



File No. J-11011/503/2011-IA II(I)

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Impact Assessment Division

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jal Wing, 3rd Floor, Aliganj,
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 25th January, 2021

To,

M/s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited,
Deendayal Urja Bhavan, 5, Nelson Mandela Marg,
Vasant Kunj, Vasant Vihar, South West, Delhi-110070

Sub: Development Drilling of 406 wells by M/s ONGC located at Mehsana, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad and Patan in Gujarat - Consideration of Environment Clearance regarding.

Sir,

This has reference to your online proposal No. IA/GJ/IND2/151758/2011 dated 17th August, 2020 for environmental clearance to the above mentioned project.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has examined the proposal for environmental clearance to development drilling of 391 wells by M/s ONGC located at Mehsana, Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad excluding 15 wells of district Patan in Gujarat dropped by the project proponent.

3. Existing land area is about 12100 m². The estimated project cost is Rs 2314.06 Crores. Total capital cost earmarked towards environmental pollution control measures is Rs 277.48 Crores and the Recurring cost (operation and maintenance) will be about Rs 49.77 Crores per annum. Total Employment will be 20-25 Persons per shift of 8 hrs, 3 shifts a day after expansion. Industry proposes to allocate Rs 7 Crores per annum towards Corporate Social Responsibility.

4. Total fresh water requirement is 25 m³/day. It will be met from nearest ONGC installation. Wastewater will be comprised of drilling wastewater and domestic wastewater. About 5 m³/day of wastewater is expected. All wastewater streams except sewage will be directed to a 1.5 mm HDPE lined pit. Wastewater collected in the pit will be clarified and left for solar drying.

5. Existing unit has 2 DG sets of 1250 kVA capacity, additionally 1 DG sets are used as standby during power failure. Stack height will be about 6.8 m (including height of trailer from ground) will be provided as per CPCB norms to the proposed DG sets.

6. The project/activity is covered under category A of item 1(b) 'Offshore and onshore oil and gas development & production' of schedule to the Environment

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Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, and requires appraisal at central level by sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee in the Ministry.

7. The Standard ToR has been issued by the Ministry for 406 development wells vide letter No.-11011/352/2016-IA-II(I); dated 15th March 2017. Off late, 15 wells of Patan district which were proposed to be drilled have been postponed because proposal is under reconsideration. Therefore, public hearing of Patan district was not carried out. Accordingly, it was decided to drop 15 wells located in Patan district from total 406 wells and it is proposed to grant EC for 391 wells located in three districts i.e. Mehsana, Gandhinagar, and Ahmedabad. Public Hearing for the proposed project has been conducted by the Gujarat Pollution Control Board on 17th January, 2020 for Mehsana district chaired by the representative of District Magistrate & Collector Mehsana, 3rd March, 2020 for Gandhinagar district chaired by Additional District Magistrate Gandhinagar and 8th March, 2020 for Ahmedabad district chaired by Additional District Magistrate Ahmedabad. The main issues raised during the public hearing are related to Land compensation, employment, CSR activities. No litigation is pending against the proposal.

8. The proposal was considered by the EAC in its 23rd meeting held on 18th September, 2020 in the Ministry, wherein the project proponent and their consultant M/s. ABC Techno Labs India Pvt Ltd presented made a detailed presentation on the salient features of the project.

9. 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 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.

10. 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 and incremental GLC due to the proposed project within NAAQ standards. The Committee has also deliberated on the CER plan and found to be addressing the issues in the study area and public hearing issues. Additional information submitted by the project proponent found to be satisfactory and addressing the concerns of the Committee. 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 (EC).

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11. 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.

12. Based on the proposal submitted by the project proponent and recommendations of the EAC (Industry-2), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords environmental clearance to the project for **development drilling of 391 wells by M/s ONGC located at Mehsana, Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad**, Gujarat under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006, and the amendments therein, subject to compliance of the terms and conditions as under:-

A. Specific Conditions:

- (i). 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.
- (ii). No pipelines or its part shall be laid in the Forest land/Protected Area without prior permission/approval from the Competent Authority.
- (iii). As proposed by the project proponent, Zero Liquid Discharge shall be ensured and no waste/treated water shall be discharged to any surface water body, sea and/or on land. Mobile ETP along with RO plant shall be installed to treat the waste water.
- (iv). During production, storage and handling, the fugitive emission of methane, if any, shall be monitored using Infra-red camera/ appropriate technology.
- (v). The project proponent also to ensure trapping/storing of the CO₂ generated, if any, during the process and handling.
- (vi). Approach road shall be made pucca to minimize generation of suspended dust.
- (vii). 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.
- (viii). Total fresh water requirement shall not exceed 25 cum/day/well. Prior permission shall be obtained from the concerned regulatory authority. 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.

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- (ix). 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.
- (x). 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.
- (xi). 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.
- (xii). 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.
- (xiii). 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.
- (xiv). Blow Out Preventer system shall be installed to prevent well blowouts during drilling operations.
- (xv). 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.
- (xvi). All the commitments made to the public during public hearing/consultation shall be satisfactorily implemented. As committed Rs. 8.77 crore shall be allocated for Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) shall be utilized for meeting the commitment of the issues of public hearing. The CER plan shall be completed before commissioning or expansion project.
- (xvii). No lead acid batteries shall be utilized in the project/site.
- (xviii). 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.
- (xix). Oil content in the drill cuttings shall be monitored and report & shall send to the Ministry's Regional Office.
- (xx). 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

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monitoring shall be available at the project site office. Remote monitoring of site should be done.

12.1. General conditions:

- (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

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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.

13. The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions, if found necessary at subsequent stages and the project proponent shall implement all the said conditions in a time bound manner. The Ministry may revoke or suspend the environmental clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not found satisfactory.

14. Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated data and failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

15. Any appeal against this environmental clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

16. The above conditions will be enforced, inter-alia under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 read with subsequent amendments therein.

17. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

31/11/2021

(Ashok Kr. Pateshwar)
Director

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Secretary, Forests & Environment Department, Government of

- Gujarat, Sachivalaya, 8th Floor, Gandhi Nagar - 382 010 (Gujarat)
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Western Zone), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, E-5, Arera Colony, Link Road -3, Bhopal - 462 016 (M P)
 3. The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi -32
 4. The Member Secretary, Gujarat State Pollution Control Board, Paryavaran Bhawan, Sector 10 A, Gandhi Nagar-382 043 (Gujarat)
 5. Monitoring Cell, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi
 6. The District Collector, District Mehsana, Gandhinagar & Ahmedabad, Gujarat
 7. Guard File/Monitoring File/Parivesh portal/Record File

8/11/2021

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