

F. No. J-11011/3/2010- IA II (I)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(I.A. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan
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New Delhi – 110 003

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Dated 14th October, 2013

To,

Shri J.S. Sekhon, GGM-Basin Manager
M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGCL)
Cauvery Basin, 11th Floor, East Wing, CMDA Tower-I,
No.1, Gandhi-Irwin Road, Egmore,
Chennai-600 008, Tamil Nadu.

E-mail : sharma_js@ongc.co.in; sharmajswarup@hotmail.com; Fax No.: 044-28591270 / 044-28591270.

Subject: Exploratory Drilling of 3 Wells in On-shore NELP-VII Block PR-ONN-2005/1 of Cauvery Basin, Tamil Nadu by M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.- Environmental Clearance reg.

Ref. : Your letter no. ONGC/CHSE/EC/2013-14 dated 29th April, 2013.

Sir,

This has reference to your letter dated 29th April, 2013 alongwith Form-1, Prefeasibility Report, EIA/EMP report alongwith public hearing report regarding the above mentioned subject.

2.0 The Ministry of Environment & Forests has examined your application. It is noted that proposal is for exploratory drilling of 3 wells in On-shore NELP-VII Block PR-ONN-2005/1 of Cauvery Basin, Tamil Nadu. No wildlife sanctuary / national park is located within 10Km distance. The Pulliyar reserve forest is located under 1 Km radius from this well. No forest land is involved. Arani River is flowing at a distance of 5 Km. The block is covering Chennai, Kanchipuram and Thiruvallur Districts of Tamil Nadu. However, proposed 3 wells are located in Thiruvallur District of Tamil Nadu. NELP-VIII Block PR-ONN_2005/1 in the Palar Basin was awarded as joint venture i.e. ONGC (80%) and Tata Petrodyne Ltd. (TPL 20%) with ONGC as the 'Operator'. Pulicat lake is located at a distance of 17 Km from the proposed well. The on-land NELP Block covers an area of about 1,807 sq. km. The well will be drilled to a depth of 2000-2500 m. Total cost of the project is Rs. 29.25 Crore. Capital & recurring cost for environmental protection measures will be Rs. 1.03 Crores. Following are the co-ordinates of the proposed wells.

Particulars	NAAA	NAAB	NAAD
Geographical Positions	13°22'019.88N 80°2'47.298E	13°23'3.905N 80°0'10.382E	13°24'46.065N 80°2'47.298E
Village	Manali	Thevai Kandigai	Vaniyamalli
Panchayat	Erukuvai	Thervai	Poovalam bedu
Block	Gummidipoondi	Gummidipoondi	Gummidipoondi
Taluk	Gummidipoondi	Gummidipoondi	Gummidipoondi
District	Thiruvallur	Thiruvallur	Thiruvallur

21/10/13
CHSE

Dr. S.S. Josyulu
21/10/13

21/10/13

BRM-I
21/10/13

3.0 Air emissions from D.G. sets will be dispersed by providing adequate stack height. Water based mud will be used. Total water requirement from tanker supply will be 25 m³/day. Drilling and wash water generation will be 8 m³/day and treated in ETP and stored in HDPE lined pit. Domestic effluent will be treated in septic tank followed by soak pit. No effluent will be discharged outside the premises and 'Zero' effluent discharge concept will be adopted. 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 30th August, 2005. Used oil will be sent to authorized recyclers.

4.0 The proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry) in its meetings held during 3rd-4th March, 2011 and 10th-11th June, 2013 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 central level.

6.0 Public hearings/public consultation was held on 7th March, 2013.

7.0 Based on information submitted by you, presentation made by you and Environmental Consultant namely Ramky Enviro Engineers Ltd., Hyderabad, the Ministry of Environment and Forests hereby accords environmental clearance to the above project under the provisions of EIA Notification dated 14th September, 2006 subject to strict compliance of the following specific and general conditions:

A. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS :

- i. Gas produced during testing shall be flared with appropriate flaring booms. 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.
- ii. This environmental clearance is only for Exploratory Drilling. In case Development drilling is to be done in future, prior clearance must be obtained from the Ministry.
- iii. Ambient air quality shall be monitored near the closest human settlements as per the National Ambient Air Quality Emission Standards issued by the Ministry vide G.S.R. No. 826(E) dated 16th November, 2009 for PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, SO₂, NO_x, CO, methane & Non-methane HC etc.
- iv. Mercury shall also be analyzed in air, water and drill cuttings twice during drilling period.
- v. Approach road shall be made pucca to minimize generation of suspended dust.
- vi. The company shall 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.

- ii. Total water requirement shall not exceed 25 m³/day and prior permission shall be obtained from the concerned agency.
- viii. The company shall 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 shall be created for oil contaminated and non-oil contaminated. Effluent shall be properly treated and treated wastewater shall conform to CPCB standards.
- ix. Drilling wastewater including drill cuttings wash water shall be collected in disposal pit lined with HDPE lining evaporated or treated and shall 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 shall 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 shall be submitted to Ministry's Regional Office at Bangalore.
- x. Good sanitation facility shall be provided at the drilling site. Domestic sewage shall be disposed off through septic tank/ soak pit.
- xi. Oil spillage prevention 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 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.
- xiii. The Company shall 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 shall be installed to minimize gaseous emissions during operation.
- xiv. The company 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.
- xv. On completion of drilling, the company have to plug the drilled wells safely and obtain certificate from environment safety angle from the concerned authority.
- xvi. Blow Out Preventer (BOP) system shall 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.

- xvii. Emergency Response Plan (ERP) shall be based on the guidelines prepared by OISD, DGMS and Govt. of India.
- xviii. The company shall take measures after completion of drilling process by well plugging and secured enclosures, decommissioning of rig upon abandonment of the well and drilling site shall be restored to the original condition. In the event that no economic quantity of hydrocarbon is found a full abandonment plan shall be implemented for the drilling site in accordance with the applicable Indian Petroleum Regulations.
- xix. Abandoned well inventory and remediation plan shall be submitted within six months from the date of issue of letter.
- xx. Occupational health surveillance of the workers shall be carried out as per the prevailing Acts and Rules.
- xxi. 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.
- xxii. Restoration of the project site shall be carried out satisfactorily and report shall be sent to the Ministry's Regional Office at Bangalore.
- xxiii. Oil content in the drill cuttings shall be monitored by some Authorized agency and report shall be sent to the Ministry's Regional Office at Bangalore.
- xxiv. All the commitment made regarding issues raised during the public hearing/consultation meeting held on 7th March, 2013 shall be satisfactorily implemented and adequate budget provision shall be made accordingly.
- xxv. Under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), sufficient budgetary provision shall be made for health improvement, education, water and electricity supply etc. in and around the project.
- xxvi. An audit shall be done to ensure that the Environment Management Plan is implemented in totality and report shall be submitted to the Ministry's Regional Office.
- xxvii. A social audit shall be carried out for the whole operation area with the help of reputed institute like Madras Institute of Social Science etc.
- xxviii. All personnel including those of contractors shall be trained and made fully aware of the hazards, risks and controls in place.
- xxix. Company shall have own Environment Management Cell having qualified persons with proper background.
- xxx. Company shall prepare operating manual in respect of all activities. It shall cover all safety & environment related issues and system. 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.

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.


 (A.N. Singh)
 Dy. Director (S)

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. Monitoring Cell, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, New Delhi.
6. Guard File/ Record File/Monitoring File.


 (A.N. Singh)
 Dy. Director (S)