



भारतसरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय
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F. No. 3-TR B 031/2022-SHI/ 1065-66

18th July, 2023

सेवामे,

प्रमुख सचिव/ Principal Secretary,
त्रिपुरासरकार/ Government of Tripura
पर्यावरण और वन विभाग /Department of Environment & Forests,
कुंजावन, अगरतला/ Kunjaban, Agartala.

Sub : Diversion of 1.98 Ha of forest land for exploration of hydrocarbon / natural gas through Drilling, waste-pit and approach road at location BRMAK of Mouja-Howaibari under Khowai District by ONGC Tripura.

Sir,

This has got reference to the State Government of Tripura letter vide No. F.6-1315/FC/For-2021/382-88 dated 04.06.2022 on the subject mentioned above seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) in its meeting held on 24.08.2022 and its recommendation and subsequent approval of Ministry, New Delhi, In-Principle approval was granted vide this office letter of even number dated 10.02.2023 subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the In-Principle Approval.

3. In this connection and on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government of Govt of Tripura vide letter No. F.6-1315/FC/For-2021/334-36 dated 13.07.2023 and online payment made by user agency under CAMPA and submission of NEFT / RTGS Challan with transaction date 05.04.2023, **Final Approval** of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of **1.98 Ha** of forest land for exploration of hydrocarbon / natural gas through drilling, waste-pit and approach road at location BRMAK of Mouja-Howaibari under Khowai District by ONGC Tripura Agartala, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.
- (2) The compensatory afforestation has been proposed over double the area diverted in degraded forest land identified over **3.96 ha** at Mouja-Sriramkhara, C.S. Plot No.1116, Khatian No. 2/1, Teliamuar Sub-Division, Khowai District of Tripura, as per the fund deposited by the User Agency & scheme furnished by the State Govt with proper fencing as per the scheme prepared;
- (3) The KML files of the area to be diverted, the CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal by the State Government.
- (4) Any change in the diameter of borehole and number of bore holes shall be reported to the Integrated Regional Office, Shillong in advance for consideration and recommendations to the Central Government.
- (5) Permission for carrying out of exploratory drilling or any payment of NPV deposited for such operations will not confer any right with the user agency to carry out commercial exploitation except as per guidelines of Ministry dated 30.09.2019;

- (6) Permanent demarcation of forest land for diversion shall be done on the ground at project cost before handing over the forest land to the User Agency.
- (7) The user agency shall obtain the mandatory Environment Clearance as per the provision of Environment (Protection) Act 1986.
- (8) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- (9) The User Agency shall provide alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
- (10) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- (11) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Central Government.
- (12) The User Agency shall not expand its occupation or use surrounding forest/forest land in any manner otherwise expressed in this clearance.
- (13) Land so diverted shall revert back to the Forest Department in case it is not needed for the above use after due restoration to its original status (as far as possible and to the satisfaction of state Forest Deptt.).
- (14) The User Agency shall take all possible precautions & care all the time not to impact adversely the surrounding forests and that the wildlife habitat are not damaged unnecessarily by their actions/activities .
- (15) Tree felling shall be done only when absolutely unavoidable and such removal, if any, shall be done under the supervision of the Forest Department.
- (16) The layout plan shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
- (17) The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area.
- (18) The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
- (19) The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phase manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User agency from the very first year , and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, forest (Conservation) Act 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed.
- (20) The User agency shall explore the possibility of successful translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- (21) The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated condition to the State Govt, concerned RO and to the Ministry by the end of March every year.
- (22) Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-Fc dated 28.03.2017.

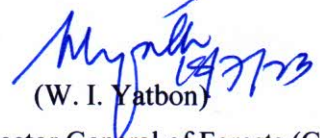
(23) The user agency shall comply with all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

(24) All other clearance/NOCs under different applicable rules/regulations /local laws and under Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights)Act, 2006 as required vide MoEF, New Delhi guideline No.11-9/1998-FC(pt) dated 03.08.2009 shall be complied with.

(25) Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, RO, Shillong may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife. The State Government shall ensure compliance of all the above conditions.

This is issued with approval of Deputy Director General of Forests (C).

भवदीय,

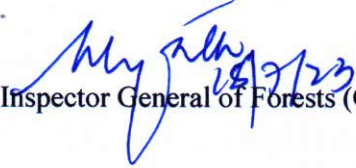

(W. I. Yatbon)

वनउपमहानिरीक्षक (केंद्रीय) / Deputy Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy to:

1. प्रधानमुख्यवनसंरक्षक, त्रिपुरासरकार , पर्यावरणऔरवनविभाग , कुंजावन, अगरतला / Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Govt. of Tripura, Department of Environment & Forests, Kunjaban, Agartala.

वनउपमहानिरीक्षक (केंद्रीय) / Deputy Inspector General of Forests (C)



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