

**Minutes of 72nd Meeting of Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority held on 12.10.2023 at 11:00 AM in the Committee Room under the Chairmanship of Sh. Karan Avtar Singh, Chairperson.**

**Present: Mr. Sushil Gupta Member and Mr. Surinder Singh Kukal, Member.**

**In attendance: Mr. Rajpal Singh PCS Secretary, Mr. J.K. Jain Additional Secretary and Mr. Maninder Singh, XEN.**

**Item No. 72.01: Confirmation of Minutes of 71<sup>st</sup>.meeting of PWRDA.**

Minutes of 71<sup>st</sup> Meeting held on 28.09.2023 were emailed to all concerned. No comments received. Minutes may be confirmed.

**Decision: *Confirmed.***

**Item No. 72.02: Action Taken Report:**

Action Taken Report on the decisions taken in the previous meetings of the Authority is as under:

*Item No.51.11: Regarding draft Tariff Regulations.*

Pending.

*Item No.54.04: Review of procedure for placing Authority funds in fixed deposit.*

Pending.

*Item No.64.10: Regarding Staff Cars.*

Pending.

*Item No 69.03: Expiry of contract of Mrs. Kamlesh Kumari Joshi, Private Secretary.*

Mrs. Kamlesh Kumari Joshi has joined on 12.09.2023 (FN).

*Item No.69.04: Performance Review Report of Authority staff.*

Necessary orders have been issued on 12.09.2023.

*Item No. 70.03: Expiry of contract of Mr. Sanjeev Malhotra, Administrative Officer.*

Decision of the Authority has been placed on record.

*Item No. 70.04: Expiry of contract of Mrs. Anita Jain, Private Secretary.*

Mrs. Anita Jain has joined as Private Secretary on 26.09.2023 FN.

*Item No. 70.05: CWP 19597/2023 entitled “Shreyans Industries Limited v/s State of Punjab and another”; CWP 18912/2023 entitled “Cremica Food Industries Limited v/s Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority”; and CWP20930/2023 entitled “Punjab Dyers Association v/s Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority”.*

Decision of the Authority has been placed on record.

*Item No. 71.03: Representations from various units and Punjab Dyers Association regarding payment of Groundwater Charges etc.*

The decision of the Authority has been published in three daily newspapers and uploaded on the website of PWRDA.

**Decision: Noted.**

**Agenda Item 72.03: Status report of Groundwater Extraction Permissions.**

The status of the applications received for groundwater extraction and the permissions granted under Punjab Groundwater Extraction and Conservation Directions, 2023 is given below:

Report on the Status of Ground Water Extraction Permissions		Upto 11.10.2023 (online+offline)	Upto 11.10.2023 (offline only)	Upto 11.10.2023 (online only)
Sr No.	Details	Number	Number	Number
1	Applications received till 05.09.2023	431	431	0
2	Applications received after 05.09.2023 (online)	61	0	61
3	Total Applications received till 11.10.2023	492	431	61
4	Permission Granted till 05.09.2023	89	89	0
5	Permission Granted after 05.09.2023	85	85	0
6	Total Permissions Granted till 11.10.2023	174	174	0
7	Exempted Application	4	4	0
8	Total Balance Applications	314	253	61
a	Applications referred back for Queries	131	131	0
b	Applications processed, pending for approval	56	56	0
b	Applications Pending for Scrutiny	127	66	61

2. Based on the scrutiny of the applications and queries received from applicants, it was observed that in several cases there are discrepancies in the values filled in Table 5.4 of the application form for groundwater extraction permission (GW-01) (Annexure 72.01.01). Back

references are being made to the applicants to remove the discrepancies which takes a lot of time. Maximum pendency of permissions is due to this reason. Moreover, the details in table 5.4 are not required for the purpose of determining the volume of groundwater extraction when granting permission for groundwater extraction.

3. The Authority may consider making amendment(s) to the application form by omitting Table 5.4.

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

**Decision: *Approved as proposed. The amended application form GW-01 be uploaded on the Website of the Authority and necessary changes be incorporated in the permission portal.***

**Agenda Item 72.04: Representations regarding compliance of water meter specification timeline given in the Groundwater Directions, 2023.**

Paragraph 4.8 sub-paragraph D of the Punjab Groundwater Extraction and Conservation Directions, 2023 states as under:

*“For the period from the date of commencement of the Directions up to the date of installation of water meters, a User shall pay groundwater charges for the entire volume of groundwater for which Permission is sought. The User shall install the water meters of required specifications within three months of the date of permission as required under paragraph 5.1 C of these Directions. In case the User is granted Permission for a different volume of groundwater than applied for, then the difference in payment, if any, will be paid by the User or adjusted in future payment cycles, as the case may be.*

*It is clarified that in case an existing Unit had already installed water meters (even if not of required specifications) on the date of commencement of these Directions, then it shall pay Groundwater extraction charges as per the readings of such water meters for the period from the date of commencement of the Directions to the date of installation of water meters of required specifications, being not beyond a period of three months from the date of permission.”*

2. Para 5.1 sub-paragraph C of the Directions, 2023 states as under:

*“A User shall install the required water meters within three months of the date of Permission. For the period (within the time limit of three months) that the Unit extracts water without installing Water meters as required, it shall pay groundwater extraction charges for the entire volume permitted.*

3. In the ‘Terms and Conditions’ of the groundwater extraction permission letter, the condition no. 2 states as under:

*“The User shall install a water meter of required Specifications at each extraction structure and inform PWRDA along with a Calibration Certificate, within three months of issue of this Permission. The water meter shall conform to the technical specifications, performance parameters and connectivity standards, etc. as required by the Authority.”*

4 The Authority through its Resolution no. 67.06 dated 06.07.2023 has amended the specifications for water meters.

5. The Units which have failed to comply with the condition of installing water meter of required specification within three months from the date of permission were informed through e-mail dated 27.09.2023 regarding their non-compliance and further applicability of non-compliance charges. The mail was sent to 30 units asking them to comply within a week.

6. Three Units have submitted requests (**Annexure 72.02.01**) regarding extension of the due date for compliance of water meter specifications citing delay in delivery of equipment/material by the vendors as per revised specifications.

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

**Decision:**

*A. To facilitate applicants, the following procedural amendments to the Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation, 2023 were approved.*

- i. In first paragraph of sub-paragraph D of paragraph 4.8, the words ‘within three months of the date of permission’ wherever occurring be deleted.*
- ii. In second paragraph of sub-paragraph D of paragraph 4.8, the words ‘of three months from the date of permission’ be substituted with ‘as stipulated by the Authority in paragraph 5.1 C’.*
- iii. In Paragraph 5.1, for sub-paragraph C, the following be substituted: ‘A User shall install the required water meters within such time period as stipulated by the Authority.’*

*B. Consequent to the above amendments the following timeline is stipulated:*

*A user shall install the required water meters within three months of the date of permission or by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024, whichever is later.*

*C. Accordingly, condition number 2 of the Permission Letter be amended and the revised timeline be reflected on the website of the Authority.*

*D. Secretary to notify amendments made in the Directions, 2023 in the Official Gazette of the State of Punjab. The gazette notification be uploaded on the website of the Authority.*

**Meeting ended with a vote of thanks of the chair.**