

By Speed Post/Online

F. No.J-11011/1260/2007-IA-II (I)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Impact Assessment Division

Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Vayu Wing, 3rd Floor, Aliganj,
JorBagh Road, New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 9th April, 2020

To,

M/s Oil India Limited,
Safety & Environment Department,
Duliajan, Dibrugarh, Assam -786602

E-Mail: safety@oilindia.in

Sub: Onshore Oil & Gas Development Drilling and Production in Mechaki Area covering Mechaki, Mechaki Extension, Baghjan and Tinsukia Extension PMLs in District Tinsukia (Assam) by M/s Oil India Ltd - Environmental Clearance - reg.

Sir,

This has reference to your online proposal No.IA/AS/IND2/97724/2007 dated 24th September, 2019 along with the EIA/EMP report for the above mentioned project.


2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has examined the proposal for environmental clearance to the project for Onshore Oil & Gas Development Drilling (6 exploratory and 12 development wells) and setting up 4 production installations and laying of gas pipeline in an area of 82 ha covering Mechaki, Mechaki Extension, Baghjan and Tinsukia Extension PMLs in District Tinsukia (Assam).

3. The project/activity is covered under category A of item 1(b) 'Offshore and onshore oil and gas exploration, development & production' of schedule to the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, and requires appraisal at central level by sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC).

4. The ToR for the project was granted by the Ministry on 31st May 2017. Public hearing for the proposed project has been exempted as per para 7 (ii) of the EIA Notification, 2006. The proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry-2) in its meeting held on 20-22 November, 2019, wherein the project proponent and their accredited consultant presented the EIA/EMP Report. The Committee found the EIA/EMP report to be satisfactory, complying with the ToR, and recommended the project for grant of environmental clearance.

5. The Ministry had issued earlier EC vide letter no. F. No. J-11011/1260/2007 - IA II (I); dated 2nd November, 2011 to the existing project Drilling of Exploratory Well (6 Nos.) at Mechaki Area, District Tinsukia, Assam in favour of M/s Oil India Limited. Certified compliance report has been forwarded by Ministry's Regional Office (site visit during 7th-14th June 2016), vide letter dated on 5th July, 2016. It was informed that presently there is no project activity/operations is being carried out in the drill locations.

6. Total project cost is estimated to be Rs. 1067.20 crores. The recurring cost (operation and maintenance) would be about Rs. 0.7 crore per annum. Total employment will be for approximately 60 persons directly & 120 persons indirectly. As per Form-1, Dibru Saikhowa National Park is within 10 km of the well locations. Dangori River is flowing at a distance of 0.7 km in East-West direction. Application for Forest Clearance (FC) has been submitted for


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two wells (MKD & MKE). It has been now proposed to drop the two location from the scope of the present project.

7. PP reported that Land required for the project is 82 ha. The estimated project cost is Rs. 1067.20 crores and recurring cost (operation and maintenance) earmarked towards environmental pollution control measures is Rs. 0.7 crore per annum. The project will provide employment for 60 persons directly and 120 persons indirectly. Industry proposes to allocate Rs 5 crores towards Corporate Environmental Responsibility. Dibru Saikhowa National Park is within 10 km of the well locations. Dangori river is flowing at a distance of 0.7 km in east-west direction.

8. PP reported that 10 no. wells and 3 production facilities, which were earlier falling within 10 km of ESZ area of the National Park are now out as per the minutes of 37th ESZ Expert Committee meeting held on 30.09.2019. In this regard, M/s Oil India Limited vide its letter No. OIL/CORP/HSE/EC-Ningru/19/367 dated 21.11.2019 has submitted an undertaking that no drilling activities or construction program of these locations would be carried out until publication of final ESZ notification.

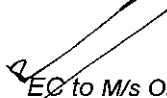
9. Ambient air quality monitoring was carried out at 8 locations during October - December 2017 and the baseline data indicates the ranges of concentrations as: PM₁₀ (77-89 µg/m³), PM_{2.5} (39-48 µg/m³), SO₂(5.4-6.2 µg/m³) and NO₂(19-24 µg/m³). AAQ modeling study for point source emissions indicates that the maximum incremental GLCs after the proposed project would be 0.167 µg/m³, 13.01 µg/m³ and 30.994 µg/m³ with respect to PM₁₀, SO_x and NO_x. The Committee found the AAQ monitoring to be satisfactory and noted that the resultant concentrations are within the National AAQ Standards.

