

## The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.

(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) (An ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & ISO 45001 Certified Company) SANKARAMANGALAM, CHAVARA-691 583 KOLLAM, KERALA, INDIA. Phone : +91- 476-2651215 to 2651217 Fax : +91- 0476-2680101, 2686721

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TP/ENV/P&L 14.03.2025

To,

M/s B.S. Krishnan Associates, Advocates, PB No 2469, Kailas, Warriam Rd, Pallimukku, Ernakulam, Kerala 682 016.

Sir,

- Sub: Quarterly compliance report to the registry of Hon'ble NGT Southern Zone (December 2024 to February 2025)- reg.
- <u>Ref</u>: Judgment of the NGT dt. 31.08.2017 on application nos 142 of 2013 (SZ), 290 of 2013 (SZ) and 453 of 2013 (SZ).

This letter has reference to the above Judgments of Hon'ble NGT Court. As directed as per the above judgment, we are hereby sending the latest status updates of the compliance on the directions viz. Point No. 1 to 6 (covered from page No 119 to 157) in the Hon'ble NGT Judgment for your kind verification and onward submission to the registry of Hon'ble NGT.

Thanking You, Yours Faithfully,

#### FOR THE KERALA MINERALS AND METALS LIMITED

MANAGING DIRECTOR

PRADEEP KUMAR P. MANAGING DIRECTOR KMML

#### Quarterly report to NGT

# Status of compliance of the directions of the NGT as on 28.02.2025.

# Direction from NGT	Status of Compliance
i. Prepare the design for both short te and long-term measures suggested NEERI through competent and exp developers/contractors with suitable ti frame for completion and presenting to design to the KSPCB for approval/further direction, within the months from the date of Judgme (31.08.2017).	<ul> <li>M/s KITCO prepared the DPR for short term measures and submitted to KSPCB for approval on 20.07.2018.</li> <li>Approval obtained from KSPCB for short term measures DPR on 07.01.2019.</li> </ul>
ii. Implementation of the measures aft receipt of approval from the KSPO within the time frame proposed to completion.	<ul> <li>B operation.</li> <li>Construction of garland drain around new IOP is progressing. Out of 851 meters of garland drain, 405 meters have been completed so far. Construction of the garland drains for the remaining portion is progressing at site.</li> <li>Target completion- April 2025. Land Remediation of Test Patch area(1R) inside KMML -</li> <li>M/s FEDO, Kochi, was appointed as the project management consultancy.</li> <li>Three parties quoted for the E-</li> </ul>

the first week of April 2024.

- Sprinkling of lime solution was completed by August 2024 and leachate collection done at site & completed the test process. The leachate quantity was low due to site conditions.
- M/s FEDO. Kochi (Project Management Consultants), submitted a test patch trial report on 12.11.2024. In the report they summarized that "The remediation method did not improve the pH of ground water. As the pH of water did not improve, it was deduced that the soil pH also did not Hence improve. the proposed methodology of land remediation need not to be applied extensively without further study".
- To adopt remediation activities using specific technologies from the global front and as part of further study on the way forward action to remediate the land, KMML has taken immediate actions to invite a global expression of interest (EOI) to identify suitable & competent bidders who can support their latest technology in the field for remediation. EOI invited on 03.12.2024.
- KMML received no offers for the EOI. Hence alternatives are being explored. Discussions are in progress with Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM), Chennai and now awaiting their regarding concurrence a way forward from their end on providing a solution to us in this regard of land remediation. .

Target completion (Test patch) – May- 2026

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<u>Solid waste management in KMML</u> (Insitu/Exsitu storage).

• As an alternative/effective method, the containment of iron oxide in Geotube was proposed by KMML.

• The technology involves new dewatering and storage of solid waste using GEOTUBES which presented to **KSPCB** was in the meeting held on 10.12.2018. This was proposed to be done as trail.

