

Subject No. 103

Sub- VUDA – Visakhapatnam – PMU Wing – Survey pertaining to Monitoring of Pollutants at specific locations in GVMC and its vicinity areas of Visakhapatnam through School of Planning & Architecture [SPA], Vijayawada – Approval.

The VUDA has directed by the District Administration to carryout a comprehensive detailed study on "Environmental Assessment Study of Visakhapatnam City" in consultation with the Officers of A.P. Pollution Control Board (APPCB). The matter has been examined in detail with the Vice-Chairman, VUDA & with the Officers of A.P. Pollution Control Board (APPCB) in order to assess the need and dimension of the aspects of pollution in Visakhapatnam City.

In view of the above, a study on "Comprehensive Environmental Assessment of Industrial Clusters" has been brought out by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), New Delhi in December 2009 and consequent to the study, certain ban has been imposed with effective from 13.01.2010 on issuance of Environmental Clearance to the New Industries in Visakhapatnam and is made applicable for the entire Visakhapatnam District. Consequent to this order, A.P. Pollution Control Board (APPCB) requested CPCB, New Delhi to restrict the above ban only in the limits of Visakhapatnam bowl area i.e., area lying between Yarada Hills & Simhachalam Hills as major pollution potential industries are located in Visakhapatnam bowl area only. Accordingly, the MoEF vide their order dated 15.03.2010 appears to have issued an office memo restricting the ban to the Visakhapatnam bowl area only. It is also learnt that A.P. Pollution Control Board (APPCB) is also finalizing an action plan for improving the environment of the city of Visakhapatnam, duly aiming at reducing the Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI), a score stood at 70 in the CPCB study. In the meanwhile APPCB is also contesting on the above score which in their opinion shall be in the range of 30 to 35 only.

Further, a status note including the various issues to be addressed in the proposed study has been prepared in consultation with the Director, School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada, an Institution established under the aegis of HRD Ministry, Government of India (Copy enclosed for reference). Also the Master Plan prepared for VMR-2021 did emphasize for need of proper check on Air Quality Monitoring for the region. The recommendations (section 8.3, Page-106) include i) Urban Development Planning shall take into ensuring better air quality duly flushing out vehicular and domestic sources of pollutions; ii) Proper Segregation of Industries with other uses of development by establishing green buffer zones; iii) New developments shall be augmented with enough green areas and parks (or) water bodies to mitigate excessive heat and felling of existing trees shall be prohibited; iv) Integration of Public Transport Systems to reduce air pollution levels; and v) Air quality monitoring shall be undertaken all over the region on a uniform note.

The following are the outline of the base line study identified for the proposed study

## **Baseline study**

Essentially deals with current or existing situation, including how it evolved as such. The output may be based on entirely secondary sources of data. However, depending upon the availability of required data, a few primary surveys may need to be undertaken. All aspects of the subject of the study are to be looked at in this section. For example, characteristics of the natural environmental setting (land & terrain, air quality, water regime, forests etc.) quality of environment within Vishakhapatnam city (access to basic urban services such as safe water, ambient air quality, sanitation, solid waste management, parks & gardens, river or sea front areas etc.) would be described.

Ends with a description of the positive and negative features of Visakhapatnam environment and possible causes of the unhealthy dimensions of the state of environment of Vishakhapatnam city.

- Livability of Visakhapatnam evaluated using a set of relevant parameters and bench marks.
- Status of environment evaluated in major types of spaces such as residential areas, industrial estates, commercial districts, institutions and recreation areas including beaches.
- Status of natural elements within Visakhapatnam.
- Evaluation of environment outside Visakhapatnam (limits to be defined).
- Identification of trends and their causes by looking at the plans, programmes, projects operating since recent past and also those currently prevailing and being pursued.

## **Prospects and trends**

Describes the future state of Visakhapatnam environment as alternatives build on different sets of assumptions such as i) no change from present, ii) increasing industrial growth at local and state levels, iii) rising state GDP growth rate with limited change in local industrial activity etc.

- A review of the key official policies.
- A review of ground situation.
- Assumptions and descriptions of alternative scenarios.
- Description of implications and evaluation of alternative scenarios including comparison.

## **Recommendations and strategies**

Interventions (policies, programmes, action plans) recommended to be initiated in the best interest of Vishakhapatnam as a rising metropolis of India that is also located in an unique environmental setting that must be conserved for the future generations.

With the above background, the proposed study is intended to help in formulation of future strategies in the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Urban

Planning Applications, taken-up by VUDA in association with the organizations/departments. However, presently, the data available in VUDA is primarily relates to 1721 Sq.Kms of the Master Plan for time horizon of 2021.

The following reputed organizations such as 1) NEERI, Nagpur, 2) IIC, Hyderabad, 3) TERI, New Delhi and 4) SGS, Chennai are engaged in the activity of conducting sample surveys in monitoring the Environmental Parameters like Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM), Sulphur di-oxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), Oxides of Nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>).

In view of the above, this office letter dated 18.5.2010 to Dr. Shovan Saha, Director, School of Planning & Architecture, Vijayawada an Environmental Specialist with Urban Planning background was addressed to visit Visakhapatnam for detailed discussions on the scope and methodology of survey, accordingly, a team SPA, delegation visited Visakhapatnam on 30.5.2010 and visited the identified places. The report along with consultancy fee is awaited from the SPA.

In view of the above, the matter is placed before the VUDA Board for taking-up study on Environmental Assessment Study at Visakhapatnam GVMC area through SPA, Vijayawada for approval.

VUDA Resolution No. 103, dated. 30-7-2010

Approved



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chy...".

Collector & Chairman  
VUDA