



MTD Walkers PLC



Press Conference in progress



MTD Walkers CEO & Director addressing the gathering



Head table





Networking in progress



Northern Power Co flags off baseless allegations over Jaffna water contamination

Published : 1:15 am January 21, 2015 | 550 views | No comment

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Baseless allegations have been raised with the ulterior motive to mislead the people of Jaffna against Northern Power Company Ltd., falsely claiming the power plant located at Chunnakkam (Jaffna) is causing pollution of the wells located two to three km away from the plant.

"As Northern Power Company Ltd., we deny outright these baseless charges raised by parties with vested interests and not a single charge has been so far accepted by Courts. As all evidence presented to Court even points to another location as being the source of contamination, the company is not in any way liable for the said situation," MTD Walkers PLC Director/CEO Lal Perera said.

Northern Power Co commenced construction work on the power plant in 2007 amidst the conflict situation when no company or individual was willing to even venture into the north taking all risks to provide much-needed power to the people of Jaffna. Generation commenced around May 2009 and a larger population which had suffered severe hardships for over 15 years had electricity in their homes.

"We were the company at that time that contributed the major amount of power as there was no other source and Jaffna was not connected to the national grid till almost 2012. The company went through many hardships, especially with no road transport facility being available and having to transport all material and personnel by air or sea."

Northern Power says it has no hand in Jaffna water contamination

Published : 3:23 am January 24, 2015 | 524 views | One comment

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No evidence yet found by Govt.-appointed independent committee: MTD Walkers Plc CEO

By Waruni Paranagama

There is no scientific evidence to prove accusations which link the Northern Power Co. Ltd. to the controversial water contamination issue in Jaffna even though baseless allegations have been made by parties with vested interests, Northern Power's parent company, MTD Walkers Plc, announced yesterday in Colombo.

Speaking at a media conference, MTD Walkers Plc Director/CEO Lal Perera stated that baseless allegations had been raised with the ulterior motive of misleading the people of Jaffna about the company, falsely claiming that its power plant, located in Chunnakkam, has led to the pollution of several wells located 2-3 km away from the plant.

Sri Lanka's Jaffna power firm says waste oil is sold, not dumped

Jan 20, 2015 15:09 PM GMT+0530 | 0 Comment(s)

COLOMBO (EconomyNext) - Sri Lanka's Northern Power Company (Pvt) Ltd, an independent power producer connected to the stat-run distribution grid said it did not dump waste oil to the ground as alleged by residents but sold it for cash.

The firm said alleged contaminated wells were two to three kilometres away from the plant in Jaffna's Chunnakkam area and in any case no waste oil was discharged to the ground.

The firm said in a statement that waste oil was sold for cash and used to fire furnaces and they would not dump it on the ground and forego potential revenues.

The firm said at one time there was an 'oil lake' in the region from an older state-run plant which was then covered in a landfill and grid substation built upon it.

The firm said no one knew what had happened to the oil and the matter had been mentioned in court as well.

Residents in the area had protested recently that the Northern Power Company's waste oil was contaminating their well.



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TRIUMPH FASHION

Triumph fashion on display in Sri Lanka

MTD Walkers denies water pollution allegation

January 23, 2015, 8:15 pm



Lal Perera, CEO, K. Wasantha S. Fernando,

(Attorney at Law), Viraj de Silva, (CFO), Hary Mahadeva (Director) Pic bt Sujatha Jayawardena

By Steve A. Morrell

MTD Walkers, CEO, Lal Perera, facing tough questions from the press yesterday said power generation to the Jaffna peninsula by the Walkers-owned Northern Power Company (Pvt) Ltd had underscored the reputation of Walkers' power stations and delivery of electricity to Jaffna was now an ongoing service facility.

"If as you say you had done your surveys and had expert input before you commenced power supplies, who and why does anyone have to object?, the CEO was asked.

"We are a Colombo based company. Our history goes back many decades. We established our credibility in all areas of our businesses; and our tender for power supply to Jaffna was accepted. You will also appreciate that before physical work commenced, our surveys and feasibility studies were done. The government accepted our feasibility reports and it was only after their determination that we had established our bona fides and forwarded expert reports, that we were permitted to commence our installation work, Perera said.

