

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(IA DIVISION-INDUSTRY-2 SECTOR)**

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**Dated: 24.09.2024**

**Meeting ID: IA/IND2/13621/12/09/2024  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE  
(INDUSTRY-2 SECTOR PROJECTS)  
HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2024**

**Venue: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira  
Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003  
through Video Conferencing (VC)**

**(i) Opening Remarks by the Chairman:** The Chairman made hearty welcome to the Committee members and appreciated the efforts of the Committee. After opening remarks, the Chairman opened the EAC meeting for further deliberations.

**(ii) Confirmation of minutes:** The EAC, having taken note that final minutes were issued after incorporating comments received from the EAC members on the minutes of its Meeting (ID: EC/AGENDA/EAC/433006/8/2024) held on 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2024 conducted through Video Conferencing (VC), confirmed the same.

**(iii)** Member Secretary informed the Members of the EAC that they may declare their conflict of interest before appraisal of any proposal and recuse from the meeting and the same shall be explicitly recorded in the Minutes of the meeting. Further, it was also informed that in case it is revealed later that in spite of the conflict of interest the Member had participated in the appraisal of the proposal, the responsibility for the same lies with the concerned Member and it may result in removal from the membership of EAC. After welcoming the Committee Members, discussion on each of the agenda items was taken up ad-seriatim.

**(iv)** Details of the proposals considered during the meeting conducted through Video Conferencing (VC), deliberations made and the

recommendations of the Committee are explained in the respective agenda items as under: -

**12<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 (Thursday)**

**Agenda No. 01**

**Proposed Development Drilling wells and Testing of Hydrocarbons in Duarmara Block in Margherita, District Tinsukia (Assam) by M/s Oilmax Energy Private Limited - Consideration of Environmental Clearance**

**[IA/AS/IND2/71746/2017, IA-J-11011/575/2017-IA-II(I)]**

The Project Proponent and the accredited Consultant M/s. Enviro Infra Solutions Pvt. Ltd. having NABET certificate no. NABET/EIA/2225/RA 0300 and validity of November 27 2025) made a detailed presentation on the salient features of the project and informed that the proposal is for Environmental Clearance for "Proposed Development Drilling wells and Testing of Hydrocarbons in Duarmara Block in Margherita, District Tinsukia (Assam) by M/s Oilmax Energy Private Limited".

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).

The proposal is for environmental clearance to the project for onshore development and production of oil & gas along with associated facilities by M/s Oilmax Energy Private Limited in an area of 8.91 sq km of Duarmara block under Duarmara PML in Margherita Tehsil of Tinsukia District of Assam for hydrocarbon prospect and gas pipeline (with associated facilities) connecting the production wells to proposed EPS through pipeline. Mines and Minerals Department of the State Government of Assam has, vide letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2017, transferred Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) for an area of 8.91 sq km from M/s Oil India Ltd to the project proponent with the same validity period, i.e., up to 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2029.

The project involves development of Nine wells for production of oil & gas from the Block, installation of Early Production System (EPS), laying of pipelines, etc. Government of India has awarded Duarmara block under Duarmara PML in Margherita Tehsil of Tinsukia District of Assam to M/s Oilmax Energy Private Limited and signed a Revenue Sharing Contract (RSC) in DSF 2016 round for the same.

**The details of products and capacity are as under:**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Production Rate (Hydrocarbons)</b>
1	CUM/day	60 - 70

Coordinates of the proposed well is given below:

<b>Name of blocks</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Coordinates</b>	
		<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
Duarmara Block	A	27°28'48.459"N	95°43'34.263"E
	B	27°27'50.569"N	95°41'28.533"E
	C	27°27'11.746"N	95°41'16.982"E
	D	27°26'7.510"N	95°42'40.725"E
DMR1		27°27'6.70"N	95°42'28.74"E
DMR-2		27°27'16.34"N	95°41'55.05"E
Well2_TD		27°27'2.61"N	95°41'57.83"E

Terms of Reference (ToR) has been issued by Ministry vide F. no IA-J-11011/575/2017-IA-II(I) dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2018. PP informed that there is no litigation pending against the proposal.

