



STATE ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY, ASSAM
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India
BAMUNIMAIDAM, GUWAHATI-21

No. SEIAA.1294/2020/EC/ **1991**
 Proposal No.SIA/AS/IND2/296159/2023

Dated: **17/02/2023**

To

✓ Oil and Natural Gas co. Ltd (ONGC)
 HSE Division, Assam & Assam Arakan Basin,
 Jorhat, Assam-785704

Sub: Amendment of Environment Clearance for "Drilling of 45 Exploratory wells in Upper Assam Shelf (South) area encompassing Jorhat and Golaghat, Assam."

Dear Sir,

This has reference to your application dated 12/01/2023 seeking Amendment of Environmental Clearances for the above project under EIA Notification 2006. The proposal has been appraised as per prescribed procedure in the light of provisions under the EIA Notification 2006 and subsequent modification vide S.O. 236(E) dtd 16/01/2020 and on the basis of the mandatory documents enclosed with the application and additional clarifications furnished in response to the observation of the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee.

2. Brief details of the Project:

1	Category/ Item No. (In Schedule):	1(b) B2	
2.	Location of Project	(a) Plot/ survey/ Khasra No. Golaghat (b) Bounded Latitudes (North) From 26°37'45" to 25°48'30" (c) Bounded Longitudes (East) From 93°36'15" to 94°23'15" (d) Distant of nearest HFL from the project boundary within the study area 50. (e) Survey of India Toposheet No.83 (f) Seismic Zone - 5	
3.	Project Details	Drilling of Exploratory wells (7 Nos.) at Golaghat Dist under the project "Drilling of 45 Exploratory wells in Upper Assam Shelf (South) area encompassing Jorhat and Golaghat, Assam" by A & AA Basin, ONGC, Jorhat Nambar-1, ONGC, Cinnamara, Jorhat, Assam 785704	
4.	Total Project Cost	700 to 900 Crores.	
5.	Water Requirement & source	Water requirement: 25 Cu.M per day per well water will be required for drilling of wells. Sourcing of water requirement: water requirement for all the project activities would be sourced locally through approved/ authorized sources of surface water and/ or ground water (e.g PHD bore wells, privately owned bore wells, irrigation Dept./ water Resources Dept. of state Govt.).	
6.	Power Requirement:	a) Quantity (Kilo Volt Amps (KVA)	250
		b) Source	Gen Set
		c) Uploaded copy of agreement	Not Applicable


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		d) Standby Agreement (Details of DG Sets)	250	
		e) Stack Height (in m)	7	
7.	Environment Management Plan	Environment Management Plan (EMP) has been submitted to SEIAA office. Cost of Environment Management Plan (EMP) including Greenbelt/ plantation:- The tentative budget for implementation of the EMP including environmental monitoring and Green/ plantation would be INR 10.0 Lakh for each of site during drilling activity.		
		Sl. No.	Particulars	Approx. budget/ well (INR) in Lakh
		1	Air quality management	1.03 L/Well
		2	Noise monitoring	
		3	Surface and Ground water Quality	
		4	Soil Quality	
		5.	Waste management	
		6.	Greenbelt/ Plantation	
8	CSR /ESR Activities	All activities proposed by the Project Proponent or by the State Expert Appraisal Committee shall be part of the Environment Management Plan instead of allocation of fund under CER i.e. as per OM No. 22-65/2017-IA.III dtd. 25-2-2021 & OM No. 22-65/2017-IA.III dtd. 30-9-2020 of the MoEFCC, Govt. of India.		
9	Green Belt/ Plantation	Greenbelt/ Plantation will be carried out suitably. 33% of the total project area.		