- Work can be started only with the technical concurrence of CPCB/ KSPCB. KSPCB directed the same for CPCB approval.
- Letter dated 18.03.2024 was forwarded to Govt. of Kerala, seeking support to KMML by intervening with CPCB for their approval.
- Letter dated 11.07.2024 has been sent to CPCB as a follow up action.
- E-mail sent to CPCB on 12.09.2024 intimating the directive of Hon'ble NGT court hearing dated 16.08.2024 and requested CPCB to allow approval as there is need to complete the activities in a time lined manner.
- KMML was awaiting CPCB approval for the trial dewatering and storage of iron oxide using Geotubes from elevated Iron Oxide Pond. A follow up letter was also forwarded on 06.12.2024.
- During December 2024, CPCB directed to apply online for the proposal.
- Meanwhile, alternatively, to utilize the stockpiled iron oxide and ETP sludge in the ponds for value addition, KMML had invited global expression of interests for setting up plant on Design, Build, Finance, Own and Operate basis. Offers were received and later formalized the process with tendering activities.

PRADEEP KUMAR P.

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- The successful bidder for both IO and ETP sludge value addition is M/s. Tetrabic, Hyderabad (TIPL).
- Government of Kerala had accorded its approval to place formal orders on the above party by allowing 5

acres of KMML land on lease basis to set up the plant.

- G.O has been issued on 09.11.2024 and drafting of the land lease & Sludge off take agreements are in progress. Order will be placed shortly.
- KMML's edits on the sludge off-take draft agreement submitted by TIPL were sent back to TIPL for their concurrence.
- The agreement for "sludge take-off"

  final draft is expected from M/s
  Tetrabic. After receipt of the same, the agreement would have to be vetted and approval to be obtained from the Government of Kerala.
- Target- 18 months from agreement acceptance.
- With this project execution, it is expected that the stockpiled mass in the ponds would be consumed in three years time from the date of commercial production & the ponds would be emptied.
- The Geotubes proposal thus become redundant hence the same is under hold.

### Long Term Measure ARP Technology Modification

- KMML floated global tender in July-19. Due to one bid, it was decided to retender.
- KMML invited global re-tender and opened in September 2019 and again only one party quoted. Viz. M/S. Indrox Global Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi(IGPL).
- Tender was closed in December 2019 and after evaluation of the proposal, the file was put up to 243<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting of the company held on 21.05.2020, for approval.

• As approved by the Board, the file was put to the Government on 01.06.2020 for getting final sanction.



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- As per the direction given by Government of Kerala, Retendering done during June 2021.
- Global retender was on 10.06.2021.
- The offer submitted by M/s INDROX GLOBAL PVT LTD was evaluated and approved in the 250<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of the Company held on 15.01.2022 and submitted for the Government approval.
- A meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Law & Coir on 09.06.2022 and in the meeting, it was decided to work out the cost reasonableness & submit report to Government of Kerala.
- Accordingly FEDO, Kochi, had done the cost analysis study and the report got submitted to Government of Kerala for approval to place order.
- The Govt has accorded administrative approval for the project on 26.05.2024.
- LOI placed on the party dated 04.06.2024.
- Work order was issued to M/s. IGPL, New Delhi, on 18.09.2024 and the party didn't accept the same and asked for zero date amendment (which was supposed to be from the date of acceptance of LOI).
- The party demanded few changes in the work order conditions, after the KMML Board meeting approval, a revised work order was issued to the party on 18.11.2024 and the party accepted the work order on 21.11.2024.
- On receipt of Advance Bank Guarantee, advance payment has been released to the party.
- The billing schedule submitted by IGPL approved on 15.01.2025. M/s IGPL has submitted the civil drawings for ARP modification. The drawings have been reviewed

