



Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board paves way to Ease of Doing Business and promote sustainable practices in the State



Newsletter



Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board receives applications for consent/ authorization under the provisions of various environmental acts and rules for establishing/ operation of the industries in the State. Around 1800 such consent / authorization applications are received in the State Board. As per provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, e-waste (Management) Rules, 2022 and Hazardous and Other Waste (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016, the Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016, the statutory timeline for disposal of consent / authorization applications received in the State Pollution Control Board is within 120 days.

After initial pre-screening of applications on the basis of checklist of documents prescribed by the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board, these applications are dealt at concerning Regional Office/ Head Office as per delegation of power. During the processing, inspection and monitoring of potential pollution sources in the industry is carried out to assess compliance made by the industry with respect to various environmental regulations/ orders/ guidelines etc.

It was felt that an entrepreneur has to obtain series of clearances while establishing/ operating an industry. It was also felt that in some cases, due to regulatory reasons there is inordinate delay in processing of applications at the State Board which affects the timely establishment of the industry by the Project Proponent.

The matter was deliberated in detail at the State Board and it was a general view that the prevailing enforcement mechanism needs to be rationalized for simplification of the process of obtaining consent/ authorization. Issues related to mandatory documents to be submitted alongwith applications, frequency of inspection of industries, delegation of power across offices of the State Board, rationalization of fee-adjustment in case of refusal of applications were reviewed in view of IT enabled online system for consent mechanism with available resources and infrastructure in RSPCB so as to expedite disposal of applications by the State Board.



In view of above keeping up spirits of Ease of Doing Business. and with an aim to promote sustainable practices by entrepreneurs in the State, RSPCB has taken many initiatives which are mainly being covered in this newsletter.

Green-Channel System

- In order to encourage adoption of sustainable practices by industries/ processes/ mines/ health care facilities, etc, and keeping spirit of ease of doing business, RSPCB has decided to simplify the process for renewal of Consent to Operate through introduction of Green-Channel system vide order dated 04.09.2023.
- The Green-Channel system a compliance based fast-track clearance mechanism for renewal of consent to operate. Approval for renewal of Consent to Operate of Green Channel unit/entity shall be accorded by concerned Group-Incharge/Regional Officer of the State Board within 7 days on the basis of compliance status observed during latest / previous inspections/ sampling/ monitoring. This Green Channel System shall become effective for all Consent to Operate applications with effect from 15.09.2023 and would be used for application yet to be disposed as well as to be received.



Revision in Inspection Frequency

- Earlier, industries with smaller investments and lesser pollution loads were kept at par with industries having higher investments and higher pollution load. The inspection/ monitoring/ sampling frequency has been reviewed taking in consideration, the scale of project, pollution load of the sector, possibility of using technology and available manpower vide order dated 24.08.2023.
- Inspection/ monitoring/ sampling frequency in sectors such as textile, health care facilities, cement plants, power plants, mines, common waste treatment facilities have been specifically rationalized.
- Units that are being supervised on real time basis under Online Continuous Emission/ Effluent Monitoring Systems have been relaxed in terms of inspection frequency. Further, the frequency has been revised on the basis of scale/ capacity/ category of the project, higher the scale/ capacity/ category, more would be the frequency of inspection since the pollution load is anticipated to be higher in such cases.
- In addition to this, as a huge relief to the entrepreneurs, it has been decided to send joint team of technical and scientific officers during inspection, so that a unit is not visited very often by the State Board for inspection and sampling/ monitoring separately.

Delegation of Powers to Regional Offices

- With an aim to ensure expeditious disposal to pave way for Ease of Doing Business, the powers for grant, refusal and revocation of Consent to Establish/ Operate under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974/ Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Authorization under the Hazardous Waste Management (Handling and Trans-boundary Movement) Rules, 2016, Authorization under the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2016, and Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 have been delegated to Regional Officers of the State Board particularly for most of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- It was also observed that proponent has to often move between Head Office and Regional Office in case of issuance of directions of refusal/ revocation to them. The matter related to issuance of closure directions was also reviewed, and it has been decided vide order dated 28.08.2023 that the powers to issue directions to industry under Water and Air Acts have been delegated to Regional Officers for which they are competent to grant/ refuse/ revoke consent to establish/ operate. They shall also be the competent authority to revoke directions issued by them.

