

F. No. J-11011/ 457/2010- IA II (I)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(I.A. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi – 110 003

E-mail : ahuja.rai@nic.in
Telefax : 011: 2436 3973
Dated 4th September, 2012

To,

Shri J.S. Sekhon, GGM-Basin Manager
M/s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGCL)
Cauvery Basin, CMDA Tower-II
No.1, Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore
Chennai-600 008, Tamil Nadu.

E mail : sharma_js@ongc.co.in : Fax No. : 033-22483378044-28542555
044-28591270.

Subject : Exploratory Drilling in Offshore NELP-VI, Block CY-PR-DWN-2004/1 & CY-DWN-2004/3 of Cauvery Basin in Tamil Nadu by M/s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGCL) - Environmental Clearance reg.

Ref. : Your letter no. ONGC/CHSE/EC/12 dated 12th February, 2012.

Sir,

This has reference to your letter dated 12th February, 2012 alongwith Form-1, Prefeasibility Report, EIA/EMP report regarding above mentioned subject.

2.0 The Ministry of Environment & Forests has examined your application. It is noted that proposal is for the exploratory drilling (2 Nos.) in Offshore NELP-VI, Block CY-PR-DWN-2004/1 & CY-PR-DWN-2004/3 of Cauvery Basin in Tamil Nadu. M/s ONGCL, Caurvery Basin at Chennai has been awarded by the Govt. of India in May, 2007 Offshore Block under NELP-VI. The block is located at distance of 97-118 Km from the Coast. Total cost of the project is Rs. 300 Crores. Block-CY-PR-DWN-2004/1 of Cauvery Palar basis is located in ultra deep water (> 3000 m water depth) of Bay of Bengal. The block CY-PR-DWN-2004/1 measuring 13.451 Sq. Km. located between longitude 81° 15' & 82° 00' E and latitude 13° 00' and 14° 30' N. The block CY-DWN-2004/3 measuring 12017 Sq. Km. located between longitude 81° 15' & 82° 15' E and latitude 12° 00' and 13° 00' N. Drilling of deep wells will be carried out and drilling operations will be over a period of 45-60 days.

3.0 Air emissions from D.G. sets will be controlled by providing adequate stack height. Gas production during testing will be flared. Total water requirement will be 35 m³/day/well. The drilling mud carrying cutting will be separated and recycled maximum extent and non usable portion will be discharged intermittently in sea with proper dilution. Domestic effluent will be treated in sewage treatment plant (STP) provided at the rig. Waste oil and grease will be collected in barrels and trash and will be brought to shore and handed over to authorized recyclers.

BKM-RA / HSE 2/c ✓

PM
27/9/12 ✓

Dr. B.S. Josyulu
ED-Basin Manager, Cauvery

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4.0 The proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry-2) in its 16th & 34th meetings held during 18th-19th November, 2010 and 13th -14th April 2012 respectively.

5.0 All the projects related to offshore and onshore Oil and Gas exploration, development and production are listed in para 1(b) of schedule of EIA Notification, 2006 covered under category 'A' and appraised at centre level.

6.0 Public Hearing/Public Consultation meeting was exempted as the project site is located in off-shore.

7.0 The Ministry of Environment and Forests hereby accords environmental clearance to the above project subject to strict compliance of the following specific and general conditions:

A. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS :

