



GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
DIRECTORATE OF FORESTS

Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife
& Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal

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No.3628/WL/2M-33/15

Date : 20.12.2022

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF
West Bengal

(Attn. Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, FCA)

Sub : Proposal for diversion of 12.5492 ha of forest land in favour of Essar Oil and Gas Exploration and production Ltd., for laying of pipeline and access road to well site for their CBM Gas Project under Burdwan and Durgapur Forest Divn.

Ref. Your No.8411/L</2M-63/2022 dt. 28.11.22, MoEF& CC, Govt. of India's No. IRO/KOL/WB/Others/154900/2022/474 dt. 23.11.22 and CCF, South-East Circle's No.3097/SEC/2M-10(ESSAR) dt. 20.10.22.

Sir,

The proposal for diversion of 12.5492 ha of forest land under the jurisdiction of Burdwan and Birbhum Divisions in favour Essar Oil & Gas Exploration and Production Ltd. (EOGEPL) has been scrutinized at this end from wildlife usage point of view. The officials of EOGEPL made a presentation on 13th December, 2022 and this was followed by a written submission vide EOGEPL's Memo No.EOGEPL/CBM-RG(E)/MOEF/2022/4394 dt. 15.12.2022 (copy enclosed).

It has been noticed that the area does not fall under any designated elephant corridor; but stray elephants sometimes cross the Damodar river and enter the Paschim Burdwan District. At such stray events, these forest patches serve as temporary refugia of the migratory animals. The area is also abode of a number of endangered species including Schedule-I species like Indian Grey Wolf, Pangolin, Indian Python. Therefore, it is essential that the forest should be disturbed in a minimum possible way.

It has been taken note of the fact that the Chief Conservator of Forests, South-East Circle did an elaborate field exercise and vide his Memo No. No.3097/SEC/2M-10(ESSAR) dt. 20.10.22 reduced the proposed area for diversion from 17.6962 ha to 12.5492 ha by carefully removing important forest patches so that the wildlife is least disturbed as a result of this diversion. The observations made by the Chief Conservator of Forests, South-East Circle, are fully endorsed by this office.

PCCFWL: gg

It is considered opinion of the undersigned that the diversion of 12.5492 ha of forest land may be allowed subject to the following conditions :-

- a) No unnecessary barrier should be erected which can obstruct natural movement of animals in the area.
- b) The adequate and dedicated fire fighting arrangement should be put in place so that any accidental fire in the forests may be put out in a very short time. The facility should be available not only for fire originating from EOGEP's operation but also from other causes.
- c) The gas pipeline should be buried sufficiently deep inside the soil to prevent accidental damage from the movement of heavy animals and the burrowing animals. The ground surface above the pipeline should be so restored so as to make it indistinguishable from surrounding areas.
- d) Gas leakage from the pipeline or well pads should be monitorable online 24x7 from the control room and a facility should be put in place so as to seal the area of leakage remotely on detection.
- e) No waste water generated in the gas gathering stations or in the well pads should spill into adjoining forests. No food material should be kept inside the EOGEP's facility that might attract wild animals.
- f) The EOGEP would be required to finance an Wildlife Conservation Plan that may be drawn up by the Divisional Forest officers at a later date.
- g) The power generators to be used in EOGEP's facilities should be of the most silent kind.
- h) It is understood that the forest land would be reverted to the Forest Department after a period of 25 years.

Yours faithfully,


(DEBAJ RAY)

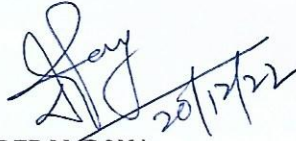
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife &
Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal

No.3628(5) /WL/2M-33/15

Date : 20.12.2022

Copy forwarded for information to :-

- (1) The Addl. Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, Dept. of Forests.
- (2) Shri Ranjan Jindal, Chief Financial Officer, Essar Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Ltd., Essar House-Durgapur, Vill. & P.O. Molandighi, Block-Kanksa, Durgapur Sub-Division, Dist. Paschim Bardhaman, Pin : 713 212. (e.mail : eogepl@essarenp.co.in) .
- (3) The Chief Conservator of Forests, South-East Circle
- (4) The DFOs, Birbhum / Durgapur Divisions.


(DEBAL RAY)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife &
Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal