the present extension (Jan, 2022 till date) separately for BSP and CPRI, as against the milestones projected for seeking extension.
- ii. UNIDO, SAIL-BSP and CPRI to prepare the residual work along with milestones/roadmap for completion of the project.
- iii. UNIDO, SAIL-BSP and CPRI to submit the financial progress achieved during the extension period (Jan, 2022 till date) and till now in the format provided below:

Funds sanctioned from UNIDO/GEF	Executing Agency	Expenditure (During extension period/till date)	Balance fund	Remarks
Amount and sanctioned date/work order date...				Details of committed expenditure and beneficiary, if any.
Total				

- iv. UNIDO/CPRI/BSP to provide the plan for expenditure of balance funds along with timelines.
 - v. UNIDO and SAIL-BSP and to prepare revenue generating plan so that the infrastructure developed at BSP will sustain its operations for treatment of PCBs after project completion.
 - vi. CPRI to develop financial guidelines covering the treatment cost and methodology for taking up treatment of PCB and submit to MoEF&CC and MoP for vetting to put in public domain.
 - vii. CPRI to submit the list names of stakeholders which possess PCB oils, PCB containing equipment and PCB contaminated equipment.
 - viii. Extension of the project for 12 months from the current completion date of 31.12.2022 will be recommended to Project Steering Committee for consideration on receipt of the information from UNIDO, SAIL and CPRI.
22. The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants

MoEF&CC (National Project Coordination Unit)

- i. Dr. Satyendra Kumar, Director, HSM Division, MoEF&CC
- ii. Shri N. Subrahmanyam, Scientist D, HSM Division
- iii. Ms. Shraddha Dhakhwa, Assistant Programme Coordinator, UNIDO
- iv. Ms. Preeti Dubey, Project Assistant, UNIDO

UNIDO

- i. Dr. Carmela
- ii. Dr. Rene Van Berkal
- iii. Dr. Y.P. Ramdev

SAIL-BSP

- (i) Shri Pravin, General Manager

CPRI

- (i) Dr. P. Thomas, Additional Director