

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board issues directions to M/s. Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) on Ennore Creek oil spillage

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board on 11th December, 2023 issued certain directions to the CPCL under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, Government of Tamil Nadu had constituted a Technical team vide G.O(Ms). No. 178 Dated 10.12.2023 to ascertain the cause of the recent oil spillage into the Ennore Creek area. The said team inspected the premises of CPCL and other related industries on 11.12.2023 and submitted its report wherein it is concluded that the oil spillage has happened from the premises of CPCL into the Buckingham Canal reaching the Ennore Creek in the aftermath of floods due to Cyclone Michaung. The team has also noted inadequate storm water management issues in CPCL premises.

In the light of above, following directions have been issued by TNPCB to CPCL

1. M/s. CPCL shall identify hotspots in Buckingham Canal, Ennore Creek and adjoining area where the oil deposits /oil slick are stagnated and take necessary remedial measures on war footing basis.
2. M/s. CPCL and its secondary units and terminals shall ensure that all pipelines (raw materials and products) and tanks are intact with no leakage. If CPCL is found to discharge oil containing water/polluted water against the norms set out for industries under provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, their operations are liable to be suspended.
- 3.M/s. CPCL shall also be liable to pay environmental compensation for any damages caused in contravention of the extant provisions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- 4.M/s. CPCL shall also be liable to pay compensation to the families adversely impacted due to the oil spillage including the loss of livelihood.
- 5.M/s. CPCL shall carry out a Leak Detection & Repair Study (LDAR) with the help of a reputed technical institution and furnish the same to the Board immediately.
6. M/s. CPCL shall undertake a comprehensive mapping study with a reputed technical institution to identify oil spread areas and furnish the report with Action Plan to the Board immediately.
7. M/s. CPCL is directed to ensure that no such occurrence happens in future.

**Chairperson,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board**

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