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Guidelines for Development of Location Specific Stringent Standards



CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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FOREWORD

The country has a large geographical area with a very wide spectrum of natural conditions and anthropogenic activities. The impact of the release of pollutants is also expected to have a large variation from area to area depending upon the type of pollutants and the environmental conditions in different areas. The National limits fixed for pollutants are therefore required to be examined with respect to the environmental conditions and assimilative capacity of specific areas and made stringent or the release source shifted to stop irreversible damage to the environment.

The existing legislation, though empowers the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) to prescribe stringent emission/discharge standards, the approach presently followed by the SPCBs for this purpose is mainly judgmental and based primarily on the immediate impact of the release of pollutants. There is a strong need to have guidelines that can enable the SPCBs to, (i) identify areas where there is a need for prescribing location specific stringent standards, (ii) understand the sources of pollution and their impacts, (iii) study the means of controlling pollution, and (iv) evolve the assimilative capacity based limits for the pollutants.

The Central Pollution Control Board has undertaken a project study entitled "Development of Guidelines/Rationale for Prescribing Location Specific Stringent Standards" under the "Environmental Management Capacity Building Technical Assistance Project of the World Bank through award of project to the Environmental Protection Training and Research Institute (EPTRI), Hyderabad. The EPTRI's project report, the present environmental legislation and environmental policy have been studied and the guidelines for the development of location specific stringent standards prepared accordingly are presented in this document.

I am grateful to EPTRI for the project conducted and also to the Project's Consultants, Professor P.M. Berthouex and Prof. Dianna Kocurek of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA for their inputs.

I am grateful to Prof. P. Khanna, Former Director, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur for his useful comments on the EPTRI report.

I am also pleased to place on record my special thanks to my colleagues Dr. B. Sengupta, Member Secretary for his technical guidance, Dr. D.D. Basu, Senior Scientist for his extensive involvement and inputs in the entire project and Dr. R.S. Mahwar, Additional Director for his initiative to study the EPTRI's report, the draft guidelines/related legislation and prepare the final document.

It is hoped that the document will serve as a very useful reference to the SPCBs in Prescribing Location Specific Standards.

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(J. M. MAUSKAR)

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