- i. Only high efficiency DG set with adequate stack height and modern emission control equipment and low sulphur clean diesel shall be used. Acoustic enclosure shall be provided to the DG sets to mitigate the noise pollution.
- ii. Gas produced during testing shall be flared with appropriate flaring booms.
- iii. The flare system shall be designed as per good oil field practices and Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) guidelines. The stack height shall be provided as per the regulatory requirements and emissions from stacks will meet the MOEF/CPCB guidelines.
- iv. Total water requirement shall not exceed 35 m³/day/well and prior permission shall be obtained from the Competent Authority for the drawl of water. Only water based mud system shall be used.
- v. Water based drilling mud shall be discharged to the sea after proper dilution as per E(P) Rules vide G.S.R 546(E) dated 30th August, 2005.
- vi. The Company shall ensure that there shall be no impact on flora fauna due to drilling of wells in the offshore sea. The company shall undertake conservation measures to protect the marine animals/biota in the region. The company shall monitor the petroleum hydrocarbons and heavy metals concentration in the marine fish species regularly and submit report to the Ministry.
- vii. Treated wastewater (produced water or formation water) shall comply with the marine disposal standards notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Sewage treatment on board of the rig as per MARPOL regulation. Residual chlorine shall not exceed 1 mg/l before disposal.
- viii. The drill cutting (DC) wash water shall be treated to conform to limits notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, before disposal into sea. The treated effluent shall be monitored regularly.
- ix. All the guidelines shall be followed for the disposal of solid waste, drill cutting and drilling fluids for onshore and offshore drilling operation notified vide GSR.546(E) dated 30th August, 2005. Different types of wastes shall be kept segregated.

- x. High efficiency equipment shall be used to separate solids, hydrocarbons and water such as shale shakers with improved capacity to filter smaller solids, low shear pumps for use in produced water shall be employed.
- xi. Good book keeping practices shall be put in place to manage wastes such as waste tracking program i.e. identify where and when the waste generated, the type of waste and its volume, the disposal method and its location, and the personnel responsible for the waste management.
- xii. A waste minimisation plan shall be developed and followed through proper inventory management following best practices in drilling operations, good house keeping practices and optimised equipment maintenance schedules.
- xiii. Only essential rig personnel shall be on board the rig. Emergency Response Plan and health, safety and environment (HSE) system shall be installed. Geo- hazard and geotechnical studies shall be carried out to ensure safe drilling operations.
- xiv. All the hazardous waste generated at the rig/offshore facility shall be properly treated, transported to on shore and disposed of in accordance with the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules 2008. No waste oil shall be disposed off into sea. Waste/used oil shall be brought on-shore and sold to MoEF/CPCB authorized recyclers/re-processors only.
- xv. Requisite infrastructure facilities shall be provided near the offshore installations so that booms and skimmers/chemical dispersants could be deployed immediately in case of oil leakage from the installations. Efforts shall be made to curtail the oil slick within 500 meters of the installation and accordingly, action plan and facilities to check the oil slick within 500 meters shall be provided.
- xvi. Approval from DG Shipping under the Merchant Shipping Act prior to commencement of the drilling operations shall be obtained. At least 30 days prior to the commencement of drilling, the exact location shall be intimated to the Director General of Shipping and the Company shall abide by any direction he may issue regarding ensuring the safety of navigation in the area.
- xvii. The International 'Good Practices' adopted by the Petroleum Industry following International norms to safeguard the coastal and marine biodiversity shall be implemented by the company.
- xviii. The Company shall take necessary measures to reduce noise levels such as proper casing at the drill site and meet DG set norms notified by the MoEF. Height of all the stacks/vents shall be provided as per the CPCB guidelines.
- xix. The design, material of construction, assembly, inspection, testing and safety aspects of operation and maintenance of pipeline and transporting the natural gas/oil shall be governed by ASME/ANSI B 31.8/B31.4 and OISD standard 141.
- xx. The project authorities shall install SCADA system with dedicated optical fibre based telecommunication link for safe operation of pipeline and Leak Detection System. Intelligent pigging facility shall be provided for the entire pipeline system for internal

corrosion monitoring. Coating and impressed current cathodic protection system shall be provided to prevent external corrosion.

