

## GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL DIRECTORATE OF FORESTS OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, SOUTH – EAST CIRCLE, WEST BENGAL

SOUTH – EAST CIRCLE, WEST BENGAL WEBEL IT Park, (Phase-I), 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, WEBEL Office (Near City Centre)

Gandhi More, Durgapur-08. E-mail: ccfsewb@gmail.com

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## **Site Inspection Report**

I have inspected the site on 20.09.2019 in respect to proposed diversion of 1.63 ha forest land in different areas under Mouzas Ijjatganj, Kanksa, Dhobaru and Sonai under Panagarh Range of Burdwan Division.

The DFO, Burdwan Division, Range Officer, Panagarh Range, Deputy Rangers and Field Staffs and Officials of GAIL were present during the inspection.

This proposal does not involve much forest land as the proposal involves surface use on minimum forest land for laying of natural gas pipeline & optical fibre cables 1.2 m. (approx) underneath the natural ground with 10 m. width.

As per enumeration list, total 1271 nos. of Sal, Akashmoni, Eucalyptus, Mahua, Bahera, Pial, Jiol, Kelikadam, Piasal, Sonalu etc trees in forest are required to fell.

Upon field inspection, It is observed that the proposal for laying underground pipeline will affect 1630 Meters x10 Meters (16300 Sq meter) of forest land (Protected Forest) where good Sal trees and associates, plantations of Eucalyptus (including Clonal), Akashmoni are existing as there is no probable feasible route to divert. The number of trees to be felled (Particularly Sal) can be minimized/reduced if entry and use of heavy machineries are avoided.

It was learnt that animals like Wolf, Wild Boar, Langur, Civet Cat, Fox, Pangolin, Squirrel, Jungle Hare, Cobra, Russel Viper etc are present in the area. It is expected that the proposed linear project of underground laying of pipeline is unlikely to cause any problem to the wild life.

Since, no probable alternative is available, therefore, considering the importance of transfer of bulk natural gas to many states, including the state of West Bengal, which in turn will help in Socio-Economic Development of the State, the 1.63 ha of forest land may be allowed to use for laying the underground Jagdishpur-Haldia-Bokaro-Dharma (JHBDPL) Pipeline without changing nature and character of the forest in question provided all terms and conditions are followed and if the Compensatory Afforestation is done.

(Kalyan Das)

Chief Conservator of Forests South-East Circle, WB