Rationalization of Checklist of Documents

- As per the statutory requirement, the scope of the “consent” granted by the State Board is limited to control of pollution and compliances of standards laid down. Whether an industry has been set-up or proposed to be set up after due permissions from other competent authority needs to be examined by the concerned agency/ department and not SPCB. Industries are required to submit documents alongwith the application of Consent to Establish/ Operate under Water and Air Acts. Some of these documents are not directly related to mandate of Pollution Control Board.
- In view of this, the checklist of documents, that are required to be uploaded/submitted while applying for Consent to Establish and/or Consent to Operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, has been reviewed and revised as per the statutory requirement of the State Board.
- Documents such as land ownership, environmental clearance, clearance from National Board for Wildlife, Aravali Notification, building plan, wherever required have been rationalized to provide aid to the project proponents in obtaining consent from the State Board without much hassle.

Revised Jurisdiction of Regional Offices

In view of creation of new districts in the State, the district boundaries have been changed. Subsequently, RSPCB has revised the jurisdiction of its Regional Offices based on creation of new districts in the State.

Relaxation to Small Scale Industries from Installation of MEE/ ATFD

Earlier the State Board had decided to allow those industries which desire to set up own ETP with direction that “the unit shall install ETP of adequate capacity having Primary, Secondary & Tertiary units. It was also decided that the treated waste water shall be further passed through minimum two stage RO and permeate re-used back into process. The RO reject shall be disposed of through Multi Effect Evaporator (MEE) and no effluent shall be discharges inside or outside the premises.

The State Board reviewed the matter in order to relax small scale industries from MEE/ ATFD installation and it was decided that existing units be allowed with Solar Evaporation Ponds and units shall have adequate size of Solar Evaporation Pond as specified by the State Board.

Community involvement through plantation under TOFiR

As the nation celebrated 75 years of independence, the State Board decided to promote plantation through providing 7.50 Lakh plants to various institutions, departments etc. using Tree Outside Forest Scheme of the Forest Department by allocating funds of Rs 1 Crore to its Regional Offices on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

In addition to this, RSPCB in coordination with various industrial associations/ NGOs/ organizations under their jurisdiction carry out voluntary mass plantation in areas outside forest area.

Participation was received in huge numbers from across the citizens, institutions, organizations to carry out extensive plantation throughout the State.

Plantation through Forest Department in case of Mines

The State Board stipulates condition of plantation on one third area in mining lease area in line with the National Forest Policy, 1988. It was noted that in many cases especially when mines are small, efforts of project proponent to comply with this condition are not being met due to various factors like unsuitable land, limited space, too much disturbance etc.

Even in cases where State Board allows mining lease holders to carryout plantation outside mine area as per guidelines issued for abatement of pollution from mining operations, it becomes difficult to comply at many places.

RSPCB therefore has allowed such plantation be done through Forest Department by deposit of cost of plantation by the mine owners to the Forest Department.

Expansion of Monitoring Network of Laboratories in the State

- With an aim to expand network of laboratory engaged in testing of air/ noise/ water/ waste water/ soil/ hazardous samples, acceptance of reports of other laboratories has been permitted by the State Board vide order dated 25/08/2023.
 - Earlier the State Board accepted reports from only MoEF-CC approved laboratories which has now been expanded to laboratories accredited by NABL in accordance with ISO/ IEC 17025:2017, laboratories of Rajasthan State & Central Government/ PSUs/ Boards/ Corporations/ Government Engineering Colleges in the State for the purpose of self-verification of compliances.
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- This initiative would assist the project proponents to get their environmental samples analyzed/ tested at any of these laboratories as per its desire and submit to State Board for compliance verification purposes.

