



गेल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड

(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम - महारत्न कंपनी)

GAIL (India) Limited

(A Government of India Undertaking - A Maharatna Company)

GAIL/MNPL/Forest/Thane/Shahpur\_D/03

ऑफिस :

होटल ली मेरिडीयन, (रूम नं. 402/403)

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Date: 12/07/2022

To,  
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forest,  
Shahpur Forest Division,  
Shahpur, Thane-421601

Subject: Reply to EDS raised by DCF, Shahpur, dated 27/06/2022

Diversion of 2.2472 Ha. Forest land for laying of Natural Gas Pipeline along with OFC from Mumbai to Nagpur through Thane, Nashik, Ahmednagar, Aurangabad, Jalna, Buldhana, Washim, Amravati, Wardha & Nagpur districts in the state of Maharashtra.

- Ref.:
1. GAIL (India) Limited Proposal No.: FP/MH/Pipeline/140171/2021.
  2. GAIL letter no. GAIL/MNPL/Forest/Thane/Shahpur\_D/01 dated 21/05/2021 (Received on 03/06/2021).
  3. DCF, Shahpur letter No.: Desk-6(3)/20/Land/804/2021-22 dated 30/06/2021
  4. GAIL letter no. GAIL/MNPL/Forest/Thane/Shahpur\_D/02 dated 17/09/2021.
  5. DCF, Shahpur No.: Desk-6(3)/20/Land/797/2022-23 dated 15/06/2022.
  6. MoEF&CC (Forest Conservation Division) Guideline No. FC-11/119/2020-FC, dated 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

Sir,

With reference to the above subject and query raised on 15/06/2022, the queries as per letter under reference 5 is:

1. As per the Schedule of the EIA Notification 2006 (Sr. No. 6(a)) Oil & Gas transportation pipeline (crude and refinery/ petrochemical products), passing through National parks/ sanctuaries/ coral reefs/ ecologically sensitive area including LNG Terminal, requires the Environmental Clearance. As the Project is passing through the Eco-sensitive zone (within 10 Kms.) of Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary, it will require Environmental Clearance.
2. As the project is passing Eco-Sensitive Zone (within 10 Kms) of Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary, it will require the prior recommendation of Standing Committee of National Board of Wildlife under the provision of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

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The compliance to the above queries is given below:

**Reference Guidelines / Notifications / Maps:**

- 1 MoEF&CC (Forest Conservation Division) Guideline No. FC-11/119/2020-FC, dated 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.
- 2 EIA Notification, 2006.
- 3 Draft ESZ Notification of Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary vide S.O. 2566(E), published on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2017.
- 4 MoEF&CC (IA Division) OM vide F. No. J-11011/294/2017-IA-II(I), dated 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 for Oil & gas transportation pipeline – Applicability of EIA Notification, 2006 – reg.
- 5 MoEF&CC (IA Division) OM vide F. No. J-11011/16/2017-IA-II(I), dated 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 for Jagdishpur-Haldia and Bokaro-Dhamra Natural Gas Pipeline (JHBDPL) Phase-II Project by M/s GAIL (India) Ltd – Environmental Clearance – reg.
- 6 Map Showing Wildlife Sanctuaries and Proposed Mumbai – Nagpur Natural Gas Pipeline.

The following points justifies that the Mumbai – Nagpur Natural Gas Pipeline Project does not require Environmental Clearance & Wildlife Clearance (consideration by the NBWL / SCNBWL).

1. MoEF&CC Clarification on requirement of Environmental, Forest and Wildlife Clearance vide FC-11/119/2020-FC, dated 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2022. The Column 2 viz. **(Project / Activity outside PA wherein ESZ is not notified or ESZ Notification is at draft stage)** to be read for Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary as only draft ESZ Notification is published vide ref. 3. The criteria for

Environmental Clearance is

*"For Project/Activity covered under the Schedule of EIA Notification, 2006; prior EC as per the prescribed procedure is mandatory anywhere outside the PA"*

And for Consideration by the National Board of Wildlife / Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL / SCNBWL)

*"Project/Activity covered under the Schedule of EIA Notification, 2006 and located within 10 km of National Park or Sanctuary shall require consideration by the NBWL / SCNBWL"*

As per the above criteria's, If the project activity is covered under the Schedule of EIA Notification, 2006 than the guideline under ref.1 is applicable or else the guideline is not applicable and Environmental Clearance as well as Consideration by the National Board of Wildlife / Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL/SCNBWL) is not required.

As per the Schedule of EIA Notification, 2006 "LIST OF PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES REQUIRING PRIOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE", the proposed Mumbai Nagpur Natural Gas Pipeline Project comes under Project or Activity 6(a) i.e. **"Oil & gas transportation pipeline (crude and refinery/petrochemical products), passing through national parks / sanctuaries / coral reefs / ecologically sensitive areas including LNG Terminal for all Projects."**

The pipeline route passes through the deemed/default Eco-sensitive zone of Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary as the ESZ notification is at draft stage and the nearest distance from

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नागपूर महाराष्ट्र / Nagpur Maharashtra  
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Pipeline route is 1.50 Km (approx.) away from the protected area of Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary as per Map enclosed (Map showing Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary). Hence, it is confirmed that the proposed Natural Gas Pipeline does not pass through Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary and it passes only through deemed/default Eco-sensitive Zone of Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary. The Clause 6(a), EIA Notification, 2006 mentions ecologically sensitive areas and not eco-sensitive zone. Hence, the above guideline is not applicable to Gas Pipelines and thus Environment Clearance and Consideration by the National Board of Wildlife / standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL / SCNBWL) is not required for the project.

2. MoEF&CC (IA Division) vide F. No. J-11011/294/2017-IA-II(I), dated 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 had issued clarification on EIA notification, 2006, 6(a) that only those project where the pipeline is passing through national parks/sanctuaries/coral reefs/ecologically sensitive areas, shall be required to obtain the prior environmental clearance.

The above clarification by MoEF&CC reiterates that if the pipeline passes through national parks/sanctuaries/coral reefs/ecologically sensitive areas then it comes under the purview of EIA Notification, 2006 as the pipeline route does not pass through any of the areas mentioned above, provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 is not applicable.

3. MoEF&CC (IA Division) vide F. No. J-11011/16/2017-IA-II(I), dated 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 had issued letter to GAIL (India) Limited for Jagdishpur – Haldia & Bokaro – Dhamra Natural Gas Pipeline (JHBDPL) Phase-II Project (Ref. 5)

Point 3 in the above letter states that the pipeline route passes through default eco-sensitive zones of Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary in District Chatra and Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary in District Hazaribagh. Hence, the project does not attract provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006.

This confirms that Gas Pipelines passing through national parks / sanctuaries / coral reefs / ecologically sensitive areas comes under the purview of EIA Notification, 2006 and thereby for Environmental Clearance & Consideration by the National Board of Wildlife / Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL/SCNBWL).

The Proposed Mumbai – Nagpur Natural Gas Pipeline passes through deemed / default ESZ of Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary and does not pass through national parks / sanctuaries / coral reefs / ecologically sensitive areas, the project does not require Environmental Clearance and consideration by the National Board of Wildlife / Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL/SCNBWL).

It is kindly requested to process accordingly.

Thanking You,

For, GAIL (India) Limited

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