

No.1/ PPCC/MEET/MS/2025/930
GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT
PUDUCHERRY POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE
* * *

Puducherry, the 16 SEP 2025

Sub: PPCC – 181st Meeting of the Puducherry Pollution Control
Committee held on 25.07.2025- Minutes – Communicated.

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The minutes of the 181st Meeting of the Puducherry Pollution Control Committee held on 25.07.2025 in the Conference Hall of Chief Secretariat, Puducherry is enclosed for information.



(Dr. N. RAMESH)
MEMBER SECRETARY
PPCC

Encl.: As above

To:
As per list enclosed

Copy submitted to:

P.S. to the Chief Secretary

-- for kind information.

MINUTES OF THE 181ST MEETING OF PUDUCHERRY POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE HELD ON 25.07.2025 AT CHIEF SECRETARIAT, PUDUCHERRY.

Agenda Item No. I - Confirmation of the Minutes of the 180th PPCC meeting held on 02.12.2024.

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the 180th PPCC meeting held on December 2, 2024.

Agenda Item No. II: Cases for consideration for the Issue of Consent to Establish

Agenda Item No. 1: Issue of Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate to M/s. Puducherry Back Water Resort Pvt Ltd, Ariyankuppam Commune Panchayat, Puducherry.

The Committee heard the proposal of the Project Agency and discussed the subject in detail. The Committee noted that an NGT application O.A. 271 of 2024 on the resort is pending in the Hon'ble NGT. After due deliberation, the Committee decided to defer the proposal and constituted a subcommittee comprising expert members from PPCC, CPCB, and MoEF&CC to study the proposal and provide suggestions on it for CTE and CTO, taking into account the deviations noticed.

Agenda Item No. 2 Issue of Consent to Establish Sandunes Clubs and Resorts at R.S No. 209/2B, 210/2B, Manavelly Revenue Village, Ariyankuppam Commune Panchayat, Puducherry - Reg.

The Committee examined the proposal of the Project Agency and discussed it in detail. The Committee noted that part of the RS No. of the project site falls within the CRZ-III area as per the existing CZMP under CRZ Notification, 2011.

The Committee, after due deliberation, decided to accord clearance for the establishment of the Hotel / Resort, subject to the following action by the proponent:

- (i) The proponent shall submit the project layout superimposed on Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) maps at a scale of 1:4000, clearly showing the distances from both the High Tide Line (HTL) and Low Tide Line (LTL) to the project site. The maps should be able to demonstrate that the site does not fall within the CRZ-III No Development Zone (NDZ). If this condition is met, then Consent to Establish may be considered, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. The proponent shall not construct any permanent structures/buildings in the CRZ-III (No Development Zone). Necessary clearance from the PCZMA shall be obtained before the inception of any permitted activities in the Coastal Regulation Zone in compliance with the CRZ Notification.
 - b. The Proponent shall provide a necessary Effluent Treatment Plant for the 16 KLD wastewater generated from the Resort operation, and the treated water shall comply with the standards notified by MoEF&CC dated 04.11.2009.
 - c. The proponent shall not discharge any untreated wastewater into the surroundings and more specifically, into the tidal influence water body.
 - d. The extraction of groundwater in the CRZ area is prohibited. The unit shall obtain necessary permission from the Puducherry Ground Water Authority for sourcing 20 KLD of water and submit a copy to this authority.
 - e. The proponent shall comply with the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016.
 - f. The unit shall comply with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

N. Leela

**MINUTES OF THE 181ST MEETING OF PUDUCHERRY POLLUTION CONTROL
COMMITTEE HELD ON 25.07.2025 AT CHIEF SECRETARIAT, PUDUCHERRY.**

Agenda Item No. 3: Issue of CTE for Enhancement of Production of “Detergent Liquid from 30,000TPA to 72,000TPA” to M/s. Hindustan Unilever Ltd-Personal Care Division, a large-scale, Orange Category unit.

