

भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

BY SPEED POST

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File No- J-11011/50/2006-IA-II (I)

Date: 6th August 2007

To,

M/s Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Limited
Lakshmi Chambers
192, St. Mary's Road
Alwarpet
Chennai- 600 018
Tamil Nadu

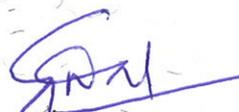
Subject: Environment Clearance for On-Shore Drilling Campaign at AAP-ON-94/1 Block at Tinsukia, Assam By M/s Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Ltd.

Sir,

Kindly refer to your application No. AAP/ENV/Ministry of Environment and Forest/2007-01-001 dated 5th January 2007 regarding the subject mentioned above.

2. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has examined the proposal. It is noted that the proposal is to drill 2 exploratory wells in Block AAP-ON-94/1 in Dirok and N. Ledo in Tinsukia, Assam as per the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) executed along with other Joint Venture partners viz. IOCL and Oil India. The Cost of the Project is Rs. 66.00 Crores. The Block is located in upper part of Assam Valley, about 30 km from Myanmar Border and 120 Km from the Chinese Border and 350 km from the Bangladesh Border. The total area involved in the Block is 435 sq km and 2.3 ha will be required per drill site. Dirok drill site falls within the Dirok Tea garden where land is presently utilized for Tea Plantation. N. Ledo drill site is located within agricultural land of Lal Pahar. Dehing- Patkai Wild Life Sanctuary is within 1 km of the Dirok site. No ecologically sensitive area exists within N. Ledo site. The Block is in close proximity to the already discovered Nahor Katiya Oil Field and Digboi Oil-Field, Assam.

3. The project activity is listed at 1(b) as 'A' Category Project in the Schedule of EIA Notification 2006. The proposal was for evaluation of draft EIA/EMP report for its adequacy as per Para 2.2.1. (i) (a) of the Interim Operational Guidelines dated 13th October 2006 issued by the Ministry. The Public Hearing for the project was held on 15th June 2007 and the Final EIA/EMP was submitted on 2nd July 2007.

