

**Office of the Conservator of Forests, Gaya Circle**

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Site Inspection Note

Sub: - Inspection of Proposed Project Site for laying of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Natural Gas Steel Pipeline Network/MDPE Network along and across State Highway/MDR/other district roads under City Gas Distribution Project for GA, Rohtas in the Aurangabad Forest Division in Bihar for Forest Clearance under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 on 22nd April, 2020 by Shri. S. Chandrasekar, IFS., Conservator of Forest, Gaya Forest Circle, Gaya, Bihar:

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has been granted an authorization by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) for laying, building, operating and expanding City Gas Distribution Network and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Outlets (Public Utility Service) in authorized Geographical Areas of Rohtas, Kaimur & Aurangabad districts in Bihar vide authorization dated 06.09.2018.

As part of project, City Gas Station (CGS) will be set up near GAIL main pipeline in all the three districts. From there, laying of steel main pipeline upto 12 inch diameter and MDPE pipeline network upto 125 mm diameter will be laid all along the city roads, rural roads, SH, NH, MDR and other roads to provide Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and Compressed natural Gas (CNG) to the household, commercial and industrial customers. As part of this project under reference the gas pipeline has been proposed to be laid along the road-side, which is notified as Protected Forest within the jurisdiction of Aurangabad Forest Division, in Aurangabad district in Bihar. The details of the linear forest land involved in this instant project are as follows:

Sr. No.	Name of Section	Pipeline Dia.	Length (Km)	Width (m)	Area (SQM)	Forest Type	Revenue Circle
1.	Phesar road to Canal link road (0.4 km to 0.65 km)	8 inch	0.45	0.2	90	Linear - Protected	
2.	NH-139 From Jasoiya more to nearvillage Kathautiya	8 inch	4	0.2	800	Linear - Protected	
3.	2 Nos. Block Valves		0.002	2	8	Linear - Protected	
Total:					898		

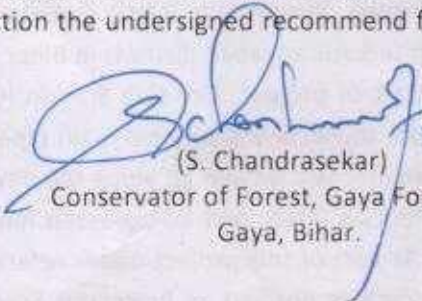
Altogether the total area of forest land involved is 0.0898 hectare and there are 882 trees/saplings falling along the proposed linear forest land in the proposed linear project site. The concerned officials of IOCL has stated that this instant project involves no tree felling, because the laying will be done manually or through Horizontal Direction Drilling (HDD) method.

The Senior Officer (Health, Safety & Environment), IOCL – CGD, Sasaram Mr. Rishab Jain; DFO, Aurangabad Forest Division Shri. Sanjay Prakash were present during the site inspection of this proposed project for diversion of forest land. The forest land under reference is a notified Protected Forest vide Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of Bihar's notification no. S. O.

400 dated 16th February, 1994 and the said forest land is located in the Aurangabad Forest Range, Aurangabad Forest Division in Bihar.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India vide letter no. F. No. 11-09/98-FC dated 7th November, 2014 has extended the general approval (already accorded for laying of optical fibre cables, telephone lines and drinking water supply pipelines) to underground laying of CNG/PNG pipelines along the roads within existing right of way not falling in National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, without felling of trees, where the maximum size of the trench is not more than 2.00 meter depth and 1.00 meter width subject to fulfillment of conditions stipulated in the Ministry's letter dated 16th October, 2000 in this subject.

The proposed forest land for diversion is the barest minimum area required for this environment friendly project and it has no other alternative than to use this forest land. The proposed forest land for diversion does not form any part of a wildlife sanctuary or National Park or corridor of any of the wildlife. During inspection and the records made available, no wildlife is found in the proposed project area. The user agency has not yet started the project work in the proposed forest land. In the light of the documents submitted and the recommendation of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer, Aurangabad Forest Division, Aurangabad and based on the site this instant site inspection the undersigned recommend for the approval of the Forest Clearance for this project.


(S. Chandrasekar)
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