PRADEEP KUMAR P. MANAGING DIRECTOR

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2 & 3	There is no necessity for transporting the waste from KMML to KEIL at Kochi, since the wastes are non-hazardous in nature as studied and reported by NEERI as per the HWMH rules.	<ul> <li>and approved by KMML on 23/01/2025.</li> <li>The tender document for civil work has been prepared and tendering activities started</li> <li>Parallelly, the process for submission &amp; approval of detailed engineering drawing is also under progress.</li> <li><b>Target completion - May- 2026.</b></li> <li>Disposal of iron oxide to Ms/ KEIL was discontinued from 07.08.2014. The iron oxide generated and stored inside KMML premises could be effectively utilized for the value addition.</li> <li>However, from 16.08.2024 and as per KSPCB approved action plan, KMML is disposing Iron oxide to KEIL (online generated quantity from ARP) and is being done as part of plant operations. No iron oxide is getting accumulated now. The accumulated IO will be utilized for value addition projects.</li> </ul>
4	The material produced by KMML is non radioactive in nature as per the report of AERB. However, KMML shall scrupulously implement those recommendations of the AERB for storage of tailings of mineral separation.	The sand tailings generated at the Mineral Separation unit is disposed/ stored only as per the direction of
5	i. KMML is directed to prepare an appropriate scientific scheme for remediation of contaminated soil or ground water as recommended by NEERI through an expert/contractor with specific time frame and submit the same to the KSPCB for approval, within three months from the date of Judgment (31.08.2017) and complete the necessary project within the time frame specified subject to the approval from KSPCB.	<ul> <li>M/s KITCO prepared the DPR for short term measures and submitted to KSPCB for approval on 20.07.2018.</li> <li>KMML had prepared a DPR by engaging KITCO, kochi and the same got approved by KSPCB on 07.01.2019</li> <li>Land Remediation of Test Patch area (1R) inside KMML</li> <li>After repeated tenders, we couldn't get suitable bid. Hence it was decided to take trial initially with the help of PMC M/s FEDO and the items to be supplied &amp; installed by the contractor.</li> </ul>

Three parties quoted for the etender, for supply and installation of the facilities.

- E-tender evaluation completed and work order issued to M/s P.T.Jayapal.
- Execution of the work started by the first week of April 2024.
- Sprinkling of lime solution was completed by August 2024 and leachate collection done at site & completed the process.
- M/s FEDO, Kochi (Project Management Consultants), submitted a test patch trial report on 12.11.2024. In the report they summarized that "The remediation method did not improve the pH of ground water. As the pH of water did not improve, it can be deduced that the soil pH also did not improve. Hence the proposed methodology of land remediation need not to be applied extensively without further study".
- To adopt remediation activities using specific technologies from the global front and as part of further study on the way forward action to remediate the land, KMML has taken actions to invite a global expression of interest (EOI) to identify suitable& competent bidders who can support their latest technology in the field. EOI was invited on 03.12.2024
- KMML received no offers for the EOI. Hence alternatives are being explored. Discussions are in progress with Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM), Chennai and now awaiting their concurrence regarding a way forward from their end on providing a solution to us in this regard of land remediation.

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• Target completion (Test patch)-May- 2026

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ii. KMML	shall	continue	tomsupply	KMML	is	COI	ntii	nuously	supplying
adequate	potable	water to	the people	about	7	to	8	Lakhs	liters/day

	residing in and around its industrial premises until the projects of soil remediation and ground water remediation is completed fully.	drinking water of potable quality to the local residents and shall continue to supply as directed. The point stands complied.
6	<ul> <li>i. The soil/water remediation process as suggested by NEERI is the independent responsibility of KMML. KMML is directed to deposit a sum of Rs. 1 Crore under the principle of "polluter pays" in favour of Chairman, KSPCB, who shall keep the said amount in a separate account named as "Environment relief fund for remediation of Chavara region due to pollution caused by KMML". The said amount to be managed by the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Kerala and Chairman, KSPCB and utilize the remediation and/ or distribution to affected persons either as per the direction of NGT or as per the decision of the State Government.</li> <li>ii. KMML shall file their periodical compliance reports to the registry of NGT, Southern zone once in three months beginning with quarter ending on 30.11.2017 followed by quarter ending and 31.08.2018 by the 10<sup>th</sup> of every succeeding month. KMML shall display the quarterly compliance report on their website also.</li> </ul>	<b>DD for Rs. 1 Crore is remitted in</b> the name of Chairman, KSPCB on 21.09.2017. KMML obeyed the direction of Hon'ble court.As per Hon'ble NGT case in EA 07/2023 in OA 290/2023 a "Health status assessment of people residing around Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. Chavara, Kollam' study has been conducted by ' Department of Community Medicine Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram. The report is now available with Statutory and Government bodies, for their actions.Quarterly report on status of compliance on the directions of NGT is being submitted to NGT and also displays the same in KMML website as directed.

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