

Date: 04 May 2026

To

Abdul Awal Mintoo

Honourable Minister

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Copy to:

1. **Sheikh Faridul Islam**, Honourable State Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. **Md. Raihan Kawsar**, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
3. **Dr Md. Lutfor Rahman**, Director General, Department of Environment, Government of Bangladesh

**Request for Suspension of the “North Dhaka 42.5 MW Waste-to-Energy Power Plant” Project
in Aminbazar in View of Violations of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2021**

Honourable Minister,

On behalf of the Bangladesh Working Group on Ecology and Development (BWGED), we would like to extend our sincere greetings and profound respect to you. We warmly welcome your assumption of office as the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. We firmly believe that, in the current national context, your leadership and forward-looking decisions will play a pivotal role in strengthening national progress, ensuring environmental protection, and advancing sustainable development.

BWGED has been actively engaged for over a decade in promoting environmental protection, climate justice, and a just and sustainable energy transition in Bangladesh. In this context, we would like to express our serious concern regarding a significant inconsistency identified in the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report of the proposed 42.5 MW North Dhaka waste-to-energy power plant in Aminbazar, near Dhaka. The concern specifically relates to the waste incineration process described in the report, which appears to be inconsistent with existing national legal provisions and environmental standards.

Honourable Minister,

According to Bangladesh's “Solid Waste Management Rules, 2021,” municipal solid waste incineration projects must maintain a minimum combustion temperature of 1,000°C. This provision is highly important for both environmental protection and public health safeguards.

At lower combustion temperatures, waste is not fully burned, leading to incomplete combustion. As a result, a range of harmful pollutants are generated in higher quantities and are released into the

atmosphere. These pollutants can spread through the air, creating serious risks for the environment and human health. In particular, they may contribute to cancer, respiratory diseases, and long-term endocrine (hormonal) disorders.

However, the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report of the said project states that the waste incineration process in the primary chamber can be operated at a temperature of 850°C. As a result, the project is effectively being allowed to operate without meeting the required standard of 1,000°C. This clearly constitutes a direct violation of the Solid Waste Management Rules.

Aminbazar is a densely populated and environmentally sensitive area. Therefore, if waste incineration is carried out in violation of the required standards, it will not only increase air pollution but also create severe health risks for the local population. In particular, children, elderly people, and individuals suffering from respiratory illnesses may be seriously affected. Moreover, operating the combustion process at lower temperatures is likely to increase the emission of harmful pollutants, thereby disrupting the overall environmental balance.

In this context, we believe that such legal and technical inconsistencies in a nationally significant project are unacceptable. This not only undermines the rule of law but also weakens public trust in the country's environmental governance system.

Therefore, in the interest of environmental safety, public health protection, and proper enforcement of law, we strongly urge you to reconsider the environmental clearance of the said project immediately and, if necessary, suspend it.

Honourable Minister,

We firmly believe that under your leadership, there will be no compromise on environmental protection and that the long-term national interest will be given the highest priority. We also hope that you will take prompt and effective measures from your responsible position to safeguard the environment.

We sincerely seek your kind consideration and effective initiative in this regard.

With best wishes for your continued well-being, success, and proactive leadership.



Dr. Kazi Maruf Islam
Convener, Bangladesh Working Group on Ecology and
Development (BWGED)
& Professor, Development Studies, University of Dhaka



Hasan Mehedi
Member Secretary, Bangladesh Working Group on
Ecology and Development (BWGED),
Chief Executive, Coastal Livelihood and
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