

**CHIEF ENGINEER'S CIRCULAR**

**Cir.No.CE 2/2010/DD(G) / Dated 19.03.2010**

SUB: Award of Ground Water Availability Certificate to a tune of more than 10,00,000 litres per day to Firms, Industries or Organisations for their usage – Monitoring the ground water level in their premises, where water drawal is actually made for their usage – Regarding.

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Nowadays it is a common news that the villagers dwelling nearby make a big hue and cry complaining that their ground water table would go down to rock bottom level and that they would be left even without drinking water whenever a firm / industry / organisation is awarded the Ground Water Availability Certificate by this ground water department for a huge quantity of drawal for their usage, in the order of more than 10,00,000 litres per day. Consequent to such protests made by the villagers living around such a firm / industry / organisation under question, the concerned District Collector and sometimes, the Government too call for the detailed reply from our department for such apprehensions raised by the villagers. The department in turn based on the report obtained from the concerned Ground Water Division's Executive Engineer, furnish the reply as that such a contingency would not arise as we are arriving only at a safe quantity for drawal on a scientifically approved method. Though this reply is usually given at that time as an immediate answer, we should not be contented with our reply and do away with that as it is. Due to the present changing climatic conditions of our globe and due to the probability of occurrence of continuous years of drought spanning for three years or more, we have to actually field check the level of Ground Water Table periodically where we have allowed large scale drawal of ground water in the order of 10,00,000 litres per day or more by way of ground water level and water quality monitoring continuously from the date of award of the ground water availability certificate so as to scale down the quantity of ground water drawal and issue a revised Ground Water Availability Certificate for drawal if any alarming degrees of Ground Water level deterioration, say 10 metres or

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more from the initial year of award of permission for ground water drawal and consequent deterioration of water quality from the initial level are noticed in such cases. Therefore, in view of the above considerations, the following instructions are issued in this regard.

Whenever a firm / industry / organisation is awarded either anew or as renewal heavy drawal of ground water by this department in the form of Ground Water Availability Certificate for a quantity of 10,00,000 litres or more per day for its usage, then right from the month of award of such drawal to the firm / industry / organisation, water level has to be taken and recorded every month by observing it in the premises where ground water is actually drawn by such firm / industry / organisation for its usage and also water samples are also to be taken twice in a year during pre-monsoon and post-monsoon periods from the same open well / borewell from which water level is observed and water quality tests have to be carried out and recorded.

Based on the monthly water level observations so made, from the completion of second year of permission onwards, for every year the average water level in a continuous twelve months time which includes one pre-monsoon and one post-monsoon periods has to be arrived and this average water level figure has to be compared with the corresponding average water level figure so arrived for the initial year of drawal as allowed by this department and the discrepancy has to be noted down. If the discrepancy so noted down displays a ground water level decline of 10 metres or more, then it clearly points out that the ground water table in that locality and nearby area is lowering down to alarming levels. In such a situation, the Ground Water Availability Certificate awarded to the firm / industry / organisation has to be revised accordingly. Therefore, in such a case, a detailed report in this regard has to be sent by the concerned Executive Engineer, Ground Water Division to the Chief Engineer's office through the concerned Superintending Engineer, Ground Water Circle for issue of necessary revised Ground Water Availability Certificate from this office to the firm / industry / organisation with scaling down of the drawal level so as to maintain the sustainability of ground water in that area and around.

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Further, whenever a firm / industry / organisation applies for renewal of the Ground Water Availability Certificate issued to it earlier by this Department, which is drawing 10,00,000 or more litres of ground water per day as allowed by this department previously, the concerned Executive Engineer, Ground Water Division should furnish the entire monthly Ground Water level observations and the bi-yearly water –quality observations recorded by him for the past three years to the Chief Engineer’s office for scrutiny for taking necessary action.

The instructions issued in this Circular should be scrupulously followed by all the Field Officers and Office Personnels concerned in the Ground Water Wing.

The receipt of this circular should be acknowledged.

**CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD,SG & SWRDC.**

To  
All the Executive Engineers, Ground Water Divisions.

**Copy to:**

1. All the Superintending Engineers, Ground Water Circles.
2. All the Deputy Directors (Geo), Ground Water Circles.
3. All the Assistant Executive Engineers, Assistant Directors (Geo), Assistant Directors (GeoPhysics), Ground Water Divisions.
4. Joint Chief Engineer, Deputy Director (Geo), Assistant Director (Geo)–I, II & III, Technical Expert (HG), Technical Expert (GP), Assistant Director (GP), Technical Expert (GC), all Assistant Geologists and Assistant Geophysicists of Chief Engineer’s office of SG & SWRDC, Chennai-113
5. The Principal Secretary to the Government, PWD, Secretariat, Chennai – 9.

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