



འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཀྱི་རྒྱུ་འཕུལ་གྱི་ལྷན་ཁག་
མཐའ་འཁེབ་དང་གནམ་གཤིས་འགྱུར་བཟོ་དཔྱད་ལས་ཁུངས་
Department of Environment and Climate Change
Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
Royal Government of Bhutan
Thimphu

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DECC/EACD/Dzo-Trashiyangtse-182/4579/2025-26/ 89

April 14, 2026

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

In accordance with Section 34.1 of the Environmental Assessment Act 2000, this Environmental Clearance (EC) is hereby issued to **Bhutan Power Corporation Limited (BPCL)** (hereafter referred to as the "holder") for the construction of the 400 kV East-West Transmission Line (124.5 KM) and construction of 77.097 KM of access roads across Zhemgang, Pemagatshel, Mongar, Trashigang and Trashiyangtse Dzongkhags with the following terms and conditions:

I. General

The holder shall:

1. Comply with provisions of the National Environment Protection Act of Bhutan 2007, Environmental Assessment (EA) Act 2000 and Regulation for Environmental Clearance of Projects (RECOP) 2016, Waste Prevention & Management Act of Bhutan 2009 and its Regulation 2012 (Amendment 2016), The Water Act of Bhutan 2011 and its Regulation 2014 and Revised Regulation on the Substances that Deplete the Ozone layer and Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) 2021;
2. Ensure that the activities are in line with the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Report, Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) Forms and project document submitted for EC;
3. Ensure that local communities, properties and any religious, cultural, historic and ecologically important sites are not adversely affected by the activities;
4. Restore the damage of any public or private properties caused by the activities;
5. Inform DECC and any other relevant authorities of any unanticipated or unforeseen chance-find of any precious metals or minerals or articles, that have economic, cultural, religious, archeological, and/or ecological importance;
6. Ensure that safety sign boards are posted at strategic locations, including sign boards indicating where the specific safety gadgets are required;
7. Erect a signboard at the take-off point of the project area stating the name and contact address;
8. Ensure that the copy of the EC is framed and displayed at the workplace/office.

II. Environmental Standards

The holder shall comply with the Environmental Standards (ES) 2020.

III. Import and use of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)

The holder shall import and use ODS and the HFCs as per the Revised Regulation on the Substances that Deplete the Ozone layer and HFCs 2021.



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IV. Protection and management of water resources

The holder shall:

1. Ensure that the activities do not disrupt the water flow and pollute the water bodies; and
2. Ensure that a 30 meters or 100 feet buffer is maintained from the water resources at all times.

V. Waste prevention and management

The holder shall:

1. Manage wastes generated from the activities (construction sites, offices, etc.) with the application of 4R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Responsibility) principle and other environmentally friendly methods of waste management;
2. Ensure that wastes generated from the activities are not mixed with the domestic wastes and dumped separately at pre-identified approved dumpsite;
3. Ensure that import and use of hazardous wastes are strictly prohibited; and
4. Ensure that wastes are properly stored prior to disposal/dispatch.

VI. Management of excavated materials and fugitive emission and surface run-off

The holder shall:

1. Excavated materials generated from construction of the tower should be used for backfilling the tower pits and shall be managed as per the management plans submitted to DECC;
2. Dispose excavated materials generated during the construction of approach road only at the pre-identified/approved dump sites;
3. Put appropriate measures for management of surface run-off to avoid erosion and landslides;
4. Ensure that dust generated from the proposed activities and vehicular movement is adequately suppressed by sprinkling water; and
5. Ensure that the vehicles transporting the materials are properly covered to avoid spillages and fugitive emissions along the highways and roads.

VII. Others:

The holder shall:

1. Restore disturbed areas due to construction of the approach road;
2. Avoid any damages to the underlying ground from the operation of the Transmission Lines; and
3. To conduct afforestation or compensatory plantation in consultation with the Department of Forest and Park Services (DoFPS) and relevant agencies.

VIII. Monitoring and reporting

The holder shall:

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1. Ensure that the effective day-to-day monitoring of the EC terms and conditions are carried out by the environmental unit or designated environment focal person; and
2. Maintain monthly records on wastes generated and its management, stating types (construction and general wastes), quantities, characteristics and submit to DECC annually;
3. Maintain proper records on wastes generated and its management, stating types (construction wastes and general wastes), quantities, and characteristics and submit to DECC annually; and
4. Maintain records of water used in the construction (separately for the construction and domestic purposes) and submit it to DECC annually.

IX. Implementation plan

The holder shall prepare a detailed implementation plan focusing on the implementation of terms and conditions of this EC and submit to DECC within three (3) months from the date of issue of this EC as per the reporting format attached herewith.

X. Renewal and modification

The holder shall:

1. Ensure that renewal of this EC is submitted to the DECC at least one (01) to three (03) months prior to its expiry along with a copy of EC, a report on the implementation of its terms and conditions as per the format attached and payment of prescribed renewal application fee failing to which the applicant shall be liable for penalty as per the RECOP 2016; and
2. Obtain prior approval from DECC for any modification to the existing proposal/application including, but not limited to, increase in production capacity, change in location of the project, change in ownerships, etc.

Reservation

1. In the event of *force majeure*, the DECC shall not be liable for any compensation regarding loss and/or damage incurred by the proposed activities;
2. The DECC may stop the activities or impose additional terms and conditions, as may be deemed necessary;
3. The EC shall be subject to periodic review and modifications as per Article 25 of the EA Act 2000, without any liability on the part of the Royal Government;
4. The DECC shall not be liable for any consequences resulting from failure of the promoter to acquire relevant sectoral clearances (approval/renewal) from the concerned agencies;
5. This EC shall not be construed as a guarantee for the supply of raw materials necessary for the activities; and
6. The holder guarantees that all information provided is true and agrees to provide any additional information required after the issuance of the EC without fail.

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The holder may adopt best practices in executing these terms and conditions to avoid adverse environmental impacts.

Failure to comply with any of the above terms and conditions shall constitute an offense and the proponent shall be liable in accordance with the EA Act 2000 and/or existing environmental laws.

Validity:

This EC is issued with validity from April 14, 2026 until April 13, 2031 only for the construction of the 400 kV East-West Transmission Line (124.5 KM) and construction of 77.097 KM of access roads.

This EC is issued solely pursuant to the EA Act, 2000 and its Regulations and in no way intends to overrule or alter the provisions of any law or rules in force. The Holder of this EC shall be responsible to adhere to the requirements under other laws and the issuing authority assumes no liability resulting from non-compliance or omission of any laws or rules.

(Tshering Choden)
Offtg. Director



To
Chief Executive Officer
Bhutan Power Corporation Limited
Thimphu

Copy to:

1. Dasho Dzongdag, Chairman, Dzongkhag Environment Committee, Mongar, Trashiyangtse, Trashigang, Zhemgang and Pemagatshel Dzongkhag for kind information and to instruct the Dzongkhag Environment Officer to conduct necessary compliance monitoring;
2. Guard file (DECC/EACD/Dzo-Trashiyangtse/4579) DECC, MoENR for record.