

Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
Central Ground Water Authority

PUBLIC NOTICE

New Delhi, Dated 17th June, 2021

ATTENTION TO ALL EXISTING GROUND WATER USERS INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL/ INFRASTRUCTURE/ MINING PROJECTS

Whereas the Central Government constituted the Central Ground Water Authority (hereinafter referred to as the Authority) vide notification Number S.O. 38(E), dated 14th January, 1997, followed by notification number S.O. 1124(E) dated 6th November, 2000 and S.O. 1121 (E) dated 13th May, 2010 of the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment & Forests, for the purposes of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the whole of India and to issue necessary regulatory directions.

And whereas the Authority has issued 'Guidelines to control and regulate ground water extraction in India' vide notification number 3289(E) dated 24th September, 2020.

And whereas the Authority has issued Public Notice dated 26.10.2020 stating that all existing users, except exempted categories, who have submitted their applications for NOC after 30.06.2020 and before 24.09.2020 shall be liable to pay penalty of Rs. 1 lakh under Section 15 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and those who have applied after 24.09.2020 shall be liable to pay Environmental Compensation (EC) w.e.f. 24.09.2020 till date of submission of application.

And whereas the said Guidelines provide under Section 9 (i) that "Installation of digital water flow meter (conforming to BIS/ IS standards) having telemetry system in the abstraction structure(s) shall be mandatory for all users seeking No Objection Certificate and intimation regarding their installation shall be communicated to the CGWA within 30 days of grant of No Objection Certificate through the web-portal."

And whereas the Authority has issued Public Notice dated 08.01.2021 stating that any ground water withdrawal without the installation of tamper-proof digital water flow meters and telemetry (wherever applicable) shall be construed as illegal.

And whereas the Authority has issued Public Notices dated 26.10.2020, 08.01.2021 and 27.01.2021 wherein the concerned project proponents were informed to mandatorily submit Impact Assessment Report/ comprehensive Hydro-geological Report/ Water Audit Report by a specified date and the late submission of Impact Assessment Report/ comprehensive Hydro-geological Report were subjected to the payment of Environmental Compensation as per CGWA Guidelines, calculated from 01.01.2021 till the date of submission of the report.

And whereas representations from various industries/ associations/ Infrastructure projects have been received in the Authority due to the outbreak of Corona Virus (COVID-19) and subsequent lockdowns (total or partial) imposed for its control.

IN VIEW OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THIS IS TO BRING TO THE NOTICE OF ALL GROUND WATER USERS THAT:

1. Applications for fresh/ renewal of NOC by the existing users which have been rejected on grounds of either non-submission of required documents or non fulfilment of various documents/criteria, shall be given a one-time relaxation. Such applicants from existing users who have re-applied for NOC after 30.06.2020 shall be exempted to pay Environmental Compensation/Penalty till **31.03.2022**. However, they shall be liable to pay the water abstraction/restoration charges w.e.f. 24.09.2020.
2. Exemption of EC shall also be applicable to existing users who have failed to submit application for NOC till 30.06.2020. However, they shall be liable to pay penalty of Rs one lakh. They shall also be liable to pay ground water abstraction/ restoration charges w.e.f. 24.09.2020 or date of its commencement whichever is later.
3. For the submission of Impact Assessment Reports by industries, Comprehensive Hydrogeological reports by Mining Projects and Water Audit Reports, the date is hereby extended upto **31.03.2022**. No Environmental Compensation shall be imposed on such users if the said report is submitted in the prescribed time. The Environmental Compensation already paid by the project proponents shall be adjusted in the Abstraction/restoration Charges of the unit for subsequent years.
4. To reduce the financial burden on the project proponents, the project proponents shall now be required to make a yearly advance payment of the Ground Water Abstraction/Restoration Charges, which would be adjusted in succeeding years based on actual ground water withdrawal, instead of one-time advance payment of Ground Water Abstraction/Restoration Charges for entire NOC period.

5. All the project proponents/users drawing ground water shall be required to mandatorily install tamper-proof Digital Water Flow Meter with/without Telemetry System by **31.03.2022** or as specified in NOC, whichever is later.
6. The applicants/project proponents who are facing the issue of double taxation due to levy of water charges/ cess by States as well as water abstraction/restoration charges by CGWA, may seek reimbursement of water charges/ cess paid to State Governments from CGWA in the subsequent years limited to the water abstraction/restoration charges levied by CGWA.

Member, CGWA