The project proposal asking amendment of the EC for “**Drilling of 45 Exploratory wells in upper Assam Shelf (South) Area encompassing Jorhat and Golaghat District, Assam**” proposed by **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)** is placed before the SEAC held on 21/ 01/ 2023 for appraisal and detail deliberation. The project proposal was initially deliberated in the 16th Meeting of SEAC held on 20th Feb.2021 on the application of the ONGC dated 13th Nov. 2020 and necessary EC was granted against three locations out of 45 proposed vide EC dated 16th March 2021. The three locations were THAA, TJAA & BRAK in Upper Assam Shelf (South) Area encompassing Jorhat and Golaghat District, Assam. Now, ONGC has applied for another seven (7) Nos. of well locations and documents submitted by the proponent have been appraised and discussed. The proponent has also given a brief presentation before the committee relating to the well site locations- ELAI, MJAA, KSAJ, KSAK, TLAA, DPAB & KHBK. All the above proposed seven location falls in the same block. Deliberation is held and the proponent has also submitted Land Use map as desired by the committee. After due deliberation the committee **recommended approving for issuance of necessary EC against seven exploratory well locations i.e. ELAI, MJAA, KSAJ, KSAK, TLAA, DPAB & KHBK** within the upper Assam Shelf (South) Area encompassing Golaghat District, Assam following the guidelines of the EIA Notifications 2006 and amendment up to date. The proponent shall have to strictly follow all the measures mentioned in the project report and submit requisite compliance in time following the guide lines issued from time to time in this respect. Further, the proponent (ONGC) shall have to furnish Forest Clearance Certificate issued by the concerned


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authority.

The SEIAA, Assam after considering the proposal and recommendations of the SEAC, Assam relevant documents/ clarification submitted by P.P. hereby approved for amendment of Environmental Clearance for Drilling of Exploratory wells (7 Nos. i.e. ELAI, MJAA, KSAJ, KSAK, TLAA, DPAB & KHBK) in the forest areas of Kasomarigaon ML, Kasomarigaon Add. PML, Kalyanpur ML, East Lakhbari Extn PML and Khoraghat Extn-I PML at Golaghat Dist. as shown in the following table subject to strict compliance of the terms and conditions as follows and as per the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006 and its subsequent amendments, subject to conditions laid down by SEAC and **submission of Forest Clearance** before starting of exploration.

Sl No	Well name	Latitude	Longitude
1	ELAI	26°22'40.489"N	94°04'14.257"E
2	MJAA	26°19'51.066"N	94°03'13.711"E
3	KSAJ	26°17'48.319"N	94°04'30.171"E
4	KSAK	26°16'51.92"N	94°00'28.03"E
5	TLAA	26°16'22.46"N	94°02'24.66"E
6	DPAB	26°12'42.370"N	94°00'42.713"E
7	KHBK	26°05'10.990"N	93°56'26.8429"E

I. Statutory compliance:

- i. The project proponent shall obtain forest clearance under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1986, in case of the diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose involved in the project.
- ii. The project proponent shall obtain clearance from the National Board for Wildlife, if applicable.
- iii. The project proponent shall prepare a Site-Specific Conservation Plan & Wildlife Management Plan and approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden. The recommendations of the approved Site-Specific Conservation Plan / Wildlife Management Plan shall be implemented in consultation with the State Forest Department. The implementation report shall be furnished along with the six-monthly compliance report. (in case of the presence of Schedule-I species in the study area)
- iv. The Project proponent shall obtain Consent to Establish / Operate under the provisions of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 from the concerned State Pollution Control Board/Committee.
- v. The project proponent shall obtain authorization under the Hazardous and other Waste Management Rules, 2016 as amended from time to time.
- vi. The Company shall strictly comply with the rules and guidelines under Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals (MSIHC) Rules, 1989 as amended time to time. All transportation of Hazardous Chemicals shall be as per the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA), 1989.

II. Air quality monitoring and preservation.

- i. The project proponent shall install 24×7 continuous emission monitoring system at process stacks to monitor stack emission with respect to standards prescribed in Environment (Protection) Rules 1986 and connected to SPCB and CPCB online servers and calibrate these system from time to time according to equipment supplier specification through labs recognized under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 or NABL accredited laboratories.