"Why now, after you had commenced power supplies? was another question put to the CEO.

Media Coverage

MTD Walkers refutes allegation

By Ashani Jayasundera | Sunday, 25 January 2015 02:12 | font size

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Jaffna water pollution

The allegations that have been made against Chunnakkam Power Plant of Northern Power Co (Pvt) Ltd in Jaffna regarding the water contamination in Jaffna are baseless, said by MTD Walkers PLC Director/ CEO Lal Perera.

The recent allegation is that the waste oil from the plant is being discharged to the ground and that it is the direct cause for the pollution of several wells located two to three kilometers away from the plant. While refuting these allegations, Lal Perera explained at a press conference held on Friday (January 23) that the waste oil from the plant is collected in overhead tanks while emphasizing that nothing is absolutely discharged to the ground.

Lal Perera said, "The power plant is operated with all necessary environmental licenses and approvals in place which is issued on an annual basis with quarterly checks carried out based on the conditions mandated by the licensing authority."

He further added that these allegations have been raised in order to mislead the people of Jaffna against the Northern Power Company (Pvt) Ltd, falsely claiming that the power plant located at Chunnakkam (Jaffna) is liable to the situation.

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Power and Disaster Management Ministries teams to study situation

By S. Rubatheesan

Chunnakkam groundwater contamination issue by power plant



View(s):

Power company says no way it is responsible

A three-day hunger strike was yesterday called off by residents of Chunnakkam against alleged oil leakage from the Northern Power Plant (NPP) after their representatives were given assurances by government authorities that immediate remedies have been taken to address their issues.

The residents of Chunnakkam, medical doctors and Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) collectively commenced a hunger strike on Tuesday in front of the Chunnakkam Sivan Kovil demanding the immediate closure of the Northern Power Plant and urged the authorities to declare the region as a 'disaster zone'.

"Our representatives met Power and Energy Minister Champika Ranawaka, Disaster Management Minister John Amararatunga and the Prime Minister's Secretary and were assured that the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) will stop buying power from the power plant if it is causing the oil leakage," said Dr. Ganeshanathan Senthanan, one of the protesters.



On Tuesday students of Tellippalai Union College staged a protest complaining the water in the well located in their school is also contaminated with oil and was not in a condition to be used for drinking.



Northern Power Co not responsible for water contamination

Sri Lanka MTD Walkers says northern power unit not polluting wells

economynext

Jan 23, 2015 15:43 PM GMT+0530 | 1 Comment(s)

EconomyNext - Sri Lanka's MTD Walkers rejected allegations its thermal power unit in northern Jaffna was releasing waste oil and polluting wells in the peninsula, calling for an independent probe into the contamination as well as a war-time oil spill.

MTD Walkers Chief Executive Lal Perera said the allegation against Northern Power Company was raised by parties with "vested interests" and that none had been so far accepted by courts or by any government authority.

"As all evidence presented to Court points directly to another location as being the source of contamination," he told a news conference. "The company is not in any way liable."

Hundreds of Jaffna residents have been protesting in recent days, accusing the power plant of being the source of their well-water pollution in the Chunnakkam area of the peninsula, which depends largely on its limestone aquifer for drinking water and irrigation.

Jaffna gets rain only during the north-east monsoon during the winter months of the northern hemisphere.

Northern Power Co began generating power in 2009 just as the island's 30-year ethnic war ended and supplied Jaffna till 2012 when the national grid was reconnected.



Sri Lanka foreign minister's China visit - in pictures



Triumph fashion on display in Sri Lanka

Media Coverage

January 23, 2015 News, Sri Lanka COLOMBO MIRROR

Urgent steps underway to eradicate pollution of Jaffna wells



A top government minister said today that urgent steps have been taken to address the pollution of wells in Jaffna due to waste oil from a power plant being discharged to the ground.

"This has become a major calamity. The President, the Prime Minister have been informed of the situation. Necessary steps are being taken to eradicate the situation. Especially, the Ministry of Environment is looking into the matter urgently," Minister of Resettlement, Reconstruction and Hindu Religious Affairs D.M Swaminathan told Colombo Mirror on Friday.

