



PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

VATAVARAN BHAWAN, NABHA ROAD, PATIALA

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Notice to issue direction u/s 31-A of Air(Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 allowing the firing period of Brick Kilns from 1stFebruary to 30th of September to improve the ambient air quality of the State.

There are about 3000 brick kilns in the State of Punjab manufacturing baked clay bricks @ 50000 bricks per day on an average and about 70 to 80 lacs bricks per year per brick kiln.

And whereas, burning of coal in the Kiln generate air emissions containing particulate matter and carbon dioxide/carbon monoxide/ oxide of sulphur etc.

And whereas, Punjab Pollution Control Board, vide its notification no. Admn.A-2/F No.178 / 98/3 dated 2.9.1998, has issued emission standards for brick kilns vide which the Brick Kilns are required to comply with the emission standards of 750 mg/Nm³ of particulate matter.

And whereas, with this prescribed emission standard of 750 mg/Nm³, or even lower levels of emissions, the total pollution load going into the atmosphere has been observed to be high.

And whereas, about 40 percent of these brick kilns start firing in the kiln, in the month of October-December i.e. after the rainy season.

And whereas, ambient air quality worsens during this period due to following main reasons:-

- i) Stubble burning in open fields after the paddy harvesting.
- ii) Bursting of fire crackers during festivals in these days including Dushhera, Diwali, Gurupurb, Marriage functions etc.
- iii) Emission of dust in the fields due to harvesting of crop and in the grain markets of Punjab due to paddy procurement operations.
- iv) Poor-dispersions of dust particles in the ambient air due to fall in temperature, rise in humidity and reduced wind speed.
- v) Poor level of precipitation leading to dust getting air borne as well as low level of settling of suspended particulate matter.
- vi) Increased quantity of coal consumption @ 12.0 T/lac bricks (Average) in winter months as compared to summer months @10T/lac bricks(Average) leading to increased quantum of air emissions during the winter months.

And whereas, as per the ambient air quality monitoring being carried out by the Board through continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations installed at Amritsar, Ludhiana & Mandi Gobindgarh, the average Air Quality Index (AQI) in the State during these winter months falls in very poor zone. The air quality in this zone can adversely affect flora, fauna and humans.

Whereas Board has already issued directions mandating that brick kilns in Punjab shall switch to new zigzag technology by next season which will increase the production capacity of brick kiln by about 15%. This increased production capacity shall offset the loss of production of bricks, if any, during non-operation of brick kilns in the winter months.

And whereas, it is now proposed to issue directions that the Brick Kilns are allowed to fire the brick kilns from the 1st of February to 30th of September only to improve the ambient air quality of the State during winter months.

As such, notice u/s 31-A of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 is, hereby, given to all the stake holders/general public/Brick Kiln owners /Individuals for filing objections / suggestions, if any, within one month from the date of issue of this notice, as to why the proposed directions, as mentioned above, may not be issued. The objections/suggestions may be sent through E-mail of the Board i.e. msppcb@gmail.com or through registered post addressed to the Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala.

-Sd-

(Kahan Singh Pannu, IAS)
Chairman

Registered

Endst. No: SEE(HQ-2)/BKO/_____

Date: _____

A copy of the notice is sent to:

1. Sh. Kuldeep Singh Makkar, President Punjab Brick Kiln Owner's Association # 1-B, Hira Nagar, Patiala-147001 (Pb.)
2. Sh. Sukhwinder Singh Lally, President Punjab Brick Kiln Owner's Association # 325-F, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Ludhiana.

They are requested to send their objections/suggestions on the proposed directions to the Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala-147001(Pb.), within the stipulated period of one month from the date of issue of this notice.

Sd/-
Sr. Environmental Engineer(HQ-2)

Endst. No: SEE(HQ-2)/BKO/ 46067

Date: 13/12/17

A copy of the above is sent to Environmental Engineer (Computers) for uploading the notice on the website of the Board.

Jumra
13/12/17
Sr. Environmental Engineer(HQ-2)

EE Comp/

Eng
13/12/17