The Committee heard the proposal of the Project Agency and discussed the subject in detail. The committee noted the following:

- (i) The unit is already using 206 KLD, and the Proposal of production enhancement requires an addition of 150 KLD, making a total of 356 KLD. Hence, the proposal is water-intensive and requires clearance from the GoP.
- (ii) The unit has an existing combined ETP of 80 KLD, and another Combined ETP of 80 KLD is proposed for their additional wastewater treatment. The Expert Members opined that the wastewater contains inorganic residues, aromatic constituents, and the proposed biological process will not support the treatment of the chemical wastewater.
- (iii) The project proponent has submitted analytical reports on characteristics of inlet effluent, viz. concentration of Phenolic compounds, Aromatic compounds & LABSA components, Nitrogen & Phosphorus Concentration at the outlet of the aeration tank, and Characteristics of Sludge at each stage.
- (iv) The Committee opined that the concentration of Phosphorus, which is required for fixing effluent treatment methodology, shall be taken into account in the existing and proposed ETP of 80KLD capacity.
- (v) The Committee noted that in pursuance of the decision of the 180th PPCC meeting, the expert members visited the unit on 24.02.2025 and offered their views, and the proponent clarified the queries raised by the Expert Members.

The Committee, after due deliberation, decided to accord clearance for enhancement of the production capacity of Detergent Liquid from 30,000TPA to 72,000 TPA with the following conditions:

- (i) The treatment system shall be independent of sewage and chemical wastewater.
- (ii) A suitable treatment system shall be provided for the specific parameter of phosphate.
- (iii) Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) before MBBR shall be adopted, followed by pH adjustment to increase the biological efficiency for intermediates degradation and residuals. The organo-chemical sludge will be subjected to the downstream process and finally converted into Nitrogen and Phosphorus-enriched fertilizer.
- (iv) An adequate rainwater harvesting system shall be provided for the recharging capacity of 150 KLD.
- (v) As the proposal is water-intensive, it shall be submitted to the Government of Puducherry for approval.

Agenda Item No. 4: Issue of NOC / Consent to Establish to M/s. Chemfab Alkalies Ltd, Kalapet, Oulgaret Municipality, Puducherry, for the replacement of the Electrolyser and associated equipment in Cell House-2.

The Committee examined the proposal of the Project Agency and discussed it in detail. The Committee, after due deliberation, decided to clear the proposal with the following conditions:

- (i) The unit shall replace Cell House 2 (Caustic Soda - 75 TPD), consisting of Electrolyser, Transformer, and Associated equipment.
- (ii) The unit shall dismantle the old Cell House with all associated equipment and dispose it scientifically under intimation to PPCC.
- (iii) Production, water consumption, power consumption, pollution load and land requirement shall remain the same.



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Agenda Item No. 5: Issue of Consent to Establish (Expansion) to M/s. Rane Madras Ltd (Brake Components division) at R.S.No.48, 49 & 50, Sansanyasikuppam, Thirubhuvanai, Mannadipet Commune, Puducherry.

The Committee examined the proposal of the Project Agency and discussed it in detail. The Committee, after due deliberation, decided to accord permission to carry out phosphating as an additional activity with the following conditions:

- (i) Effluent generated shall be treated first in ETP, then by Reverse Osmosis and finally, recycle the wastewater.
- (ii) RO reject water in the solar spray pond shall be augmented with Forced / Electrical evaporation. The unit shall adopt the following methods of Evaporation of RO reject water for the removal of TDS
 - (a) Accelerated wind shield assisted evaporation shall be installed to reduce the suspended solids and TDS that follow the preliminary treatment system, consisting of screening, coagulation, and primary sedimentation.
 - (b) Multiple Effect Thermal Evaporation for intensified TDS reduction.
 - (c) The unit shall ensure Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD).
- (iii) Sewage generated shall be treated in the STP and discharged on land within the premises.
- (iv) The unit shall properly operate the wet scrubber for the coating and baking oven.
- (v) The unit shall properly operate a paint booth fitted with a water curtain.
- (vi) The unit shall properly operate the dust collector for the mixing, grinding, and powder coating area.
- (vii) Phosphating sludge, ETP sludge, and process residue shall be collected adequately in HDPE drums, stored on a concrete floor with a covered roof, and handed over to the authorised pre-processor / operator of hazardous waste disposal facility.
- (viii) The unit shall obtain an amendment to the Hazardous Waste Authorisation.

