

F. No. J-11011/418/2011- IA II (I)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(I.A. Division)

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Dated 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2014

To,  
Shri Purnananda Borgohain  
General Manager (OD&RS)  
M/s Oil India Ltd.  
Duliajan-786602, Assam

CED (HSE)  
29/10/14

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Fax No. 0374-2804254;

**Subject: Exploratory and Testing of Hydrocarbons (Onshore 21 wells) of M/s Oil India Ltd. in Naharkatia-Deohal-Bagapani-Nagajan field, Dist. Tinsukia & Dibrugarh, Assam—Environmental Clearance reg.**

**Ref. : Your letter no. DRLG/DS/A.18-110/2013 dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2013.**

Sir,

This has reference to your letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2013 alongwith Form-1, Preefeasibility Report, EIA/EMP report and subsequent submission of additional information vide letters dated 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2013, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 and 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 regarding above mentioned project.

2.0 The Ministry of Environment & Forests has examined your application. It is noted that proposal is for the exploratory and Testing of Hydrocarbons (Onshore 22 wells) of M/s Oil India Ltd. in Naharkatia-Deohal-Bagapani-Nagajan field, Dist. Tinsukia & Dibrugarh, Assam. OIL has already drilled 25 no. of wells in the block besides additional proposing to drill 22 wells within the NDBN field. Out of 22 wells, one well (i.e. Well no. 22) is located within forest land. However, PP vide letter no. OIL/CORP/HSE/MoEF&CC/EC-Drilling/29/323 dated 06.08.2014 has requested to drop the proposal of drilling of Well No. 22. Therefore, only 21 wells will be drilled. It was also noted that Naharkatia-Deohal-Bagapani-Nagjan field is very old field. Further, it was clarified that all wells are exploratory and testing in nature. For development wells, separate application for obtaining environmental clearance will be submitted. As per EIA –EMP report, only well 22 is located within the Upper Dihing R F Forest Clearance for the well site will be obtained prior to site construction. 19 wells are located within 10 km distance of wildlife sanctuary. However, PP vide letter no. OIL/CORP/HSE/MoEF&CC/EC-Drilling/29/323 dated 06.08.2014 has clarified that 17 wells are located within 10 Km distance of Wildlife Sanctuary instead of 19 wells. DhingPatkai and Borajan Segment of Bherjan-Borajan-Padumoni Sanctuary are located within 10 km distance. Cost of project is Rs. 550 Crore. Following are location of the proposed wells:

Location	Latitude (Northing)	Laongitude (Easting)
Well No-1	27° 23'11"	95° 17'48"
Well No-2	27° 22'00"	95° 15'14"
Well No-3	27° 21'25"	95° 14'50"

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Well No-4	27° 22'50"	95° 14'27"
Well No-5	27° 25'17"	95° 15'17"
Well No-6	27° 26'38"	95° 18'09"
Well No-7	27° 24'41"	95° 18'14"
Well No-8	27° 24'52"	95° 19'21"
Well No-9	27° 25'50"	95° 18'21"
Well No-10	27° 24'16"	95° 20'05"
Well No-11	27° 23'14"	95° 19'07"
Well No-12	27° 23'18"	95° 23'25"
Well No-13	27° 24'18"	95° 23'28"
Well No-14	27° 20'58"	95° 22'19"
Well No-15	27° 21'55"	95° 24'24"
Well No-16	27° 22'52"	95° 27'37"
Well No-17	27° 24'30"	95° 25'43"
Well No-18	27° 24'06"	95° 28'30"
Well No-19	27° 21'38"	95° 32'05"
Well No-20	27° 24'29"	95° 30'47"
Well No-21	27° 24'21"	95° 35'36"

3.0 Air emissions from D.G. sets will be dispersed by providing adequate stack height. Fresh water requirement from ground water source will be 40 m<sup>3</sup>/day. Effluent will be treated in effluent treatment plant (ETP) comprising equalization, chemical coagulation, flocculation and clarification by settling and residual unusable mud will be collected in lined pits and solar evaporated. Drill cutting (DC) will be separated from water based mud (WBM) and washed properly and unusable drilling fluids (DF) will be disposed off in well designed lined pit with impervious liner for solar drying. Disposal of drill cuttings and drill mud will be carried out in accordance with the GSR 546 (E) dated 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2005. Used oil will be sent to authorized recyclers. The abandoned drill sites will be restored back to its near original condition.