Jaffna power plant rejects claims

By admin January 20, 2015 15:59



Aggregate Plant Supply Stone Crusher & Aggregate Production Line for highway



A power plant in Jaffna has rejected allegations that the plant located at Chunnakkam (Jaffna) is causing the pollution of wells located 2 to 3 kms away from the plant.

"As Northern Power Company (Pvt) Ltd, we deny outright these baseless charges raised by parties with vested interests and not a single charge has been so far accepted by Courts. As all evidence presented to

Court even points to another location as being the source of contamination the Company is not in any way liable for the said situation," MTD Walkers PLC Director/ CEO Lal Perera said.

Northern Power Co commenced the construction work of the Power plant in 2007 amidst the conflict situation when no company or individual was willing to even venture into the North taking all risks to provide much needed power to the people of Jaffna. Generation commenced around May 2009 and a larger population which had suffered severe hardships for over 15 years had electricity in their homes.

People in Jaffna await GOSL response to water contamination

Daily Nation



At hunger strike to create awareness on environmental damage caused by the Power Plant in Chunnakkam
A hunger strike to raise awareness on the environmental damage and contamination of water by the Northern Power Company in Chunnakkam is in its fourth day today. Residents in the area and those staging the protest remain hopeful of the government's response.

"We met with the Minister and other officials who assured us that if the Power plant is found to be causing this contamination, the government would not go into a power purchasing agreement with that particular plant," said Dr. G. Senthuran, a protestor who spoke to Daily Nation from the Chunnakkam. "We remain hopeful that this government will heed to our requests."

Dr. Senthuran revealed that there is ample research to suggest that the power plant is directly contributing to the contamination of ground water in the area by discharging waste oil from the plant to the ground.

"Engineers attached to the Water Board conducted a research on this matter during the last two years, their report is at courts and explicitly states that the plant is a main contributor of contamination," he said adding that the report has not been made public. "It is visible to the naked eye that there is presence of oil in the water and we've done several tests to ascertain the same."

Meanwhile the Northern Power Plant alleged that baseless allegations were being leveled at the company accusing them of polluting the water and surrounding environment in Chunnakkam.

"As Northern Power Company Ltd, we deny these baseless charges raised by parties with vested interests and not a single charge has been so far accepted by Courts. As all evidence presented to Court even points to another location as being the source of contamination, the Company is not liable for the said situation," MTD Walkers PLC Director/ CEO Lal Perera was stated to have said.

Northern Power Co not responsible: MTD Walkers

MONDAY, 26 JANUARY 2015 12:57 WRITTEN BY EDITOR 0 COMMENTS



Jan. 26, 2015 (LBT) - All available scientific evidence shows that the powerhouse of North Sri Lanka - Northern Power Co (Pvt) Ltd is not any way linked to the issue of ground water contamination in Jaffna, and that such baseless allegations have been fueled by parties with vested interests, says its parent company MTD Walkers PLC.

"Our main objective is to serve the electricity needs of the North in general and Jaffna in particular. As Northern Power Company (Pvt) Ltd, we deny outright these baseless charges raised by parties with vested interests and not a single allegation has been so far accepted by Courts or by any government authority. As all evidence presented to Court points directly to another location as being the source of contamination; the Company is not in anyway liable for the said situation," said Lal Perera, MTD Walkers PLC Director/ CEO.

Perera pointed out that baseless allegations have been raised with the ulterior motive to mislead the people of Jaffna against the Northern Power Company (Pvt) Ltd, falsely claiming that the power plant located at Chunnakkam (Jaffna) is causing pollution of several wells located 2 to 3 kms away from the plant.

Northern Power Co commenced the construction work of the Power plant in 2007 amidst the height of the conflict situation when no company or individual was willing to even venture into the North, let alone build a power plant; taking all risks to provide the much needed power to the people of Jaffna.

"In fact one Company even backed out as the risks associated in building the power plant in Jaffna were so high. But, as it was the need of the hour we opted to come forward and built this power plant having the goal of serving not only the people in the North, but also businesses, schools, hospitals, etc." he added.

Generation commenced around May 2009 and a larger population which had suffered severe hardships for over 15 years had electricity in their homes.