10. Total water requirement is estimated to be 50 m³/day, which includes fresh water requirement of 40 m³/day and shall be sourced from groundwater, after obtaining necessary permission from CGWA. Effluent of 16.8 m³/day shall be treated through mobile effluent treatment plant and domestic effluent of 8 m³/day shall be treated in septic tank followed by soak pit. Power requirement for drilling is sourced from two no. of 1250 kVA, sufficed through Diesel Generator sets. One 1250 KVA DG set is will kept as standby. Stack (height 7 m) will be provided as per CPCB norms to the proposed DG sets.

11. The EAC, constituted under the provision of the EIA Notification, 2006 and comprising of Experts Members/domain experts in various fields, have examined the proposal submitted by the Project Proponent in desired form along with EIA/EMP report prepared and submitted by the Consultant accredited by the QCI/ NABET on behalf of the Project Proponent.

12. The EAC noted that the Project Proponent has given undertaking that the data and information given in the application and enclosures are true to the best of his knowledge and belief and no information has been suppressed in the EIA/EMP report. If any part of data/information submitted is found to be false/misleading at any stage, the project will be rejected and Environmental Clearance given, if any, will be revoked at the risk and cost of the project proponent. The Committee noted that the EIA/EMP report is in compliance of the ToR issued for the project, reflecting the present environmental concerns and the projected scenario for all the environmental components.

13. Based on the proposal submitted by the project proponent and recommendations of the EAC (Industry-2), in its meeting held during **November 20-22, 2019**, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords environmental clearance to the project for **Onshore Oil & Gas Development Drilling and Production from 16 wells and setting up 4 production installations and laying of gas pipeline in an area of 82 ha in Mechaki Area covering Mechaki, Mechaki Extension, Baghjan and Tinsukia Extension PMLs in District Tinsukia, Assam**, under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006, and the amendments therein, subject to compliance of the terms and conditions as under:-


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A. Specific conditions: -

- (i) The environmental clearance is subject to obtaining prior clearance from the wildlife angle, including clearance from the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife, as applicable. Grant of environmental clearance does not necessarily imply that Wildlife Clearance shall be granted to the project and that their proposals for Wildlife Clearance will be considered by the respective authorities on their merits and decision taken.
- (ii) As committed no drilling shall be carried out in the forest areas.
- (iii) No pipelines or its part shall be laid in the Forest land/National Park without prior permission/approval from the Competent Authority.
- (iv) Necessary permission as mandated under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, as applicable from time to time, shall be obtained from the State Pollution Control Board.
- (v) To control source and the fugitive emissions, suitable pollution control devices shall be installed to meet the prescribed norms and/or the NAAQS. The gaseous emissions shall be dispersed through stack of adequate height as per CPCB/SPCB guidelines.
- (vi) Necessary authorization required under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Trans-Boundary Movement) Rules, 2016, Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 shall be obtained and the provisions contained in the Rules shall be strictly adhered to.
- (vii) Ambient air quality shall be monitored at the nearest human settlements to ensure conformity with the National Ambient Air Quality Emission Standards issued by the Ministry vide GSRNo.826(E) dated 16th November, 2009 for PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, SO₂, NO_x, CO, CH₄, HC, Non-methane HC etc.
- (viii) During exploration, production, storage and handling, the fugitive emissions of methane, if any, shall be monitored using Infra-red camera/ appropriate technology.
- (ix) The project proponent also to ensure trapping/storing of the CO₂ generated, if any, during the process and handling.
- (x) Approach road shall be made pucca to minimize generation of suspended dust.
- (xi) The company shall make all arrangements for control of noise from the drilling activity. Acoustic enclosure shall be provided for the DG sets along with the adequate stack height as per CPCB guidelines.
- (xii) Total fresh water requirement shall not exceed 40 cum/day/well proposed to be met through tankers. Mobile ETP shall be installed to treat the waste water and efforts shall be made for gradual reduction in daily intake of water (to reduce fresh water foot print) by suitable mechanism or by putting RO facility in place coupled with onsite mobile ETP. Size of the waste shall be equal to the hole volume+ volume of drill cutting and volume of discarded mud if any. Two feet free board may be left to accommodate rain water. There shall be separate storm water channel and rain water shall not be allowed to mix with waste water. Alternatively, if possible pit less drilling be practiced instead of above.
- (xiii) The company shall construct the garland drain all around the drilling site to prevent runoff of any oil containing waste into the nearby water bodies. Separate drainage system shall be created for oil contaminated and non-oil contaminated. Effluent shall be properly treated and treated wastewater shall conform to CPCB standards.
- (xiv) Drill cuttings separated from drilling fluid shall be adequately washed and disposed in HDPE lined pit. Waste mud shall be tested for hazardous contaminants and disposed according to HWMH Rules, 2016. No effluent/drilling mud/drill cutting shall be discharged/disposed off into nearby surface water bodies. The company shall comply

with the guidelines for disposal of solid waste, drill cutting and drilling fluids for onshore drilling operation notified vide GSR.546(E) dated 30th August, 2005.