4.0 All the projects related to offshore and onshore Oil and Gas exploration, development and production are listed in para 1(b) of schedule of EIA Notification, 2006 covered under category 'A' and appraised at Central level.

5.0 Public hearing/public consultation was exempted under 7 (ii) of the EIA Notification, 2006.

6.0 The proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry) in its 28<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> meetings held during 20<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2011 and 23<sup>rd</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 respectively. Project Proponent and the EIA Consultant namely M/s Senes Consultants India Pvt. Ltd., have presented EIA / EMP report as per the TOR. EAC has found the EIA / EMP Report and additional information to be satisfactory and in full consonance with the presented TORs. The Committee recommended the proposal for environmental clearance.

7.0 Based on the information submitted by the project proponent, the Ministry of Environment and Forests hereby accords environmental clearance to above project under the provisions of EIA Notification dated 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006, subject to the compliance of the following Specific and General Conditions:

**A. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS :**

- i. The present EC is for Exploratory Drilling only. In case Development drilling is to be done in future, prior environmental clearance must be obtained from the Ministry.

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- ii. Environmental clearance is subject to their obtaining prior clearance from the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife regarding DhingPatkai and Borajan Segment of Bherjan-Borajan-Padumoni Sanctuary.
- iii. Well no. 22 shall not be drilled as proposal for drilling of such well has been dropped due to location of well within forest area.
- iv. Ambient air quality shall be monitored near the closest human settlements as per the National Ambient Air Quality Emission Standards issued by the Ministry vide G.S.R. No. 826(E) dated 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 for PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, methane & Non-methane HC etc.
- v. Mercury shall also be analyzed in air, water and drill cuttings twice during drilling period.
- vi. Approach road shall be made pucca to minimize generation of suspended dust.
- vii. The company shall make the arrangement for control of noise from the drilling activity. Acoustic enclosure shall be provided to DG sets and proper stack height shall be provided as per CPCB guidelines.
- viii. Total water requirement shall not exceed 22 m<sup>3</sup>/day and prior permission shall be obtained from the concerned agency.
- ix. 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.
- x. Drilling wastewater including drill cuttings wash water shall be collected in disposal pit lined with HDPE lining evaporated or treated and shall comply with the notified standards for on-shore disposal. The membership of common TSDF shall be obtained for the disposal of drill cuttings and hazardous waste. Otherwise, secured land fill shall be created at the site as per the design approved by the CPCB and obtain authorization from the SPCB. Copy of authorization or membership of TSDF shall be submitted to Ministry's Regional Office at Shillong.
- xi. Good sanitation facility shall be provided at the drilling site. Domestic sewage shall be disposed off through septic tank/ soak pit.
- xii. Oil spillage prevention 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.
- xiii. 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 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2005.
- xiv. 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.
- xv. The company shall develop a contingency plan for H<sub>2</sub>S release including all necessary aspects from evacuation to resumption of normal operations. The workers shall be provided with personal H<sub>2</sub>S detectors in locations of high risk of exposure along with self containing breathing apparatus.
- xvi. On completion of drilling, the company have to plug the drilled wells safely and obtain certificate from environment safety angle from the concerned authority.
- xvii. Blow Out Preventer (BOP) system shall be installed to prevent well blowouts during drilling operations. BOP measures during drilling shall focus on maintaining well bore hydrostatic pressure by proper pre-well planning and drilling fluid logging etc.
- xviii. Emergency Response Plan (ERP) shall be based on the guidelines prepared by OISD, DGMS and Govt. of India.

- xix. The company shall take measures after completion of drilling process by well plugging and secured enclosures, decommissioning of rig upon abandonment of the well and drilling site shall be restored to the original condition. In the event that no economic quantity of hydrocarbon is found a full abandonment plan shall be implemented for the drilling site in accordance with the applicable Indian Petroleum Regulations.
- xx. Abandoned well inventory and remediation plan shall be submitted within six months from the date of issue of letter.
- xxi. Occupational health surveillance of the workers shall be carried out as per the prevailing Acts and Rules.
- xxii. In case the commercial viability of the project is established, the Company shall prepare a detailed plan for development of oil and gas fields and obtain fresh environmental clearance from the Ministry.
- xxiii. Restoration of the project site shall be carried out satisfactorily and report shall be sent to the Ministry's Regional Office at Shillong.
- xxiv. Oil content in the drill cuttings shall be monitored by some Authorized agency and report shall be sent to the Ministry's Regional Office at Shillong.
- xxv. Under Enterprise Social Commitment (ESC), sufficient budgetary provision shall be made for health improvement, education, water and electricity supply etc. in and around the project.
- xxvi. An audit shall be done to ensure that the Environment Management Plan is implemented in totality and report shall be submitted to the Ministry's Regional Office.
- xxvii. A social audit shall be carried out for the whole operation area with the help of reputed institute like Madras Institute of Social Science etc.
- xxviii. All personnel including those of contractors shall be trained and made fully aware of the hazards, risks and controls in place.
- xxix. Company shall have own Environment Management Cell having qualified persons with proper background.
- xxx. Company shall prepare operating manual in respect of all activities. It shall cover all safety & environment related issues and system. 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.

