

No 10/1/2024-St.Th. (C. No. 273912)
Government of India
Ministry of Power

Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg
New Delhi, Dated the 20th Nov., 2024

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Extension of timelines for installation of Flue Gas Desulphurisation(FGD) in Thermal Power Plants for compliance of SO2 emission norms -reg.

The undersigned is directed to refer to MoEF&CC Notification dated 05.09.2022 stipulating timelines for Thermal Power Plants for compliance to Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emission norms with a stringent Environment Compensation in case of non-compliance.

2. As per MoEF&CC Notification dated 05.09.2022, Thermal Power Plants categorized as A, B and C (based on plant's location) are required to be SO₂ norm compliant **by December 2024, December 2025 and December 2026 respectively.**
3. In this regard, at present out of 600 units, FGD systems are already installed in **44 units (22,590 MW) and bids are awarded in 233 units (1,02,040 MW).**
4. However, **significant constraints** have been reported by Thermal Power Plants regarding installation of FGD systems. Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has also assessed reasons for delay in FGD system installation. These constraints are primarily related to, limited domestic manufacturing capacity due to limited vendor base, dependence on imports (around 17 % items- Agitators and Fans, are imported) and, a sudden growth in demand to meet the stipulated timelines. The average time taken for FGD installation after award is around 36-40 months depending upon the vendor/site. The current annual installation capacity is around 16-20 GW per annum (33-39 units). These factors have also resulted in an increase in installation costs of FGD system.
5. In view of the constraints/limitations highlighted above, Thermal Power Plants may not be able to comply with the prescribed timelines for meeting the SO₂ norms, as stipulated in MoEF&CC notification dated 05.09.2022, potentially resulting in imposition of environmental compensation charges.

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6. In order to discuss the way forward for installation of FGD systems, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs on 30.10.2024. A copy of the Minutes of Meeting is **enclosed**. The various aspects relating to installation of FGD systems were discussed at length in the meeting and it emerged that due to above mentioned constraints, **the current time for meeting the SO2 emission norms, as specified in MoEF&CC notification dated 05.09.2022, cannot be achieved.**

7. In view of above, MoEF&CC is requested to consider extension in timelines by **36 months** (beyond the timelines stipulated in MoEF&CC notification dated 05.09.2022) for category A, B & C Thermal Power Plants.

8. This issues with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs.

Encl.: As Above.


20/11/24
(J. Misra)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel: 011-23063746

To,

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
(Ms. Leena Nandan, Secretary)
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi.