

Minutes of the meeting with CEB officials held on 3 May, 2019 at the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment

Present

Mr. H.M.A. Herath (AGM Additional General Manager)

Mr. S.M. Werahera (DD/EPC &CM)

Mr. J.D.K.G. Hemaratne (CE)

Mr. J.N. Abayapala (EE)

Mr. K.A.I. Shymal (CE)

Ms. Navoma Karunaratne (RA)

Chandima Gunasena (PA, UNIDO)

Mr. Krishantha reported that overall progress of the inventory process as 26 percent. Further to that he said that, prototype software was scheduled to be tested on 9th April and that was postponed due to the new year celebrations. Another day has to be fixed for the field testing of that software.

According to him there are 31698 transformers are in service and 1253 are out of service. Altogether 32953 transformers are in Sri Lanka. Out of that so far 8640 transformers are approached for taking observations. Approached percentage is around 26 percent.

Mr. Krishantha reported that up to now, 884 samples were collected and 617 were tested for PCB and 83 samples are yet to be tested and reported that sampling progress is not satisfactory due to the prevailing situation in the country. He also mentioned that existing chemicals are about to expire and need to be used as quickly as possible. Mr. Mahinda Werahera asked ways and means from CEB to expedite the field work to finish the inventorying process and requested a detailed report on expiring chemicals and Mr. Anura Herath requested details from Eng. Daulugala. One engineer pointed out that they cannot increase the existing gangs due to technical problems related to labor allocations. According to Mr. Daulugala, Sodium Biphenyl is the chemical which will be expired in April and 600 test kits will be expired on May. One Engineer reported that north western and north central provinces are having new transformers and therefore they are out of PCB threat.

Mr. Mahinda Werahera suggested to use the remaining test kits and chemicals immediately for the testing work needed to be carried out by the People to People Volunteers. Further to that Mr. Mahinda requested from the University of Peradeniya to allocate two graduates to expedite the testing work to be carried out at the Kandy laboratory and he suggested to send samples collected by the People to People Volunteers to the Kandy Laboratory for testing.

Mr. Anura Herath asked to release payments quickly as possible to encourage the field staff to complete the process as soon as possible.

Bulk supply or heavy supply Transformers

All members agreed to write a letter to owners of the bulk transformers with a copy to the Central Environmental Authority, requesting details of their transformers to be included in the inventory and take necessary actions to remove PCBs if present. Mr. Mahinda agreed to draft the letter and requested the list of owners having bulk supply transformers from the CEB. Mr. Anura Herath agreed

to supply skilled manpower to collect data from these bulk supply transformers when it is needed specially when transformers are older than 1990.

Disposing PCBs

Mr. Mahinda Werahera suggested to start the disposal process with the INSEE to dispose contaminated materials in PCB testing laboratories and whatever the materials available with People to People Volunteers. Further to that he said this disposal exercise will provide insight to dispose PCB stock phyle available at CEB stores.