

Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
Central Ground Water Authority

PUBLIC NOTICE
New Delhi, Dated 20th July, 2021

Sub:- ATTENTION TO ALL USERS EXTRACTING GROUNDWATER FOR SWIMMING POOLS

Whereas the Central Government constituted the Central Ground Water Authority (hereafter referred to as the Authority) vide notification Number S.O. 38(E), dated 14th January, 1997, followed by notification number S.O. 1124(E) dated 6th November, 2000 and S.O. 1121 (E) dated 13th May, 2010 of the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment & Forests, for the purposes of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the whole of India.

And whereas the Authority has issued 'Guidelines to control and regulate ground water extraction in India' vide notification number 3289(E) dated 24th September, 2020.

And whereas, the Central Government have authorized the Authority to issue directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, in writing to any person, officer or any authority and such person, officer or authority shall be bound to comply with such directions.

And whereas, the Hon'ble NGT, New Delhi, under its Order dated 16.04.2021 in O.A. No. 96/2021 has held that the Ministry of Jal Shakti may consider the extent to which groundwater extraction can be allowed for swimming pools in water deficit areas, as per data available with it.

Now therefore, the Central Ground Water Authority hereby directs that although individual domestic consumers are exempted from seeking No Objection Certificate for ground water extraction in both rural and urban areas, all such users, whether existing or new, extracting ground water for swimming

pools, shall be required to seek No Objection Certificate from Central Ground Water Authority or, the concerned State/ UT Ground Water Authority, as per the CGWA Guidelines dated 24.09.2020. The users extracting ground water for swimming pools shall include Residential Apartments, Group Housing Societies, Townships, Bungalows/Villas, Farmhouses, Clubs, Hotels, Resorts, Sports/Swimming Complexes, Swimming Academies, Schools and other such Institutions. No NOC shall be granted for ground water abstraction for swimming pools for new users in over-exploited areas.

The entire process of grant of No Objection Certificate shall be online through a web based application system and the **applications for NOC can be submitted through online portal of CGWA (<http://cgwa-noc.gov.in>) or respective State, as the case may be.** The existing users extracting ground water for swimming pools are required to submit the application for NOC within 365 days from the issuance of this public notice.

This is to bring to the notice of all users extracting ground water for swimming pools that:

1. No Objection Certificate for the extraction of ground water for swimming pools shall be granted only in such cases where the local Government water supply agency is unable to supply requisite amount of water in the area.
2. All such users shall be required to pay ground water abstraction/ restoration charges for the quantum of ground water proposed to be extracted, as per rates mentioned in the CGWA Guidelines.
3. Installation of digital water flow meter (conforming to BIS/ IS standards) having telemetry system in the abstraction structure(s) shall be mandatory for all such users seeking No Objection Certificate for the extraction of ground water for swimming pools and intimation regarding their installation shall be communicated to the CGWA or respective State, as the case may be, within 30 days of grant of No Objection Certificate through the web-portal. The users shall mandatorily get water flow meter calibrated from an authorized agency once in a year.
4. All such users extracting ground water shall install roof top rain water harvesting & recharge systems in the premises as per the prevailing building bye laws in the respective State/ Union Territory. Users will have to ensure that water from the swimming pools is not used for ground water recharge.
5. Extraction of ground water for swimming pools without a valid No Objection Certificate from appropriate authority shall be considered illegal and such users shall be liable to pay Environmental Compensation for the quantum of ground water so extracted as per Section 15 of the CGWA Guidelines.

6. In case of violation of any of the No Objection Certificate conditions, the proponents shall be liable to pay the penalties as per Section 16 of the CGWA Guidelines.
7. To monitor the compliance of No Objection Certificate conditions, District Collectors/Deputy Commissioners (DCs) /District Magistrates (DMs) are authorized to take enforcement measures like sealing of illegal wells, disconnection of electricity, launching of prosecution against those violating the No Objection Certificate conditions and taking action for imposition of Environmental Compensation. Technical officers of CGWB/ CGWA and State groundwater organizations are authorized to take actions with respect to monitoring and periodic inspections with the approval of competent authority.

Member
CGWA