Inclusion of more Sectors in White Category

- White category industries are those which are non-polluting in nature and exempted from consent mechanism of RSPCB.
- Initially, the State Government had introduced White category vide notification dated 26.05.2016 wherein 47 sectors were identified under white category.
- As per Hon'ble Chief Minister's Budget Announcement 2023-24 – the total list of white category has been expanded upto 104 sectors as of August, 2023.

Rationalization of Fees in Case of Refusal of Consent Applications

- Earlier, in cases of refusal of application for Consent to Operate, the entire consent fee (specified for 5/10/15 years) deposited by the project proponent was forfeited by the State Board and project proponents had to deposit entire fee with subsequent applications.
- The matter was reviewed and it has been decided that in case of refusal of Consent to Operate applications, only 20% of the total applicable fee shall be forfeited and the balance 80% shall be shown as advance fee credited in the MIS account of the project proponent, which shall be utilized at the time of subsequent application, to be made within a period of 30 days after refusal.

Incentives for joining and properly using OCEMS

- The State Board has directed more than 600 units, as of now, to install OCEMS (Online Continuous Effluent & Emission Monitoring System) & configure with RSPCB OCEMS Portal.
- With an aim to encourage voluntary installation of Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System by industries, RSPCB has exempted submission of connectivity fees for connectivity of analyzers/ sensors prescribed earlier for connectivity to OCEMS portal.
- It has been further decided to incentivize connected and complaint units in the form of relaxation in physical inspection frequency on the basis of availability and quality of data.
- Industries which are still not mandated to install OCEMS and voluntarily opting for OCEMS installation shall also be incentivized through relaxed inspection frequency on the basis of compliance levels of OCEMS criteria.

Revision of Emission Standards for Industrial Boilers

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) vide Notification G.S.R. 373 (E) dated 16th May, 2023 has revised emission standards for industrial boilers based on different fuels, which shall come into force on expiry of period of two years from the date of publication i.e. from 15.05.2025.
- The State Board has decided that the applicable emission standards in case of boilers based on different fuels will in accordance with the notification dates 16.05.2023.
- Accordingly, Consent to Operate are being issued with additional specific condition that standards prescribed vide Notification dated 16th May, 2023 of MoEF&CC shall be complied by 15th May, 2025
- However, in specific cases such as National Capital Region, Critically/ Severally Polluted Area etc more stringent standards shall be applicable, as prescribed on case to case basis.

Establishment of a Common Primary Treatment Plant

- The State Board has principally granted approval to the Common Effluent Treatment Plants of the State to establish a Common Primary Treatment Plant for collective primary treatment of effluent generated by member units of CETP.
- The CETPs have been directed to formulate Standard Operating Procedures for monitoring member units and acting against defaulter units.
- Monitoring to be done through OCEMS/ SCADA based automated tools in addition to monitoring of prescribed norms at inlet and outlet of the CETPs.

Creation of EPR Cell at RSPCB

To promote Circular Economy in the State an EPR Cell has been constituted at RSPCB to carry out various activities related to EPR including IEC to promote circularity in various waste stream.

This cell would be responsible for:

- Expediting implementation of EPR based market mechanism in the Special Category of Waste like e-waste, Battery waste, Tyre waste, End of life Vehicle and plastic waste.
- IEC activities related to EPR regime.
- Capacity building of officials and other stakeholders.
- Improving skills of manpower engaged in recycling.
- Integration of informal sector in EPR regime/ Circular Economy.
- Necessary coordination with all relevant stakeholders and agencies.