Agenda Item No. 6: Issue of CTE to M/s. Chemplast Sanmar Limited, PIPDIC Industrial Estate, Industrial Growth Centre, Polagam, Karaikal, to manufacture Difluoromethane (R-32) and Ethylene Dichloride (EDC).

The Committee was given a presentation by the Project Proponent. Subsequently, the committee examined the proposal in detail. The project will set up a large Red Category chemical plant at PIPDIC Industrial Estate, Karaikal, to produce Difluoromethane (R-32), Ethylene Dichloride (EDC), and related chemicals, with backward integration for key raw materials. The Committee noted that the unit proposes zero liquid discharge, advanced air pollution control measures, and captive desalination for meeting its water needs. After due deliberation, the Committee decided to issue Consent to Establish, subject to prior approval of the Government, given the existing policy restrictions on permitting water-intensive, power-intensive, and high-pollution potential industries, and subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The unit shall strictly comply with all the conditions stipulated in the Environmental Clearance granted by MoEF&CC for Ethylene Dichloride (EDC) vide File No. IA-J-11011/37/2025-IA-II dated 05.07.2025, and for Difluoromethane (R-32) vide File No. IA-J-11011/21/2025-IA-II (I) dated 18.06.2025.
- (ii) The unit shall meet the entire water requirement from the proposed 6 MLD captive desalination plant; no groundwater extraction is permitted.



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- (iii) The unit shall maintain a Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) system, ensuring that the entire quantity of treated effluent from the 600 KLD Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) is recovered and reused within the facility, with no discharge in the surrounding environment.
- (iv) For continuous online monitoring of effluent, the unit shall install flow meters and web cameras with night vision capability at critical locations, including the ETP inlet, outlet, and treated effluent reuse points. The monitoring system shall be integrated with the PPCC monitoring portal for real-time data access.
- (v) The unit shall install appropriate air pollution control devices to ensure compliance with the prescribed emission standards. Continuous Online Emission Monitoring Systems (CEMS) shall be installed and maintained, with real-time data transmission integrated with the PPCC monitoring portal.
- (vi) The unit shall strictly implement all risk mitigation and safety measures as detailed in the approved Risk Assessment and Disaster Management Plan, including those related to chemical storage, process control, fire protection, and occupational health.
- (vii) The unit shall conduct an additional Risk Assessment study, considering the potential domino effects of all accident scenarios outlined in the existing Risk Assessment Report. The updated report shall be submitted to the Puducherry Pollution Control Committee (PPCC) before the commencement of operations.
- (viii) The unit shall implement the onsite/offsite emergency plan and conduct mock drills in accordance with the provisions of the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals (MSIHC) Rules, 1989, and the Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996, as amended from time to time.

Agenda Item No. 7: Issue of CTE to M/s. Karaikal Port Pvt., Ltd., Keezhavanjore Village, T.R. Pattinam, Karaikal, Large Scale, Red Category unit, for enhancement of Coal handling capacity from 10 MMTPA to 12.5 MMTPA as permitted in the Environmental Clearance granted by MoEF&CC.

