



Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(IA Division)

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Dated: 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017

To,  
The DGM (D) - I/c HSE (Offtg.)  
M/s ONGC  
A&AAB, Jorhat - 785 704,  
Assam

**Sub: Proposed exploratory drilling of 13 exploratory wells in PML area of SAS Block in Sarupathar Tehsil District Golaghat, Assam by M/s ONGC Ltd. - Environmental Clearance - reg.**

**Ref.: Your online proposal no. IA/AS/IND2/27496/2015; dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2016.**

Sir,

This has reference to your online proposal no. IA/AS/IND2/27496/2015; dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2016 along with project documents including Form I, Terms of References, Pre-feasibility Report, EIA/EMP Report along with Public Hearing Report regarding above mentioned project.

2.0 The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has examined the application. It is noted that proposal is for Proposed exploratory drilling of 13 Exploratory wells in PML area of SAS Block in Sarupathar tehsil District Golaghat, Assam by M/s ONGC Ltd. Land required at each well site during drilling will be around 125 m x 125 m, i.e., 1.5-2.0 ha. Land requirement for the base camp will be about 0.5 ha. The estimated cost of the proposed exploration well drilling is about Rs. 600 crores (per each well would be approximately Rs. 40 Crores). At each drill site construction, local employment will be generated for about 25 person/shift of 12 hrs. in two shifts. It is reported that there is no National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, protected area and ESZ within the distance of 10 km. There are three reserve forests block (Renga, Nambar and Dayang Reserve Forest) and Nambar Doigrung and Garampani Wild life sanctuary in the study area. Proposed Drilling Locations area as follows:

S. No.	Location Name	To be drilled from existing wells or common point	Location Coordinates	District
1	NL 1 NL-1 (KHBG)	KH-35, (KHAS) CP	26° 03' 14.72" 93° 55' 30.64"	Golaghat
2	NL-2	KH-7, (KHF) CP	26° 02' 40.708" 93° 55' 40.324"	Golaghat
3	NL-3	KH-9, NR-2 CP	26° 03' 18.537" 93° 54' 37.439"	Golaghat

4	NL-5 (KHBE)	KH-30 (KHAT) CP	26° 05' 17.539" 93° 53' 20.996"	Golaghat
5	NL-6	KH-23 (KHAF) CP	26° 06' 18.760" 93° 57' 52.699"	Golaghat
6	NL-7	KH-16 (KHAB) CP	26° 05' 42.163" 93° 56' 22.399"	Golaghat
7	NL-8	KH-13 (KHD) CP	26° 06' 13.243" 93° 55' 22.512"	Golaghat
8	NL-10	KH-4 (KGA) CP	26° 05' 03.33" 93° 54' 36.70"	Golaghat
9	NL-11	KH-27 (KHAQ) CP	26° 07' 01.771" 93° 54' 15.008"	Golaghat
10	URAA	New Point	26° 09' 46.207" 93° 57' 12.736"	Golaghat
11	NL-12	URRA/CP	26° 09' 49.331" 93° 57' 17.530"	Golaghat
12	NL-13	New Point	26° 16' 41.590" 93° 56' 40.078"	Golaghat
13	NL-14	New Point	26° 14' 54.876" 93° 56' 02.584"	Golaghat

3.0 Fresh water requirement will be 25 m<sup>3</sup>/day per well, which will be sourced from local water sources through tankers/Contactors. About 15-20 m<sup>3</sup>/day drilling wastewater will be generated. All wastewater streams except sewage will be directed to a 1 mm HDPE lined pit. Wastewater collected in the pit will be clarified and treated in solar evaporation pond or packaged wastewater treatment plant for removal of oil and suspended solids to meet the regulatory discharge standards. Domestic waste water shall be disposed through septic tank followed by soak pit. Produced water generation is not envisaged during the exploratory drilling phase.

