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CLEAN & GREEN KASHMIR

**Azad Jammu & Kashmir  
 Environmental Protection Agency**

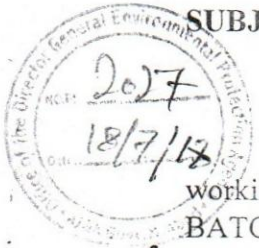
Ref #: EPA/1635-42/2018  
 Date: 18-07-2018

To

**Commanding Officer,**  
 750 CTE, FWO,  
 Subri Camp, Muzaffarabad.

*DD HQ*  
*Amr/MS/18*  
*Relevant file*  
*18/7/18*

**SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION NOTICE:**  
**For operating BACHING PLANT at Athmuqam without Environmental Mitigation Measures in-placed—Causing Enormous Air Pollution**



WHEREAS, this came into the notice of EPA that FWO Deployment, currently working on the improvement of *Keran Bypass Road*, has installed a HEAVY-DUTY BATCHING PLANT just at the entry point of Athmuqam City and is currently in operation without requisite environmental mitigation or preventive measures in-placed, which otherwise should have been installed & operated in the light of ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL by EPA accompanied by proper Environmental Management Plan, as required by AJ&K Environmental Protection Act, 2000 and regulations made thereunder.

2. AND WHEREAS, Monitoring Team of EPA visited the said Batching Plant on July 16, 2018 to verify the reported situation at site. The Inspection Team observed that the Batching Plant is causing enormous Air Pollution in Neelum Valley, particularly in main settlement of Athmuqam and its adjoining areas. The surrounding areas found engulfed with dense smoke, badly impairing visibility of serene areas of Neelum Valley and obnoxious smell of exhaust gases, causing severe irritation during inhale and can be even smelled from a distance. The stated situation can be verified through latest PICS and VIDEO of said Batching Plant, attached herewith as **Annex-I & II**.

3. AND WHEREAS, the EPA is fully cognizant of strategic importance of construction work currently being done by FWO but, any activity that may cause adverse impacts on natural environment and social wellbeing of the people and is contrary to the fundamental principles of sustainable development, cannot be allowed unless appropriate mitigation & management measures are taken in adequate manner. We should also appreciate the fact that the Neelum Valley is characterized in terms of rich endowment of natural resources and serene environment and entails huge potential of tourism. At present, the tourism in Neelum Valley is on full swing and a large number of tourists, mainly from Pakistan, are visiting the valley on daily basis to enjoy the nature. Such activities which are causing serious impairment of natural environment, being against the substantial law, cannot be allowed.

4. THEREFORE, the FWO has, *prima facie*, committed the violation of **Section 10** (*prohibition of discharges into environment*) and **Section 11** (*enunciating for the prior environmental approval for any development activity*) of AJK Environmental Protection Act, 2000. The EPA is convincingly of the view that in case the operation of Batching Plant continues without the preventive measures in-placed, the consequences would be disastrous for the serene environment of Neelum Valley and health of local people. As such, this is advised that the operation of above-mentioned Batching Plant be seized with immediate

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effect till the requisite measures are taken adequately to the satisfaction of EPA. In case, the prevailing situation on ground sustains unabated, it would be deemed a deliberate contravention of Environmental Law of the State and consequent thereof, the Agency shall be constrained under law to adopt the legal course of action against FWO that may culminate in issuance of Environmental Protection Order (EPO) in terms of Section 15 *ibid* and filing a case before Environmental Tribunal.

5. This issue is with the approval of Director General EPA-AJK.

**Enclosure:**

1. Pics: 01 leaflet.
2. CD, containing video of Batching Plant Operation.

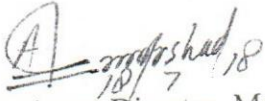
(Sardar Arshad Iqbal)  
Assistant Director, Monitoring

**Copy for information to:-**

1. CEO, FWO (HQ), 509, Kashmir Road, R. A. Bazar, Rawalpindi (Fax #: 051-9271330).
2. FCC, 12 Div. Murree (Fax #: 051-3413989)

**CC.-**

1. PS to the ACS (Dev.)/Secretary Environment, Muzaffarabad.
- ✓ 2. PS to the Director General EPA, Muzaffarabad.
3. Commissioner, Muzaffarabad Division, Muzaffarabad.
4. Deputy Commissioner, Distt. Neelum, Athmuqam
5. Master File.

  
Assistant Director, Monitoring