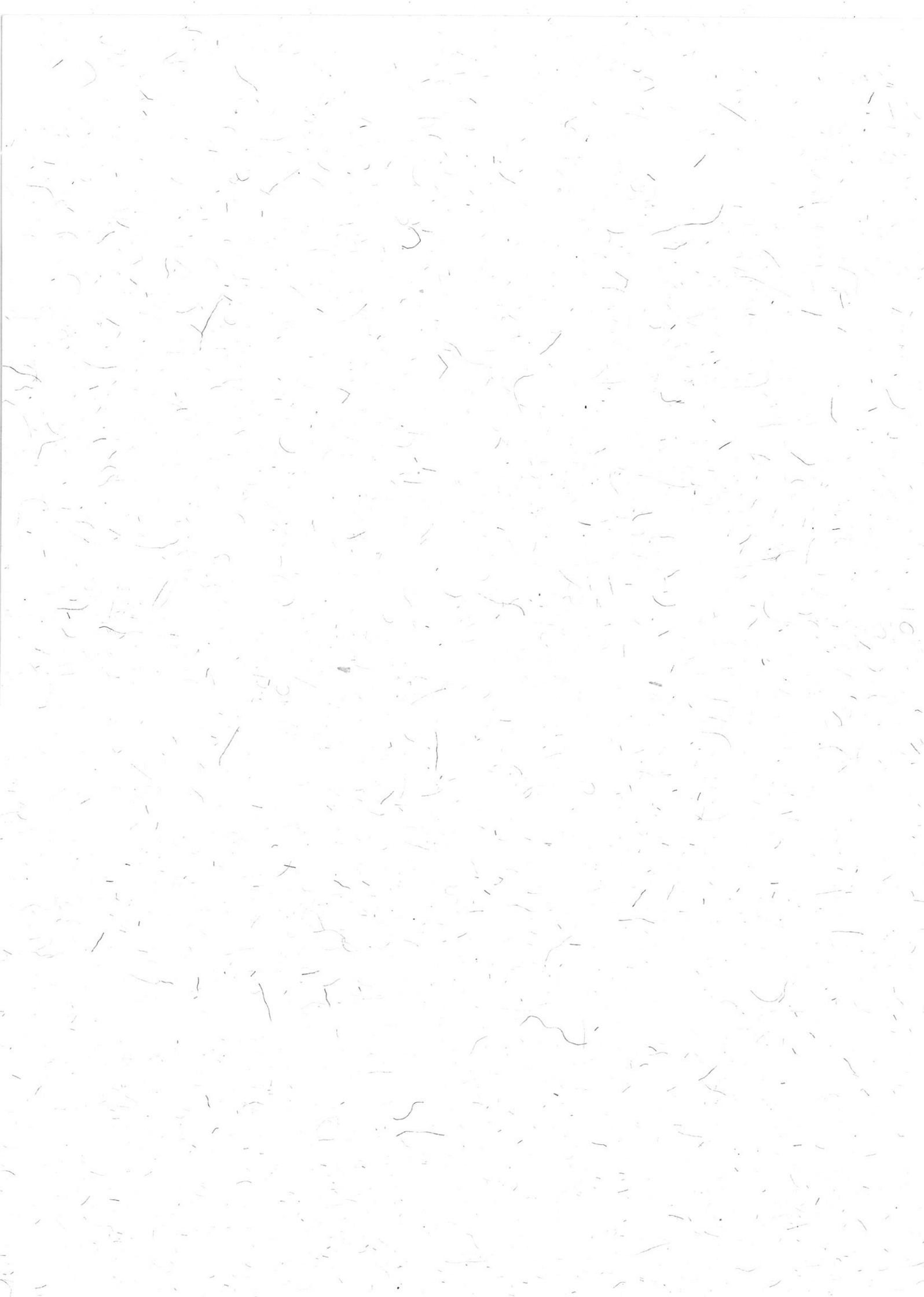


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जहाँ है हरियाली।
वहाँ है खुशहाली।।

पर्यावरण भवन, सी.जी.ओ कॉम्प्लेक्स, लोदी रोड, नई दिल्ली - 110 003
PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, C.G.O. COMPLEX, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110 003



4. Based on the information submitted by you, the Ministry of Environment and Forests hereby accords environmental clearance to above project under the provisions of EIA Notification dated 14th September 2006 subject to the compliance of the following Specific and General conditions:

A. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

- (i) Environmental Clearance is subject to obtaining clearance under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 from the Competent Authority.
- (ii) Environmental Clearance is subject to final order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order of India in the matter of Goa Foundation V/s Union of India in Write Petition (Civil) No. 460 of 2004 as may be applicable to this project.
- (iii) There shall be no arms/ammunitions at the site and no shooting of the elephants for keeping them away from the site shall be carried out.
- (iv) The company shall comply with the guidelines for disposal of solid wastes, drill cuttings and drilling fluids for On-shore Drilling operation notified vide GSR 546 (F) dated 30th August, 2005.
- (v) Drilling will be only for a period of 3-4 months only and actual drilling will be for one month for each well. If commercial viability of Hydrocarbons is found in these wells, the same shall be tapped for production purposes or else they shall be abandoned as per Petroleum Industry Standards. The company shall produce a detailed plan for development and obtain fresh Environmental Clearance in case commercial viability is established.
- (vi) The top soil removed shall be stacked separately for reuse during restoration process.
- (vii) Land involved for short term lease from private land owners shall not exceed 2.3 ha. Appropriate compensation shall be provided for loss of crop during lease period. The land shall be restored and handed over to the lease owner in its original state.
- (viii) Only water based mud system shall be used for the Drilling. The drilling mud shall be recycled. Prior permission shall be obtained in case of use of Synthetic oil based mud.
- (ix) Quantities of Storage of Chemicals and Additives required for drilling mud preparation will be below the specified thresholds for storage permitted under the MSIHC Rules.



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- (x) Drilling shall be carried out strictly as per the prevailing petroleum industry norms in E&P industry and the prescribed environmental standards and guidelines shall be followed.
- (xi) The emissions of (RSPM, SPM, SO₂, NO_x, HC and VOC) from DG set and from flare stack shall conform to the standards prescribed by the concerned State Pollution Control Board. All the measures detailed in the EMP shall be taken to control the point/stack and fugitive gaseous emissions and other discharges from the proposed activity. Regular monitoring of ambient air for HC and VOC shall be carried out as per CPCB guidelines.
- (xii) Stack height attached to DG sets shall be in conformance with the Environment Protection Act & Rules.
- (xiii) A temporary flare stack shall be provided as per the Oil Mines Regulations, 1984 & the flare-line shall terminate with a vertical rise of at least 9 m or greater.
- (xiv) Noise levels will be within 70 dBA at the boundary of the well site. Noise reducing technologies in the equipment including DG Sets with acoustic enclosures shall be provided.
- (xv) No long terms Housing facility shall be provided. Only a camp site shall be constructed for workers.
- (xvi) Waste water generation during drilling operation will be around 25 m³/day for period of 1-2 month which will be confined to HDP Lined Pit and disposed off into natural drain (Ongchap Jang Nalla and Ghuma Mandir Nalla) after treatment.
- (xvii) Sewage shall be discharged into septic tank through soak pit specially constructed at drilling site.
- (xviii) Solid waste generated as Drill cuttings, 450-500 m³ of drill cuttings comprising of natural earth materials like clay, shale, silt and sand etc. and Drilling mud from spent drilling fluid, generated will be separated in the solid control system and stored in HDPE lined pit which will be covered with an impervious liner after the pit is filled. Drilling mud will be recycled and reused to the extent possible. Oily sludge will be disposed at a TSDF having an authorised incineration facilities. Adequate arrangement for management and handling of solid & hazardous waste shall be done.



