

Government of Punjab
Department of Science Technology and Environment
Directorate of Environment & Climate Change

Through e-mail

To

1. **The Administrative Secretary,**
Deptt. of Local Govt.,
State of Punjab
2. **The Administrative Secretary,**
Deptt. of Rural Development & Panchayat,
State of Punjab
3. **The Member Secretary**
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Head Office, Patiala
4. **The Chief Executive Officer**
Punjab Bio Technology Incubator
SAS Nagar

Letter No. DECC/2023/815-818

Dated: 29/05/2023

Subject: Minutes of the 2nd meeting of High-Powered Committee held on 24.05.2023 at 12:30 PM in the Room No. 725, 7th Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat-2, Sector-9, Chandigarh regarding utilization of Environmental Compensation Funds, in compliance of NGT order dated 21.10.2022 in M.A. No. 74/2022 in O.A. No. 976/2019 titled as Gurinder Singh & Ors Vs Union of India & Ors.

Please find enclosed herewith the minutes of the 2nd meeting of High-Powered Committee held on 24.05.2023 at 12:30 PM in the Room No. 725, 7th Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat-2, Sector-9, Chandigarh for information and further necessary action please.

Encl: As above

Endst No. DECC/2023/819-820

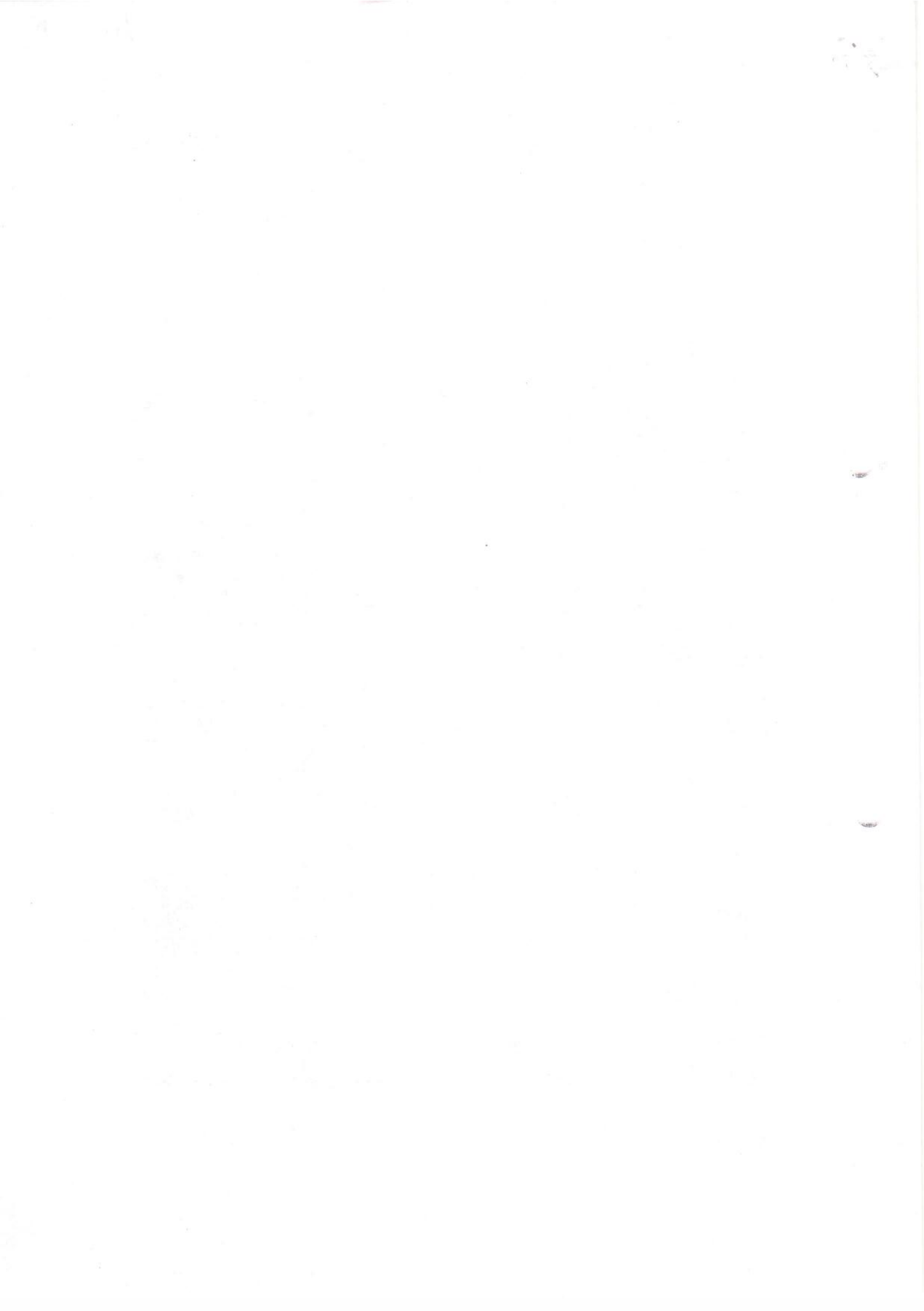
Director (DECC)

Dated 29/05/2023

A copy of above is forwarded to the following:

1. OSD to Chief Secretary, Punjab for information of Chief Secretary, Punjab.
2. Secretary, Department of Science, Technology & Environment for information please.

