



OFFICE OF THE STATE ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY, ASSAM  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
**BAMUNIMADAM, GUWAHATI-21.**

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Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Sitting) of the State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) held on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 from 2.00 PM to 3.00 PM in the Conference Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Pollution Control Board, Assam.

**List of the Hon'ble Members / Officials present in the meeting:**

Sl no.	Name	Designation	Signature
1	Sri Jatindra Sarma, IFS (Retd.)	Chairman	Sd/-
2	Dr. Bijoy Sankar Goswami	Member	Sd/
3	Dr. Rahul Mahanta	Member	Sd/-
4	Sri. Arup Barpujary	Member	Sd/-
5	Shri Shantanoo Bhattacharyya	Member	Sd/-
6	Dr. S.K. Dutta	Member Secretary	Sd/

At the very outset, the Member Secretary, SEAC welcomed the Hon'ble Chairman, SEAC and all the Members of the Committee. He briefed the house about the agenda for the meeting as circulated and requested the esteemed members for their thorough participation and deliberation in the process of disposal of the pending cases at hand and also the recommendations to be made to the SEIAA, Assam by the Committee.

As per the agenda, the august Committee duly deliberated, discussed and furnished their opinion / views which are unanimously accepted, recommended for further course of requisite action by the SEIAA as quoted here under:

1. EC for Exploratory drilling for Forest Location TNAA by A&AA Basin, ONGC in Cachar District PML, Assam Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited: SEIAA.3536/2023 (SIA/AS/IND2/404297/2022)

It is a proposal seeking grant of the Environmental Clearance (EC), as applied by the proponent / applicant being Ms Lily P Chawang on behalf of the ONGC, Jorhat on 11.08.2023.

**Brief observations about the Project:**

The project is about Exploratory drilling for Forest Location TNAA by A & AA Basin, ONGC in Sonai Reserve Forest for the Petroleum Mining Lease (PML), Assam in an area involving 6.09 Ha of which land requirement for drilling purposes is 3.24 Ha and for approach road to the site is 2.85 Ha. The area in question is falling in the Sonai Reserved Forest under the DFO, Cachar Division, Silchar. and, reportedly, anticipating Forest Clearance (1<sup>st</sup> Stage) in terms of the provisions of the FC Act, 1980. Proposed numbers of Well is 1(one) and its depth is expected to be around 2500 m.

Initially, the application was filed online on 21.02.2022 and after scrutiny the SEIAA had asked for the EDS (Essential Documents Sought).

**Current deliberation on the Project Proposal:**

The proposal was discussed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> SEAC Meeting held on 10.11.2023. A brief presentation was made before the august Committee and updated with information. It was advised that the process of 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Forest Clearance (In Principle Approval) be completed and then to come up for the purposes of the EC. Accordingly, ADS was raised for submission of Stage I FC on 26.12.23.

Reply to the ADS raised is furnished by the ONGCL on 06.09.24 and uploaded Stage I Forest Clearance for further processing of the proposal. PP has clarified that the drilling location TNAA is falling outside the default 10 km ESZ of Barak Bhuban WLS.

**ONGCL has acquired Stage I Forest Clearance** under Section 2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 on 09/08/2024 (online proposal no FP/AS/MIN/47775/2020) for use of **6.09 ha** of Reserve Forest for exploratory drilling location TNAA in Sonai Reserve Forest under Cachar Division, Silchar. The connected papers are placed before the Committee for deliberation. .

After due diligence and appraisal the Committee is of the considered opinion for recommending grant of the EC by the SEIAA on the basis of the in principle approval of the Project by the competent authority in the MoEF &CC, Gol.

Total Project cost of the project is **40 Crore**.

**Decision:** Recommended for grant of EC for the Forest Location **TNAA**.

**Specific conditions by SEAC:**

1. 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.
2. Total fresh water requirement shall not exceed 39 m<sup>3</sup>/day will be met from ground water. Prior permission shall be obtained from the concerned regulatory authority.
3. 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 hole volume+ volume of drill cutting and volume of discarded mud if any. Two feet free board may be left to accommodate rain water. There shall be separate storm water channel and rain water shall not be allowed to mix with waste water. Alternatively, if possible pit less drilling be practiced instead of above.
4. Approach road shall be made pucca to minimize generation of suspended dust.



