

**Minutes of the first meeting of Working Group constituted to study merits/ demerits of use of Pet coke as an alternative fuel held on 16/04/2014 at 13:00 hrs. in the Conference Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, M.P.C. Board, Kalpataru Point, Sion (E), Mumbai-400 022.**

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M.P.C. Board has constituted working group to study merits/ demerits of use of Pet coke as an alternative fuel vide Office Order No. 29 of 2014 on 02/04/2014. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on 16/04/2014 at 13:00 hrs. in the M.P.C. Board's Conference Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Kalpataru Point, Sion (E), Mumbai-400 022.

The following members of the working group were present during the above meeting:

1. Shri P.K. Mirashe, Asst. Secretary (Tech.),  
M.P.C. Board, Mumbai. - Chairman
2. Shri V.M. Motghare, Joint Director (APC),  
M.P.C. Board, Mumbai. - Member
3. Shri B.R. Naidu, Zonal Officer,  
C.P.C. Board, Baroda, Gujrat. - Member
4. Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Head & Scientist,  
NEERI, Mumbai. - Member
5. Ms Sumaria Abdulali, NGO,  
AWAZ Foundation, Bandra (W), Mumbai- 400 050. - Member
6. Shri Rajeev Marotkar,  
M/s Angadpal Industries Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. H-4/3,  
MIDC Tarapur, Dist. Thane. - Member

Shri P.K. Mirashe, Asst. Secretary (Tech.), Chairman of the working group welcomed all the Members present during the meeting and explained the intention of the Board behind constituting the working group.

He informed the members, that few industries from MIDC Tarapur have submitted representation in the Board for grant of permission to use Pet Coke as an alternate fuel in place of Coal subject to installation of appropriate control equipment & monitoring system. In their representation, these industries have submitted that Gujrat Pollution Control Board has permitted several textile industries in Surat to use pet coke as an alternate fuel. Also, they have submitted that use of pet coke as compared to Coal is the most cost effective and it is easily

available from the Refineries though SO<sub>2</sub> emission is high which can be controlled by providing Wet Scrubber, FGD.

Shri B.R. Naidu, Zonal Officer, C.P.C. Board, the member of the working group has informed that G.P.C.B. has not given permanent permission to the industries in Gujrat to use pet coke as an alternative fuel. Also, he opined that allowing use of pet coke can cause serious damage to the Environment as a whole, in case, if the APCS provided is inadequate and/or not operated properly. Also, he informed that M/s Reliance Ind. has obtained Environmental Clearance for their proposed power plant in Gujrat that will run on pet coke which will cause further short of supply of pet coke fuel to the industries. Hence, industries preparedness for multi-fuel flexible boiler is advisable to face this situation.

Further, he commented that due to high investment involved in the Boiler & associated pollution control equipments, it is not viable for small & medium scale industries. Also, if sulphur content in the pet coke (which is a refinery waste) is above 5% or more than 50,000 ppm then it is categorized as Hazardous Waste as per schedule II of the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008 and it has to be treated as per the prevailing guidelines.

Shri V.M. Motghare, Joint Director (APC), the member of the working group has shared his experience and reported that he had observed huge air pollution caused by shoot particles released from Chimney due to incomplete combustion of pet coke and inadequate APCS provided by the industry in Kalyan Region.

Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Head & Scientist, NEERI, Mumbai, the member of the working group has expressed has doubt that if industry is allowed to use pet coke as an alternate fuel then industry may use water in place of caustic media in the scrubber to save/cut cost due to which un-scrubbed SO<sub>2</sub> may release into the atmosphere and further aggravate the situation of air pollution in the area.

Shri Rajeev Marotkar, the member from M/s Angadpal Industries Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. H-4/3, MIDC Tarapur, Dist. Thane has informed to the working group, that the G.P.C.B. has given trial permissions for use of pet coke as an alternate fuel which are extended for period of six months subject to verification of O&M and monitoring results of APCS provided by the industry by third

party appointed by G.P.C.B. He has also assured that proper O&M of APCS are ensured by interlocking it with the Boiler. Non-operation of scrubber may cause damage to the costly Boiler because of development of back pressure due to choking problem; hence question of keeping scrubber idle doesn't arise. He insisted that due to high calorific value of pet coke, its use as a fuel results in increase in profit margin of the industry.

Shri P.K. Mirashe, Asst. Secretary (Tech.), the Chairman of the working group concluded the meeting and informed all the members present during the meeting that working group will visit to one or two industry in Surat, Gujrat which is using pet coke as a fuel to assess the performance of the APCS i.e. wet scrubber installed for control of SO<sub>2</sub> & particulate emissions so as to finalize whether grant of permission to use Pet Coke as an alternate fuel in place of Coal subject to installation of appropriate control equipment & monitoring system is recommended or not.

After due deliberations on the issue, following conclusions were drawn:

- 1) The small and medium scale industries may not afford the cost of installation and further operation & maintenance of pollution control system.
- 2) The modification of boiler having double firing zone, fixed bed of Calcium Oxide, interlocking arrangement with pollution control system etc. may not be affordable to small scale industries.
- 3) Use of pet coke as an alternate fuel may not be advisable in areas identified as Critically Polluted by MoEF, GoI. But, it can be at the most considered for large industry in non-critical areas where assimilation capacity is available.
- 4) It is decided that the Committee will visit one of the industry in Surat, Gujrat where pet coke is used for observing its performance and it's techno-economical viability. The industry representative will organize the visit to such plant within next 15 days time.
- 5) The next meeting is proposed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May 2014 for taking suitable decision based on the observations made during the plant visit at Surat, Gujrat.

Meeting ended with the thanks to the Chair.

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