



Ref No. S&E/E43 (14)/995

Date: 09.10.2023

To

**The Director - IA, II(I) &
The Member Secretary, EAC Industry – II,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi – 110 003.**

Sub: Reply to ADS for the application seeking Environmental Clearance (EC) for Onshore Oil & Gas Development drilling and production in Dumduma-Pengeri Area in Tinsukia District under PMLs namely Mechaki PML, Borhapjan PML, Dumduma PML and Digboi PML.

Ref: Proposal No. IA/AS/IND2/220363/2007 & File No. J-11011/1251/2007 - IA II (I).

Sir,

Oil India Ltd. (OIL) submitted application for Environmental Clearance for the proposal “Onshore Oil & Gas Development drilling and production in Dumduma-Pengeri Area in Tinsukia District under PMLs namely Mechaki PML, Borhapjan PML, Dumduma PML and Digboi PML” vide proposal no. IA/AS/IND2/220363/2007.

An ADS was raised on 05.09.2023, please find below the point wise compliance to the observations of the committee constituted as per order dated 08.12.2017.

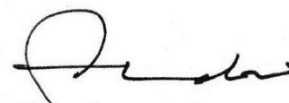
S No.	Observation	Compliance
1.	Oil is leaking from underground pipelines in the Reserve forest.	Committee visited three sites namely Pit No. 512, 513 and 139 in the Digboi region and prepared the report based on those findings alone. The concerned premises as inspected by the committee doesn't have any crude oil pipeline. There is no leakage or seepage of crude oil through any underground pipelines in the Reserve Forest area. Also, all the pipelines are periodically supervised and monitored by OIL.
2.	At several places, oily sludge pits of abandoned wells have been found and natural drains pass through these pits.	Digboi Oil Fields have been in existing since last 100 years. The Crude Oil was discovered in the far east of India at Digboi in 1889 by the erstwhile Assam Railway & Trading Co (AR&T), which subsequently developed the Digboi Oil Field, located within the present day Dihing Patkai Reserve Forest. OIL came into existence, much later in the year 1959 as a Joint Venture Company of Burmah Oil Company and Government of India and was subsequently fully nationalized in the year 1981. Oil India Limited has inherited a few pits containing oily debris located within the Reserved Forest from the erstwhile Assam Railway & Trading Co (AR&T). However, OIL has carried out bio-remediation of natural phenomenon of oil seepage using Oil Zapper technology. Also, in the NGT order dated 08.12.2017, it was mentioned that the committee noticed natural seepage in drain no.1 of Digboi oil field which was also accepted by the Tribunal.

S No.	Observation	Compliance
3.	Oil spill have been found in several oil producing wells and Crude Gathering Stations. No fencing had been provided at these well sites.	No oil spill exists in these areas as mentioned by the committee in the report. However, if any oil spill occurs during operations or any other concern is found in the pipeline, the same is rectified immediately and the site is cleaned and restored. OIL has provided iron fencings at the well sites, but due to miscreant activities and thefts by the locals, fencing is missing at some of the sites. OIL is carrying out regular inspection of well sites and providing fencings wherever necessary.
4.	More than 800 wells have been drilled since the operation of Burma Oil Company Limited. OIL India Ltd. does not even have the inventories of these abandoned oil wells, let alone treatment of these pits.	Oilfields are in operation since 1889 and OIL was incorporated in 1959 and has inherited these fields from the erstwhile Assam Railway & Trading Co (AR&T). Post 1959, OIL is maintaining the inventory of the wells (644 nos. of shut-in wells, 293 nos. of abandoned wells, 45 are producing wells). Also, OIL has been carrying out bioremediation whenever oily sludge/seepage is found in any of the pits due to natural phenomenon.
5.	In the three oil sludge remediation sites visited, the remediation has not resulted in complete conversion of oily sludge into biodegradable matter. They do not even maintain the inventors of abandoned oil wells.	OIL has carried out bioremediation activities in the pits but due to reoccurrence of natural seepage, oil sludge accumulation was observed. OIL has carried out Bioremediation of these pits and will continue to carry out the bioremediation whenever seepage is observed. Also, OIL is maintaining the inventories of the wells post 1959.
6.	OIL India Ltd. has been unable to stop the release of untreated oil effluent in open sludge pits and seepage areas around oil rigs in the Digboi Oil field.	In the Hon'ble NGT judgement it was mentioned that no untreated oil effluent in open sludge pits is being released by OIL and the occurrence of oily sludges is owing to natural seepage and not due to any action/inaction of OIL.

You are requested to consider the above proposal for grant of Environmental Clearance based on the above information.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully,



(Ajit Chandra Haloi)
Executive Director (HSE) &
Nodal Officer (EC, FC, NBWL)
For Resident Chief Executive

(A C Haloi)
ED - (HSE)
Nodal Officer (EC/FC/NBWL)
OIL INDIA LIMITED