



กรมควบคุมมลพิษ
POLLUTION CONTROL DEPARTMENT

ข่าวสิ่งแวดล้อม ประจำ **วันอาทิตย์ที่ 1 เมษายน พ.ศ. 2561**

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PCD PLEDGES DESALINATION STANDARDS

APINYA WIPATAYOTIN

>> The Pollution Control Department (PCD) has announced the country's first quality standards for water discharged during the desalination process.

Desalination is a system of converting sea water into fresh water by removing its salt content. This technology provides a valuable means of water for drinking and washing in coastal areas that have little or no natural fresh water sources.

PCD director-general Sunee Piyapanpong told a press conference that the standards will come into effect next month.

Ms Sunee said the PCD in November finished drafting the standards which will be the country's first relating to desalination technology, and it will be effective from May 21.

As a result, Ms Sunee said the increased adoption of desalination technology can help reduce conflicts in water consumption between the agricultural and industrial sectors, together with getting more

freshwater areas that need it most, such as remote islands which are crowded tourist destinations.

She said people living on many islands are now demanding water pipeline extensions from the mainland, such as Koh Samui in Surat Thani province, but the cost of investment and maintenance of pipelines is quite high and they also have an impact of the marine ecology.

She also said desalination has the potential to supply 50% of Thailand's water needs, however, the discharged water has a very high level of salinity.

Discharging it into the sea with no required standards could be very harmful to marine wildlife due to the high level of saline in the water, she said.

According to the standards announced by the PCD, discharged water should be pumped at a rate no greater than 0.1 cubic metre per second.

A filter should be also set up to prevent sea animals getting into the system.

A multipoint diffuser must be also used for diluting the salinity of the discharged water.

Moreover, the amount of chloride should not exceed 0.1 milligrammes per litre or 2 milligrammes per litre for sediment, while wastewater must have a level of salinity within 5% of the sea or river it is being released into.

The PH should be within 0.5 % of common nature.

Meanwhile, ahead of the Songkran festival later this month, the PCD has also made a declaration of good water quality, which covers 30 rivers nationwide.

