

Report on environmental pollution by Monnet Daniel Washery situated at Khalari Block of Ranchi District, Jharkhand in the matter of Krishna Chouhan Vs State of Jharkhand in O.A. No. 479/2022 pending before Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi.

I. Background

(Application was registered in NGT based on a compliant received by post)

- a. Mr. Krishna Chauhan resident of Mohan Nagar, P.O- Dakra, P.S- Khalari, Dist- Ranchi, Jharkhand had registered an original application at Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench bearing O.A No. 479/2022 complaining about causing of environmental pollution by Monnet Daniel Washery situated at Khalari Block of Ranchi District.
- b. It has been alleged by the applicant that, the Project Proponent has stored heavy quantity of rejected coal in Monnet Daniels Coal Washery situated in the area of KDH in Khalari Block of District Ranchi and has also blocked the road near KDH weighment bridge with coal sludge. The rejected coal stock caught fire which is emitting smoke adversely affecting health of the residents of the locality. The above said Project Proponent is continuously violating provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and is also contaminating the water by discharging untreated effluents in river SonaDubi.
- c. Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench vide its order dated- **10.08.2022** has stated that- In view of the allegations made in the application, we consider it appropriate that a Joint Committee of the concerned statutory authorities be asked to verify the factual position and take remedial action on the basis thereof.
- d. *In view of the above Hon'ble NGT constituted Joint Committee of the concerned Statutory Authorities-*
 - I. Regional Office, MoEF& CC, Ranchi,**
 - II. State PCB and**
 - III. District Magistrate, Ranchi.**
- e. *NGT has directed the above committee to meet within two weeks, undertake visits to the site, look into the grievances of the applicant, verify the factual position and take remedial action as mandated by the statutory provisions empowering them in accordance with law after notice to the concerned Project Proponent and by following due process of law.*
- f. *As per the NGT order State PCB will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance.*

Accordingly, a committee was constituted with the following members:

1. Shri Rajeev Ranjan, Scientist-E, Integrated Regional Office, Ranchi, MoEF&CC, Govt. of India.
2. Shri Gopal Kumar, Regional Officer, Ranchi, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board, Ranchi.
3. Shri Rahul Kumar Sinha, IAS, Deputy Commissioner /District Magistrate, Ranchi, Jharkhand.

II. Point wise observations of the committee members with respect to allegations made by the applicant:

The Committee members inspected/visited Monnet Daniels Coal Washery situated in the area of KDH in Khalari Block of District Ranchi on 26.09.2022. Observations of the committee members vis a vis issues raised by the complainant/applicant based on the site inspection and the documents submitted by Project Proponent are as given below:

Issues raised by the complainants/applicant	Observations of inspecting team/committee members
i. Project Proponent has stored heavy quantity of rejected coal in Monnet Daniels Coal Washery situated in the area of KDH in Khalari Block of District Ranchi and has also blocked the road near KDH weighment bridge with coal sludge.	<p>a. Large quantity of coal was stocked in the project (see photo 07, 08, 10, 12, 17, 18, 43) whereas in the EC(Environmental clearance) it is mentioned that "Only one day stock shall be stored in the stockyard (specific Condition(ii) of EC accorded by MoEFCC vide no. J-11015/260/2008-IA.II (M) dated 10.12.2008. As per the data submitted by the project proponent raw coal stock-610.27MT, washed coal stock 432.03MT and Reject coal stock-43842.75MT as on 25.09.2022. The details submitted by the PP is attached as Annexure-I.</p> <p>b. In the north, north-east direction of the project and near the weigh bridge area coal stock was observed outside the project boundary area (i.e. at some places 5 to 6 mt. beyond the project boundary area - see photos 33,34). Boundary wall was broken there and coal was found 5-6mt beyond the project boundary and occupied a portion of the road there. Coal dust and broken coal was observed on the road in that direction (see photos 33,34) that was a potential source of air (coal dust) pollution. A long jam of trucks was observed near the weighbridge area (see photo 33, 34).</p> <p>c. Tarpaulene covering was not observed over the coal transportation trucks that brought coal from</p>

