

CHIEF ENGINEER'S CIRCULAR

CIRCULAR No.CE -5/2010/DD(G) / Dated 02.07.2010

Sub: Ground Water Availability Certificate awarded to Firms/ Industries/Organisations as sought for by them from this Ground Water Wing – Restraint to be exercised near the coastal belt while awarding the Ground Water Availability Certificate – Certain Yard-stick fixed to safe-guard the soil and the water from turning brackish/saltish by sea-water ingress in the coastal area – Reg.

Recently, an application for the award of Ground Water Availability Certificate was received in this office from a Firm located in a coastal area, the proposed Ground Water drawal structure of which has been located at just 1 KM from the Sea.

At the outset itself such applications are to be rejected outrightly as there is an imminent danger of sea water ingress into the land happening surely and rapidly in the coastal area leading towards the energized drawal structure when once such a drawal structure is permitted for pumping of ground water in large quantities as requested by the Firms/Industries/Organisations for their usage. Obviously, such a proposition simply can not be entertained by paying such a costly price of damaging our invaluable resources of land and water in the coastal area perennially.

Now, the question here is how far from the sea coast we must prohibit the establishment of such Ground Water development by any Firm/Industry/Organisation for its running. To find out the answer or to have a feedback for the decision, we have to turn towards the past history of such similar cases of ground water drawals carried out in the coastal region. In those cases, we have one prominent out - standing

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example of relentless ground water drawal made in Minjur and Panchatti areas which ultimately resulted in the untoward incidence of sea-water intrusion into the land to an unexpected all-time high distance of 16 KM.

Therefore, in order to be very practical and reasonable, the border-line or the line of separation of zones is hereby safely fixed at a perpendicular distance of 10 KM from the sea-coast beyond which only any Ground Water drawal proposal should be considered for processing for award and all other ground water development proposals falling within the 10 KM range from the sea-coast should be rejected at the outset.

Henceforth, the above stipulation should be strictly adhered to in all the cases of ground water drawal proposals processing without any lapse or deviation whatsoever.

The receipt of this Circular should be acknowledged by return of post.

CHIEF ENGINEER (SG & SWR DC)

To

1. All the Executive Engineers, Ground Water Divisions-Chennai, Vellore, Cuddalore, Trichy, Salem, Thanjavur, Madurai, Karaikudi and Tirunelveli
2. All the Superintending Engineer, Ground Water Circles-Chennai, Thanjavur and Madurai
3. All the Assistant Geologist and the Assistant Director (Geology) and the Deputy Director (Geology) and the Joint Chief Engineer of the Chief Engineer's Office, SG & SWR DC, Tharmani, Chennai-113

Copy to:

1. The Principal Secretary to the Government, PWD, Secretariat, Chennai-9 for favour of information.
2. All the Assistant Executive Engineers and Assistant Directors (Geology) of all the Ground Water Sub-Divisions.
3. The Superintending Engineer, (Hydrology), Technical Expert (Hydro-Geology), Technical Expert (Geo-Physics) and Technical Expert (Geo-Chemistry) of Chief Engineer's Office, State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre, Tharamani, Chennai-113

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