Permission to Establish/ Operate for Continuous Type Tyre Pyrolysis Units and Conversion of Batch Type Units

Any new type pyrolysis units in the State was not allowed to set up since 2012 which was creating a road block in proper treatment of tyre waste in the State. The use of vehicles and corresponding generation of tyre waste is increasing exponentially with time and EPR regime with respect to tyre waste in the State may work properly only when capacity of proper treatment of tyre waste is increased. Matter was deliberated in light of various National Green Tribunal orders, guidelines issued by Central Pollution Control Board, practices across other States in this regard and consultation with stakeholders particularly the recyclers of tyre waste in the State and it has been decided that:

- Consent to Establish / Operate and Authorization shall be granted only to Continuous type Tyre Pyrolysis units and not those on Batch Process.
- Renewal of Consent to Operate and Authorization of Tyre Pyrolysis units on Batch process would be allowed on the condition that units would be converted to continuous process by 31.12.2025.
- Setting up new Tyre Pyrolysis units on continuous process /conversion of existing units on batch process would be allowed keeping in view of conditions laid down by the State Board in this reference.

Scrapping of End of Life Vehicles

- Rajasthan State Motor Garage Department has issued directions to all Departments regarding scrapping of 15 year old govt. owned vehicles.
- Currently, two Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSFs) for scrapping of End of Life Vehicles in Rajasthan.
- Special incentives on purchase of new vehicles upon scrapping of ELVs.

Development of Air Quality as an Early Warning System for Jaipur

The objective of the study is to develop and implement an operational high-resolution daily air quality forecast system for Jaipur (Covering both Urban & Rural as a whole), capable of providing accurate predictions with a lead time of 72 hours.

The State Board is entering into MOU with Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune a research organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India for this study to provide decision support system to facilitate district administration of Jaipur and state government to implement graded response to curb air pollution anticipated by the early warning system.

Total project Cost is at cost of Rs. 79.97 Lacs + GST .

Strengthening of Air Monitoring Network

There are 45 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) commissioned in the State. 01 new CAAQM station at Bhiwadi is under commissioning stage.

RSPCB is in process of establishing 15 new CAAQMS at newly announced districts in Rajasthan in association with National Thermal Power Corporation.

Parameters analyzed- PM10, PM2.5, SO2, NO, NO2, NOX, CO, Benzene, Toluene, Ethyl Benzene, MP Xylene, O Xylene, O3, NH3 and Meteorological parameters i.e. Temperature, Relative Humidity, Wind Speed, Wind Direction, Barometric Pressure and Solar Radiation.

Monitoring of pollutants also being done through 2 Mobile Vans in the State.

In addition to this, RSPCB has also purchased 10 monitoring vehicles to carry out manual monitoring work various locations in industrial areas as well as residential areas.



Integrated Resource Recovery Park in Jaipur

- Establishing a first-of-its-kind Integrated Resource Recovery Park for special Category Waste in Jaipur for co-locating different recyclers under one roof.
- This park is proposed at RIICO Industrial Area, Tholai, Jamwaramgarh, Jaipur on 44 Hectare Land allotted to RIICO by District Administration, Jaipur.
- Technical expert is GIZ, EU-REI (European Union- Resource Efficiency Initiatives) for this project. Development of Master Plan and Zoning for this Park has been done by GIZ.
- RIICO has initiated work of allotment /auction of plots.
- This Park will boost circular economy concept in State and provide a common platform to Recyclers of various waste streams.
- Objective of this Park is to enable the recyclers by matching waste from one unit to the resource need of another. Such units would be from waste streams such as plastic, e-waste, hazardous waste, PV Panel and storage batteries, metal scraps, End of Life vehicle etc.



Deputing Officer In-charge Over Regional Officers at RSPCB

- It was observed that each Regional Officer had to report to almost all Group In-charges at Head Office as per industrial sectors assigned to different Groups and there were no documented mechanism/ SOP/ guidelines in place for monitoring/ assessing working of Regional Officers by a single officer nor was there any single designated officer in the Head Office well conversant with all issues related to a Regional Office or to whom a RO can approach for seeking guidance to resolve any problem or clarify doubts related to his jurisdiction.
- In order to address these issues and improving coordination between Regional Offices and the Head Office, Officer In-charges have been assigned for each Regional Officer.
- These OICs shall visit the allotted RO/ its area at least once every month and submit a report on their findings of inspection alongwith suggestions for improvements and recommendations for further course of action.

