

SITE VISIT

Name of the proposal : M/s Veera Prem, Wreck ship removal.
Contractor : M/s Bansal Endeavour LLP, Bhavnagar, Gujarat.
Project Consultants : M/s. brand Marine Consultants (Sg) Pte Ltd (bMc), Singapore.
Date / Time : 10.01.2020, 11.30 AM to 02.00 PM.
Purpose : Minutes of 166th PPCC meeting held on 04.12.2019 – To carry out Joint field inspection, to provide detailed factual report for further decision making.

Background:

The Dredger named Veera Prem belonging to M/s Mercator limited, located at 3rd floor, Mittal Tower, B-wing, Nariman Point, Mumbai – 400021 had grounded in the shore of Keezhaiyur South (Lat & Long Coordinates : 10° 51' 33.8809" N and 79° 51' 12.594" E) within the port limits of Karaikal on 16.12.2018, containing onboard various unpumpable oils and lubes and other hazardous contents.

The proposal of removal of the same from the above said location, being followed up by the District Collectorate, Karaikal, since it poses menace to the nearby jetties and port, considering the same as District Emergency was considered in the 166th PPCC meeting held on 04.12.2019, wherein, it was suggested to form a Committee with the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal management (NCSCM), Chennai, the MoEF&CC, Regional Office, Chennai and the Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Chennai, as members and representative of Collector, Karaikal along with PPCC for field inspection and to provide detailed factual report for further decision making.

In compliance with the Minutes cited above, a Committee was constituted comprising of the following members :

- (i) Dr. M. Thalamadai Karupiah, Joint Director – MoEF&CC Regional Office – South Eastern Zone, Chennai.
- (ii) Shri. R. Raj Kumar, Scientist – D, CPCB Regional Directorate (South), Bengaluru.
- (iii) Shri. M. Dharma Raj, Senior Scientific Consultant, NCSCM, Chengalpattu.

In presence of :

- (i) Shri. Anand Hiremath, representative from M/s Bansal Endeavours LLP, Gujarat.
- (ii) Shri Poogajendy C, Junior Engineer, DST&E, Puducherry.
- (iii) Shri P. Ashok Kumar, Junior Lab Assistant, DST&E, Puducherry.
- (iv) Shri. Devaanandan. S, Assistant Environmental Engineer, PPCC

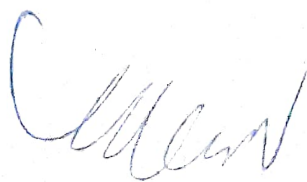
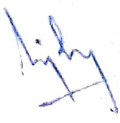

The above said committee met on 10/01/2020 held Preliminary meeting at the Office of the DST&E / PPCC, Karaikal at 9.30 AM, by the Committee, with the Officials of DST&E, PPCC, Karaikal & Puducherry and the representative of M/s. Bansal Endeavours LLP, Gujarat. Various aspects of the proposal, since grounding were discussed and facts of legal importance were noted by the committee. The Committee, along with the above said officials, had a meeting with the District Collector, Karaikal, along with the Deputy Collector (Revenue), Karaikal, at 11.00 AM, wherein various facts about the proposal were discussed. With the above said background information the Committee and team reached the said site for field inspection, at 12.30 PM.

Observations :


- (i) The above said dredger was found to be grounded at 10° 51' 33.8809" N and 79° 51' 12.594" E in the shore of Keezhaiyur South of Karaikal District.
- (ii) Formation of Shore and other life forms around the grounded dredger was observed, since the same was in the same position since December 2018.
- (iii) It was said to contain unpumpable oil of 20 KL and other hazardous contents onboard, which could not be quantified, as the representative himself does not know the conditions prevailing in the tanks / bunkers onboard. However, it was said that, the revised quantification of the same, along with other hazardous / non-hazardous wastes likely to be present / generated will be carried out and submitted to PPCC.


Recommendations :

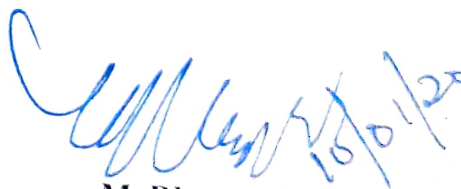
- (i) On examination of the proposal, the committee suggested the owner shall obtain requisite permission / NOC for dismantling of the wreck of the Dredger, from the MoEF&CC.



- (ii) The committee observed that the liability of getting statutory clearances and the environmental damages for the entire dismantling activity solely lies on M/s. Mercator Limited, Mumbai (Owners of 'Veera Prem'), M/s. The North of England P&I Association Ltd., the UK (P&I club of 'Veera Prem'), M/s. brand Marine Consultants (Sg) Pte. Ltd., Singapore (Project Consultants appointed by the P&I Club of 'Veera Prem') and M/s. Bansal Endeavour LLP, Gujarat (Contractors appointed by the P&I Club of 'Veera Prem').
- (iii) The proponent shall submit all the statutory requirements to PPCC, inter-alia, including revised inventorization of waste generation, for consideration of issue of necessary NOCs.
- (iv) The proponent shall obtain the validity extension of the approval obtained from the DG Shipping dated 09.10.2019.
- (v) A Separate Committee has to be formed for periodical monitoring of compliances during the ship dismantling activity in consultation with the District Magistrate, Karaikal District. In addition to that, Indian Coast Guard and the State Maritime Board should also be involved in all future activities.
- (vi) After submission of the application by the proponent to the MoEF&CC, PPCC shall pursue the matter with MoEF&CC, to expedite the issue of permission/ NOC in order to avoid further delay and any consequences.


Dr. M. Thalamadai Karuppiah,
Joint Director,
MoEF&CC Regional Office –
South Eastern Zone, Chennai.


R. Raj Kumar,
Scientist – D,
CPCB Regional Directorate
(South), Bengaluru.


M. Dharma Raj,
Senior Scientific Consultant,
NCSCM, Chengalpattu.



Joint Inspection of Veera Prem Dredger