Public Hearing for the proposed project has been conducted by the Assam State Pollution Control Board on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at Community Hall, Dhekiagan, Raja Ali JFMC, Under Digboi Forest Division in Khal Gaon, during 11.30 AM chaired by Mr. Sumit Satawan, IAS, Tinsukia District. The main issues raised during the public hearing and their action plan:

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of Participants</b>	<b>Question/ Comments by Participants</b>	<b>Response/ clarification by Oilmax</b>
1	Mr.Basanta Sonowal, Local Resident	He enquired if the area which will be used for the project will be compensated properly; He also wanted to know if the EIA report can be made available to the common people.	Project proponent replied that the EIA report has been submitted to the DC office and also to the Zila Parishad Office. So, the people can get a copy of that on demand.
2	Mr.Diganta Sonowal JFMCPresident	In his speech he thanked M/s. Oilmax Energy Pvt Ltd for undertaking such a project in this area. He said that it is a blessing as the project includes various developmental measures for the local areas like school, Sports Activities etc.	Project proponent welcomed the local people for their support.
3	Mr.Ranghar Hazarika Dhekiajan Semite President.	He mentioned about the previous attempt by M/s Oilmax Energy Pvt Ltd in which he had mentioned that the preservation of the forest area and the wildlife in the same should be given priority, which he had demand even in the hearing. Moreover, he stressed that the proponent should take necessary steps to reduce man–elephant conflict by providing street light in such areas. He welcomes the project and asked for cooperation from local people and organization to give full support to this project. He also wanted assurance from the proponent that along with their own development they Should help the region for growth and development.	Project proponent assured the same and welcomed the local people for their support.

The block area available for the project is 8.91 sq km. The estimated project cost is Rs. 120 crores. Total capital cost earmarked towards environmental pollution control measures is Rs. 4.15 crores and the recurring cost (operation and maintenance) will be about Rs. 1.8 crores per annum. Industry proposes to allocate Rs. 2.40 Crores towards extended EMP (Corporate Environment Responsibility). Employment opportunity will be for 100 (direct), and 250 (indirect).

There are no National parks, Wildlife sanctuaries within 10 km distance from the block area. The Duarmara block is within reserve forest. Doom Dooma river is flowing through the block area.

Ambient air quality monitoring was carried out at 8 locations during December 2017 to March 2018 and one additional season March to May 2024, and the baseline data indicates ranges of concentrations as: PM<sub>10</sub> (22.8-50.1 µg/m<sup>3</sup>). PM<sub>2.5</sub> (12.2-26.1 µg/m<sup>3</sup>), SO<sub>2</sub> (<5-6.5 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) and NO<sub>x</sub> (6.6-14.1 µg/m<sup>3</sup>).

### **Summary of One additional Season (March to May 2024):**

**PM<sub>10</sub>:** The maximum and minimum concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub> were recorded as 60.9 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 24.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup> respectively. The maximum concentration was recorded at the Balijan (AAQ7) and the minimum concentration was recorded at Milan nagar (AAQ5). The average concentrations were ranged between 31.2 to 41.2 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

**PM<sub>2.5</sub>:** The maximum and minimum concentrations for PM<sub>2.5</sub> were recorded as 27.6 µg /m<sup>3</sup> and 10.1µg / m<sup>3</sup> respectively. The maximum concentration was recorded at the Balijan (AAQ7) and the minimum concentration was recorded at Milan nagar (AAQ5). The average values were observed to be in the range of 14.1 to 17.3 µg /m<sup>3</sup>.

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** The maximum and minimum SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were recorded as 7.5 µg /m<sup>3</sup> and BDL (<5.0 µg /m<sup>3</sup>). The maximum concentration was recorded at Pengeri (AAQ4) and the minimum concentration was recorded at almost all locations. The average values were observed to be in the range of <5.0 µg /m<sup>3</sup> to 6.0 µg /m<sup>3</sup>.

**NO<sub>x</sub>:** The maximum and minimum NO<sub>x</sub> concentrations were recorded as 11.1 µg /m<sup>3</sup> and 7.8 µg /m<sup>3</sup>. The maximum concentration was recorded at DuarmaraGaon2 (AAQ8) and the minimum concentration was recorded at Milan nagar (AAQ5). The average values were observed to be in the range of 8.9 to 10.4 µg / m<sup>3</sup>.

**HC (methane and non-methane) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs):** The HC and VOCs at all the location were observed below detection limit.

The concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO and other parameters are observed to be well within the standards prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for Industrial, Rural, Residential and Other area.

AAQ modeling study for point source emissions indicates that the maximum incremental GLCs after the proposed project would be 0.48 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, 0.105 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 0.39 µg/m<sup>3</sup> with respect to PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>. The resultant concentrations are within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Total fresh water requirement is 20 cum/day, proposed to be met from bore well. Effluent of 4 cum/day quantity will be treated through mobile ETP system. There will be no discharge of treated/untreated waste water from the unit, and thus ensuring Zero Liquid Discharge.

Power requirement for operation will be 130 KWH proposed to meet from captive sources. DG sets (3 X 2000 KVA & 1 x 250 KVA) shall be used as standby during developmental drilling activities.

#### **Details of Process emissions generation and its management:**

There is no process emissions generation.

