



ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

In accordance with Section 34.1 of the Environmental Assessment Act 2000 and Section 34 of the Water Act 2011, this Environmental Clearance (EC) is hereby issued to **Bhutan Power Corporation Limited (BPCL)** (hereafter referred to as "Holder") for the construction of 12.4km of 66kV D/C Transmission line from Simtokha Substation to Dechencholing Substation under Thimphu Dzongkhag, with the following terms and conditions:

I. General

The holder shall:

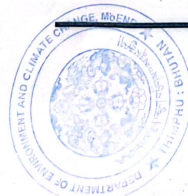
1. Comply with provisions of the National Environment Protection Act 2007, Environmental Assessment (EA) Act 2000 and its Regulation for Environmental Clearance of Projects (RECOP) 2016, Waste Prevention & Management Act of Bhutan 2009 and its Regulation 2012 (Amendment 2016), The Water Act of Bhutan 2011 and its Regulation 2014 and Revised Regulation on the Substances that Deplete the Ozone layer and Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) 2021;
2. Ensure that the construction of the transmission is in line with the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) form and the project documents submitted for EC;
3. Ensure that local communities, properties, and any religious, cultural, historic, and ecologically important sites are not adversely affected by the construction and operation of the project;
4. Restore the damage to any public or private properties caused by the construction;
5. Inform the Department of Environment and Climate Change (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, archaeological, and/or ecological importance;
6. Erect a signboard at the take-off point of the transmission line stating the name of the project and contact address;
7. Ensure that general housekeeping, cleanliness, and hygiene are maintained at all times in the project site;
8. Ensure that a copy of the environmental clearance is framed and displayed at the workplace; and
9. Be solely responsible to manage the wastes (packaging materials and e-waste) generated from construction of the project.

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 Hydrofluorocarbons (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 construction does not disrupt the water flow and pollute the water bodies; and
2. Maintain a 30 meters or 100 feet buffer from the water resources at all times.

V. Waste prevention and management

The holder shall:

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

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

The holder shall:

1. Ensure that any excavated materials/mucks generated during the construction is managed as per the Environment Management Plan submitted for EC; and,
2. Ensure that the fugitive dust generated from the construction of the project is adequately suppressed.

VII. Management of construction materials

The holder shall ensure that appropriate measures are put in place for handling and storage of construction materials to avoid fugitive emissions.

VIII. Others

The holder shall ensure that adequate measures are taken to reduce noise generated from construction of the transmission line.

IX. Implementation plan

The holder shall prepare a detailed implementation plan focusing on the implementation of terms and conditions of this EC and submit it to DECC within one (01) month from the date of issue of this EC.

X. Monitoring and Reporting

1. The holder shall ensure that the effective day-to-day monitoring of the EC terms and conditions are carried out by the environmental unit or a designated environmental focal person;
2. Maintain proper records on wastes generated and its management, stating types (construction, electronic waste and general wastes), quantities, and characteristics and submit to DECC quarterly; and

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XI. Renewal and modification

The holder shall:

1. Ensure that the application for the renewal of this EC is submitted 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, failing 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, an increase in production capacity, change in location of the project, change in ownership, etc.

Reservations

1. This EC shall not be construed as a guarantee, expressed or implied, of the supply of water and raw materials necessary for the construction of the transmission line;
2. That the DECC shall not be liable for any consequences resulting from the failure of the promoter to acquire relevant sectoral clearances (approval/renewal) from the concerned agencies;
3. The DECC may stop the activity or impose additional terms and conditions, as may be deemed necessary;
4. 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; and
5. That the project developer shall be responsible for managing the wastes generated from decommissioning/replacement/maintenance activities.

The holder may adopt best practices in executing these terms and conditions to avoid, minimize, mitigate and offset 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 Environmental Assessment Act 2000 and/or existing environmental laws.

Validity

This EC is issued with validity from October 20, 2025, until October 19, 2030, only for the construction of 12.4 km of 66kV D/C Transmission line from Semtokha Substation to Dechencholing Substation under Thimphu Dzongkhag.

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.

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Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
Royal Government of Bhutan
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(Sonam Tashi)
Director

To
The CEO
Bhutan Power Corporation
Thimphu



Copy to:

1. Dasho Dzongdag, Chairman, Dzongkhag Environment Committee, Thimphu Dzongkhag for kind information and to depute the Dzongkhag Environment Officer for necessary compliance monitoring;
2. Head, Environment Services Section, Department of Industry, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment, Thimphu for kind information; and
3. Guard file (DECC/EACD/Dzo-Thimphu/4546/2025) for record.

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