

Minutes of the fifth meeting of the Task Force - set up in compliance with the Orders of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh at Jabalpur dated 30th March, 2005 and 13th May, 2005 respectively - held on 18th October, 2005 at 11 a.m. in Room No.501-A, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

The fifth meeting of the Task Force was held in New Delhi, to review the progress of the removal/ remediation of toxic wastes from the Union Carbide (I) Ltd. (UCIL) plant site at Bhopal.

2. A list of the officials of the Government of India, Government of M.P and other organisations, who attended the meeting is at **Annexure-1**.
3. The Secretary, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals (C&PC) welcomed the members of the Task Force and asked them to report on the actions taken as a follow-up of the decisions taken in the fourth meeting held on 9th September, 2005 at Bhopal.
4. The Secretary (C&PC) had taken up the issue of getting the permission of the Government of Gujarat for using their incinerator at Ankleshwar, during her visit to Gujarat on 12th & 13th September, 2005 and subsequently written a D.O. letter to the Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat. The expert from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) informed that the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) had conveyed its 'no objection' to the Forest & Environment Department of the Government of Gujarat, for the transportation of tarry waste from former UCIL plant at Bhopal to the incineration facility at Ankleshwar for final disposal by incineration. A copy of the letter written by the GPCB was handed over to the Secretary (C&PC), who would take up the matter with the Government of Gujarat again, asking them to convey their consent to the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, at the earliest.
5. The Director, Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation (BGTR&R) Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh informed the Task Force that the Notification for construction of the TSDF site near Indore had been issued by the Government of M.P. and a copy thereof had been provided to the Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board (MPPCB).
6. The Chairman, MPPCB, who was appointed as the Convenor of the Technical Sub-Committee in the fourth meeting of the Task Force, apprised the Task Force that a meeting of the Sub-committee had taken place at the National Environmental Engineering Research

Institute (NEERI), Nagpur on 27th September, 2005 and the issue of overlapping of certain items of work between NEERI and the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) had been sorted out. The MPPCB had also provided NEERI with the samples requested by them. Based on the analysis of these samples, the estimated cost of immobilization, transportation and disposal of the stored toxic wastes (except Tarry residuals) would be worked out. He further informed that the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) would also submit its Consultancy proposal to MPPCB with details of the financial estimates required and the protocol to be followed. The proposal of IICT would cover the chemical analysis, structural analysis, hazard and risk analysis and also include the tender documents. It was also clarified that IICT would only act as a Consultant and would not supervise the work of any other agency for actual dismantling and decommissioning of the UCIL Plant if the actual work was awarded to any other agency. The expert from IICT informed that the proposal had been finalized and would be submitted very shortly. The MPPCB would examine the proposal and forward it to the Government of M.P. for incorporating in the EFC Note. The Director, BGTR&R Department, Government of M.P. stated that the State Government had made a provision of Rs.40 lakh for enabling the agencies connected with the implementation of Phase II of the Roadmap to carry out their initial tasks at the earliest.

7. The Director, BGTR&R Department, Government of M.P., informed the Task Force that the concept plan prepared by a group of students of the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi for building a memorial at the UCIL Plant site, had been approved by the State Government recently. However, the project for building a memorial would be awarded only after the technical report of IICT and clearance by the High Court.. The Secretary (C&PC) directed that the Government of M.P. should finalize the EFC Note for submission to the Planning Commission by 10th November, 2005, as the technical and financial proposals of all the agencies concerned (with final cost estimates) would be received within next two weeks. The IICT was asked to submit a separate report on whether parts or whole of the plant structure could be retained for the construction of a memorial at the UCIL Plant site. The Government of M.P. should approach the Court for seeking directions for construction of the proposed Memorial at the site only after the receipt of the report from IICT.

8. Regarding the request of the Government of M.P. to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, to provide 'in principle' exemption for payment of Service tax by the

agencies concerned, viz. IICT, NEERI, NGRI, etc., the Director, BGTR&R Department, Government of M.P. informed that the letter in this regard had been drafted and referred to the Law Department of the State Government for vetting. Secretary (C&PC) asked the Government of M.P. to expedite the issuance of the letter.

9. The Director, BGTR&R Department, Government of M.P. stated that the State Government would provide information on the status of all assets of the UCIL in Bhopal, to the Task Force. The issue of payments to be made to M/s. Ramky for implementation of Phase-I would be sorted out by Government of M.P. and the MPPCB.

Decisions taken in the meeting:

10. The following decisions were taken in the meeting:

- (i) The Secretary (C&PC) would again write a D.O. Letter to the Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat, asking them to expedite their formal permission to the Ministry of Environment & Forests for using the incinerator at Ankleshwar.
- (ii) The Government of M.P. would finalize the EFC Note for submission to the Planning Commission by 10th November, 2005, as the technical and financial proposals of all the agencies concerned would be ready within next two weeks.
- (iii) The IICT would furnish a separate report, at the earliest, on the feasibility of retaining parts or whole of the plant for construction of a memorial at the site.
- (iv) The Government of M.P. would seek directions from the Court for construction of a memorial at the site, after receipt of the report from IICT.
- (v) The Government of M.P. would expedite the letter to be written to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, to provide 'in principle' exemption for payment of Service tax by the agencies concerned, viz. IICT, NEERI, NGRI, etc.
- (vi) The Government of M.P. would provide information on the status of all assets of the UCIL in Bhopal, to the Task Force.

11. The next meeting of the Task Force would be held on 21st November, 2005.

12. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure-1

List of officials of the Government of India, Government of M.P. and other organisations present in the meeting of the Task Force held on 18th October, 2005 at 11 am in Room No.501-A, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

Government of India (Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals) :

- (i) Smt. Satwant Reddy, Secretary.
- (ii) Shri Mukesh Kacker, Joint Secretary.
- (iii) Shri Yashvir Singh, Deputy Secretary.

Government of Madhya Pradesh. :

- (iv) Sh. Manoj Goyal, Director, Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief & Rehabilitation Department.

Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board:

- (v) Dr. P.S. Dubey, Chairman.

Central Pollution Control Board:

- (vi) Shri N.K. Verma, Additional Director.

Indian Institute of Chemical Technology:

- (vii) Shri A. Krishna Reddy, Deputy Director.

National Environmental Engineering Research Institute:

- (viii) Dr. Tapan Chakrabarti, Director Grade Scientist.

Confederation of Indian Industry:

- (ix) Dr. K.P. Nyati, Head, Environment Management Division.