

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

Dated: 24.10.2024

**Meeting ID: IA/IND2/13626/15/10/2024
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE
(INDUSTRY-2 SECTOR PROJECTS)
HELD ON 15th October, 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/697748/9/2024) held on 23rd September, 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: -

15th October, 2024 (Tuesday)

Agenda No. 01

Proposed Eleven (9 Proposed + 2 Existing) 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 27th November, 2025) made a detailed presentation on the salient features of the project and informed that the proposal is for Environmental Clearance for proposed eleven (9 proposed + 2 existing) 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 26th 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 25th November, 2029.

The details of products and capacity are as under:

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

Co-ordinates of the proposed 9 wells to be drilled are given below:

S.No.	Well Name	Well Location (Latitude)#	Well Location (Longitude)#
1.	Well-1	27°27'5.81"N	95°42'27.75"E
2.	Well-2	27°27'16.15"N	95°41'53.96"E
3.	Well-3	27°27'14.97"N	95°41'53.70"E
4.	Well-4	27°27'15.53"N	95°41'55.82"E
5.	Well-5	27°27'14.30"N	95°41'55.32"E
6.	Well-6	27°27'5.50"N	95°42'27.92"E
7.	Well-7	27°27'6.05"N	95°42'26.93"E
8.	Well-8	27°27'4.97"N	95°42'27.96"E
9.	Well-9	27°27'6.73"N	95°42'27.85"E

Below are the PML block boundary and existing well locations co-ordinates:

Name of blocks	Points	Coordinates	
		Latitude	Longitude
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 22nd 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 28th January 2019 at Community Hall, Dhekiajan, 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:

Sl. No.	Name of Participants	Question/ Comments by Participants	Response/ clarification by Oilmax
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 Development 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 (10 crore/well=110 Cr +10 Crore EPS facility). Total capital cost earmarked towards environmental pollution control measures

is Rs. 4.30 crores and the recurring cost (operation and maintenance) will be about Rs. 0.6 crores per annum. Industry proposes to allocate Rs. 3.00 Crores towards extended EMP (Corporate Environment Responsibility) Employment opportunity will be for 45-50 (Construction phase), and 100 (operation Phase).

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:PM₁₀ (22.8-50.1 µg/m³). PM_{2.5} (12.2-26.1 µg/m³), SO₂ (<5-6.5 µg/m³) and NO_x (6.6-14.1 µg/m³).

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

PM₁₀: The maximum and minimum concentrations of PM₁₀ were recorded as 60.9 µg/m³ and 24.0 µg/m³ 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/m³.

PM_{2.5}: The maximum and minimum concentrations for PM_{2.5} were recorded as 27.6 µg /m³ and 10.1µg / m³ 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 /m³.

SO₂: The maximum and minimum SO₂ concentrations were recorded as 7.5 µg /m³ and BDL (<5.0 µg /m³). 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 /m³ to 6.0 µg /m³.

NO_x: The maximum and minimum NO_x concentrations were recorded as 11.1 µg /m³ and 7.8 µg /m³. 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 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

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_{10} , $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, SO_2 , NO_x , 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 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, 0.105 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 0.39 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ with respect to PM_{10} , SO_x and NO_x . The resultant concentrations are within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Total fresh water requirement is 20 cum/day proposed to be met from private tankers. Effluent of 4 cum/day quantity will be treated through mobile ETP system. There will be no discharge of treated/untreated wastewater 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:

Sl. No.	Activity	Capital Budget Allocation in Lacs	Recurring Budget Allocation in Lacs.
1.	Environment Management System (Air and noise monitoring, water treatment and Hazardous waste)	40.0	20.0
2.	Occupational Health (Health Checkup, PPE, trainings, firefighting equipment, etc.)	20.0	10.0
3.	Installation of Solar panel to school buildings & panchayat building.	30.0	10.0
4.	Green Belt Development	20.0	10.0
5.	Rainwater Harvesting	20.0	10.0
6.	CER	300.0	-
Total		430	60

Details of CER with proposed activities and budgetary allocation:

