

 <p> Telephone No.: 02527/272096 Fax No.: 02527/272096 Email: dcfsahapur@gmail.com, dydcfsahapur@mahaforest.gov.in </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shahapur Forest Division, Shahapur Shahapur-Asangaon Road, Old Agra Road, At Asangaon, Post Taluka Shahapur, District Thane 421 601 </p>
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No. Desk-6(3)/20/Land/ १३८ /2022-23

Date १६/०१/2023

To,
The Chief Conservator of Forests (T)
Thane.

Subject:- Diversion of 2.3238 ha. forest land for laying of Natural Gas Pipeline from Mumbai to Nagpur through Thane, Nashik, Ahmednagar, Aurangabad, Jalna, Buldhana, Washim, Amravati, Wardha & Nagpur Districts in the State of Maharashtra...
Proposal No. : FP/MH/Pipeline/140171/2021

Ref:- 1) Sr. Manager (S & LR), GAIL (India) Limited, Noida (U.P.) letter no. GAIL/MNPL/Forest/Thane/1, dated 21/05/2021
2) This office's letter no. Desk-6(3)/20/Land/805/21-22, dated 30/06/2021
3) DGM Construction, GAIL (India) Limited, Nagpur letter no. GAIL/MNPL/Forest/Thane/Shahapur_RD/02, dated 07/04/2022
4) This office's letter no. Desk-6(3)/20/Land/791/22-23, dated 15/06/2022
5) DGM Construction, GAIL (India) Limited, Nagpur letter no. GAIL/MNPL/Forest/Thane/Shahapur_RD/03, dated 12/07/2022

GAIL (India) Ltd. has planned to establish 24" Dia natural gas pipeline from Mumbai to Nagpur along Reserved/Revenue forest in the Right of Way of Nagpur – Mumbai Samruddhi Expressway & Mumbai – Mannad Pipeline of BPCL in Shahapur Taluka falling under jurisdiction of Shahapur Forest Division.

The pipeline proposed by GAIL (India) Ltd. is passing through the forest land already diverted to MSRDCL for construction of Nagpur Mumbai Super Communication Expressway (Package-V) vide MoEF&CC, Integrated Regional Office, Nagpur letter no. FC-III/ MH-35/2018-NGP/7757, dated 29/01/2021. But in some patches it is not feasible to work in the existing Right of Way of Nagpur – Mumbai Samruddhi Expressway. So the project authority has proposed diversion in the said patches, which requires new forest land. The Project involves Division of 2.3238 Ha. Forest land in Shahapur Forest Division.

The Project is owned, developed and maintained by GAIL (India) Limited, Government of India Undertaking – A Maharashtra Company. The Project involves diversion of 2.3238 Ha. Forest land in Shahapur Forest Division. GAIL (India) Ltd. has submitted the proposal

under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for seeking the prior approval of the Government of India. The details of required forest area are as below.

Sr. No.	District	Circle	Division	Legal Status	Area in Ha.	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Thane	Thane	Shahapur	Reserved Forest	0.7591	
				Protected Forest	1.4024	
				Restored Private Forest	0.1623	
GRAND TOTAL					2.3238	

2.00 The Project Authority i.e. DGM Construction, GAIL (India) Limited, Nagpur has submitted the proposal under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for seeking the prior permission from Govt. of India for Diversion of 2.3238 Ha. of forest land for laying 24" Dia Natural Gas Pipeline from Mumbai to Nagpur through jurisdiction of Shahapur Forest Division vide letter in reference. The Project authority has also uploaded the same proposal on www.forestsclearance.nic.in website and its ID No. is FP/MH/Pipeline/140171/2021.

3.00 The Project Authority has given undertaking to pay the total cost of Net Present Value as directed by the Govt. of India. The Project Authority has submitted necessary Certificates/ Undertakings and Maps which are enclosed in the proposal.

4.00 The Project Authority has submitted an undertaking to defray the cost of Compensatory Afforestation cost at the prevailing wage rate.

5.00 The Compensatory Afforestation is proposed on Double Degraded Forest land in Shahapur Forest Division. The details of the same are as follows.

