

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj  
New Delhi – 110 003

**Dated: 21st September, 2021**

To

The Principal Secretary/Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),  
All State Governments/UT Administrations

**Sub: Clarification laying of petroleum and crude pipelines along the existing Right of Way (ROW)-reg.**

Sir,

I am directed to inform that this Ministry has received a Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas regarding inclusion of "laying of underground pipelines to carry petroleum and crude oil" in the list of activities covered under para 4.2 of the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In this connection, it is informed that matter has been considered by the Forest Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 16.08.2021.

Based on the recommendation of the FAC and approval of the same by the competent authority, the "laying of underground pipelines to carry petroleum and crude oil" have been included in the list of activities covered under para 4.2 of the Handbook subject to conditions mentioned therein and following additional condition:

*In case of malfunctioning of pipelines by way of leakage or other similar reasons, which is likely to cause damage to the flora and fauna of the surrounding forest, the same will be compensated by the user agency and the forest land will be restored to its original state at the cost of user agency. In this regard the relevant rules, regulations, standards and guidelines made by OISD (Oil Industry Safety Directorate) and PNGRB (Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board) under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas; and PESO (Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation) under DPIIT shall be strictly followed and monitored at the appropriate level.;*

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

**Yours faithfully**

**Sd/-**

**(Charan Jeet Singh)**

**Scientist 'D'**

**Copy to:**

1. Prime Minister's Office North Block, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Govt of India, New Delhi.
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all StatesGovts/UT Administrations
4. APCCF -cum- Nodal Officer (FCA), all State Govts/UT Administrations.
5. All Integrated Regional Offices, MoEFCC, Government of India (GoI).
6. Joint Secretary, Impact Assessment Division, MoEF&CC, GoI.

7. All DIGs/AIGs in the Forest Conservation Division, MoEFCC, GoI.
8. Sr. PPS to the Secretary/DGF&SS/ADGF (FC), MoEFCC, GoI.
9. Guard File.