Streamlining Procedure for Merger of Multiple CTOs

- It was observed by the State Board that many units in the State are currently having more than one Consent to Operate (CTO) due to various reasons like implementation of project in phases, expansion or addition of utilities/sources of pollution at different time. Such multiple CTOs for one unit not only cause inconvenience to the Project Proponent but also increase work load of the State Board.
- In order to promote ease of doing business and to reduce work load of the Board, the State Board has streamlined the procedure, synchronize validity of consents, to merge multiple CTOs of a unit into one CTO at the time of renewal/issue of consent to operate.

Launch of Environmental Audit Scheme in Rajasthan

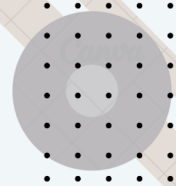
Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board being a key enforcement agency responsible for regulating industry and overseeing environmental issues in the State, is entrusted with duties to enforce provisions of various environmental acts and rules. To meet the long-standing need for improving level of regulatory compliances, State Board has launched Environment Audit Scheme (EAS).

Applicability of EAS

- All 17 category of highly polluting industries.
- All common facilities i.e. Common Effluent Treatment Plants, Common Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities for Hazardous Waste including incinerators and pre-processing facilities, Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facilities, other common facilities, Municipal Sewage Treatment Plants and Common Primary Treatment Plants.
- Grossly Polluting Industries.
- All large scale industries.
- All industries covered under EIA Notification, 2006 except hotels, health care facilities, township projects and mines up to 25 ha.
- Mines having lease area more than 25 ha.
- Recyclers of e-waste and Hazardous waste including Battery and Tyre waste.

Key Highlights of EAS

- Environment Auditors (EAs) empanelled by RSPCB would take up Environmental Audit under this scheme.
- Interested academic and research institutions and individuals may apply for empanelment under the scheme on RSPCB portal.
- Institutions offering post-graduation courses in Environmental Engineering or Environmental Science or Environment Management and individuals having Masters degree in Engineering/ Technology/ Sciences and having age more than 25 years as on 01.01.2024, may apply for empanelment.
- EAs would be required to use in-house laboratory, accredited by MoEF-CC/ NABL or laboratories approved by RSPCB for testing /monitoring.
- Remuneration of Rs. 12000 per person day would be payable to EAs.
- Monitoring, sampling and analysis charges shall be paid extra as per rates approved by RSPCB.
- In cases where units are found using sustainable practices and compliance levels are good, such cases may be recommended for GreenCo Rating Scheme/ or any other award scheme run by the Board.



Message from Chairperson



RSPCB is a key enforcement agency responsible for regulating industry and overseeing environmental issues in the State and is entrusted with duties to enforce provisions of environmental regulations.

As a regulatory agency, RSPCB is envisaged to provide a healthy ecosystem for sustainable entrepreneurship in the State and promote practices that keep up the spirits of Ease of Doing Business.

In order to make the procedure of obtaining consent/ authorization/ registration under various environmental regulations, RSPCB has rationalized the enforcement mechanism and various procedural simplifications have been carried out.

I am sure that the recent initiatives taken by RSPCB will provide entrepreneurs a better platform to establish and operate in the State in synergy with the various prevalent environmental regulations.

Shikhar Agrawal
IAS
(Chairperson)



Message from Member Secretary



We are pleased to present the latest Newsletter by Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board which envisages recent important policy interventions taken by the State Board to promote of Ease of Doing Business.

Efforts are being made keeping the interest of the general public and the stakeholders at large, so that the enforcement mechanism is streamlined for the sustainable practices by the entrepreneurs in the State.

I am sure that the recent procedural modifications done by the State Board would play a significant role in streamlining issues faced earlier by the entrepreneurs while obtaining consents/ authorization/ registration from the State Board and provide an easy platform in doing business.

Vijai N.
IFS
(Member Secretary)

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For more details on these initiatives visit our website :-

<https://environment.rajasthan.gov.in/content/environment/en/rajasthan-state-pollution-control-board.html>



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