S. No.	Activity	Thrust Area	Budget (Rs. In Lakhs)
1.	Providing 04 nos. water bore wells, pump with motor in Government School Pengeri, Dhekiajan Madhabdev Lower Primary Government School, and Bapapung Lower Primary Government School, Digboi.	Sanitation	50
2.	Providing skills development training like computer education and distribution of books at Government School Pengeri, Dhekiajan Madhabdev Lower Primary Government School and Bapapung Lower Primary Government School, Digboi.	Education	50
3.	Upgradation of chemistry/biology labs and infrastructure development in Sowmar Vidyapith Higher Secondary Government School, Digboi and Digboi	Education	60

	College.		
4.	Provision of approx. 100 nos. of solar panel lights at Government School Pengeri, Dhekiajan Madhabdev Lower Primary Government School, Bapapung Lower Primary Government School Digboi, Sowmar Vidyapith Higher Secondary Government School, Digboi and Digboi College.	Social	60
5.	Rainwater harvesting system in Government School Pengeri, Dhekiajan Madhabdev Lower Primary Government School and Bapapung Lower Primary Government School, Digboi.	Social	40
6.	Plantation in community areas with native species in consultation with Forest Department. Approx. 8,000 no. of trees will be planted.	Ecological	40
	Total		300.00

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 09th EAC (Ind-II) meeting held on 26th-28th 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. The 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:

Sl. No.	ADS by MOEFCC	Reply of PP
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 nearby water bodies and natural streams.	There is no process emissions generation. 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. There will be no discharge of treated/untreated wastewater 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	Outcome of the court case Dr. Kashmira Kakati Vs Union of

	subject to the outcome of the court case Dr. Kashmiri Kakati Vs Union of India &Ors in O.A. No. 19 of 2014.	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-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. Kashmiri Kakati Vs Union of India &Ors in O.A. No. 19 of 2014 which is related to the Dihing - Patkai Elephant Reserve.	The proposed area is more than 10 km away from the 'area under dispute' in the court case Dr. Kashmiri 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 25th 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:

S.No	ADS Points	ADS Compliance
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 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.	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.
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 th April, 2024.	An addendum to the EIA report for all the additional information sought on meeting dated 24 th April, 2024 is submitted.

The proposal was again considered by the EAC (Ind-2) in its meeting held on 12th September, 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:

S.No	ADS Points	ADS Compliance
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1.	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.	Mr. Sachiv Kumar (Additional DG-Development) is the authorized representative to sign the MCR meeting for Duarmara wherein the drilling schedule was approved. The DG has authorized ADG as Signatory of 10 th Management Committee Resolution (MCR) meeting and a mail confirming the same has been send directly to MOEF&CC.
2.	PP shall submit Wildlife Conservation Plan duly approved by Chief Wildlife Warden.	Wildlife Management Plan duly approved by Principal Chief Conservator, Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden of the Forest has been submitted.
3.	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.	FC proposal was submitted for 9.31 Ha of forest land area. However, during the process of FC, Forest department has only accepted 3.92 ha of forest diversion as all the wells to be drilled lies in 3.92 Ha of forest land only and accordingly Stage-I Forest clearance has been given for 3.92 Ha. Please also note that PP mentioned the total PML block area awarded by DGH is 8.91 Sq Km (891 ha) and not 8.91 ha. Hence, the forest land requirement is within the block limit.
4.	PP shall submit capital cost and recurring cost for EMP with all the details in tabulated form.	PP submitted capital cost and recurring cost for EMP with all the details in tabulated form.
5.	PP shall submit details of CER activities with targets, budget allocation etc. in tabulated form.	PP submitted details of CER activities with targets, budget allocation etc. in tabulated form.
6.	EAC noted that as per the proposal submitted, nine wells are to be drilled and	PP submitted that all the nine wells shall be drilled within the allocated land of 3.92 ha. This is a pad-

	developed; however, PP has provided the coordinates of only for seven wells. Therefore, PP shall submit revised locations/coordinates of nine wells.	based drilling program where 4 wells will be drilled from Duarmara-1 site and 5 wells will be drilled from Duarmara-2 site. Detailed co-ordinates were provided by PP.
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EAC was satisfied with the response of PP.

