



राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरण अभियांत्रिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE,  
Mumbai Zonal Center

89-B, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Near Worli Flyover, Worli, Mumbai-400 018. INDIA

नीरी

NEERI



Tel. : (022) 2497 3521 / 2497 4607  
2492 6859  
Fax. : (022) 2493 6635

Website : [www.neeri.res.in](http://www.neeri.res.in)  
e-mail : [mzl@neeri.res.in](mailto:mzl@neeri.res.in)  
e-mail : [r\\_kumar@neeri.res.in](mailto:r_kumar@neeri.res.in)

**Dr. Rakesh Kumar**  
Chief Scientist & Head

NEERI/Panchgani-Mahabaleshwar / 407

May 3, 2012

To,

The High Court of Judicature at Bombay

Civil Appellate Jurisdiction

Ref: Contempt Petition no.189 of 1008 in writ petition no.7308 of 2002

Sub: site visit and discussion report for Panchgani and Mahabaleshwar

Sir,

Please find the report of the joint visit and discussion held as per the Hon'ble Court's directive for your kind persual.

Sincerely your,

(Rakesh Kumar)

Enclosed : 4 pages report

**Report of the joint site visit to Mahabaleshwar and Panchgani towns on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012, as per the Orders of the High Court in Contempt Petitions 189 & 190 of 2008**

**PANCHGANI**

A joint meeting was conducted at the Chatrapati Shivaji Auditorium, Panchgani Municipal Council building, Panchgani.

Present at the meeting:

1. Smt. Laxmi . R. Karadkar - President, Panchgani Municipal Council
2. Smt. Asha Raut - The Chief Officer, Panchgani Municipal Council
3. Dr. Rakesh Kumar - Director, NEERI
4. Mr. Suhas Joshi - Contractor appointed by Panchgani Council
5. Ms. Hema Ramani - Activist, BEAG
6. Other Members - As per list attached

Based on previous visits undertaken by us and looking into the extent of work in progress of the STPs, the following issues were put forth for discussions.

**1. Sewage Treatment Plant at Siddharath Nagar:**

This plant though constructed has not been commissioned for want of laying of underground sewerage trunk lines and joining of lateral lines to the main trunk line.

The President informed that:

- a. The funding for the underground sewer lines has been received from the Centre and State.
- b. The work of laying of sewerage lines will start only after the monsoon as the entire area was concretized which would cause inconvenience to the residents during the monsoons.
- c. A change in alignment of sewerage lines was also being planned as a means of controlling the flow of sewage as a means of rectifying the flaw pointed out by NEERI earlier.
- d. The tentative date for starting the work of laying of sewer lines would be October 2012 and the same would be completed in two months.

The following was suggested by us and accepted by the Council:



- a. The plan for changing of alignment was a correct step and before any implementation, the council would forward the design to NEERI for any correction/rectification.
- b. It was further suggested to the council that instead of laying of underground pipes which would be cost and time consuming, an alternative of laying of shallow sewer lines should be examined which could be easier to maintain and lay. NEERI could give suitable guidance.  
This method has been suggested considering the fact that the terrain of Panchgani is undulating, coupled with cost effectiveness as well as for easier maintenance in future in case of any choke up or leakages.
- c. Further it was pointed out to the council that this STP will not treat the sewage from the houses at the lower level. With the population increasing and the area being an ESZ, it was strongly recommended that improved technology of septic tank developed by DRDO be adopted for treatment of sewage. We would also offer any assistant required to the council.

## 2. Sewage treatment at Shivaji Nagar:

The President informed that as a priority, the STP at Shivaji Park will be undertaken first.

A lengthy discussion was held amongst the member present and the Contractor kept deferring time limits starting from commissioning of the plant within a month and finally insisted on a date of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012 for commissioning.

All members present were not convinced with the excuses given by the contractor and based on the weather pattern of Panchgani coupled with our experience and expertise the Contractor agreed for the following time lines.

- a. The foundation work of the plant i.e. civil work, which constitutes 80% of the total work will be completed by the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012.
- b. Once the foundation was completed, installation of all equipments on the foundation was possible even during the rains and hence the same could be completed by 15<sup>th</sup> June 2012.
- c. Connecting the unit with pipes requiring welding could be done on clear days as Panchgani does not receive continuous rainfall as Mahabaleshwar. Hence considering availability of only clear days, the same to be completed by 15<sup>th</sup> July 2012.



- d. The Panchgani Municipal Council will immediately make necessary application to MSEB for electric connections.
- e. The municipal council will ensure all sewer lines will be laid before the monsoon so that the sewage would be available for Shiwajinagar STP.

Based on the above timelines, the Contractor agreed for commissioning of the STP on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2012. In case of happening of any unforeseen calamity (i.e. unprecedented rains etc.), the contractor requested that the time line be extended to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012 and not a day more than that.

### 3. Sewage treatment near Hindu Crematorium:

It was reiterated that the Government has issued a circular promoting of natural technology for STPs for small councils which was also approved by MJP. Hence only natural technology to be adopted as this STP was still in its stages of inception.

The President has promised to get back on this within two days after looking into the status of the file.

## MAHABALESHWAR

Based on the site visit to both the STPs at Mahabaleshwar and the subsequent meeting at the Office of the Chief Officer, the following report is being submitted.

### 1. Sewage treatment at Municipal Karamchari Nagar:

It was observed that the STP was commissioned and the same was working. We have also taken water samples from the site and will shortly analyse the same and report our findings along with any detailed recommendations if any.

For effective working and stabilization of the unit, the following is being recommended.

- a. Considering the area to be an ESZ, the quality of inlet sewage water and outlet of treated water needs to be monitored every 15 days by the MPCB for the next 6 months.
- b. During the visit, it was found that the disinfection and sludge handling units were not made functional. It was suggested that irrespective of the quantity, process of

*Ramesh*

chlorination and commissioning of sludge decanter to be undertaken within the next 15 days and the same to be reported for check in efficiency in the system.

2. **Sewage treatment at Dhobhi Ghat:**

At the location, there was no sign of work seen at the site. Further we had pointed out discrepancies and flaws in the drawing and design of the STP. Neither the council nor the contractor was able to provide us any details of the same.

We were given an assurance that the drawings will be emailed to us, hence at this stage it we will not be able to make any recommendations for this STP as our previous queries have not been answered.

The Chief Officer relying on the commitment of the contractor is confident on the following time lines:

- a. All civil work will be completed by the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012.
- b. The plant will be commissioned on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

3. **Solid Waste Management Facility:**

A detailed discussion was undertaken and the following is being recommended.

- a. Capping of this facility would be too expensive for a small council and hence it was recommended that a proper pre-feasibility study be undertaken as regards the quantity and quality of waste and method of its treatment, disposal and handling. Based on the findings further course of action could be planned.