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- ii. The project proponent shall monitor fugitive emissions in the plant premises at least once in every quarter through labs recognized under environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- iii. The project proponent shall install system to carryout Ambient Air Quality monitoring for common/criterion parameters relevant to the main pollutants released (e.g. PM10 and PM25 in reference to PM emission, and SO2 and NOx in reference to SO2 and NOx emissions) within and outside the plant area at least at four locations (one within and three outside the plant area at an angle of 120 each), covering upwind and downwind directions.
- iv. To control source and the fugitive emissions, suitable pollution control devices shall be installed to meet the prescribed norms and/or the NAAQS. Sulphur content should not exceed 0.5% in the coal for use in coal fired boilers to control particulate emissions within permissible limits (as applicable). The gaseous emissions shall be dispersed through stack of adequate height as per CPCB/SPCB guidelines.
- v. Storage of raw materials, coal etc shall be either stored in silos or in covered areas to prevent dust pollution and other fugitive emissions.
- vi. National Emissions Standards for Organic Chemicals Manufacturing Industry issued by the Ministry vide G.S.R. 608(E) dated 21st July, 2010 and amended from time to time shall be followed.
- vii. The National Ambient Air Quality Emission Standards issued by the Ministry vide G.S.R. No. 826(E) dated 16th November, 2009 shall be complied with.

III. Water quality monitoring and preservation

- i. The project proponent shall provide online continuous monitoring of effluent, the unit shall install web camera with night vision capability and flow meters in the channel/drain carrying effluent within the premises (applicable in case of the projects achieving ZLD)
- ii. As already committed by the project proponent, Zero Liquid Discharge shall be ensured and no waste/treated water shall be discharged outside the premises (applicable in case of the projects achieving the ZLD).
- iii. The effluent discharge shall conform to the standards prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, or as specified by the State Pollution Control Board while granting Consent under the Air/Water Act, whichever is more stringent.
- iv. Total fresh water requirement shall not exceed the proposed quantity or as specified by the Committee. Prior permission shall be obtained from the concerned regulatory authority/ CGWA in this regard.
- v. Process effluent/any waste water shall not be allowed to mix with storm water. The storm water from the premises shall be collected and discharged through a separate conveyance system.
- vi. The company harvest rainwater from the roof tops of the buildings and storm water drains to recharge the ground water and utilized the same for different industrial operations within the plant.
- vii. The DG sets shall be equipped with suitable Pollution control devices and the adequate stack height so that the emissions are in conformity with the extant regulations and the guidelines in this regard.

IV. Noise monitoring and preservation

- i. Acoustic enclosure shall be provided to DG set for controlling the noise pollution.
- ii. 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.
- iii. The ambient noise levels should conform to the standards prescribed under E(P)A Rules, 1986 viz, 75 dB(A) during day time and 70 dB(A) during night time.

V. Energy Conservation measures


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- i. The energy sources for lighting purposes shall preferably be LED based.

VI. Waste management

- i. Hazardous chemical shall be stored in tanks, tank farms, drums, carboys etc. Flame arresters shall be provided on tank farm and the solvent transfer through pumps.
- ii. Process organic residue and spent carbon, if any, shall be sent to cement industries. ETP sludge, process inorganic & evaporation salt shall be disposed off to the TSDF.
- iii. The Company shall undertake waste minimization measures as below:-
 - a. Metering and Control of quantities of active ingredients to minimize waste.
 - b. Reuse of by-products from the process as raw materials or as raw material substitutes in other processes.
 - c. Use of automated filling to minimize spillage.
 - d. Use of Close Feed system into batch reactors.
 - e. Venting equipment through vapors recovery system.
 - f. Use of high pressure hoses for equipment clearing to reduce waste water generation.

VII. Green Belt

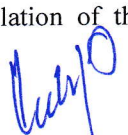
The green belt of 5-10 m width shall be developed in more than 33% of the total project area, mainly along the plant periphery, in downward wind direction, and along road sides etc. Selection of plant species shall be as per the CPCB guidelines in consultation with the State Forest Department.

VIII. Safety, Public hearing and Human health issues

- i. Emergency preparedness plan based on the Hazard identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) and Disaster Management Plan shall be implemented.
- ii. The unit shall make the arrangement for protection of possible fire hazards during manufacturing process in material handling. Fire fighting system shall be as per the norms.
- iii. The PP shall provide Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) as per the norms of Factory Act.
- iv. 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.
- v. Provision shall be made for the housing of construction labour within the site with all necessary infrastructure and facilities such as fuel for cooking, mobile toilets, mobile STP, safe drinking water, medical health care, creche etc. The housing may be in the form of temporary structures to be removed after the completion of the project.
- vi. Occupational health surveillance of the workers shall be done on a regular basis and records maintained as per the Factories Act.
- vii. There shall be adequate space inside the plant premises earmarked for parking of vehicles for raw materials and finished products, and no parking to be allowed outside on public places.