#### **Details of solid waste/Hazardous waste generation and its management:**

Drill cutting will be separated from water based mud (WBM) and unusable drilling fluid will be stored in HDPE lined pit for solar drying for temporary storage. The cuttings/mud residues so stored will then be treated and disposed in accordance with CPCB regulations specified for onshore oil & gas industry.

#### **Capital cost and recurring cost of EMP are given below:**

Cost of EMP during development drilling shall be INR 35 lacs for each well which mainly includes rent of mobile ETP, waste management, environment monitoring, audit etc. OEPL also earmarked another 30 Lacs for EPS facility which include mobile ETP system, waste management, environment monitoring, audit etc. Cost of civil construction & other

facilities for waste management, compensation to be paid for land and other losses, PPE, site restoration, etc shall be additional.

**Details of CER with proposed activities and budgetary allocation:**

The project proponent has confirmed the expenditure towards CER @ 2% of the total project cost.

Stage-I FC with file no. 3AS B114/ 2022-GHY/4441-42 was granted on 29.12.2023. Details are given below:

- The project involves diversion of forest area of 9.31 ha in the Duarmara Block. Application for diversion of the forest land for non-forestry purpose has been submitted as per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- The proposal was considered in 09<sup>th</sup> EAC (Ind-II) meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 wherein EAC recommended the project for grant of EC subject to submission of Stage –I FC as the proposal involves diversion of forest area of 9.31 ha in the Duarmara Block.
- As per recommendation of EAC, ADS was raised to submit Stage- I FC on 19.09.2019. PP has submitted Stage I FC for diversion of 3.92 Ha. However, the said Stage – I FC is recommended subject to court case Dr. Kashmiri Kakati Vs Union of India & Ors in O.A. No. 19 of 2014 as the proposed drilling area is falling in the area of Dihing – Patkai Elephant reserve and other elephant corridors.

The proposal was earlier considered by the EAC (Ind-2) in its meeting held on 24.04.2024 wherein EAC deferred the proposal and desired certain requisite information/inputs. Information desired by the EAC and responses submitted by the project proponent is as under:

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>ADS by MOEFCC</b>	<b>Reply of PP</b>
1.	PP shall provide new approval on Drilling Plan from the DGH as the current plan of drilling was till 2019 which is no more valid to proceed further drilling.	Minutes of meeting for approval of Drilling Plan from the DGH with Letter no. AA/ONDSF/DUARMARA/2016 dated 22/05/2024 has been submitted.
2.	PP shall ensure that treated/ effluent will not be discharged to	There is no process emissions generation. Drill cutting will be

	nearby water bodies and natural streams.	separated from water based mud (WBM) and unusable drilling fluid will be stored in HDPE lined pit for solar drying for temporary storage. The cuttings/mud residues so stored will then be treated and disposed in accordance with CPCB regulations specified for onshore oil & gas industry. There will be no discharge of treated/untreated waste water from the unit, and thus ensuring Zero Liquid Discharge. Affidavit mentioning that treated/ effluent will not be discharged to nearby water bodies and natural streams has been submitted.
3.	As per recommendation of EAC meeting held on 19.09.2019 and extant rule position as per Ministry's OM dated 19th June 2014, Project Proponent was required to submit Stage- I FC within a maximum period of 18 months for issue of EC. However, PP submitted Stage-I FC on 29.12.2023 after a gap of more than 4 years.	Stage-I FC with file no. 3AS B114/2022-GHY/4441-42 on 29.12.2023 has been submitted.
4.	Further, EAC noted that the Stage-I FC has been issued subject to the outcome of the court case Dr. Kashmira Kakati Vs Union of India &Ors in O.A. No. 19 of 2014.	Outcome of the court case Dr. Kashmira Kakati Vs Union of India &Ors in O.A. No. 19 of 2014 will be abide in the Stage-I FC and in the Environmental Clearance accordingly.
5.	As per the discussion held in the meeting, in view of long gap of more than four years, PP was asked to carry out a fresh baseline data collection of 3 months. Further, PP has been given relaxation for PH.	Fresh base line study has been done from March to May 2024. Base line study report along with laboratory test result has been submitted.
6.	Regarding proximity of eco-	The proposed area is more than 10



	sensitive area, PP has reported that the proposed area is more than 10 km away from the 'area under dispute' in the court case Dr. Kashmira Kakati Vs Union of India &Ors in O.A. No. 19 of 2014 which is related to the Dihing - Patkai Elephant Reserve.	km away from the 'area under dispute' in the court case Dr. Kashmira Kakati Vs Union of India &Ors in O.A. No. 19 of 2014 which is related to the Dihing - Patkai Elephant Reserve. Toposheet Map showing the Coordinates has been submitted.
7.	EAC opined that the above mentioned corridor area cannot be fixed and may vary after the gap of 7 years. Accordingly, PP was asked to incorporate and submit the GIS-based corridor area data together with fresh baseline data of 3 months.	GIS-based corridor area data together with fresh baseline data of 3 months has been submitted.