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- (xix) The Membership of Common TSDf shall be submitted in 15 days from the issue of this letter otherwise secured landfill shall be created at the site with the authorization from the State Pollution Control Board. The design of SLF shall be approved by SPCB.
- (xx) The recyclable waste (Oily sludge) & spent Oil shall be disposed to the Authorized recyclers nominated by GPCB.
- (xxi) Established well control techniques & 3 level barriers for blow-out preventers will be installed at site.
- (xxii) Occupational Health Surveillance of the workers shall be carried out as per the prevailing Acts and Rules.
- (xxiii) Pre-hire rig inspection, safety meetings, toolbox meetings, job safety analysis and audits will be carried out to identify hidden /potential hazards.
- (xxiv) The Company shall implement the recommendations made in final EIA /EMP Report. All commitments made during the Public Hearing shall be implemented/ complied with by the Company.
- (xxv) The Company will undertake all relevant measures, for improving the Socio-economic conditions of the surrounding areas.

B. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- i. The project authorities must strictly adhere to the stipulations made by the concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and the State Government.
- ii. No further expansion or modification in the project shall be carried without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. In case of deviations or alternations in the project proposal from those submitted to the Ministry for clearance, a fresh reference shall be made to the Ministry.
- iii. At no time, the emissions should go beyond the prescribed standards. In the event of failure of any pollution control system, the respective well site should be immediately put out of operation and should not be restarted until the desired efficiency has been achieved. Provision of adequate height of stack attached to DG sets & flare is to be done.
- iv. Wastewater shall be properly collected and treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under EP Act & Rules and mentioned in the Consents provided by the relevant SPCB.



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- v. The overall noise levels in and around the premises shall be limited within the prescribed standards by providing noise control measures including acoustic hoods, silencers, enclosures etc. on all sources of noise generation. The ambient noise levels should conform to the standards prescribed under EPA Rules, 1989 viz. 75 dBA (day time) and 70 dBA (night time).
- vi. The project authorities must strictly comply with the provisions made in Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules 1989 as amended in 2000 for handling of hazardous chemicals etc. Necessary approvals from Chief Controller of Explosives must be obtained before commission of the expansion project, if required. Requisite On-site and Off-site Disaster Management Plans will be prepared and implemented.
- vii. Authorization from the State Pollution Control Board must be obtained for collections/treatment/storage/disposal of hazardous wastes.
- viii. The project authorities will provide Rs 20.Lakh as non-recurring funds and adequate recurring funds to implement the conditions stipulated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests as well as the State Government along with the implementation schedule for all the conditions stipulated herein. The funds so provided should not be diverted for any other purposes.
- ix. The stipulated conditions shall be monitored by the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry /Central Pollution Control Board/State Pollution Control Board. A six monthly compliance report and the monitored data should be submitted to them regularly. It shall also be displayed on the Website of the Company.
- x. The Project Proponent should inform the public that the project has been accorded environmental clearance by the Ministry and copies of the clearance letter are available with the State Pollution Control Board/ Committee and may also be seen at Website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at <http://www.envfor.nic.in>. This should be advertised within seven days from the date of issue of the clearance letter at least in two local newspapers that are widely circulated in the region of which one shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned and a copy of the same should be forwarded to the concerned Regional office of this Ministry.
- xi. Proper house keeping and adequate occupational health programs shall be taken up. Sufficient preventive measures shall be adopted to avoid direct exposure to emission.



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- xii. A separate environment management cell with full fledged laboratory facilities to carry out various management and monitoring functions shall be set up under the control of a Senior Executive.
8. The Ministry may revoke or suspend the clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory.
9. The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions if found necessary. The company shall implement these conditions in a time bound manner.
10. The above conditions will be enforced, inter-alia under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991, Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 and Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 along with their amendments and rules.



(Sanchita Jindal)
Additional Director

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Department of Environment, Science & Technology, Government of Assam, Assam Secretariat, Guwahati- 781 006, Assam.
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests (North Eastern Region), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, Upland Road, Laitumkhrach, Shillong- 793 003, Assam.
3. The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi - 110 032.
4. The Chairman, Assam State Pollution Control Board, Bamunimaidan, Guwahati - 781 021, Assam.
5. Monitoring Cell, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, New Delhi.
6. Guard File/Monitoring File/ Record File/ Web Site of the MoEF

(Sanchita Jindal)
Additional Director