

Site Inspection Report of Divisional Forest Officer, Burdwan Division in respect of proposal for diversion of 1.63 ha. of Forest Land in favour of GAIL (India) Limited (A Government of India Undertaking – A Maharatna Company, 5th Floor, East Block, MECON Head Office Complex, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002, Jharkhand (India))

The undersigned inspected the forest land in different areas in the mouzas of Ijjatganj, Kanksa, Dhobaru and Sonai under Durgapur Range and Panagarh Range of this Division involved in the proposal submitted by GAIL (India) Limited (A Government of India Undertaking – A Maharatna Company, 5th Floor, East Block, MECON Head Office Complex, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002, Jharkhand (India) for diversion of forest land of 1.63 ha. in connection with laying of Natural Gas Pipeline along with Optical Fibre Cable in their Jagdishpur-Haldia-Bokaro-Dhamra Pipeline (JHBDPL) Project and examined the factual details and feasibility of the proposals, verified the maps etc. and found that –

- (i) This proposal does not involve much forest land as the proposal involves surface use of minimum forest land for laying of natural gas pipelines & optical fibre cables 1.2 m. (approx) underneath the natural ground with 10 m. width along the existing inspection path/forest land.
- (ii) As per enumeration list total 1271 nos. of Akashmoni, Sal, Eucalyptus, Mahua, Bahera, Pial, Jiol, Kelikadam, Piasal, Sonalu trees in forest are required to fell. These numbers include matured and immatured trees. Somewhere minor lopping may be required.
- (iii) During inspection it was also observed that no rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna is found in the forest areas under this diversion proposal.
- (iv) No protected archaeological/heritage site or any other important monument is located in these areas. Defence Establishment is within 1 km. (aerial distance) from the forest plots fall in the alignment of the project.
- (v) During inspection the authorised representatives of GAIL was apprised by the undersigned that no major machinery/heavy vehicle could be used on forest path/land. Only the existing forest road can be used for running of light vehicles only, but no development work of these roads can be undertaken in any way. Damage, if any, caused to the existing paths are to be repaired by the user agency at their own project cost.
- (vi) It was also ensured by the user agency that no major damage to forest vegetation will be done.
- (vii) There is no designated elephant corridor in the proposed gas pipe line alignment. However, migratory elephants often intrude in the area driving of which may demand the forest areas proposed for diversion.

The undersigned also examined all alternatives in the field and found the forest land proposed for diversion for such Project finally is unavoidable and barest minimum of the requirement.

Hence, the proposal is recommended for acceptance provided approval of reviewing authority.


Divisional Forest Officer
Burdwan Division.