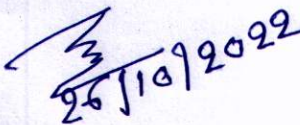
	<p>mines to washery(see photos 27,28,29).Project authorities explained that at a security check post in between mine and washeryTarpaulene covering is opened and then many truck operators may not be covering tarpaulene after that point. However, there was thick coal dust layers on the road (see photos29, 30) due to coal spillage from trucks. Also coal was stocked outside the coal project boundary in that area (north west direction to the project (see photos 27,28,32) and at some places till the roads.</p>
<p>ii. The rejected coal stock caught fire which is emitting smoke adversely affecting health of the residents of the locality.</p>	<p>Committee members did not observe smoke or spontaneous combustion in the coal stock at the project. However such a large coal stock can be a potential source of spontaneous combustion/smoke. May be due to rainy season there was no spontaneous combustion/smoke in the large coal stock stored in the project.</p>
<p>iii. The above said Project Proponent is continuously violating provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and</p>	<p>a. Conveyor belts in the projects used for coal transportation were found to be uncovered and were potential source of fugitive coal dust emissions (see photos 02, 06, 7, 17, 18, 19, 21).</p> <p>b. Wall in the north east and east direction (wall inside which coal stock was kept) was observed to be broken at many places and some inadequate arrangement (metal sheets at some places and fabric sheets at other places, etc.) were done to prevent coal spillage (see photos 9, 10, 11, 12, 13). However, there were every chances of coal spillage from there and also coal dust flow outside the premises. Coal dust, broken coal were found in the road adjacent to the broken wall there (see photo 08). Once dry there can be coal dust pollution on the road (see photo 8).</p> <p>c. Some plantation was observed around the boundary of the project but there were gaps between those plantations (see photos 37).Some Plantation was observed inside the project area also (see photo 41).</p> <p>d. PM₁₀analyser was observed near the main gate of the project (see photo 40). PP</p>


		<p>informed that PM₁₀ analyser was connected to JSPCB (Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board) server.</p> <p>e. A water tanker was observed sprinkling water on the road in the north direction of the project (see photo 35). Project authorities have not submitted copy of log book of water tanker operational in their project.</p>
iv. The above said Project Proponent is is also contaminating the water by discharging untreated effluents in river SonaDubi.		<p>a. Coal dust layers were observed at some portions on the roads of the project area (see photos 1,42,43). There were chances of those coal dust flowing into the Sonadubi river in case of rainfall since there were no safeguards to stop the flow entering into the river.</p> <p>b. Retaining/ concrete wall was observed to be broken at few places adjacent to the Sonadubi river (see photos 03, 04).</p> <p>c. Coal wastes (rejects) were kept near the washing unit in the project area without any proper safeguards (see photo 05). There were no humps, retaining walls etc. around the coal wastes (rejects) and there were chances of flow of those coal wastes (rejects) into the Sonadubi river (see photo 3,4,5). Bank of Sonadubi river was within 20-21m (approx.) from that coal wastes rejects (see photos 3,4,5,42).</p> <p>d. Conveyor belt system was made over Sonadubi river/conveyor belts over the river were also not covered (see photo 15, 16).</p> <p>e. Large quality of coal was observed on the slope facing the Sonadubi river (see photos 15 & 16,19, 20) i.e. in between KDH railway siding and Sonadubi river. It implies project proponent have not handled coal appropriately and in an environment friendly manner at the railway siding. PP informed that there was a wall between the railway siding slope and Sonadubinala (see photo 16) but at some places the coal spilled over the wall also. There were gully formations within the coal on the slopes (between railway siding and Sonadubi river) and there were chances of coal dust flow in the river</p>


