

Incinerator told to stop dumping fly ash

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NEW DELHI: The environment ministry's appellate body ordered the Okhla incinerator to not dump fly ash in the city, and instead use it to make bricks.

This order was presented at the National Green Tribunal on Wednesday in a case against the waste-to-energy plant by residents of neighbouring areas.

The plant has also been asked to reduce particulate matter emission by half from 150 mg/Nm³ within 12 months. The final target for emissions is 30 mg/Nm³.

The incinerator used to earlier dump fly ash at the Tughlakabad landfill site, and residents of the area filed a petition in the National Green Tribunal against pollution caused by the plant.

"The appellant shall stop dumping of fly ash anywhere instead use the same for fly ash brick manufacturing and in other valuable products," said the order issued by the body.

However, residents, who have

been campaigning against the plant for years now, point out that setting up a fly ash brick manufacturing unit cannot be done in a few months' time.

"We have pointed out to the tribunal that the plant does not have consent from government authorities to operate. It is operating in violation of rules and the residents of the area are suffering. When the incinerator

starts, smoke and haze cover the entire area," said Ranjit Devraj, a resident of Sukhdev Vihar, which is a stone's throw away from the incinerator.

During a visit to the plant in May, deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia had also pointed out that the waste collected at the site was stinking despite there being a mechanism to control the stench.

It was also observed that



■ Seen in the background is the Okhla incinerator.

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OKHLA PLANT

- Started operations in 2011
- 16 MW power generation capacity
- The plant has burnt 2 mn tonnes of waste since 2011
- Areas around the plant are Sukhdev Vihar, Ishwar Nagar, Jamia Nagar, Batla House, three hospitals and Jamia Millia Islamia
- Sukhdev Vihar residents complain of foul smell from the plant

gunny bags and plastic wrappers come out intact despite the incinerator being reportedly maintained at 1000 degrees Celsius. Incomplete burning of waste releases toxic substances into the air.

The residents are demanding that the waste being burnt at the plant be diverted to the Ghazipur incinerator instead as it has better and cleaner technology.