



Authorities seal two steel mills in Islamabad for violating environmental laws



Authorities seal two steel mills in Pakistan

Zahid Hamid, the climate change minister, informed the Senate that two steel mills had

been operating in violation of the Environment Protection Act and the directives of the Supreme Court.

Both of these mills had been operating secretly at night in violation of the relevant laws that made Pakistan Environmental

Protection Agency to issue an order to close these mills until they install pollution filters as well as dust monitoring systems, he added.

Hamid said the mills had failed to comply with the requirements mentioned to them under the law even after repeated correspondence so they were closed in February, 2017.

The minister also tabled the Pakistan Climate Change Bill, 2017 to meet the country's obligations under international conventions relating to climate change and address the effects of climate change.

The bill was passed by the upper house.

Govt. imposes high border tax on Chinese ingots and long steel

The Ministry of Industry and Trade has announced the imposition of a high border tax after concluding that cheap Chinese



steel ingots and long steel products are flooding the Vietnamese market and causing irreparable harm to the segment.

The Ministry said effective March, it will impose a 21.3 percent border tax for a period of one year followed by a 19.3 percent and 17.3 percent tax for years two and three to take effect from March 22, 2018 and March 22, 2019, respectively.

The decision to levy the border tax signed by the prime minister comes after a lengthy investigation by the Ministry that started in December, 2016, after complaints were lodged by Vietnamese domestic sector steelmakers.

For years, Chinese steel products, along with other manufactured products in overcapacity segments of the economy have been at the centre of trade disputes between Vietnam and China, said the Ministry.

It noted that on many occasions Vietnam private sector companies have lodged complaints that Chinese steelmakers were dumping products at prices below fair value, hurting the segment.

Chinese steelmakers have voiced discontent at the high tariffs and insist their prices are fair and that they have violated no trade laws. The problems, they say, are rooted in sluggish demand, the weak global economy and poor quality product.

The investigation showed that for ingots and long steel products, the import volume into Vietnam increased from 387,448 tons in 2012 to 665,679 tons in 2013 and 1,282,090 tons in 2015, over half of which originated in China.

The decision applies to steel ingots and long steel products imported from all countries with a de minimis exclusion for those from countries for which the import volumes are inconsequential.

LaGuardia Airport to use foreign steel in \$4B renovation



Authority project using foreign steel. A contractor hired to overhaul a Holland Tunnel Pier bought steel from several of the U.S.'s most cut-throat competitors — Turkey, Eastern Europe and China, the spokesman said.

Scott Paul,

president of the Alliance for American Manufacturing, said the Port Authority's "blatant outsourcing" was at odds with Gov. Cuomo's insistence on a "Buy American" clause in his latest budget — and even at odds with President Trump's "Buy America, Hire America" pledge.

"The cost (of this) is more American jobs. It is our hope that the Port Authority reconsiders using Chinese and foreign steel. There are thousands of unemployed factory workers anxious to get back to making steel here in America," said Paul.

"America's steel makers are capable and waiting. It is unacceptable that major public infrastructure projects in New York are providing jobs overseas," he added.

In 2013, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority set off shockwaves by outsourcing \$235 million worth of work on its Verrazano bridge upgrade to China.

LaGuardia's \$4 billion facelift won't be an all-American job. Chinese steel will be used in the high-profile project meant to make the city's second-best airport great again — infuriating the U.S. steel industry that says it can handle the demand.

A spokesman for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey said that Chinese steel will build some of roadway bridges at the airport. It's also relying on steel fabricated in Canada for part of the Terminal B building.

The Port Authority said it's in compliance with the mandates required by its funding.

"The public-private-partnership contract has a requirement that 50% of the steel be domestic and LaGuardia Gateway Partners — our PPP partner — is meeting that goal," the spokesman said.

LaGuardia Airport is not the only Port