The proposal of M/s. Karaikal Port Pvt. Ltd. is to enhance the coal handling capacity from 10 MMTPA to 12.5 MMTPA, following the recommendations of the PPCC Expert Members after their field inspection and the views of the District Collector, Nagapattinam, which were discussed in detail. After due deliberation, the Committee decided to grant Consent to Establish the proposed enhancement, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) In addition to the Water Sprinkler System in place, the entire coal stockyard shall be covered with a sufficient number of fog canon systems for producing continuous fogs to eliminate fugitive coal emission dust.
- (ii) The far-off railway stations and tracks at Anandanpettai, Sikkal, and Keezhvelur shall also be maintained in a coal-dust-free condition.
- (iii) KPPL shall continue to maintain the coal dust prevention measures already in place, including the continuous operation of the automated fog canon system, use of tarpaulin covers on coal wagons, deployment of metallic wind shields and road wetting systems, and periodic cleaning of affected railway tracks and platforms.
- (iv) All other existing conditions of Environmental Clearance and previous PPCC Air and Water Consents shall be strictly adhered to.
- (v) The existing Continuous Online Monitoring system shall be suitably upgraded/modified as per the CPCB approval method.



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Agenda Item No. 8: Issue of CTE to M/s. Re Sustainability, IWM Solutions Limited, a Large Scale, Red Category unit, for setting up of an Integrated Common Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, Disposal and Recycling Facility at PIPDIC Industrial Growth Centre, Polagam, T. R. Pattinam Commune, Karaikal.

The Committee noted the observations of the expert members based on the inspection of the TSDF facility operated by M/S Re Sustainability IWM Solutions Ltd. at Pappananampatti, near Gummidipoondi, Tamil Nadu, conducted on December 16, 2024 (Annexures I & II). After due deliberation, the Committee decided to defer the proposal and forward the observations of the expert members to the project proponent to seek their clarification on the same. The proposal will be placed before the next PPCC meeting for consideration.

Agenda Item No. 9: Issue of Consent to Establish/ No Objection Certificate and Consent to Operate to M/s. Cricket Association of Pondicherry at R.S. No: 56/5, CAP Siechem Campus, Thuthipet village, Villianur Commune, Puducherry for Establishment and Operation of CAP Cricket Campus

The Committee heard the proposal of the Project Agency and discussed the subject in detail. The Committee noted that the proposal was deferred in the 180th PPCC meeting for want of NOC / clearance for usage of Government land on a lease basis from the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management.

After due deliberation, the Committee decided to defer the proposal and agreed that the unit may be granted CTE & CTO after submission of NOC from the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management.



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ADDITIONAL AGENDA

Additional General Agenda Item No. 1: Notification of Govt. of Puducherry Revised categorisation of industrial sectors under Red, Orange, Green, White, and Blue Categories

The committee took note of G.O. Ms. No. 10/ENVT-2025, dated 20.06.2025, and approved the formation of the State Level Committee for the classification of industrial sectors (left-out/new sectors classification) and the State Level Evaluation Committee for evaluating incentives as given below:

(1) The State Level Committee (for left out /new sectors classification) consists of the following members:

Sl. No	Name and Designation	Members
1	Dr. N. Ramesh, Member Secretary, Puducherry Pollution Control Committee.	Chairman
2	Thiru P. Vipin Babu, Scientist – C, Puducherry Pollution Control Committee.	Member
3	Thiru K. Kalamegam, Environmental Engineer, Dept of Science Technology and Environment.	Member
4	Prof G. Srinivasan, Department of Chemical Engineering, Puducherry Technological University.	Member cum Subject Expert
5	Chairman, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Puducherry.	Member

(2) The State Level Evaluation Committee for evaluating incentives consists of the following members.

Sl. No	Name and Designation	Members
1	Dr. N. Ramesh Member Secretary, Puducherry Pollution Control Committee.	Chairman
2	Dr. S. Sudalai, Associate Professor, Centre for Pollution Control and Environmental Pondicherry Central University	Member (Subject Expert)
3	Dr R Sivacoumar, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Chennai.	Expert Member
4	Thiru S. Devaanandan Assistant Environmental Engineer, Puducherry Pollution Control Committee Puducherry	Member
5	Thiru N. Prabhu, Junior Environmental Engineer Dept of Science Technology and Environment, Puducherry.	Member

The committee was directed to carry out the scoring of the left-out sectors and the white category and communicate to CPCB.