During deliberations, EAC discussed following issues:

- 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.
- The proproject proponent has informed that though application for Stage-I FC was made for diversion of 9.31 ha approval has been granted for 3.92 ha vide letter 3AS B114/ 2022-GHY/4441-42 dated 29.12.2023. It was informed that no drilling wells were reduced due to reduction in diversion of forest area only path way/approach road has reduced.
- PP shall submit revised CER plan for 3 years providing targets, activities, budget & villages covered, ensuring that medical camp and mid day meal are not part of CER. Accordingly, PP submitted the same.
- PP shall submit an undertaking that there is no waterbody in the vicinity of the proposed project. Accordingly, PP submitted the same.
- EAC noted that, the said Stage – I FC is recommended subject to court case Dr. Kashmira 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. PP has argued that the proposed area is more than 10 km away from the 'area under dispute' in the said court case. In this regard, EAC suggested the inputs of the Project Elephant division may be sought for inputs and any other additional safegaurds since no specific reason was mentioned for

relating the the instant proposal to Dr. Kashmira Kakati Vs Union of India & Ors in O.A. No. 19 of 2014.

The committee was satisfied with the response provided by PP on above information. Further, Committee desired to submit the above information in writing. Accordingly, PP has submitted the desired information and EAC found the information/commitments satisfactory.

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 the EIA/EMP report prepared and submitted by the Consultant accredited by the QCI/ NABET on behalf of the Project Proponent. 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. The Committee has found the baseline data is within NAAQ standards. The Committee has deliberated the action plan proposed by the project proponent to arrest the incremental GLC due to the project. The Committee has also deliberated on the CER plan and found to be addressing the issues in the study area. The EAC has deliberated the proposal and has made due diligence in the process as notified under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended from time to time and accordingly made the recommendations to the proposal. The Experts Members of the EAC have found the proposal in order and have **recommended** for grant of environmental clearance.

The environmental clearance granted to the project/activity is strictly under the provisions of the EIA Notification 2006 and its amendments. It does not tantamount/construe to approvals/consent/ permissions etc. required to be obtained or standards/conditions to be followed under any other Acts/ Rules/ Subordinate legislations, etc., as may be applicable to the project. The project proponent shall obtain 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, from the State Pollution Control Board, prior to construction & operation of the project.

The EAC, after detailed deliberations, **recommended** the project for grant of environmental clearance, subject to compliance of terms and conditions as under, and general terms of conditions at Annexure: -

1. The project proponent shall abide by all orders and judicial pronouncements made from time to time in the case filed in Gauhati High Court /NGT/ any other Judicial pronouncement. Further, the clearance is subject to court case Dr. Kashmira 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.
2. The project proponent shall prepare a site specific conservation plan and wildlife management plan for Schedule-1 species in the study area, as applicable to the project, and submit to Chief Wildlife Warden for approval. The recommendations shall be implemented in consultation with the State Forest/Wildlife Department in a time bound manner.
3. Industry shall obtain Stage-II Forest Clearance for the proposed diversion of 3.92 ha forest land.
4. The company shall comply with all the environmental protection measures and safeguards proposed in the documents submitted to the Ministry. All the recommendations made in the EIA/EMP in respect of environmental management, and risk mitigation measures relating to the project shall be implemented.
5. No drilling activities shall be carried out within 500 m from the water bodies.
6. No pipelines or its part shall be laid in the Forest land/Protected Area without prior permission/approval from the Competent Authority.
7. Total fresh water requirement shall not exceed 20 m³/day which will be met from private tankers. Prior permission shall be obtained from the concerned regulatory authority.

8. The project proponent will treat and reuse the treated water within the factory and no waste or treated water shall be discharged outside the premises. Mobile ETP coupled with RO shall be installed to reuse the treated water in drilling system. Size of the waste shall be equal to the total volume+volume of drill cutting and volume of discarded mud if any. Two feet free board may be left to accommodate rainwater. There shall be separate storm water channel and rainwater shall not be allowed to mix with wastewater. Alternatively, if possible, pit less drilling be practiced instead of above. Produced water generated shall be treated within the premises as per the Standards for Liquid Effluent of Oil Drilling and Gas Extraction Industry notified in The Environment (Protection) Rules 1986 and shall not be discharged untreated anywhere or in any stream.

9. During production, storage and handling, the fugitive emission of methane, if any, shall be monitored using Infra-red camera/ appropriate technology. No flaring shall be carried out during operation phase.

10. The project proponent also to ensure trapping/storing of the CO₂ generated, if any, during the process and handling.

11. Approach road shall be made pucca to minimize generation of suspended dust.

12. The project proponent 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.

13. The company shall construct the garland drain 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.

14. 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 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.

15. 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.

