

Hazardous Waste

Wastes Facilities

Status on Common Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities for Disposal of Hazardous Wastes :

Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 notified by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and further amendments made in the year 2000 and 2003 require every occupier generating hazardous wastes as listed under Schedule 1 and 2 of the said Rules or Operator of a Common Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDF) require authorization for collection, reception, treatment, storage, transportation and disposal of hazardous wastes (HW) in an environmentally sound manner, as per Rule 5 of the HW (M & H) Rules from the concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/ Pollution Control Committee (PCC).

As per Rule 8 of the HW (M & H) Rules, there is also requirement of identification and notification of sites for development of TSDF and disposal of hazardous wastes in an environmentally sound manner. As per these rules, the Occupier or Operator of a Facility or Association of the Occupiers is responsible for identifying the sites and undertaking EIA of the selected sites for establishment of TSDFs. The State Government, Operator of a facility or any association of Occupiers are jointly responsible for identifying sites for Common TSDF. The SPCB or PCC is required to conduct public hearing and forward the EIA, details of the Public hearing along with the recommendations to the State Government. Thereafter, the State Government is required to notify the suitable sites for development of TSDF and also required to compile and publish periodically an inventory of such hazardous waste disposal sites and facilities. Also, as per Rule 8 A of the HW (M & H) Rules require respective SPCB in State and PCC in UT to approve the designs of the disposal facilities and shall monitor the setting up and operation of the TSDF in their jurisdiction.

Common TSDF are an essential component of proper hazardous waste management activity for ultimate disposal of the hazardous wastes in an environmentally sound manner. Only three States have developed common TSDF and same are operational only in the States namely Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra and progress made with regard to the development of TSDF in the other States is not satisfactory.

In order to speed up the process of development of TSDF in the States, MoEF in the past have also provided financial assistance and now also initiated a comprehensive scheme to provide financial assistance for setting up of TSDF for the State Governments and the industry associations. Under the scheme, MoEF provides financial assistance maximum of Rs. 2 Cr for setting up of TSDF on Public-Private Partnership basis based on Build, Operate and Own (BOO) principles, in accordance with the provisions of HWM Rules. Under this scheme, so far the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and West Bengal have availed financial assistance for setting up of common TSDF in the respective States. Some more States Boards have applied to MoEF for the financial assistance. Some are yet to take the opportunity for availing such MoEF financial assistance programme.

Also, there is a tendency for not accepting the hazardous wastes from one State to the other where the facilities are already operational. In order to arrive at mutually agreeable consensus among the States especially with regard to the acceptance of hazardous wastes for ultimate disposal of landfillable wastes or for treatment of incinerable wastes by incineration in the states where such facilities are operational, issues with regard to the 'Strategy for Inter-state movement of hazardous wastes and disposal of hazardous wastes in common TSDF were discussed in 52 nd Conference of Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of SPCBs and PCCs held in January 05, 2006 and subsequently have discussed in the 13 th meeting of the Supreme Court Monitoring Committee (SCMC) held on 06.01.2006 at Mumbai. Upon detailed discussions, following decisions have been taken for taking further necessary action by the SPCBs & PCCs on priority.

- All States /UTs should ensure setting up Common Facilities for land filling of Hazardous Waste, latest by June 2006.
- States/UTs which propose to utilize Common landfill facilities set up/ being set up in neighboring States, should finalize formal agreements by above date.
- States/UTs generating incinerable wastes exceeding 5000 TPA should ensure setting up of Common Facility for incineration by December 2006.
- States/UTs proposing to utilize Common Incineration facilities available in neighboring States should finalize formal agreements by December 2006.
- To request Chairman, SCMC to write to all the State Governments / UTs Administration enclosing details of subsidy and assistance already provided by some of the State Governments with the suggestion to provide assistance/ incentives for setting up of common facilities
- Hon'ble Supreme Court may be appraised by SCMC accordingly.

Subsequently, above decisions have been communicated to the Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments and the Union Territory Administration by The Chairman, Supreme Court Monitoring Committee (SCMC) as well as by the MoEF. Central Board also requested all the SPCBs and PCCs with a request to take further necessary action in the light of the decisions of the Supreme Court Monitoring Committee. Based on the information received from the SPCBs and PCCs, State-wise status on setting up of Common TSDF as well as Common Hazardous Waste Incinerators seeking appropriate directions in respect of those States which have made little progress or yet to initiate the action for development of TSDF have been filed by the SCMC to the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the month of November 2006. State-wise status on development of Common TSDF as reported are given in Table (Table 3).

Table 3: State-wise Status on Sites Identified, notified, TSDFs under Construction and TSDFs in Operation

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of sites identified	Number of sites notified	Number of TSDF under	Number of Common TSDFs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	02	02	01	01
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Bihar	01	01	Nil	Nil
5.	Chhattisgarh	02	-	-	-
6.	Delhi	03	-	-	-
7.	Goa	02	-	-	-
8.	Gujarat	-	-	-	07
9.	Haryana	01	01	-	-
10.	Himachal Pradesh	01	-	-	-
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Karnataka	02	01	01	Nil
14.	Kerala	01	01	01	-
15.	Madhya Pradesh	09	03	01	-
16.	Maharashtra	06	04	02	02
17.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Meghalaya	01	-	-	-
19.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
31.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
32.	Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli	01	Nil	Nil	Nil
33.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
34.	Pondicherry	01	-	-	-
Total		61	22	12	10

Note : Information prepared based on the information available with CPCB, MoEF and based on the SCMS consolidated report.

As per the above information, about 61 Sites so far have been identified by the SPCBs/PCCs and about 22 sites have been notified by the respective State Governments. Above status indicates that 12 States/UTs (i.e. States 09 and 03 UTs) have not even identified sites so far. Out of these 04 States 02 UTs have reported no generation of hazardous wastes in the respective States or UTs. 13 States /UTs which have notified sites are yet to develop the notified sites as disposal facilities.

Though the Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules were notified in the year 1989 under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Ministry of Environment & Forests have provided financial support to some of the State Pollution Control Boards in the past as well as at present, progress made with regard to the development of Common TSDF in several States is not satisfactory to the Supreme Court Monitoring Committee. As per the information received from the SPCBs/PCCs, at present, there are only ten Common Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDF) in operation in the States of Andhra Pradesh (01), Gujarat (07) and Maharashtra (02). The State Pollution Control Boards of West Bengal, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have made considerable progress and TSDFs in these States are expected to be operational in a short period.

In the absence of common facilities for disposal of hazardous wastes, continued accumulation of such wastes in the premises of waste generating industries could pose serious threats to the environment due to improper disposal of huge quantum of wastes in view of the space constrains for the individual industries. Hence, there is an urgent need for development of Common TSDF so as to cater to the disposal of hazardous wastes in the respective States, on priority. This issues are proposed to be discussed in the ensuing Chairman and Member Secretaries Conference scheduled to be held in February 2007 at New Delhi .