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Additional General Agenda Item No.2: Notification of the Government of Puducherry on Timelines for Providing Consent to Establish, Consent to Operate, and Authorizations by the Puducherry Pollution Control Committee

The committee took note of the G.O. Ms. No. 11/ENVT-2025 dated 04.07.2025 and directed to prepare constraints in the implementation of the G.O. and formulate SOP for implementing the G.O. The Committee also opined to get the comments from the members of the Committee on the G.O.

Additional General Agenda Item No.3: Draft G.O submitted to the GoP on Third party certification for issue of granting Consent to Establish (CTE), Consent to Operate (CTO), Consent Renewal and Authorization under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 with the view to improve the ease of doing business.

The Committee noted various constraints and practical difficulties in the implementation of the G.O. It is directed to prepare a comprehensive proposal outlining variations of the G.O. in line with the recent Notifications of MoEFCC, GoI, viz. The Control of Air Pollution (Grant, Refusal or Cancellation of Consent) Guidelines, 2025, were notified under G.S.R. 84(E) dated 29.01.2025, and The Control of Water Pollution (Grant, Refusal or Cancellation of Consent) Guidelines, 2025, were notified under G.S.R. 85(E) dated 30.01.2025. The Committee also requested comments from its members on the G.O.

Additional General Agenda Item No. 4: Guidelines for dealing with proposals established and operating without valid Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO) under the Air and Water Act.

The Committee noted that units are establishing and operating without a valid Consent to Establish (CTE) & Consent to Operate (CTO) / or without a CTO under the Air and Water Act. The Committee suggested formulating guidelines for dealing with such cases.



**MINUTES OF THE 181ST MEETING OF PUDUCHERRY POLLUTION CONTROL
COMMITTEE HELD ON 25.07.2025 AT CHIEF SECRETARIAT, PUDUCHERRY.**

ANNEXURE

Sl. No	Name & Designation of member <u>Tvl.</u>		
1.	P. Jawahar, I.A.S. Secretary to Government Science, Technology & Environment	--	Chairman
2.	S. Senthil Kumar, Technical Officer Department of Industries & Commerce (Representing Director)	--	Member
3.	G. Savoundirarajan Deputy Director (MA) Local Administration Department (Representing Director)	--	Member
4.	Prabakar, Regional Transport Officer, Transport Department (Representing Transport Commissioner)	--	Member
5.	H.D. Varalaxmi, Regional Director Central Pollution Control Board (Representing Member Secretary)	--	Member
6.	Dr. G. Ragunathan Deputy Director (IEC) Health and Family Welfare Services (Representing Director)	--	Member
7.	A. Sureshraj, Commissioner, Oulgaret Municipality, Puducherry	--	Member
8.	Dr. Athmanathan Resident Medical Officer Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital & Post Graduate Institute (Representing Medical Superintendent)	--	Member



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|-----|--|----|------------------|
| 9. | Dr. M. P. Ramanujam
Consultant
Puducherry | -- | Expert Member |
| 10. | Dr. R. Saravanane
Member Professor & Director (IPR)
Department of Civil Engineering
Puducherry Technological University | -- | Member |
| 11. | E. Manimaran, General Manager
PIPDIC
(Representing Managing Director) | -- | Member |
| 12. | Member Secretary
Puducherry Planning Authority | -- | Member |
| 13. | A. Srinivasan
Member Secretary
Puducherry Ground Water Authority | -- | Member |
| 14. | Dr. N. Ramesh
Senior Environmental Engineer
Department of Science, Technology & Environment | -- | Member Secretary |



Comments and review on the proposal of M/s. Re-Sustainability IWM Solutions Limited.