		<p>form that side (see photos 19,20,22,24). However during inspection on 26.09.22 colour of water flowing in Sonadubi river was not black.</p> <p>f. On the opposite bank of the Sonadubi river i.e. toward washery side, wall was constructed between the coal stock and the river (see photos 19,20,21,23,25) but wall was broken at many places(see photos 21,23,25).Coal spillage was observed beyond the wall towards the Sonadubi river side also(see photos 21,23,25,). Water coming from coal stock to river can be seen at a place (see photo 25).</p> <p>g. Catch drains, siltation ponds were not observed around the coal stocks in the project.</p>
III	<p><u>Recommendations made by the committee members:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The observations /inspection report is being sent to concerned divisions of MoEF&CC, HQ, New Delhi for necessary action as deemed fit as per acts and rules (report shall be sent by IRO Ranchi to MOEF&CC New Delhi) Regional Officer, Ranchi, JSPCB(Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board is also sending the committee report to JSPCB Member Secretary for necessary action. <p>Committee members instructed the Project Proponent verbally for remedial actions at the site during their inspections on 26.09.2022. Some of the important instructions were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Comply all the conditions of EC issued by MoEF & CC and CTE/CTO issued by JSPCB. Clear/ take out all coal from the slopes adjacent to Sonadubi nallah/river. Develop grassing and vegetation around the slopes of the river. It should be ensured that during loading /unloading of coal at the railway siding no coal is spilled on the slopes facing the Sonadubi river/nallah. Construct and repair broken wall between Sonadubi river and project urgently. Bring all the coal stocks inside the premises urgently and construct/ repair all the wall around project boundary (in all the directions). Make catch drains, siltation's ponds, concrete humps/wall around coal dumps, washed coal, rejects so as to ensure that no coal dust/slurry flows in river/ other low lying areas. Arrange for repair and maintenance of all roads in and adjacent to the project. It should be ensured that there is no coal spillage on the coal transportation roads. In case of any sudden spillage the coal, broken coal should be cleared/cleaned within same day. Tarpaulin covering on the coal transportation trucks should be done strictly. An office order in this regard should be issued that if any truck is found without tarpaulin covering during coal transportation it would not be allowed to operate 	

	<p>further in the project.</p> <p>f. Number of mobile water tankers should be increased. Copy of the log book of water tankers mentioning running hours, kilometer travelled, maintenance hours should be maintained.</p> <p>g. All the conveyor belts in the project should be covered urgently.</p> <p>h. Plantation/green belt development around the project boundary, in the gaps between already existing trees, inside the project areas should be developed.</p>
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Note:- Still Photographs during inspection attached herewith.


26/10/2022
(Gopal Kumar)
Regional Officer,
RO Ranchi, JSPCB.


26/10/2022
(Rajeev Ranjan)
Scientist 'E',
IRO, Ranchi,
MoEFCC,
Govt. Of India


26/10/2022
(Rahul Kumar Sinha)
District Magistrate,
Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Photographs taken during inspection on 26.09.2022



Photo 01: Photo of Pollution control equipment attached to the coal transportation circuit in project

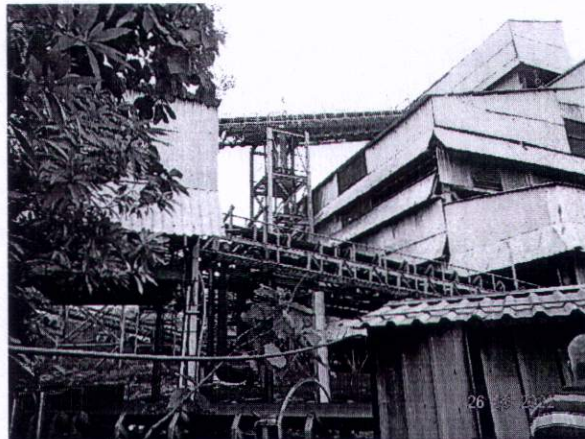


Photo 02: Photo of uncovered conveyor belts for coal carrying in the project



Photo 03& 04: Photos of broken wall/hump along Sonadubi nallah/river.

