

Urban Water & Sanitation

News

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Corporate

■ New-Delhi-based **SPML Infra Limited** has **completed** the **construction** of a **35 mld common effluent treatment plant** at **Bhawana, Delhi**. The plant, constructed over an area of 53,000 square metres, entailed an investment of Rs 537.4 million. The company will operate and maintain the plant for three years, after which it will be managed by the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation. The plant has a three-tier treatment system – primary, secondary and tertiary. It is equipped with various facilities. These include screen chambers, oil and grease removal tanks, grit chambers, equalisation tanks, chemical treatment facilities, clarifiers, aeration tanks, tube settlers, rapid sand gravity filters and centrifuges. As against the standards stipulated for chemical oxygen demand (COD) at 250 mg per litre and BOD at 30 mg per litre under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, the COD and BOD contents in the effluents released will range from 80 mg per litre to 120 mg per litre and 18 mg per litre to 26 mg per litre respectively.

Projects

■ The **Rs 10.33 billion desalination plant** at **Nemmeli** in **Chennai** is **expected** to be **operational** by **June 2012**. About 75 per cent of the work on the plant, which is being implemented by the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, has been completed. The project involves the construction of a 100 million litres per day (mld) plant over 40 acres of land. The plant would use reverse-osmosis technology to convert seawater into fresh potable water. Disk filters and ultra filtration membranes will also be used for pre-treatment before the desalination process. About 265 mld of raw water will be drawn through a 1,100 metre long pipeline to produce 100 mld of drinking water. The project is being executed on a design, build and operate basis by the VA Tech Wabag in a 70:30 joint venture with Israel-based IDE Technologies. After completion of the project, VA Tech Wabag would operate and maintain the plant for a period of seven years. The plant at Nemmeli is the second desalination plant in Chennai to be developed after the Minjur plant.

■ According to reports, the **water quality released** from the **27 mld sewage treatment plant** in **Noida, Sector 54** has been **found to contain low level of pollutants**. The sequential batch reactor technology was recently introduced at the plant on a trial basis. The biological oxygen demand (BOD) count, a measure of pollutant organic material in water, has significantly reduced since May 2011. Currently, the average BOD count has been recorded at 13 mg per litre. The plant was earlier run using the upflow anaerobic sludge blanket system, and recorded an average BOD count of 30 mg per litre. On an average, Noida generates about 100 mld of wastewater and 18 mld of industrial effluents.

Finance

■ The **International Financial Corporation (IFC)** is **planning to invest around \$150 million** in **water management and water treatment projects** in **India**. The investment would primarily cover three areas – improving water usage in agriculture, decentralised distribution for rural areas by financing small water treatment plants, and industrial water and its reuse and urban water projects, and will be undertaken over a period of two-three years. The investment is expected to promote private sector participation in the water sector. IFC also plans to offer debt financing for public-private partnership projects, and pick up equity stakes in them. In addition, IFC would offer advisory services including preparing bidding documents for projects, and providing solutions for water issues such as leakage and illegal connections.