IX. Corporate Environment Responsibility

- i. The project proponent shall comply with the provisions contained in this Ministry's IM vide F.No.22-65/2017-IA III dated 1st May 2018, as applicable, regarding Corporate Environment Responsibility.
- ii. The company shall have a well laid down environment policy duly approved by the Board of Directors. The environment policy should prescribe for standards operating procedures to have proper checks and balances and to bring into focus any infringements/ violation of the environmental/ forest/ wildlife norms/ conditions. The company shall have defined system of reporting infringements / deviation / violation of the environmental/ forest/ wildlife norms/


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- conditions and / or shareholders / stake holders. The copy of the board resolution in this regard shall be submitted to the MOEF& CC as a part of six-monthly report.
- iii. A separate environmental Cell both at the project and company head quarter level, with qualified personnel shall be set up under the control of senior Executive, who will directly to the head of the organization.
 - iv. Action plan for implementing EMP and environmental conditions along with responsibility matrix of the company shall be prepared and shall be duly approved by competent authority. The year wise funds earmarked for environmental protection measures shall be kept in separate account and not to be diverted for any other purpose. Year wise progress of implementation of action plan shall be reported to the Ministry/Regional Office along with the Six Monthly Compliance Report.
 - v. Self environmental audit shall be conducted annually. Every three years third party environmental audit shall be carried out.

X. Miscellaneous

- i. The project proponent shall make public the environmental clearance granted for their project along with the environmental conditions and safe guards at their cost by prominently advertising it at least in two local newspapers of the District or State, of which one shall be in the vernacular language within seven days and in addition this shall also be displayed in the project proponent's website permanently.
- ii. The copies of the environmental clearance shall be submitted by the project proponents to the Heads of local bodies, Panchayats and Municipal Bodies in addition to the relevant offices of the Government who in turn has to display the same for 30 days from the date of receipt.
- iii. The project proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated environment clearance conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and update the same on half-yearly basis.
- iv. The project proponent shall monitor the criteria pollutants level namely; PM₁₀, SO₂, NO_x (ambient levels as well as stack emissions) or criteria sectoral parameters, indicated for the projects and display the same at a convenient location for disclosure to the public and put on the website of the company.
- v. The project proponent shall submit six-monthly reports on the status of the compliance of the stipulated environmental conditions on the *Parivesh portal* through individual user ID to the SEIAA, Assam/Regional Office of the MoEFCC, Guwahati.
- vi. The project proponent shall submitted the environmental statement for each financial year in Form-V to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently and out on the website of the company.
- vii. The project proponent 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, commencing the land development work and start of production operation by the project.
- viii. The project authorities must strictly adhere to the stipulations made by the State Pollution Control Board and the State Government.
- ix. The project proponent shall abide by all the commitments and recommendations made in the EIA/EMP report, commitment made during Public Hearing and also that during their presentation to the Expert Appraisal Committee.
- x. No further expansion or modifications in the plant shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC).
- xi. Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated data may result in revocation of this environmental clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.


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- xii. The Ministry may revoke or suspend the clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory.
- xiii. The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions if found necessary. The Company in a time bound manner shall implement these conditions.
- xiv. The Regional Office of this Ministry shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer (s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data / information / monitoring reports.
- xv. The above conditions shall 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, Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and Rules and any other orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India / High Courts and any other Court of Law relating to the subject matter.
- xvi. Any appeal against this EC 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.

17.02.2023

**Member-Secretary,
SEIAA, Assam
Bamunimaidam, Guwahati 781021.**

Memo No. SEIAA.1294/2020/EC/ 1991 -A

Dated: 17/02/2023

Copy to:-

1. The Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Environmental & Forest Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6 for favour of kind information.
2. The Chairman, PCBA for information.
3. The Divisional Forest Officer, Golaghat Division for favour of information.
4. The Integrated Regional Office, MoEF & CC, 4th Floor, Housefed Building, GS Road, Rukminigaon, Guwahati-22 for favour of information.
5. Office Copy.

Sd/-

**Member-Secretary,
SEIAA, Assam
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