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Department of Environment and Climate Change
Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
Royal Government of Bhutan
Thimphu

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DECC/EACD/Dzo-Zhemgang/4561/2025-26/89

January 16, 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** for the **Construction 400 kV Switching Station on 24.737 acres of institutional land** at Goling under Nangkor Gewog, Zhemgang Dzongkhag 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 activity 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 activity;
4. Restore the damage of any public or private properties caused by the activity;
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, 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 main entry of the project area stating the name and contact address; and
8. Ensure that the copy of the EC is framed and displayed at the workplace/site office.

II. Environmental Standards

The holder shall comply with the Environmental Standards 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.

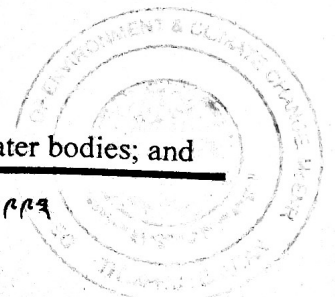
IV. Protection and management of water resources

The holder shall:

1. Ensure that the activity does not disrupt the water flow and pollute the water bodies; and

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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 activity (construction sites, labor camps, etc.) with the application of 4R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Responsibility) principle and other environmentally friendly methods of waste management;
2. Ensure that adequate sanitation facilities are provided for the workers;
3. Ensure that import and use of hazardous wastes are strictly prohibited;
4. Ensure that wastes are properly stored prior to disposal/dispatch; and
5. Ensure that biodegradable wastes are composted as mentioned in the EMP.

VI. Management of excavated materials and run-off.

The holder shall:

1. Ensure that excavated materials generated from the activity are used for backfilling;
2. Put appropriate measures for the management of surface run-off to avoid erosion and landslides;
3. Ensure that dust generated from the proposed activities and vehicular movement is adequately suppressed by spraying water; and
4. Ensure that the vehicles transporting the materials are properly covered to avoid spillages and fugitive emissions along the highways and roads.

VII. Traffic Management:

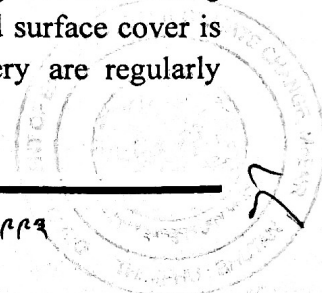
The holder shall:

1. Ensure that the local public is notified of any road closures, parking arrangements, and applicable speed limits, and that the smooth and safe flow of traffic is maintained at all times; and
2. Ensure to post sentries at strategic locations to avoid mishaps along the road.

VIII. Others

The holder shall:

1. Ensure that adequate and appropriate mitigation measures are implemented to minimize noise generated from construction and related activities, in compliance with applicable standards and best practices; and
2. Ensure that all construction-related materials and debris are properly covered during storage and transportation; that surface disturbance is minimized and surface cover is maintained wherever feasible; and that all vehicles and machinery are regularly serviced and maintained so as to minimize emissions





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IX. Monitoring and reporting

The holder shall:

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;
2. Maintain monthly records on waste generated and its management, stating types (hazardous and general wastes), quantities and characteristic and submit to DECC annually; and
3. Maintain monthly records of water used for the proposed activity (separately for dust suppression measures, civil works and domestic use), amount discharged, and submit to DECC annually.

X. 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.

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, 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 area, change in location of a project, change in ownership, etc.

Reservations

1. In the event of force majeure, DECC shall not be held liable for any compensation regarding loss and/or damage incurred by the proposed project;
2. That 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 authorities;
3. The DECC may stop the activity or impose additional terms and conditions, as may be deemed necessary;
4. Ensure that all information provided is true and agrees to provide any additional information required after the issuance of EC without fail; and
5. 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.

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

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environmental impacts.

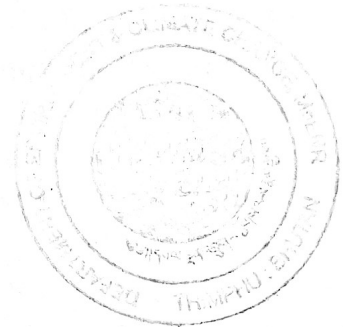
Failure to comply with any of the above terms and conditions shall constitute an offense and the proponent shall be liable in accordance with the EA Act 2000 and/or existing environmental laws.

Validity:

This EC is issued with validity from January 16, 2026 until January 15, 2028 only for the construction of 400kV at Goling under Nangkor Gewog, Zhemgang 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.

(Sonam Tashi)
Director



To,
Sangay Tenzin
Director
Construction and Procurement Department
Bhutan Power Corporation Limited
Thimphu, Bhutan
17614820

Copy to:

1. Dasho Dzongdag, Chairman, Dzongkhag Environment Committee, Dzongkhag for kind information and to depute Dzongkhag Environment Officer for necessary compliance monitoring; and
2. Office copy.