The proposal was earlier considered by the EAC (Ind-2) in its meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 wherein EAC deferred the proposal and it was informed to submit the Additional Details sought by EAC. Information desired by the EAC and responses submitted by the project proponent is as under:

<b>S.No</b>	<b>ADS Points</b>	<b>ADS Compliance</b>
1.	The project proponent shall obtain NOC from M/s ABC Techno labs India Pvt. Ltd. for utilizing their work submitted on the Parivesh Portal.	M/s ABC Techno labs India Pvt. Ltd has requested full payment prior to issue NOC. 100 % payment has been disbursed by PP. However, NOC has not been issued thus causing undue delay. Affidavit by PP regarding NOC for utilizing their work is submitted along with proof of Payment.
2.	The project proponent shall also furnish authentic document engaging new consultant M/s. Enviro Infra Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Authorization Letter engaging new consultant M/s. Enviro Infra Solutions Pvt. Ltd. is submitted.
3.	M/s. Enviro Infra Solutions Pvt. Ltd. shall review all the Annexures, PH MOM, EIA/EMP and all documents submitted by M/s ABC Techno labs India Pvt Ltd and incorporate changes as applicable. The M/s. Enviro Infra Solutions Pvt. Ltd. shall also	M/s. Enviro Infra Solutions Pvt. Ltd. has reviewed all the Annexures, PH MOM, EIA/EMP and all documents submitted by M/s ABC Techno labs India Pvt Ltd changes as applicable work done by the previous consultant and own the data. And Undertaking for the same is submitted.

	submit undertaking that they have reviewed all the work done by the previous consultant and own the data. Further, in future, they shall be responsible for all the work done.	
4.	M/s. Enviro Infra Solutions Pvt. Ltd. shall now submit an addendum to the EIA report for all the additional information sought on meeting dated 24 <sup>th</sup> April, 2024.	An addendum to the EIA report for all the additional information sought on meeting dated 24 <sup>th</sup> April, 2024 is submitted.

EAC noted that PP has changed the EIA/EMP Consultant for the instant proposal. Accordingly, PP has submitted the revised EIA/EMP report reviewed by the newly engaged consultant M/s. Enviro Infra Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (NABET certificate no. NABET/EIA/2225/RA 0300 and validity of November 27 2025) together with all the Annexures, PH MOM, EIA/EMP and all documents previously submitted by M/s ABC Techno labs India Pvt. Ltd. The newly engaged Consultant M/s. Enviro Infra Solutions Pvt. Ltd. has owned the data of EIA/EMP Report. Further, PP informed during the presentation that NOC for EIA/EMP Report has been obtained from the previous consultant M/s ABC Techno labs India Pvt. Ltd. EAC was satisfied from the above submission made by the Project Proponent.

During deliberations, EAC discussed following issues:

- PP shall submit Minutes of Meeting held for the approval of drilling plan duly signed by Director General (DG) or his formal letter to be submitted.
- PP shall submit Wildlife Conservation Plan duly approved by Chief Wildlife Warden.
- EAC noted that the forest land involved in the proposal is 9.31 Ha. However, PP has submitted diversion of forest land (Stage-I approval) of 3.92 Ha. Further, EAC noted that the block area PP has mentioned the Block area of 8.91 Ha which is not aligning with the proposed Forest land required. PP shall submit proper justification for the same.
- PP shall submit capital cost and recurring cost for EMP with all the details in tabulated form.
- PP shall submit details of CER activities with targets, budget allocation etc. in tabulated form.

- EAC noted that as per the proposal submitted, nine wells are to be drilled and developed; however, PP has provided the coordinates of only for seven wells. Therefore, PP shall submit revised locations/coordinates of nine wells.

**Accordingly, proposal was deferred for submission of additional information.**

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**List of the Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry-2) members participated during Video Conferencing (VC) meeting**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name and Address</b>	<b>Position</b>
1.	Shri S. C. Mann	Chairman
2.	Dr. J. S. Sharma	Member
3.	Prof. Y. V. Rami Reddy	Member
4.	Dr. Onkar Nath Tiwari	Member
5.	Shri. J.S. Kamyotra	Member
6.	Dr. Rahul Ramesh Rao Mungikar	Member
7.	Dr. Sanjay V. Patil	Member
8.	Dr. Vimal Kumar Hatwal, Scientist 'E'	Member Secretary
<b>MoEFCC</b>		
9.	Dr. Mahendra Phulwaria	Scientist 'C'

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