

## **Gangtok Tour Report (16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014)**

By Mr. A.K. Sharma, Solid Waste Management Expert, PMMC

### **A. Objectives of the visit**

- Site visit to review progress with officials of SIPMIU, DSMC & the construction agency.
- To assess physical progress.
- To expedite reply to observations on the revised cost estimate for Procurement of bins, Push carts & transport vehicles.

### **B. Progress review**

The work site was visited on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014 along with the Team leader DSMC, Assistant Engineer of SIPMIU & the construction agency, M/S UPL Engineers Ltd. Status of the project was discussed with SIPMIU & DSMC representatives.

- Date of start of this project is 23-9-2013 with completion period of 24 months. There has been very little physical progress till this date even after five months.
- Construction of administrative office building has just started & is at the foundation stage. The Security room is in progress with the structure completed & roof is to be cast.
- Excavation for the retaining wall has just started. It was intimated by team leader DSMC that soil investigation report has been received & design of retaining wall has been done accordingly. On inquiry it was intimated that the depth of Ground Water table is two meters & the retaining wall foundation is being laid at 3.5 meters below ground level.

Maximum height of the retaining wall is 19 M above the ground level. Presently 16 m will be constructed & 3m ht. will be added subsequently to increase life of land fill as per advice of CPHEEO. However design of the retaining wall has to be done for full ht.of19 M above ground level, considering effect of Ground Water table .The design should be proof checked by a reputed organisation like a government engineering college.

- Site grading work at the landfill site has just started. The site is filled up with waste which is being levelled. It was intimated that after levelling & compaction the liner will be laid. Normally liner layer is laid on the soil sub grade. The liner resting on levelled waste is fraught with danger of settlement & instability.

It was suggested that existing waste be pushed to a corner of the plot, segregated for recyclables & closed properly. SIPMIU & DSMC may consider this in consultation with CPHEEO.

- Lechate plant will be located outside the boundary of the site. As the river is flowing nearby, minimum distance required should be kept & effluent disposal be ensured as per EMP provisions.
- Site Engineers of the construction agency & DSMC were available at site. The work however needs to be expedited. It was intimated that no payment has been released to the contractor due to delay in release of funds by the State Govt.

- Existing compost plant is not in operation for quite some time. Waste coming to the site is being dumped in open. It is essential to make this plant functional immediately to ensure that this waste is treated & only rejects & segregated inserts are deposited in the landfill.

**C. Action points to expedite progress**

- Existing compost plant should be made functional at the earliest to ensure that only rejects & segregated inserts are deposited in the landfill. It was advised that the matter should be taken up at senior levels of the State Govt. for immediate resolution.
- The design of the retaining wall should be proof checked by a reputed organisation like a government engineering college.
- Funds should be released & the contractor should make immediate arrangements to mobilise resources to expedite progress.
- It was advised that weekly review meeting should be held at work site, to be attended by SIPMIU officials, DSMC & senior functionaries of the contractor, progress be reviewed in details & minutes issued.
- Project Manager SIPMIU was apprised that reply to the observations on the revised estimate of supply of litter bins & procurement of primary collection vehicles is awaited. It was intimated that reply is being expedited.

Meeting could not be held with the Project Director due to his occupation.

**A.K. Sharma**

**SWM Expert**

28th February 2014