



ཀྲུལ་ཡོངས་མཐའ་འཁོར་གནས་སྤངས་ལྷན་ཚོགས།
དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་།
National Environment Commission
Royal Government of Bhutan



NECS/EACD/Notification/2020/1613

December 1, 2020

Dasho Dzongdag
Dzongkhag Administration
20 Dzongkhags

Subject: Notification on the exemption of environmental clearance

Dear Dasho (s),

The National Environment Commission Secretariat (NECS) in accordance with the Section 33 (a) of the Water Act of Bhutan 2011, hereby notify that the abstraction and use of water for the following purposes are exempted from requiring Environmental Clearance (EC):

- a) Domestic use; and
- b) Small scale drinking water supply scheme i.e abstraction of drinking water less than 10,000 liters per day and small scale irrigation schemes i.e irrigation system that supplies water to an area up to 50 acres or the length of the channel up to 2 kilometers provided it does not traverse through any sensitive area or protected areas.

However, please be informed that as per Section 44 of the Water Regulation of Bhutan, 2014, any water abstraction activity shall require a permit from the concerned authority in accordance with Section 49, 50 & 51 of the Regulation. The permit shall be prerequisite for any water abstraction projects exempted or requiring Environmental Clearance.

Any clarifications on the permit or the concerned permit issuing authority facing challenges in determining the foreseeable impacts of a proposed groundwater abstraction may contact Water Resources Coordination Division, NECS for technical assistance in accordance to Section 51 of the Water Regulation of Bhutan, 2014. Further, any clarification on the Environmental Clearance be directed to Environment Assessment and Compliance Division of the NECS.

NECS solicits your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

(Phento Tshering)
DIRECTOR

Copy to:

1. Hon'ble Chair, National Environment Commission, Thimphu for kind information and appraisal, please.

2. Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Works and Human Settlements, Thimphu for kind information .
3. Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Health, Thimphu for kind information.
4. Director General, Department of Industry, MoEA Thimphu for kind information.
5. Director General, Department of Geology and Mines MoEA, Thimphu for kind information.
6. Director General, Department of Livestock, MoAF, Thimphu for kind information.
7. Dasho Thrompon, 04 Thromdes for kind information.
8. Environmental Specialist/Chiefs/ Heads, NECS, Thimphu for information.
9. Guard file (NECS/EACD/Notification) EACD, NECS for record.