**B. GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

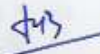
- i. The project authorities must strictly adhere to the stipulations made by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), State Government and any other statutory authority.
- ii. No further expansion or modification in the project shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. In case of deviations or alterations in the project proposal from those submitted to this Ministry for clearance, a fresh reference shall be made to the Ministry to assess the adequacy of conditions imposed and to add additional environmental protection measures required, if any.
- iii. The project authorities must strictly comply with the rules and regulations under Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 2000 as amended subsequently. Prior approvals from Chief Inspectorate of Factories, Chief Controller of Explosives, Fire Safety Inspectorate etc. must be obtained, wherever applicable.

- iv. The overall noise levels in and around the plant area shall be kept well within the standards by providing noise control measures including acoustic hoods, silencers, enclosures etc. on all sources of noise generation. The ambient noise levels shall conform to the standards prescribed under EPA Rules, 1989 viz. 75 dBA (day time) and 70 dBA (night time).
- v. A separate Environmental Management Cell equipped with full fledged laboratory facilities must be set up to carry out the environmental management and monitoring functions.
- vi. A copy of clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to concerned Panchayat, Zila Parishad / Municipal Corporation, Urban Local Body and the local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions / representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal. The clearance letter shall also be put on the web site of the company by the proponent.
- vii. The project proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated environment clearance conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall simultaneously be sent to the Regional Office of the MOEF, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and the SPCB. The criteria pollutant levels namely; PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NOx, HC (Methane & Non-methane), VOCs (ambient levels as well as stack emissions) or critical sectoral parameters, indicated for the projects shall be monitored and displayed at a convenient location near the main gate of the company in the public domain.
- viii. The project proponent shall also submit six monthly reports on the status of the compliance of the stipulated environmental conditions including results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) to the Regional Office of MOEF, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and the SPCB. The Regional Office of this Ministry / CPCB / SPCB shall monitor the stipulated conditions. Environmental Clearance and six monthly compliance status reports shall be posted on the website of the company.
- ix. The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March in Form-V as is mandated to be submitted by the project proponent to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently, shall also be put on the website of the company alongwith the status of compliance of environmental conditions and shall also be sent to the respective Regional Offices of the MOEF by e-mail.
- x. The Project Proponent shall inform the public that the project has been accorded environmental clearance by the Ministry and copies of the clearance letter are available with the SPCB and may also be seen at Website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at <http://envfor.nic.in>. This shall be advertised within seven days from the date of issue of the clearance letter, at least in two local newspapers that are widely circulated in the region of which one shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned and a copy of the same shall be forwarded to the Regional office.
- xi. Project authorities shall inform the Regional Office as well as the Ministry, the date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of commencing the land development work.

8.0 The Ministry may revoke or suspend the clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory.


9.0 The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions if found necessary. The Company in a time bound manner shall implement these conditions.

10.0 The above conditions will be enforced, inter-alia under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of Water Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Trans-boundary Movement) Rules, 2008 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and rules.

  
(L K Bokolia)  
Additional Director

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Department of Science, Technology & Environment, Government of Tripura, Parivesh Bhawan, Pandit Nehru Complex, PO- Kunjaban, Agartala-799006, West Tripura.
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Addl. Charge), Upland Road, Laitumhran Shillong-793003.
3. The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi - 110 032.
4. Chairman, Assam Pollution Control Board, Bahunimatram, Guwahati, Assam
5. Monitoring Cell, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, New Delhi.
6. Guard File/Monitoring File/Record File/notice board.

  
(L K Bokolia)  
Additional Director