



Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited
Eastern Offshore Asset
KG-DWN-98/2 Project Office

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No. ONGC/EOA/98-2/Forest

Date: 27.07.2021

To
District Forest Officer
Kakinada,
Andhra Pradesh.

Sub: Diversion of 3.26 ha of forest land (2.67 ha of forest Matlatippa RF and 0.59 ha Mangrove Forest Land) for laying of 20" pipeline (about 31 kms) from offshore platform through mouth of the Gouthami River to ONGC onshore plant at East Godavari District in favour of M/s ONGC Kakinada- Reg.

Ref: 1. FP/AP/Pipeline/42672/2019, Dt.28.10.2019
2. F.No. 4-APB124/2021-VIJ/43, Dt. 13.07.2021
3. EFS02-15027/4/2019-FCA-SEC PCCF/FCA-3, dt. 18.07.2021
4. Rc.No. 2432/2019-D1, dt. 23.07.2021

Dear Sir,

ONGC is developing Block KG-DWN-98/2 under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), in deep waters off the east coast of India. As a part of the project it was proposed for laying 20" Gas Pipeline (about 31 KMs) from Offshore Platform through Mouth of the Gouthami River to ONGC Onshore plant at Mallavaram Village, Tallarevu Mandal, East Godavari District. The purpose of this pipeline is for transporting of produced and processed gas from offshore platform and FPSO (Floating Production Storage Offloading) facilities located in the territorial waters of State of AP. Currently, Offshore process platform and FPSO are under construction, majority of offshore activities have completed and expected to be ready for production operations soon. Being a project of National importance and targeted to commence production operations on the eve of Nation's 75th Independence Year, Govt of India (PMO) is closely monitoring the instant project.

Hence, laying of said 20" Gas Pipeline must be completed prior to commencement of offshore production operations. If laying of pipeline is delayed, then production of Oil & Gas from offshore shall accordingly be delayed, resulting a potential National loss/ delay of production of about **46,000 barrels/ day of Oil** and **7.5 MMSCMD** of Gas. Thus, any delay in pipeline laying may result in potential loss of about **Rs 1050 Crores** per annum to Exchequers in the form of Statutory levies at current Oil & Gas prices.

With reference to Ref. no. 3 above, ONGC response is as given below.

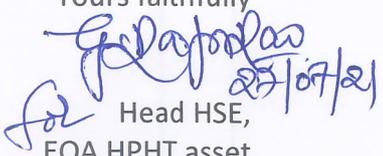
S. No.	Observation	Reply
1.	The User Agency has proposed for diversion of 3.26 ha for laying 20" pipeline while the RoW proposed is of 20 meters. Therefore, proper justification on requirement of 20 meters RoW for laying of 20" pipeline shall be furnished;	<p>As can be seen from the cross section of the pipeline laying in the forest area (copy attached – Pipe Cross section) the dredging work requires 4.5 m at the pipeline laying position and in order to give the stability to the walls of the dredged area at the top (river bed) width will be 20 m hence the RoW has been taken as 20 m in the forest area.</p> <p>In addition to the above, As per Company norms & protocols for monitoring and periodic inspection / maintenance of major Trunk pipelines, free access required in the ROW corridor for 10 mts on each side of pipeline. Hence, as 20" Gas pipeline is main trunk line transporting offshore gas to Onshore for connecting to consumer pipeline grid, a total 20 mts RoW corridor is sought from approving authorities.</p>
2.	In the hard copy of the proposal, it is reported that the legal status of 2.67 ha as RF & 0.59 ha as deemed forest. However, in Online application under Part II, DFO reported 3.26 ha as RF, hence, same shall be corrected and updated in online application;	1.17 km of pipeline is passing through the water body in compartment no. 666 of Matlatippa RF Kakinada Territorial range of Kakinada division which comes to 2.67 ha as informed by the DFO Kakinada. Separately a total of 0.59 ha of mangroves (in revenue land) also falls under the pipeline route which has been classified as deemed forest area. Hence, 2.67 ha falls under RF and 0.59 ha falls under deemed forest area. It is requested to do the necessary corrections.
3.	The DFO, Kakinada Forest Division has reported that, rare/ endangered/unique species of fauna like Fishing Cats and Otters are sighted in and around the proposed area for diversion. However, comments of CWLW regarding impact of the project on the above mentioned species along with mitigation plan required if any, has not been submitted. The same may kindly be furnished.	Wildlife management plan has been prepared with the guidance of DFO (WL) for WL clearance application and submitted on 20/08/2020, A conservation plan of 800 lakhs proposed in it. Same has been forwarded to CWLW on 24/11/2020 by CF, RJY for approval of CWLW. (Copy attached – Wildlife management plan).
4.	Requirement of other statutory permission like CRZ clearance, SC-NBWL etc for the project & status of such permissions may be informed;	<p>CRZ clearance obtained on 15/10/2020 (copy attached).</p> <p>Environmental clearance was applied vide application number IA/AP/IND2/104655/2019 dated 03.05.2019. In response to this application MoEFCC raised EDS stating "Please inform whether the proposed pipeline is PASSING THROUGH any National Park/ Sanctuaries/Coral Reefs/ESA etc., as per</p>