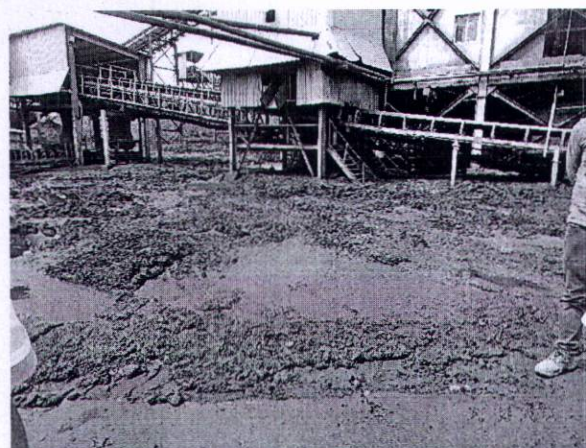


Photo 05: Photo of coal rejects(waste) from washery without any safeguards the project



Photo 06: Photo of uncovered conveyor belts in

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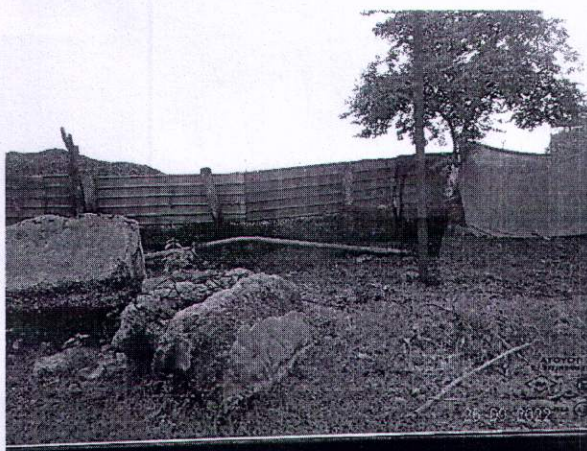
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Photo 07: Photo of uncovered conveyor belts in the project. adjacent to the project wall in North



Photo 08: Photo of coal dust /debris on the road East direction



Photos 09& 10: Photos of temporary arrangement (metal sheet used) in place of broken wall in the north east direction of project. Coal dumps can be seen inside.

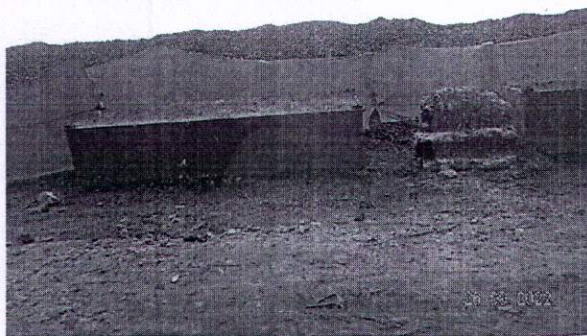


Photo 11& 12: Photos of fabric sheets and metal sheets used in place of broken wall in the north east direction of project. Coal dumps can be seen inside.



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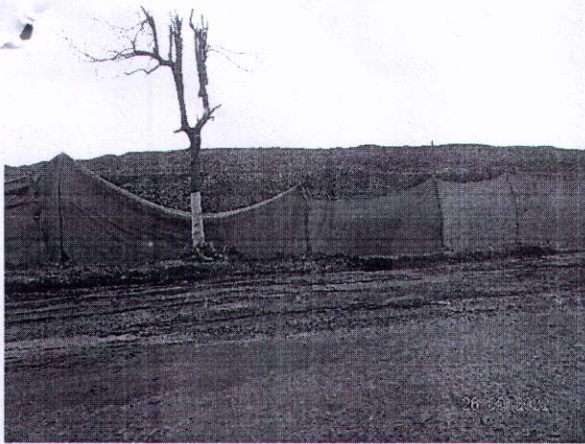


Photo13:Photo of fabric sheets used in place of broken wall in the north east direction of projectthe



Photo14:Photo of water spraying arrangements at Coal hopper of project.



Photo15&16: Photos of Sonadubi river flowing in between project & railway siding. Coal on slope adjacent adjacent to Railway siding can be seen. Some portions of wall in between coal and river can also be seen.



Photo 17&18: Photos of uncovered conveyor belts and coal stocks in the project.



Photo 19& 20: Photos of coal on the slopes towards Sonadubi river.



No catch drain , siltation ponds can be seen in between coal at the railway siding and river/nallah.

