

STATE ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY, ASSAM Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India BAMUNIMAIDAM, GUWAHATI 781021, ASSAM

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the SEIAA, Assam held on 05/01/2024

The 4th Meeting of the SEIAA, Assam was held in the Conference Hall of the Pollution Control Board, Assam, Guwahati-21 on 05/01/2024 at 2.30 p.m.

The following Members were present

- Sri Rajesh Kemprai, Chairman, SEIAA, Assam.
- Smti. Neera Daulagupu, ACS, Member Secretary, SEIAA, Assam.
- Dr. Sarat Phukan, Member, SEIAA, Assam.

Sri Rajesh Kemprai, Chairman, SEIAA, Assam presided over the meeting.

Agenda Item 1.

Actions on the recommendations of 3rd Meeting of SEAC held on 1st December, 2023.

1. Proposal for Amendment of the EC for Drilling of 45 Exploratory wells in Upper Assam Shelf (South) area encompassing Jorhat & Golaghat District, Assam proposed by the ONGC Ltd. Proposal No. SIA/ AS/ IND2 /306462 /2023 (SEIAA.1294/2020)

SEAC Resolution 3/2:

The facts of the case in brief is that the ONGC Ltd. was granted with the EC as had applied for on 16/3/2021 for drilling locations THAA, TJAA and BRAK. ONGC Ltd, subsequently, had also applied for amendment of the EC on 06.01.2023 for inclusion of 7 (Seven) new drilling locations namely KSAK, MJAA, TLAA, ELAI, DPAB, MJAA and KHBK. Accordingly, amended EC was granted on 17.02.2023.

For the sake of brevity, Resolutions adopted in the SEAC meeting dated 6/2/2021 and dated 20/02/2021 are reproduced below:

"Resolution 15/10:

The project proposal asking EC for "Drilling of 45 exploratory wells in Upper Assam Shelf (South) area encompassing Jorhat and Golaghat, Assam under Golaghat Forest Division submitted by the ONGC Ltd. is discussed in the meeting. The proponent has given a short power point presentation on the project proposal before the Hon'ble members of the committee elaborating the different activities proposed.

Due discussion is made in presence of the proponent and it is agreed to provide the following additional information pertaining to the proposal for reconsideration of the project.

Land use land cover map with report and also showing block boundaries of the leases area, and well sites proposed in 1; 50000 map scale.

Relief map in the form of shaded relief or classified.

Satellite images from which land use map prepared with date of acquisition and block boundary marked.

The PP be requested to furnish the above information at their earliest opportunity.

Smti. Neera Daulagupu, ACS, Secretary, Env& Forest, Assam

cum Member Secretary, SEIAA, Assam.

Dr. Sarat Phukan, Member, SEIAA, Assam Sri Rajesh Kemprai, Chairman, SEIAA, Assam.

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Resolution 16/41:

The project proposal against "Drilling of 45 exploratory wells in Upper Assam Shelf (South) area encompassing Jorhat and Golaghat, Assam under Golaghat Forest Division proposed by the Oil & Natural Gas Co. Ltd (ONGC) has been discussed in the SEAC meeting. Necessary scrutiny of the documents including the reply of ADS furnished by the proponent are made. After a thread bare discussion the committee approved the proposal for issuance EC incorporating the standard terms and condition applicable in this respect. The proponent shall have to furnish requisite compliance in time and follow the guide line in this respect issued from time to time."

Resolution 3/2:

The PP has applied for amendment of the EC and the requisite documents are submitted on 17.11.2023 comprising of Form 4 (uploaded), the EMP, the PFR and the proponent has also made a brief presentation to that effect. Primarily, the proponent has sought amendment for inclusion of the drilling location B-BR-22 (BR stands for Borholla oilfield) in the EC already granted for 10 locations out of 45 locations on 16.03.2021 and the drilling location B-BR-22 is falling in non-forest land, as released presently. The Geo co-ordinates for B-BR-22: Lat: 260 26'28.85" Long: 920 08'30.52".

The Committee after going through the presentation and due consideration of the documents are of the considered opinion to recommend the SEIAA for grant of the amended EC for the particular location in question, falling in non-forest exploratory location viz. B-BR-22 subject to strict adherence of the general terms and conditions stipulated and as applicable in such projects as per the prevailing guide lines issued by the MoEF & CC, GoI or any direction issued by the competent authority from time to time.

SEIAA Resolution 4/1:

ADS is replied by PP on dtd. 03/01/2024 and approved for issuance of amended EC. The terms and conditions stipulated in the earlier EC shall be complied with.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from the Chair.

(Sri Rajesh Kemprai)

Chairman,

SEIAA, Assam

Smti. Neera Daulagupu, ACS, Secretary, Env& Forest, Assam cum Member Secretary, SEIAA, Assam. Dr. Sarat Phukan, Member, SEIAA, Assam Sri Rajesh Kemprai, Chairman, SEIAA, Assam.

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