		<p>the EIA Notification 2006. Please also see Ministry's OM dated 6th September 2018 regarding applicability". Reply to the same was submitted and MoEF&CC had thereafter responded stating that "<u>the proposed pipeline is not attracting the provisions of the EIA Notification, requiring prior EC</u>". (document for reference attached)</p> <p>Wildlife clearance application FP/AP/Pipeline/2019 submitted on 12/12/2019.</p> <p>Later the letter vide F. No 6-60/2020/WL Part (1) dated 16.07.2020 issued by Wildlife Division, MoEF&CC, it is understood that the proposed pipeline project does not attract requirement of Wild Life Clearance under the guidelines as this project does not require the Environmental Clearance. (copy of letter attached)</p> <p>However Wildlife Clearance application is under process and at present is pending at SBWL and decision is expected soon.</p>
5.	<p>The User Agency has reported that, the area proposed for diversion is in two segments with four bits. However, kml files of only two bits have been uploaded in the online application. Hence, remaining two bits needs to be uploaded;</p>	<p>Online application with all the segments uploaded.</p>
6.	<p>CA details like, Map with DGPS co-ordinates, detailed CA scheme, kml file etc. have not been provided and uploaded in the online application by the DFO under Part II. Hence above documents need to be furnished and uploaded in the online application;</p>	<p>As per the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Forest Conservation Rules, 2003 (Guidelines & Clarifications) issued by MOEFCC, GOI, 2019, Part B clause 2.5 (i) – "CA shall be raised and maintained at the cost of the User Agency on degraded forest land twice in extent of the forest area diverted in the cases of: (f) The project implemented by Central Government/ PSUs, excluding Central Govt./ Central PSUs Projects implemented by/ through State Government and State Sector Projects implemented by the Central Government/ PSUs".</p> <p>This project is being implemented by Central PSU i.e., ONGC. Hence the CA has been identified by DFO, Kakinada in the Murari RF. Total CA area identified = 7.84 ha. Topomap and DGPS map of CA land have been uploaded in the additional documents.</p>

		Since this project is being implemented by Central PSU the option to add the CA details is not available in PARIVESH portal to User Agency (ONGC). Hence DFO is requested to kindly update the CA details in Part II.
7.	The User Agency under A (A-1) (x) in PART 1 of the online application, requested that the total period required for diversion as one (1) year. Hence same needs to be confirmed as the project appears to be permanent in nature & for a longer period;	Period of diversion was taken as 1 year since that is the period required for laying of pipeline. The pipeline is buried underground and is not exposed anywhere. Once pipeline is laid the design life of pipeline is 25 years. Hence the diversion period will be taken as 25 years and shall be corrected once online application is forwarded to ONGC
8.	If ESZ is already notified then permission from the committee constituted under ESZ notification also need to be obtained. Hence comments on the same may be furnished;	No, ESZ is not notified for the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary.
9.	As per the Ministry's guidelines State Govt. shall not impose additional conditions other than the conditions imposed by the Gol. In the instant case, the DFO has recommended with condition that the Used Agency shall purchase two vehicles & one Boat to be handed over to forest department. As per the existing guidelines all levies under FC proposal needs to be deposited in the designated ad-hoc CAMPA account. Hence, it needs to be considered and relooked into as per prevailing procedures and guidelines.	May please do the needful

The information provided may please be considered and the application may please be processed for Clearance on priority

Regards

Yours faithfully

 23/07/21
 for Head HSE,
 EOA HPHT asset
 ONGC, Kakinada