5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. The project proponent shall develop a contingency plan for H<sub>2</sub>S release including all necessary aspects from evacuation to resumption of normal operations. The workers shall be provided with personal H<sub>2</sub>S detectors in locations of high risk of exposure along with self-containing breathing apparatus.
11. Blow Out Preventor system shall be installed to prevent well blowouts during drilling operations.
12. 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.
13. As per the Ministry's OM dated 30.09.2020 superseding the OM dated 01.05.2018 regarding the Corporate Environmental Responsibility, and as per the action plan proposed by the project proponent to address the socio-economic and environmental issues in the study area, the project proponent, as committed, shall provide education funds in technical training centers/ support in nearby village's schools, support in health care facilities, drinking water supply and funds for miscellaneous activities like solar street lights, battery, solar panel etc., in the nearby villages. The action plan shall to be completed within time as proposed.
14. No lead acid batteries shall be utilized in the project/site.
15. 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.
16. Oil content in the drill cuttings shall be monitored and report & shall sent to the Ministry's Regional Office.



17. 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.

18. 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.

**A) CSR activities:**

- I) CSR activities shall be carried out / undertaken by the Proponent and minimum 2% of the total project cost i.e. **Rs. 80 Lakh** only, shall be earmarked for the purposes and there shall not be any deviation. The earmarked fund shall be spent accordingly and complied with in terms of the Notification No 22-65/2017-IA.III Dated 25.02.2021 issued by the MoEF &CC in the Gol.
- II) As a part of CSR activity, the Proponent in consultation with the DFO, Cachar will have to promote **Apiculture** & in the process generate employment for around **500 local forest dwellers** within 1 year and an amount of **Rs.20 L (Twenty Lakh )** only, shall be earmarked for the purpose.
- III) The Proponent in consultation with the DFO, Cachar shall promote cultivation of medicinal plants/ aromatic plants namely, **Gondhi Kacu (*Homalomena aromatica*)** and an amount of **Rs.20 L (Twenty Lakh )** only, shall be earmarked for the purpose.
- IV) The Proponent is to provide 2 (two) vehicles to the DFO, Cachar for the purposes of management of Barak Bhuban WL Sanctuary and an amount of **Rs.30 L (Thirty Lakh )** only, shall be earmarked for the purpose.
- V) Other CSR activities shall be carried out in terms of the approved EMP and compliance of the same shall be uploaded in the PARIVESH portal.

**B ) ECR (Environment Corporate Responsibility):**

**Green Belt:**

I) The proponent shall develop Green Belt around the Wells comprising 33% of the area of the project area and shall ensure planting of indigenous species of plants as are prescribed. For the purpose, the concerned DFO, Cachar may be consulted to have the quality planting materials ready in advance in the Departmental Nursery and requisite fund for the purpose should be made available to the DFO in advance.

II) The recommended species of plants in the area could be of species like Nahor (*Mesua ferrea*), Siris (*Albizia procera*), Hollock (*Terminalia myriocarpa*), Amlokhi (*Phyllanthus emblica*), Hilikha (*Terminalia chebula*), Jamun (*Syzygiumcumini*), Bhomora (*Terminalia bellirica*), Cham (*Artocarpus chaplasha*), Dimaru (*Ficus spp*), Ow Tenga (*Dillenia indica*), Thekera (*Garcinia spp*) etc etc.



III) Density of plantations shall be **1,250 plants per Hectare** and the Proponent is required to raise plantations in 33% of the area against the Well as prescribed.

IV) The proponent shall take all requisite measures to maintain natural environment in the oil fields and its surroundings are to be maintained in healthy and environment friendly conditions. All necessary measures and precautions must have to be taken by the proponent to prevent any probable / random oil spillage, discharge of effluents in the surroundings.

Compliance of the same shall duly be uploaded by the Proponent in the PARIVESH portal.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks from the Chair.




**Chairman  
SEAC, Assam**

Dated : 21.10.2024

Memo No. SEAC.33/2013/Pt.-I -A

Copy to:

- 1) The Chairman, SEIAA for favour of kind information and necessary action.
- 2) The Member Secretary, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Assam for favour of kind information and necessary action.
- 3) All Members, SEAC, Assam for favour of their kind information.
- 4) DFO, Cachar Division, Silchar for information and necessary action.
- 5) Accountant cum Cashier of the office of the SEIAA, Assam for his information.
- 6) Office copy for each of the proposals.

  
**Member Secretary  
SEAC, Assam**