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Tue, 12 Aug 2025 6:11:53 PM +0530

To "Pondicherry Pollution Control Committee Pondicherry"<ppcc@py.gov.in>

Comments and review on the proposal of M/s. Re-Sustainability IWM Solutions Limited.

In the meeting of the PPCC held on Friday, 25th July 2025 on Issue of CTE to M/s. Re Sustainability IWM Solutions Limited, a Large Scale, Red Category unit, for setting up of an Integrated Common Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage Disposal and Recycling Facility at PIPDIC Industrial Growth Centre, Polagam, T. R. Pattinam Commune, Karaikal was reviewed and discussed.

It was suggested to bring the views of the experts on the revised submissions for examining and for the conditional approval of the proposal.

The presentation by M/s Re- Sustainability Pvt Ltd Chennai, was reviewed and assessed and the following clarifications were further raised for the impracticability of the proposal under chosen geography and tropical stochastic random runoff that limits the possibility on the implementation of the proposal.

(1) Answer to clarifications presented by the firm was assessed to be partially incomplete and no specific answer has been validated and justified to bring the committee in confidence, and the firm was asked to provide specific Technical details, storm water data for past years and storm water arrangements that govern the leachate pollution and its prevention during flooding under critical Rainfall intensity, duration and the no. of occurrences of the storm that results in heavy downpour and the resulting practice & the remedial measures adopted to comply the condition on hazardous leachate pollution entry to surface water body, soil and ground water percolation.

(2) The data given by the firm is worked out to be an unfeasible and impracticable situation that the chosen site would continue to be susceptible under intensive weather and climate change, resulting to evolve an uncontrollable and uncontainable flooding situation in the wake of hazardous leachate and pollutants entry, handling and transport, hence the committee required to review for further assesment and site feasibility. The assesment of the situation in a typical site cannot be replicated for the proposed site by the proponent at Karaikal district, rather an entirely stormwater controlled differential geological condition raising rainfall intensity beyond 40 cm/hr at a least rainfall duration less than 20 minutes, with terrain characteristics will further aggravate the situation leading unrecoverable natural condition under the livelihood of the human habitat at the Internationally renowned pilgrimage temple site.

(3) The intensive phenolic and aromatic odour and drift of the leachate in ground water plume will be an ever attending irreversible restoration, if such activity of waste management & leachate treatment is resorted. it would be an non- preventive Environmental conservation that evince historical evidence from ground reality and field condition that occured and recorded.

4) It is evident from data submitted by the firm that no operational sequence and the remedial measures were in practice, nor an attempt of past evidence that warrants the containment of leachate preventing flooding situation at maximum rainfall intensity and at least rainfall duration, is made.

5) There were leachate flooding and percolation that were occured in many places in India, and quite few typical sites like, Delhi's Ghazipur, Okla SWM site, Dhapa Kolkata, and similar cases as documented by MoSPI, Gol and CPCB 2021- 22, Gol.

6) Therefore, inspite of the repeated clarifications and efforts to justify the ground reality on the firm's feedback with data support, it is quite evident that the absence of sequential operational flow regime and optional operability at critical rainfall intensity and flooding, out tracks the convergence

far beyond validation at the chosen site of the proposal. The absence of physical infrastructure and accessories that fail to support a well defined sequential operation at critical rainfall intensity resulting flooding of the leachate plume, places no scope of further iteration or clarification under physically and topographically constrained area encompassing the Internationally renowned pilgrimage site in the proposal.

Dr. R. Saravanane

Dr.R. SARAVANANE, M.E.,Ph.D.(IITM, Env.Engg), Fellow IE (I), M.IWA UK, MWEF USA, L.InDA(Desalination)

(Dr. Raman SARAVANANE)

Professor &

Director (*Intellectual Property Rights, IPR*)

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Comments on the proposal of M/s. Re Sustainability IWM Solutions Limited.