The total power requirement at the drilling site will be 4290 KVA. The power requirement in the drilling site will be catered through Diesel Generator (DG) sets. The power requirement will be met by 3 Nos of 1430 KVA DG sets at drilling site. Stand by DG set arrangement of 1430 KVA at drilling site will be made.

The waste oil will be collected and handed over to ASPCB and MoEF&CC authorized waste oil recyclers at the end of the exploratory drilling campaign. Cuttings will be collected and disposed off in an environmentally safe manner. The cuttings disposal pit will be similar in construction to the wastewater pit. Typically the pit would be about 25 m x 10 m x 2 m deep and will be lined with polypropylene liner. The cuttings disposal pit will be placed within the drilling lease area to prevent the transport of waste mud and cuttings from the drilling site to another area to prevent any spillage on the other areas.

Sludge containing oil will be disposed through ASPCB/CPCB registered waste oil re-processor. Drilling mud and other drilling waste will be disposed onsite in lined pits after treatment through land farming or other bioremediation techniques. Used/spent and wastes/residue oil will be sent to registered re-processors.

4.0 Public Hearing has been conducted by the Assam Pollution Control Board on 21.10.2016 at Khoraghat, Golaghat, Assam.

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 The proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry) in its 18<sup>th</sup> meetings held during 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2017. Project Proponent and the EIA Consultant namely M/s VIMTA Labs Limited, have presented EIA/EMP report as per the TOR. EAC has found the EIA/EMP Report is satisfactory and in full consonance with the presented TORs. The Committee recommended the proposal for environmental clearance.

7.0 Based on the information submitted by the project proponent, the Ministry of Environment and Forests hereby accords environmental clearance to above project under the provisions of EIA Notification dated 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006, subject to the compliance of the following Specific and General Conditions:

**A. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS:**

- i) Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) shall 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>, HC, Non-methane HC etc.
- ii) The project proponent shall take due care and adopt the best practices to ensure that there is no oil spill. However, to meet with any unforeseen situation and combat the oil spill, the PP shall prepare the Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan in line with the provisions of the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan. Regular Mock Drills shall also be conducted.
- iii) Mercury shall also be analyzed in air, water and drill cuttings twice during drilling period.
- iv) Approach road shall be made pucca to minimize generation of suspended dust.
- v) The company shall make the arrangement for control of noise from the drilling activity. Acoustic enclosure shall be provided to DG sets and proper stack height shall be provided as per CPCB guidelines.
- vi) Total water requirement from tankers shall not exceed 25 m<sup>3</sup>/day/well and prior permission should be obtained from the Competent Authority.
- vii) 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.
- viii) The drill cuttings shall be disposal in pit of about 25 m x 10 m x 2 m deep and shall be lined with polypropylene liner. The cuttings disposal pit shall be placed within the drilling lease area to prevent the transport of waste mud and cuttings from the drilling site to another area to prevent any spillage on the other areas.
- ix) No effluent/drilling mud/drill cutting shall be discharged/disposed off into nearby surface water bodies.
- x) Wastewater collected in the pit will be clarified and treated in solar evaporation pond or packaged wastewater treatment plant for removal of oil and suspended solids to meet the regulatory discharge standards. Domestic waste water shall be disposed through septic tank followed by soak pit.
- xi) Good sanitation facility shall be provided at the drilling site. Domestic sewage shall be disposed off through septic tank/soak pit.

