

**MINUTES OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> SEAC MEETING, ARUNACHAL PRADESH HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2022**  
**AT 1600 HRS THROUGH GOOGLE LINK [HTTPS://MEET.GOOGLE.COM/XQX-DJJJ-PMM](https://meet.google.com/xqx-djjj-pmm)**

The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) of Arunachal Pradesh constituted by the MOEF&CC, GOI, was held on 17 October 2022 through video conferencing in Google Link <https://meet.google.com/xqx-djjj-pmm>

The following expert members including Member Secretary were present in the meeting:-

1. Sh. Raghavan, Chairman, SEAC, Arunachal Pradesh
2. Dr. G. Srinivasan, Member, SEAC, Arunachal Pradesh
3. Prof. B. Mohan Kumar, Member, SEAC, Arunachal Pradesh
4. Dr. O. P. Tripathi, Member, SEAC, Arunachal Pradesh
5. Dr. Rani Jha, Member, SEAC, Arunachal Pradesh
6. D. Dohu Robin, Member Secretary, SEAC, Arunachal Pradesh

Sh. Dilip Kumar Bera, DGM-Environment/Sr. Manager, Environment (Drilling) from M/s Vedanta, Ltd, the applicant for exploratory drilling at Block No AA- ONHP-2017/2 Deomali, Tirap District Arunachal Pradesh was also present and he made a presentation on the project proponent's response to the queries raised by the SEAC in the letter No. For (Env)/SEIAA/270 dated 14 July 2022. In the ensuing discussion, the following points/issues emerged.


1. Due to the dense vegetation and undisturbed nature of the proposed project site, the specific drilling locations are inaccessible. All the details presented in the proposal pertain to the forest area adjacent to the drilling locations. The geolocation map provided was stated to be based on Google Earth and the site belongs to the Forest department requiring their clearance to proceed further in this matter. Project proponents further stated that they will seek the Forest department's clearance in due course, either parallelly or after obtaining the environmental clearance.
2. Based on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and considering the additional information presented, the committee is of the opinion that despite ample time and opportunities provided, the project proponent has not provided satisfactory information and the additional details provided are grossly inadequate. For instance, there are no clear plans for approach roads (length and how they would impact the terrain and slope features that could influence landslide risks) to the drilling spots without which an assessment of environmental impacts is difficult. The DPR is silent on the terrain impacts that temporary roads will have during the Project's lifetime and afterward. These issues are linked to "forest department clearance," which in this case should be a prior requirement in view of the pristine and undisturbed nature of the site. Taking into consideration all these facts, the committee recommends that M/s Vedanta should first obtain Forest Clearance for processing the case further for granting Environmental Clearance

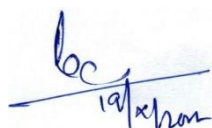
Rani Jha

O. P. Tripathi

G. Srinivasan

D. Dohu Robin

Sh. Dilip Kumar Bera

Sh. Raghavan

3. Furthermore, during the presentation and the ensuing interactions, Sh. Dilip Kumar Bera stated that much of the information/studies and reports are not available and that the oil well site was in a dense forest with a thick canopy and details like the length of the approach road to the well-site be built through this eco-fragile hilly terrain is still to be worked out and will be submitted at the time of Forest Clearance and may not be necessary for seeking the Environmental Clearance from SEIAA/ SEAC, Arunachal Pradesh.
4. The committee members while interacting with the project proponent were appreciative of the fact that M/s Vedanta had submitted this proposal in the State of Arunachal Pradesh for oil exploration in a remote, strategically important part of the country and if commercially exploitable oil reserves are found, this project could have far-reaching socio-economic (positive) implications. However, the SEAC could not find any satisfactory explanation or justification in support of the proponent's contentions on aspects relating to environmental implications either from the additional documents submitted or from its consultant M/s AECOM. In short, the project applicant could not provide the needed information and clarifications as sought by the committee in its letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022. All the activities to be carried out while implementing the project have not yet been detailed and the EIA and EMP submitted are insufficient regarding this project proposal.
5. Therefore, the SEAC under the chairmanship of Sh. Raghavan unanimously decided that it is premature to consider granting environmental clearance at this stage of preparation for the project titled "Onshore Oil and gas exploration, appraisal, and early production in AA-ONHP-201712 Block" (submitted by M/s Vedanta Limited, Division Cairn Oil & Gas) because details regarding the project provided by the project proponent are inadequate and would be worked out and provided only at the time of forest clearance.
6. The consensus among all expert members present at the meeting was that the project proponent be requested to first obtain the Forest Clearance for processing the case any further for granting Environmental Clearance, which the applicant requested the Committee to give in writing.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.



Dr. Rani Jha  
Member SEAC



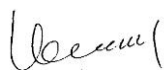
Dr. OP Tripathy  
Member SEAC



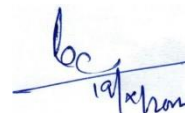
Dr. G Srinivasan  
Member SEAC



Prof. B Mohan Kumar  
Member SEAC



Sreeshan Raghavan  
Chairman SEAC



Dy. Director ( Env)  
Member Secretary SEAC