- xxi. The project proponent shall also comply with the environmental protection measures and safeguards recommended in the EIA /EMP/RA/NIO report.
- xxii. Full drawings and details of Blow Out Preventor to encounter well kick due to high formation presence, if encountered, shall be submitted to the Ministry within 3 months of the issue of environment clearance.
- xxiii. On completion of activities, the well shall be either plugged and suspended (if the well evaluation indicates commercial quantities of hydrocarbon) or killed and permanently abandoned with mechanical plugs and well cap. If well is suspended, it shall be filled with a brine solution containing small quantities of inhibitors to protect the well. The position at the end of the activities shall be communicated in detail to the Ministry indicating the steps taken i.e. whether all the wells are plugged or abandoned and necessary precautions taken.
- xxiv. A brief report on environmental status & safety related information generated and measures taken as well as frequency of such reporting to the higher Authority shall be submitted to this Ministry and its respective Regional Office at Bangalore.
- xxv. Petroleum and Natural Gas (Safety in Offshore Operations) Rules 2008 of OISD should be strictly adhered to.
- xxvi. Recommendations mentioned in the Risk Assessment & Consequence Analysis and Disaster Management Plan shall be followed.
- xxvii. Adequate funds both recurring and non-recurring shall be earmarked to implement the conditions stipulated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests as well as the State Government alongwith the implementation schedule for all the conditions stipulated herein. The funds so provided shall not be diverted for any other purposes.
- xxviii. Petroleum and Natural Gas (safety in Offshore Operations) Rules 2008 of OISD shall be strictly adhered to.
- xxix. An independent audit shall be done to ensure that the Environment Management Plan is in place in totality.

B. GENERAL CONDITIONS:

- i. The project authorities must strictly adhere to the stipulations made by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), State Government and any other statutory authority.
- ii. No further expansion or modification in the project shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. 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 to assess the adequacy of conditions imposed and to add additional environmental protection measures required, if any.
- iii. The project authorities must strictly comply with the rules and regulations under Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 2000 as amended

subsequently. Prior approvals from Chief Inspectorate of Factories, Chief Controller of Explosives, Fire Safety Inspectorate etc. must be obtained, wherever applicable.

- iv. 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 EPA Rules, 1989 viz. 75 dBA (daytime) and 70 dBA (nighttime).
- v. A separate Environmental Management Cell equipped with full fledged laboratory facilities must be set up to carry out the environmental management and monitoring functions.
- vi. A copy of clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to concerned Panchayat, Zila Parishad / Municipal Corporation, Urban Local Body and the local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions / representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal. The clearance letter shall also be put on the web site of the company by the proponent.
- vii. The project proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated environment clearance conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall simultaneously be sent to the Regional Office of the MOEF, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and the TNPCB. The criteria pollutant levels namely; SPM, RSPM, SO₂, NO_x, HC (Methane & Non-methane), VOCs (ambient levels as well as stack emissions) or critical sectoral parameters, indicated for the projects shall be monitored and displayed at a convenient location near the main gate of the company in the public domain.
- viii. The project proponent shall also submit six monthly reports on the status of the compliance of the stipulated environmental conditions including results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) to the Regional Office of MOEF, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and the TNPCB. The Regional Office of this Ministry / CPCB / TNPCB shall monitor the stipulated conditions.
- ix. The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31st March in Form-V as is mandated to be submitted by the project proponent 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 alongwith the status of compliance of environmental conditions and shall also be sent to the respective Regional Offices of the MOEF by e-mail.
- x. 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 TNPCB and may also be seen at Website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at <http://envfor.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 Regional office.



xi. 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 commencing the land development work.

8.0 The Ministry may revoke or suspend the clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory.


9.0 The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions if found necessary. The Company in a time bound manner shall implement these conditions.

10.0 The above conditions will be enforced, inter-alia under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of Water Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Trans-boundary Movement) Rules, 2008 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and rules.


(Dr. P L Ahujarai)
Director

Copy to :

1. The Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Ground Floor, Panagal Buildings 1, Jeenis Road , Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015.
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional Office (Southern Zone, Bangalore) Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wing, II Block Koramangala, Bangalore-560034.
3. The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi - 110 032.
4. The Chairman, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Corporate Office, 76, Anna Salai, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
5. Joint Secretary, IA II(l), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, New Delhi.
6. Monitoring Cell, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, New Delhi.
7. Guard File/Monitoring File/Record File.


(Dr. P L Ahujarai)
Director

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