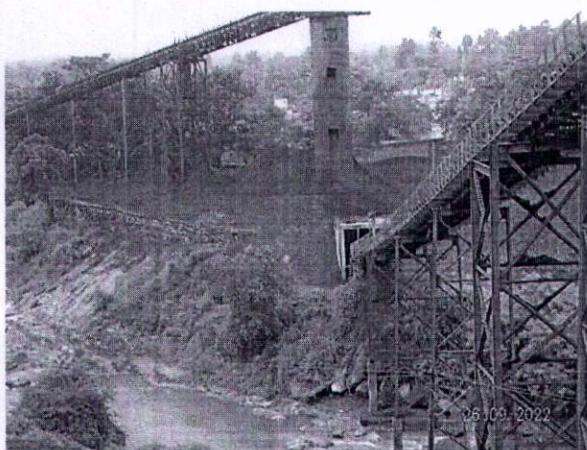


Photo 21: Photo of wall broken and coal beyond project boundary adjacent to Sonadubi river

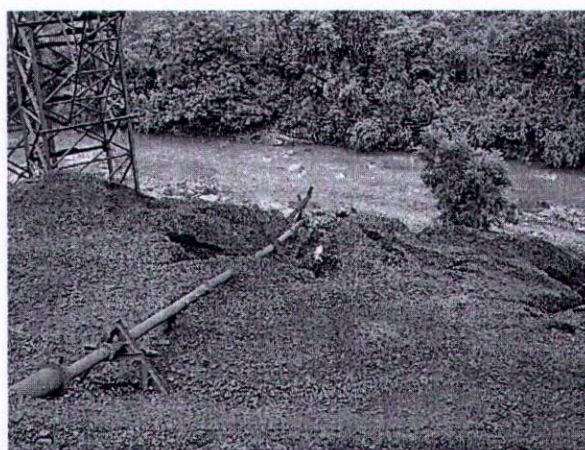


Photo 22: Photo of coal from railway siding area fall towards river/nallah



Photo23:Photo of wall broken/coal breach beyond project walls adjacent to Sonadubi river/nallah.



Photo24:Photo of a close view of coal spill towards Sonadubi river from project railway siding

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Photo 25: Photo of wall broken/coal breach and water coming from project wall sideto Sonadubi river.



Photo 26: Photo of operational fixed water sprinklers at the railway siding



Photos 27& 28: Photos of no tarpauline covering over coal transportation trucks to the project.



Photo 29: Photo of coal dust layers on the coal transportation road adjacent to the project



Photo 30: Photo of coal dust layers on the coal transportation road adjacent to the project

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Photo 31: Photo of a sedimentation pond in between railway siding and the project



Photo32:Photo of coal stock kept in the project in north west and north direction beyond boundary



Photo33:Photo of coal stock kept in the project north east direction beyond boundary.



Photo34:Photo of coal stock kept in project in north east direction beyond boundary(truck jam on road visible)



Photo35:Photo of mobile water tanker sprinkling water on road in the north east direction.



Photo 36: Photo of project boundary wall broken and coal kept beyond boundary in north east direction

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Photo 37: Photo of some plantation at the boundary of project in north east direction



Photo 38: Photo of concrete road inside the project area.

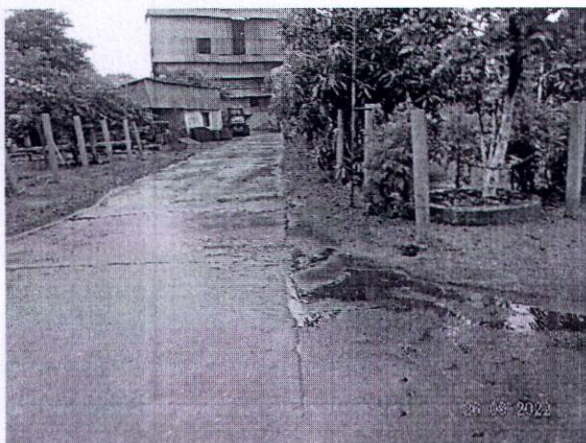


Photo39:Photo of concrete road inside project area and adjacent plantations.area.



Photo 40: Photo of PM₁₀ analyser in the project



Photo41:Photo of concrete road inside project area and adjacent plantations.



Photo42:Photo of coal dust layers on roads in project area. Sonadubi river is after plantations in left side



Photo 43: Photo of coal debris on floor area adjacent to coal dumps.



Photo 44: Photo of concrete road in project.