In the meeting of the PPCC held on Friday, 25th July 2025 on Issue of CTE to M/s. Re Sustainability IWM Solutions Limited, a Large Scale, Red Category unit, for setting up of an Integrated Common Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage Disposal and Recycling Facility at PIPDIC Industrial Growth Centre, Polagam, T. R. Pattinam Commune, Karaikal was discussed.

It was suggested that the views of the experts may be obtained on the revised submissions from the proponents for examining the conditional approval of the proposal.

The presentation by M/s Re Sustainability Pvt Ltd, Chennai, was reviewed and assessed:

1. Answers to clarifications were partially incomplete and no specific answer has been validated and justified to bring the committee in confidence.

And the firm was asked to provide specific Technical details, storm water data for past years and storm water arrangements that govern the leachate pollution and its prevention during flooding under critically heavy Rainfall intensity, duration and the no. of occurrences of the storm that results in heavy downpour and the resultant practice and the remedial measures adopted to comply with the conditions on entry of hazardous leachate to surface water bodies, soil and percolation to ground water.

2. How the storm water run off from the yard premises to public drain ensures the non- entry of leachate, toxic/ aromatics into the public drains during monsoon seasons?.

In view of the inadequacy of the data and the practice that is in place, and it's possible and probable that it is likely to evolve into an uncontrollable and uncontainable flooding situation of hazardous leachate and pollutants during handling and movement, further review and assessment is needed. it must be remembered that Karaikal experiences heavy rains during monsoon and is vulnerable to heavy flooding. The recent event of a downpour of 49 cm in 24 hrs and the nightmare that followed necessitates a critical consideration on the very examination of the proposal.

The assessment of the situation in a typical site juxtaposed to the proposed site Karaikal district can not be replicated and relied upon, since the characteristics of the proposed site is in an entirely different geological and geographical location. As such the terrain characteristics will further aggravate the situation leading to a serious unrecoverable environmental deterioration that is likely to affect the habitat as well as the livelihood of the people, especially of the fisherfolk which is closer to the proposed site.

3. The intensive phenolic and aromatic odour in air and the drift of the leachate in ground water plume will be an ever- lasting and irreversible problem for restoration, if such activity of waste management & leachate treatment is resorted to.

4. Moreover, the site is closer to the internationally renowned pilgrimage sites at Nagore, TR Pattinam, Karaikal and Thirunallar. Invariably toxic, aromatic gases escaping through the incinerator may invite strong objections from the residents as well as the visiting pilgrims.

UNION CARBIDE CASE

The controversy that erupted recently in UNION CARBIDE CASE has to be considered in this context. The residents of disposal unit in surrounding villages of Pithampur had strong reservations against the disposal of 1984 UNION CARBIDE wastes. Environmental activists claimed that when Union Carbide waste was incinerated on a trial basis in Pithampur in 2015, the soil, underground water and water sources in surrounding villages became polluted. A large number of people on Sunday took out a protest march in Pithampur to oppose the disposal of Union Carbide waste in the city, which has a population of about 1.75 lakh.

Initially, some of the waste was burnt at the and the residue had to be examined to find whether any harmful elements are left. The smoke from the incinerator was passed through special four-layer filters so that the surrounding air was not polluted; the ash was covered by a two-layer membrane and buried to ensure it does not come in contact with soil and water in any way. A team of experts under the

supervision of officials of the Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Board supervised the whole operation. However, all these efforts failed to convince them even though the disposal was completed despite the protests.

Therefore, there are strong reasons to worry about the safety standards, since Karaikal is a small area surrounded by thickly populated pilgrimage centres; hence the apprehensions have to be viewed seriously.

This specific question was raised during inspection on the site also; however, a satisfactory reply is yet to be provided by the firm.

Dr. M.P.RAMANUJAM