

F. No. J-11011/410/2012- IA II (I)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment and Forests  
(I.A. Division)

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Dated 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2013

To,

The Basin Manager  
Frontier Basin  
M/s ONGC Ltd.  
"Himalaya" IDT Complex, Kaulagarh Road,  
ONGC, Dehradun- 248 195

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**Subject: Additional Exploratory Drilling (01 well) in Kangra-Mandi under PEL Block, Himachal Pradesh by M/s ONGC Ltd. - regarding amendment in**

**Ref. : Your letter no. ONGC/CHSE/EC/F Basin/2012 dated 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2012.**

Sir,

Kindly refer to your letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2012, wherein you have requested for amendment in the environmental clearance letter J-11011/160 (Kangra-Mandi)/2007-IA II (I) dated 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 regarding above mentioned subject.

2.0 It is noted that Ministry vide letter no. J-11011/160 (Kangra-Mandi)/2007-IA II (I) dated 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 has accorded environmental clearance for 2 wells. Public hearing of the project was held on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2009. Exploratory drilling of two wells (JMI-8/9) was completed on 13.06.2012. Hydrocarbon gas was detected in both two wells. It is noted that the present proposal is for additional exploratory drilling (01 well) in Kangra-Mandi under PEL Block, Himachal Pradesh by M/s ONGC Ltd. Block area is 1828 m<sup>2</sup>. No wildlife sanctuary is located within 10 Km distance of the proposed well. No forest land is involved. Water based mud will be used in proposed drilling. Water requirement from ground water source will be 20-30 m<sup>3</sup>/day. Effluent generation will be 25 m<sup>3</sup>/day. Drilling mud and drill cuttings will be separated and residual unusable mud will be collected in lined pits and solar evaporated. Drill cutting (DC) will be separated from water based mud (WBM) and washed properly and unusable drilling fluids (DF) will be disposed off in well designed lined pit with impervious liner for solar drying. Disposal of drill cuttings and drill mud will be carried out in accordance with the GSR 546(E) dated 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2005. Used oil will be sent to authorized recyclers.

3.0 The proposal was considered by the Reconstituted Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry) in its 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> meetings held during 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2013 – 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2013 and 4<sup>th</sup>– 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 respectively. The Committee recommended the proposal for amendment in environmental clearance.

4.0 The Ministry accepts the recommendation of the Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry) for amendment of existing environmental clearance by adding one exploratory drilling well, subject to compliance of following specific conditions:

- i) All the specific conditions and general conditions specified in the environmental clearance accorded vide Ministry's letter no. J-11011/160 (Kangra-Mandi)/2007-IA II (I) dated 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 shall be implemented.
- ii) In case the commercial viability of the project is established, the Company shall prepare a detailed plan for development of oil and gas fields and obtain fresh environmental clearance from the Ministry.
- iii) Ambient air quality should be monitored at the nearest human settlements as per the National Ambient Air Quality Emission Standards issued by the Ministry vide G.S.R. No. 826(E) dated 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 for PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, CH<sub>4</sub>, Non-methane HC etc.
- iv) Approach road should be made pucca to mitigate generation of suspended dust.
- v) The company should make the arrangement for control of noise from the drilling activity. Acoustic enclosure should be provided to DG sets and proper stack height should be provided as per CPCB guidelines.
- vi) Total water requirement should not exceed 20 m<sup>3</sup>/day/well and prior permission should be obtained from the Competent Authority.
- vii) The company should construct the garland drain all around the drilling site to prevent runoff of any oil containing waste into the nearby water bodies. Separate drainage system should be created for oil contaminated and non-oil contaminated. Effluent should be properly treated and treated wastewater should conform to CPCB standards.
- viii) Drilling wastewater including drill cuttings wash water should be collected in disposal pit lined with HDPE lining evaporated or treated and should comply with the notified standards for on-shore disposal. The membership of common TSDF should be obtained for the disposal of drill cuttings and hazardous waste. Otherwise, secured land fill should be created at the site as per the design approved by the CPCB and obtain authorization from the SPCB. Copy of authorization or membership of TSDF should be submitted to Ministry's Regional Office at Chandigarh.
- ix) Good sanitation facility should be provided at the drilling site. Domestic sewage should be disposed off through septic tank/ soak pit.
- x) Oil spillage prevention scheme should be prepared. In case of oil spillage/contamination, action plan should be prepared to clean the site by

adopting proven technology. The recyclable waste (oily sludge) and spent oil should be disposed of to the authorized recyclers.

- xi) The company should comply with the guidelines for disposal of solid waste, drill cutting and drilling fluids for onshore drilling operation notified vide GSR.546(E) dated 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2005.
- xii) The Company should take necessary measures to prevent fire hazards, containing oil spill and soil remediation as needed. Possibility of using ground flare should be explored. At the place of ground flaring, the overhead flaring stack with knockout drums should be installed to minimize gaseous emissions during operation.
- xiii) The company should develop a contingency plan for H<sub>2</sub>S release including all necessary aspects from evacuation to resumption of normal operations. The workers should be provided with personal H<sub>2</sub>S detectors in locations of high risk of exposure along with self containing breathing apparatus.
- xiv) Blow Out Preventer (BOP) system should be installed to prevent well blowouts during drilling operations. BOP measures during drilling should focus on maintaining well bore hydrostatic pressure by proper pre-well planning and drilling fluid logging etc.
- xv) Emergency Response Plan (ERP) should be based on the guidelines prepared by OISD, DGMS and Govt. of India.
- xvi) The company should take measures after completion of drilling process by well plugging and secured enclosures, decommissioning of rig upon abandonment of the well and drilling site should be restored to the original condition. In the event that no economic quantity of hydrocarbon is found a full abandonment plan should be implemented for the drilling site in accordance with the applicable Indian Petroleum Regulations.
- xvii) Occupational health surveillance of the workers should be carried out as per the prevailing Acts and Rules.
- xviii) In case the commercial viability of the project is established, the Company should prepare a detailed plan for development of oil and gas fields and obtain fresh environmental clearance from the Ministry.
- xix) Restoration of the project site should be carried out satisfactorily and report should be sent to the Ministry's Regional Office at Chandigarh.
- xx) Oil content in the drill cuttings should be monitored by Authorized agency and report should be sent to the Ministry's Regional Office at Chandigarh.
- xxi) Under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), sufficient budgetary provision should be made for health improvement, education, water and electricity supply etc. in and around the project.
- xxii) Company should have own Environment Management Cell having qualified persons with proper background.

xxiii) Company should prepare operating manual in respect of all activities. It should cover all safety & environment related issues and system. Measures to be taken for protection. One set of environmental manual should be made available at the drilling site/ project site. Awareness should be created at each level of the management. All the schedules and results of environmental monitoring should be available at the project site office.

5.0 In future, in case of change in the scope of the project, the company shall obtain fresh environmental clearance.

6.0 This issues with the prior approval of the Competent Authority.

*V P Upadhyay*  
(V P Upadhyay)  
Director

Copy to :

1. The Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Science and Technology Narayan Villa, Near Wood Villa Palace, Chhota Shimla, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh-171002
2. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office (Northern Zone), Bay No.24-25, Sector 31-A, Dakshim Marg, Chandigarh-160030.
3. The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi - 110 032.
4. The Chairman, Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, Him Parivesh, Phase-III, New Shimla-171009, Himachal Pradesh (INDIA)
5. Monitoring Cell, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, New Delhi.
6. Guard File/Monitoring File/Record File/Notice Board.

(V P Upadhyay)  
Director