



F.No. IA-J-11011/251/2019- IA II(I)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(IA-II Section)

By Speed Post

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi – 3

Dated: 6th July, 2020

To

The Managing Director

M/s Assam Gas Company Ltd
Duliajan (PO), District Dibrugarh
Assam -786 602

Email: agcl.projects@gmail.com

Sub: Nambor-Golaghat-Numaligarh Area Gas Pipeline Project in Golaghat District of Assam by M/s Assam Gas Company Ltd - Approval & Environmental Clearance-reg.

Sir,

This has reference to your proposal No. IA/AS/IND2/113784/2019 dated 7th August, 2019 and letter dated 2nd June, 2020 from M/s Assam Gas Company Ltd requesting permission for Nambor - Golaghat - Numaligarh area gas pipeline project in Golaghat District of Assam State within the jurisdiction of 'Numaligarh No Development Zone' and clarification on requirement of environmental clearance for the said project.

2. As per the details submitted by the project proponent, the project involves, Laying of 12" X 17 km piggable pipeline and associated terminal facilities connecting ONGCL gas field off-take point at Nambor GGS to Khoraghat GGS to Uriumghat; Laying of 8" x 47km piggable pipeline and associated terminal facilities connecting Uriumghat to Golaghat town; Laying of 8" x 29km piggable pipeline and associated terminal facilities connecting Golaghat town to Numaligarh along with tap off points to cater gas supply to around 50 nos. of tea factories; Laying of 8" X 3 km piggable pipeline and associated terminal facilities connecting Golaghat to Duliajan Tap-off; Laying of 6" X 12 km pipeline from Thoramukh to Halmiramukh and Laying of PE Spur lines for tap off to the customers.

3. It is reported that the approximate length of the pipeline route is 100.833 km which is passing through the Nambor-Golaghat-Numaligarh region of Golaghat District of Assam. Out of 100.833 km, a section of approximately 15 km pipeline is passing through the Rengma Forest. It was informed that the pipeline is not passing through any National Park/Sanctuaries/ESA/ESZ, and the proposed route is around 5 km away from the Nambor Wildlife Sanctuary and 24 km away from the Kaziranga National Park.

4. It is reported that the project proponent is having a gas pipeline from Khoraghat upto Golaghat (54.141 km) transporting gas to various CGD consumers and also

having the permission from forest department for RoU. It is reported that with additional allocation of gas from M/s ONGC, Khoraghat and Nambor sources portion have to replace for capacity augmentation. The project proponent has submitted a copy of the letter dated 21st February, 2007 issued by the Ministry's Regional at Shillong regarding approval for diversion of 0.4014 ha & 1.020 ha of forest land for compressor station and laying of underground pipeline under Golaghat division, Golaghat District, Assam.

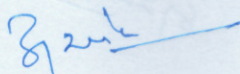
5. As part of the pipeline project, a portion of 8" pipeline of around 16.20 km falls inside the jurisdiction on Numaligarh "No Development Zone" (NDZ). The Ministry has issued a Notification vide S.O. 481 (E) dated 5th July, 1996 directing that, *"the expansion of industrial area, township, infra-structure facilities and such other activities which could lead to pollution and congestion shall not be allowed within 'No Development Zone' specified in the Appendix to the notification, except with the prior approval of the Central Government"*. It is noted that the 'No Development Zone' is 15 km radius around the Numaligarh Refinery except towards North West where it extends right upto the eastern boundary of the National Park. The notification has been issued to avoid tremendous pressure on the natural resources and the wildlife habitat in the Kaziranga National Park and its surroundings.

6. The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has been published vide S.O.1533(E) dated 14th September, 2006 in supersession of the EIA Notification, 1994. The said Notification mandates the requirement of prior environmental clearance for the projects/activities listed in the schedule to the Notification. That includes only the projects 'Oil & gas transportation pipe line (crude and refinery/ petrochemical products), passing through national parks/sanctuaries/coral reefs/ecologically sensitive areas including LNG Terminal under Category A of item 6(a) of the said schedule, requiring environmental clearance.

7. It is noted that, as per the revised classification of Industries by the Central Pollution Control Board, the oil and gas transportation pipeline is covered under 'Green category industry'. The proposed pipeline is to be laid underground in the 'No Development Zone' which may not lead to pollution and congestion, and may also not lead to any impact on the wildlife habitat of the region.

8. On examination of the above proposal vis-à-vis the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006, it has been decided that the said project/activity does not fall under the purview of the EIA Notification, 2006 and thus there is no requirement of environmental clearance to the above project. Further, considering that the oil and gas transportation pipeline is classified under 'Green category industry' as per the Central Pollution Control Board's document, and as the pipeline is proposed to be laid underground, without leading to pollution and congestion and any impact on the wildlife habitat of the region, the Ministry hereby accords approval for **Nambor-Golaghat-Numaligarh area Gas Pipeline Project in Golaghat District of Assam by M/s Assam Gas Company Ltd**, subject to the compliance of terms and conditions as under:-

- (i) The permission is restricted to laying the proposed underground pipeline in Numaligarh 'No Development Zone' only.



- (ii) The pipeline shall be laid underground and any change in this structure shall require prior approval from the Ministry.
- (iii) The proposed project/activity shall not lead to pollution and congestion in the 'No Development Zone' and shall not cause any pressure on the natural resources and the wildlife habitat in the Kaziranga National Park and its surroundings.
- (iv) If the proposed pipeline passes through National Parks/Sanctuaries/Ecologically sensitive areas of the region prior environmental clearance shall be obtained for its activity/operations. Also, the project proponent shall obtain all the necessary clearance under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, etc, as applicable to the project.
- (v) Necessary permission as mandated under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, as applicable from time to time, shall be obtained from the State Pollution Control Board.

9. Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated data and failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this approval and attract action under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.


10. This issues with approval of the competent authority.

Ashok
06/07/2020

(Ashok Kr. Pateshwary)
Director

Copy to: -

1. The Deputy DGF (C), MoEF&CC Regional Office (NEZ), Law-U-Sib, Lumbatngen, Near MTC Workshop, Shillong
2. The Secretary, Department of Environment and Forest, Government of Assam, H-Block, 2nd Floor, Janata Bhawan, Disupr, Guwahati (Assam)
3. The Member Secretary, Pollution Control Board Assam, Bamunimaidam, Guwahati
4. Guard File/Record File


(Ashok Kr. Pateshwary)
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