16. The project proponent shall take necessary measures to prevent fire hazards, containing oil spill and soil remediation as needed. At fixed installations or plants use of 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.

17. The project proponent 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.

18. Blow Out Preventer system shall be installed to prevent well blowouts during drilling operations.

19. On completion of the project, necessary measures shall be taken for safe plugging of wells with secured enclosures to restore the drilling site to the original condition. The same shall be confirmed by the concerned regulatory authority from environment safety angle. In case of hydrocarbon not found economically viable, a full abandonment plan shall be implemented for the drilling site in accordance with the applicable DGH / Indian Petroleum Regulations.

20. The entire area will be restored back to its original form and tree plantation shall be carried out to further increase the density of plantation. Trees shall be planted in the Green Belt under the campaign #Plant4Mother #एक पेड़ माँ के नाम and uploaded on the MeriLiFE portal (<https://merilife.nic.in/>).

21. PP proposed to allocate Rs. 3.0 Crores towards Extended EMP (CER) which shall be spent as submitted in CER plan within 3 years. Further, all the proposed activities under CER shall be carried out in consultation with District Administration.

22. No lead acid batteries shall be utilized in the project/site.

23. No flood lights shall be used for operation in in night time.
24. Occupational health surveillance of the workers shall be carried out as per the prevailing Acts and Rules. All workers & employees shall be provided with required safety kits/mask for personal protection.
25. Oil content in the drill cuttings shall be monitored and report & shall sent to the Ministry's Regional Office.
26. The project proponent 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.
27. PP shall sensitize and create awareness among the people working within the project area as well as its surrounding area on the ban of Single Use Plastic in order to ensure the compliance of Notification published by MOEFCC on 12th August, 2021. A report along with photographs on the measures taken shall also be included in the six-monthly compliance report being submitted to concerned authority.

ANNEXURE

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

- (i) No further expansion or modifications in the plant, other than mentioned in the EIA Notification, 2006 and its amendments, shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/SEIAA, as applicable. 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/SEIAA, as applicable, to assess the adequacy of conditions imposed and to add additional environmental protection measures required, if any.
- (ii) The energy source for lighting purpose shall be preferably LED based, or advanced having preference in energy conservation and environment betterment.
- (iii) 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 the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 Rules, 1989 viz. 75 dBA (day time) and 70 dBA (night time).
- (iv) The company shall undertake all relevant measures for improving the socio-economic conditions of the surrounding area. CER activities shall be undertaken by involving local villages and administration and shall be implemented. The company shall undertake eco-developmental measures including community welfare measures in the project area for the overall improvement of the environment.
- (v) The company shall earmark sufficient funds towards capital cost and recurring cost per annum to implement the conditions stipulated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change as well as the State Government along with the implementation schedule for all the conditions stipulated herein. The funds so earmarked for environment management/ pollution control measures shall not be diverted for any other purpose.
- (vi) A copy of the clearance letter shall be sent by the project proponent to concerned Panchayat, Zilla Parishad/Municipal Corporation, Urban local Body and the local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/ representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal.

- (vii) The project proponent shall also submit six monthly reports on the status of compliance of the stipulated Environmental Clearance conditions including results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) to the respective Regional Office of MoEF&CC, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and SPCB. A copy of Environmental Clearance and six monthly compliance status report shall be posted on the website of the company.
- (viii) The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31st March in Form-V as is mandated shall be submitted 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 along with the status of compliance of environmental clearance conditions and shall also be sent to the respective Regional Offices of MoEF&CC by e-mail.
- (ix) 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/Committee and may also be seen at Website of the Ministry and at <https://parivesh.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 concerned Regional Office of the Ministry.
- (x) The 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 start of the project.
- (xi) This Environmental clearance is granted subject to final outcome of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble High Court, Hon'ble NGT and any other Court of Law, if any, as may be applicable to this project.

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

S. No.	Name and Address	Position
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 Rameshrao Mungikar	Member
7.	Dr. Sanjay V. Patil	Member
8.	Dr. Seshagiri Rao Ambati (only one day dated 15.10.2024)	Member
9.	Dr. Vimal Kumar Hatwal, Scientist 'E'	Member Secretary
MoEFCC		
10.	Dr. Mahendra Phulwaria	Scientist 'C'
11.	Mr. Kanaka Teja	Research Assistant