District : Thane Taluka : Shahapur Village : Shei
Division : Shahapur Range : Shahapur Round : Shera
Gut No. : 156 Area in Ha. : 5.00 ha. Legal Status : Protected Forest

6.00 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shahapur has certified that the Double Degraded Forest land made available for Compensatory Afforestation is contiguous in itself, suitable for afforestation and management purpose also and it is free from encroachment and encumbrances. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shahapur has also submitted the Compensatory Afforestation Scheme as per Model Rate Structure for CA Model No. 6 under the guidelines issued by the Principal Chief Conservator (Head of Forest Force) Maharashtra State, Nagpur vide letter dated 04/10/2019 which is enclosed in the proposal.

7.00 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shahapur has certified that the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and guidelines under the Act have not been violated by the Project Authority. The necessary certificate is enclosed in the proposal.

8.00 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shahapur has certified that the proposed project is not likely to affect any monuments, site of culture, historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance.

9.00 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shahapur has certified that the details submitted by the project authority of non-forest land proposed under the proposal is neither deemed Reserved Forest under the provisions of Maharashtra Private Forests (Acquisition) Act, 1975 nor identified as "Forest" as envisaged in the interim order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 12/12/1996.

10.00 The entire area involved in this proposal does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Reserve, etc.

11.00 The nearest Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary is located 1.475 km away from project boundary. The proposed forest area for diversion under the project is falling within 10 Kms from (within Deemed Eco-Sensitive Zone) nearest Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary.

12.00 The Project Authority has submitted an undertaking to defray the cost of tree felling at the prevailing wage rate. Total 979 no. of trees will have to be felled for implementation of the project. The detailed Tree List and Estimate of Exploitation Cost is enclosed in the proposal.

13.00 The Project Authority has submitted an undertaking to furnish the FRA – 2006 Certificate from Collector, Thane with the Stage-I compliance report.

14.00 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shahapur has carried out Site Inspection on 27/07/2022. The Assistant Conservator of Forest (FLCS and CAMPA) Shahapur has carried out Joint Inspection on 27/07/2022. Site Inspection Report and specific recommendation is submitted in the proposal.

15.00 As per this office's letter under reference no. 2 & 4, the Project Authority was asked to submit the Environmental Clearance and Recommendation of SCNBWL for the said project. Since Environmental Clearance is mandatory vide the EIA Notification 2006 (Sr. No. 6(a)) Oil & gas transportation pipeline (crude and refinery/ petrochemical products), passing through national parks/ sanctuaries/ coral reefs/ ecologically sensitive areas including LNG Terminal.

And as the project is passing through the Eco-Sensitive Zone (within 10 Kms.) of Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary, it will require the prior recommendation of Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, is mandatory as per the guidelines issued by MoEF&CC letter no. FC-1/1/19/2020-FC dated 17/05/2022.

16.00 The Project Authority vide their letter under reference no. 5 has submitted that, MoEF&CC (IA Division) New Delhi vide letter F.No. 11011/16/2017-IA-II(I), dated 26/07/2019 has issued letter to GAIL (India) Ltd. for Jagdishpur – Haldia&Bokaro – Dhanna Natural Gas Pipeline (JHBDPL) Phase-II Project, stating that, "pipeline is reportedly passing through default eco-sensitive zones of Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary in District Chittra and Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary in District Hazaribagh (Jharkhand). As such, it is to reiterate that the project does not attract provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006."

And submitted that, the proposed Mumbai – Nagpur natural gas pipeline passes through deemed/ default ESZ of Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary and does not pass through

national park/ sanctuaries/ coral reefs/ ecologically sensitive areas, thus the project does not require Environmental Clearance and consideration by the National Board of Wildlife/ Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL/ SCNBWL).

17.00 The said proposal is being recommended subject to verification of the above mentioned matter i.e. applicability of Environmental Clearance and consideration by the National Board of Wildlife/ Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL/ SCNBWL).

18.00 Five sets of consolidated proposal with all required documents are enclosed herewith for further necessary action.

Encl.:- As above.



(SachinRepal)
Deputy Conservator of Forests
Shahapur Forest Division, Shahapur

Copy to the Sr. Manager (S & LR), GAIL (India) Limited, 8th Floor, GAIL Jubilee Tower, B-35 & 36, Sector-1, Noida – 201 301 (U.P.) for information and necessary action.