- xii) 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.
- xiii) The Company shall take necessary measures to prevent fire hazards, containing oil spill and soil remediation as needed. Possibility of using 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.
- xiv) The company 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.
- xv) Emergency Response Plan (ERP) shall be based on the guidelines prepared by OISD, DGMS and Govt. of India.
- xvi) All the commitments made to the public during public hearing/public consultation meeting held on 21.10.2016 for Golaghat district shall be satisfactorily implemented and adequate budget provision shall be made accordingly.
- xvii) At least 2.5 % of the total cost of the project shall be earmarked towards the Enterprise Social Commitment based on Public Hearing Issues, locals need and item-wise details along with time bound action plan shall be prepared and submitted to the Ministry's Regional Office. Implementation of such program shall be ensured accordingly in a time bound manner.
- xviii) Occupational health surveillance of the workers shall be carried out as per the prevailing Acts and Rules.
- xix) Restoration of the project site shall be carried out satisfactorily and report shall be sent to the Ministry's Regional Office.
- xx) Oil content in the drill cuttings shall be monitored by some Authorized agency and report shall be sent to the Ministry's Regional Office.
- xxi) Company shall have own Environment Management Cell having qualified persons with proper background.
- xxii) 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. Remote monitoring of site should be done.
- xxiii) On completion of drilling, the company has to plug the drilled wells safely and obtain certificate from environment safety angle from the concerned authority.

**B. GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

- i. The project authorities must strictly adhere to the stipulations made by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), State Government and any other statutory authority.
- ii. No further expansion or modifications in the plant shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment and 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



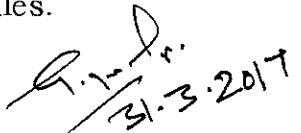
- assess the adequacy of conditions imposed and to add additional environmental protection measures required, if any.
- iii. The locations of ambient air quality monitoring stations shall be decided in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and it shall be ensured that at least one station is installed in the upwind and downwind direction as well as where maximum ground level concentrations are anticipated.
  - iv. 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 shall be followed.
  - v. 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 Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 Rules, 1989 viz. 75 dBA (day time) and 70 dBA (night time).
  - vi. The Company shall harvest rainwater from the roof tops of the buildings and storm water drains to recharge the ground water and use the same water for the process activities of the project to conserve fresh water.
  - vii. Training shall be imparted to all employees on safety and health aspects of chemicals handling. Pre-employment and routine periodical medical examinations for all employees shall be undertaken on regular basis. Training to all employees on handling of chemicals shall be imparted.
  - viii. The company shall also 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, risk mitigation measures and public hearing relating to the project shall be implemented.
  - ix. The company shall undertake all relevant measures for improving the socio-economic conditions of the surrounding area. CSR activities shall be undertaken by involving local villages and administration.
  - x. The company shall undertake eco-developmental measures including community welfare measures in the project area for the overall improvement of the environment.
  - xi. A separate Environmental Management Cell equipped with full fledged laboratory facilities shall be set up to carry out the Environmental Management and Monitoring functions.
  - xii. The company shall earmark sufficient funds towards capital cost and recurring cost per annum to implement the conditions stipulated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests 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.
  - xiii. A copy of the clearance letter shall be sent by the project proponent to concerned Panchayat, Zila Parisad/Municipal Corporation, Urban local body and the local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/ representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal.
  - xiv. 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, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and

- concerned SPCB. A copy of Environmental Clearance and six monthly compliance status report shall be posted on the website of the company.
- xv. The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> 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 with the status of compliance of environmental clearance conditions and shall also be sent to the respective Regional Offices of MoEF by e-mail.
- xvi. 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 at <http://moef.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.
- xvii. 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.

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 will implement these conditions.

10. The above conditions will be enforced, inter-alia under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of 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.

  
31.3.2017  
**(Yogendra Pal Singh)**  
**Scientist 'D'**

**Copy to:-**

1. The Principal Secretary, Department of Environment & Forest, Govt. of Assam, Guwahati, Assam.
2. The Chairman, Assam Pollution Control Board, Bahunimatram, Assam, Guwahati.
3. The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 110 032.
4. The Conservator of Forests (Central), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Regional Office (Northeast Eastern Region), Uplands Road, Laitumkhrah, Shillong - 793 003, Meghalaya.
5. Monitoring Cell, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi.
6. Guard File/Record File/Notice Board.

  
31.3.2017  
**(Yogendra Pal Singh)**  
**Scientist 'D'**