Director (DECC)



Minutes of the second meeting of High-Powered Committee held on 24.05.2023 at 12:30 PM in the room No. 725, 7th Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat-2, Sector-9, Chandigarh regarding utilization of Environmental Compensation Funds, in compliance of NGT order dated 21.10.2022 in M.A. No. 74/2022 in O.A. No. 976/2019 titled as Gurinder Singh & Ors Vs Union of India & Ors.

Following were present:

1. Sh. Rahul Tewari, IAS, Secretary, Science Technology & Environment (Convenor)
2. Dr. Manish Kumar, Director, DECC
3. Sh. GS Majithia, Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board
4. T.S. Multani, Superintending Engineer (representative of Administrative Secretary, Department of Rural Development & Panchayats)
5. Dr. Naresh Bhardwaj, Assistant Director, (representative of Administrative Secretary, Department of Local Govt.)
6. Sh. Pardeep Garg, Additional Director, DECC
7. Sh. Harbir Singh, Senior Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board

The second meeting of the High-Powered Committee constituted vide Notification No. 10/01/2023-STE2/03 dated 3.01.2023, in compliance of NGT order dated 21.10.2022 in O.A. no. 976 of 2019 titled as Gurinder Singh & Ors Vs Union of India & Ors, was held on 24.05.2023 at 12:30 PM. The current status of progress of utilization of Environmental Compensation Funds and preparation of updated action plans were reviewed as follows:

A. Progress of utilization of Environmental Compensation funds.

The Director, DECC apprised the Committee that in compliance to the decision taken in the first meeting of the High-Powered Committee held on 05.01.2023, Punjab Pollution Control Board released 70% of the proposed amount i.e. Rs. 8.4 Crore out of Rs. 12 Crore to PMIDC and Rs. 1.26 Crore out of Rs. 1.8 Crore to PBTI for execution of the following activities:

- (i) Setting up of Mechanized MRF Centre at MC, Jalandhar by PMIDC.
- (ii) Upgradation/ Strengthening of Environment Monitoring Laboratory by PBTI, Mohali.

Dr. Naresh Bhardwaj, Assistant Director, PMIDC apprised the Committee that 8.40 Crore were received by PMIDC on 31.03.2023 and the said amount has been transferred to MC, Jalandhar for setting up of the mechanized MRF center. He further informed that tender for award of the work shall be floated by MC, Jalandhar before 15.06.2023. The Committee took note of the same.

The Committee thereafter perused the progress furnished by PBTI vide e-mail dated 22.05.2022 as under.

- (i) Technical Committee constituted for procurement of equipment.
- (ii) Specification of the equipment to be procured under the project are being drafted.

B. Status of Environmental Compensation funds

Sh. G.S Majithia, Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board apprised the Committee that in compliance to the decision taken in the first meeting of High-Powered Committee, a separate account is being maintained for receiving Environmental Compensation fund, on behalf of Chief Secretary Punjab and till date, the total fund accrued in the said account is approximately Rs 10 Cr. The Committee noted the same.

C. Preparation of updated Action Plan

The Committee perused & discussed the Hon'ble NGT order dated 21.10.2022 in M.A. No. 74/2022 in O.A. No. 976/2019 titled as Gurinder Singh & Ors Vs Union of India & Ors at length and observed that as per the directions, updated Action Plan is required to be prepared and executed by the Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs. After deliberations, the Committee decided that keeping in view of the thematic areas defined by Hon'ble NGT in the said order under which Environmental restoration activities can be undertaken, it will be prudent Department of Local Govt. & Department of Rural Development and Panchayat and Punjab Pollution Control Board (Department of Science Technology & Environment) shall prepare the Action Plans for utilization of the Environmental Compensation funds as per the following contours and submit the same to Department of Science, Technology & Environment for consideration of High-Powered Committee regarding allocating the environmental compensation funds:

- (i) Three-year action plan be prepared.
- (ii) The activities/work under thematic areas for restoration of environment be proposed in the Action Plans such as strengthening vigilance mechanism, setting up of laboratories for monitoring of environment, coordination with the district Magistrate to prepare District Environment Plans, hiring of experts and consultants, undertaking remediation and study of contaminated sites etc.
- (iii) The action plans may be in sync with the State/District Environment Plans in pursuance of order of NGT dated 26.09.2019 in OA No. 360/2018 titled as Sh. Nath Sharma Vs Union of Indian & Ors.
- (iv) A part of funds be kept for Environment awareness through eco-clubs in all the schools and colleges up to grass root levels in the State through education Department.

The next meeting of the Committee to consider the Action Plan prepared by the aforementioned departments shall be held on 14.06.2023 at 10.30 AM through VC in the Committee Room, 4th Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat-2, Chandigarh.