

(भारत सरकार का एक उपक्रम - महारत कंपनी)

GAIL (India) Limited

(A Government of India Undertaking - A Maharatna Company)

Ref: GAIL/KKMBPL/5.5831/RF-Dharmapuri//2024/03

To, Thiru. K. Rajangam, IFS District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Forest Division,

Dharmapuri - 636705

गेल कैम्प कार्यालय : होटल अश्वा पार्क, 96/6-ए, स्टील प्लांट मेन रोड,, रेड्डीपट्टी राउंडाना सलेम-636302, तमिलनाडु

GAIL CAMP OFFICE: HOTEL ASHWA PARK, 96/6-A, STEEL PLANT MAIN ROAD, REDDIPATTY ROUNDANA SALEM -636302, TAMILNADU.

Date: 25/06/2024

Sub- Permission for laying proposed 24" Ø Steel Gas pipeline along with OFC duct along Gummanur and Toppur Reserved Forest in Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu.

Ref.: Your office letter Ref. No. C. NO. 148/2023/D, dated 07.06.2024.

Dear Sir,

This is reference to our online application Dt. 19.10.2022 seeking permission for laying an underground steel pipeline along with OFC duct in the small stretches of Gummanur and Thoppur Reserved Forest in Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu.

Subsequent to joint field inspection and resurvey by GAIL, various details/documents viz., peg marking and number of trees falling in the above pipeline alignment etc., where also furnished as sought by the forest authority concerned. Accordingly, the pipeline laying works in both upstream and downstream of the forest stretches are in progress.

With reference to your letter No. 148/2023/ D, Dt.07.06.2024 the following details furnished for expediting the issuance of permission.

- As per Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardharn) Adhiniyam Rules and the criteria mentioned in Schedule 1 of the Rule 2023 the requisite Compensatory Afforestation non forest land of extend 5.5831 Ha has been identified in Kammapatti village in Nallampalli Taluk in Dharmapuri District administration and in the process of allotment.
- 2. Concerning, the area utilized for laying pipeline in other than forestland (Patta/Other department land) in Salem-Dharmapuri Stretches is around 36 Ha only for the stretch of 140.3 km mainly along various road corridor as advised by Govt. of Tamil Nadu in which the pipeline laying works are in progress upon receipt of permission from various departments. As such, the width of the pipeline Right of Way (ROW) normally taken is 18 m. However, for this project only 2 m width of the pipeline ROW is considered under the restricted category to accommodate the within the boundary of the road corridor.
- 3. Similarly, in forest land as well it is proposed to utilize the restrict pipeline ROW only as detailed below:

पंजीकृत कार्यालय: गेल भवन, 16, भीकाजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली - 110066. इंडिया la coly

- a) Pipeline ROW with of 2 m along the existing roads inside the forestland for the stretch of 0.39 Km (out of total stretch of 5.895 Km inside the forestland) to the extent of 0.078 Ha.
- b) Pipeline ROW with of 10 m inside the forest area for the stretch of 5.505 Km (out of total stretch of 5.895 Km inside the forestland) to the extent of 5.505 Ha.
- 4. In regard to realigning of the pipeline along the NH-44, the same was explored during the Detailed Engineering Survey itself and found laying of pipeline along the existing the NH-44 stretches is technically not feasible and NH authority also declined the permission, hence GAIL is left with no alternate option and constrained to finalize the pipeline alignment in the small stretches in forestland.
 - a) The road in the hilly area with undulated terrain.
 - b) Laying of pipeline with sharp bends of variable depth is not feasible on technical and safety ground as per the International standards ASTM/OISD-141 & 117 etc.,

Further, we like to reiterate that the pipeline alignment has already undergone various changes based on the directive of Govt. of Tamil Nadu to align the pipeline along various road corridor and Govt. Lands to minimize the acquisition of private/ agriculture lands to circumvent the prolonged agitation of the farmers.

In view of the above, we request you kindly expedite the issuance of permission in the forest area to ensure the completion of this pipeline infrastructure project of nation importance by Nov 2024 as assigned by MoP&NG, Govt. of India.

Yours Sincerely,

For GAIL (India) Limited,

उप महाप्रबन्धक (निरमाण) /D.G.M (Construction)

गेल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड / GAIL (India) Limited Authorized signatory सेलम, तमिलनाडु / Salem, Tamil Nadu

CC to:

- 1. PCCF, Chennai for kind information
- 2. CGM, TIDCO, Chennai for kind information