

No. 10/1/2019-St. Th (part-II)

Government of India

Ministry of Power

Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg

New Delhi dated 02.01.2021

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub- Ambient Air Quality in the vicinity of Thermal Power Plants - reg.

The undersigned is directed to inform that Ministry of Power requested CEA to review the progress of installation of FGDs in Thermal Power Plants and to submit *a paper to suggest periodicity of pollutants monitoring as well as plant location specific emission standards.*

2. Accordingly, CEA vide letter dated 31.08.2020 has submitted a report prepared on the basis of ambient air quality data received from various Thermal Power Stations, air quality monitoring data published by CPCB, satellite images of SO₂ emission and study conducted by IIT Kanpur. CEA in its recommendations has concluded that:

2.1 There are two ways to go forward to mitigate the challenges faced by the thermal power sector by the new emission norms and both (as mentioned below) can be adopted for improving the situation :

2.2 The target should be to maintain uniform ambient air quality across the country and not the uniform emission norms for thermal power plants. By implementing uniform emission norms of TPS, may in turn result in different air quality at different location. Same norms for thermal power plants located in critically polluted area and other area where air quality is already good doesn't appear to be practical as additional costs are involved. Instead we should aim to maintain same air (good) quality throughout the country and accordingly it is proposed to implement FGD for the thermal power plants region-wise (where Region 1 is the critically polluted area and while Region 5 pertains to the least polluted area) as given in the table below:

- i. In areas where the development is high, the atmospheric air quality is poor and is prone to serious atmospheric pollution problems, strict control of emissions shall be required in such key areas for TPS as categorised under Region 1.
- ii. In next phase, may be after one year of commissioning of 1st phase units, on the basis of effectiveness of installed equipment, to be implemented in the power plant which are located under Region 2
- iii. Presently no action is required for power plant those are situated under Region 3, 4 & 5.

2.3 There should be **graded action plan for adopting new emission norms for TPS as proposed above rather than adopting a single deadline for**

large base of power plants across the country. An unworkable time schedule will create market scarcity leading to import and jacked up prices which will result into unnecessary burden on power utilities and ultimately on consumers. Graded action plan will help in utilizing the resources in effective manner and it will help in fine tuning the technology for local conditions. If the process of emission control is completed in longer time frame, and considering the thermal power plants located in critically polluted areas in first phase, it will help in developing indigenous manufacturing base, skilled manpower in the country which shall take care of the local operating conditions.

3. MoP vide letter dated 24.02.2020 had earlier forwarded the recommendations on Graded priority between pollutants and prioritizing the pollution control technologies, made in the Summary Report of NITI Aayog-Department of Science & Technology (DST) – National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) Workshop dated 17.09.2019 on “Implementation of Clean Coal Technologies to comply with ‘New Emission Norms”.

4. Report of CEA is enclosed for perusal and consideration of MoEF&CC. It is requested to consider reviewing the new emission norms in terms of graded priority of pollutants and prioritizing areas for installation of additional pollution control equipments by thermal power plants in the country. This could avoid immediate increase in power price in various relatively clean areas of the country, avoid unnecessary burden on power utilities/consumers, develop indigenous manufacturing base, judicious and effective utilization of national resources, fine tuning of the newer technology for local conditions and develop skilled manpower in the country.

5. This issues with the approval of Hon’ble Minister of State (IC) for Power and NRE.

Enclosed: as stated.



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