- (xv) Oil spillage prevention and mitigation scheme shall be prepared. In case of oil spillage/contamination, action plan shall be prepared to clean the site by adopting proven technology. The recyclable waste (oily sludge) and spent oil shall be disposed of to the authorized recyclers.
- (xvi) The Company shall take necessary measures to prevent fire hazards, containing oil spill and soil remediation as needed. Possibility of using ground flare shall be explored. At the place of ground flaring, the overhead flaring stack with knockout drums shall be installed to minimize gaseous emissions during operation.
- (xvii) The company shall develop a contingency plan for H₂S release including all necessary aspects from evacuation to resumption of normal operations. The workers shall be provided with personal H₂S detectors in locations of high risk of exposure along with self-containing breathing apparatus.
- (xviii) Blow Out Preventer system shall be installed to prevent well blowouts during drilling operations.
- (xix) Emergency Response Plan shall be based on the guidelines prepared by OISD, DGMS and Govt. of India.
- (xx) After completion of drilling process, suitable measures shall be taken for well plugging and secured enclosures, and drilling site shall be restored to the original condition. In case of the hydrocarbon not found economically viable, a full abandonment plan shall be implemented for the drilling site in accordance with the applicable Indian Petroleum Regulations.
- (xxi) At least Rs. 5 crores shall be allocated for Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) and item-wise details proposed with time bound action plan shall be properly implemented.
- (xxii) Occupational health surveillance of the workers shall be carried out as per the prevailing Acts and Rules.
- (xxiii) Company shall prepare operating manual in respect of all activities, which would cover all safety & environment related issues and measures to be taken for protection. One set of environmental manual shall be made available at the drilling site/ project site. Awareness shall be created at each level of the management. All the schedules and results of environmental monitoring shall be available at the project site office. Remote monitoring of site should be done.

13. The project proponent shall strictly comply the sector specific conditions as mentioned in the Ministry's Office Memorandum No. 22-34/2018-IA.III, dated 9th August, 2018. The said OM is available at the Ministry's website (PARIVESH portal i.e. www.parivesh.nic.in). The grant of Environmental Clearance is further subject to compliance of generic conditions as mentioned in the Ministry's Office Memorandum No. 22-34/2018-IA.III, dated 9th August, 2018.

14. The PP shall submit six monthly reports on the status of the implementation of the stipulated environmental safeguards to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, its regional office, central pollution control board and state pollution control board.

15. The Regional Office of this Ministry shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer(s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data / information/monitoring reports.

16. The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions, if found necessary at subsequent stages and the project proponent shall implement all the said conditions in a time bound manner. The Ministry may revoke or suspend the environmental clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not found satisfactory.

17. Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated data and failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

18. Any appeal against this environmental clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

19. The above conditions will be enforced, inter-alia under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 read with subsequent amendments therein and also any other orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India/ High Court of Assam and any other Court of Law relating to the subject matter.

20. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

(Dr. R. B. Lal)

Scientist 'E'/Additional Director

(Dr. R. B. LAL)

वैज्ञानिक 'ई'/Scientist 'E'

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Min. of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
Govt. of India, New Delhi

Copy to: -

1. The DGF (C), (North Eastern Zone), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office, Law-U- Sib, Lumbatngen, Near MTC Workshop, Shillong-793021, Meghalaya
2. The Principal Secretary (Office), Department of Environment and Forests, Government of Assam, Panjabari, Guwahati - 781 037, Assam
3. The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board Parivesh Bhavan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 32
4. The Member Secretary, Pollution Control Board Assam, Bamunimaidam, Guwahati - 21 Assam
5. The District Collector, District Tinsukia, Assam
6. Guard File/ Record File/ Monitoring File/ Website of MoEF&CC

(Dr. R. B. Lal)

Scientist 'E'/Additional Director

