

SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF PROPOSED UNDERGROUND GAS PIPELINE BY OIL
INDIA LTD. FOR DIROK FIELD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

(For forest land to be diverted under FCA)

Oil India Limited has submitted a proposal (proposal No. **FP/AS/IND/16231/2015**) for diversion of forest land (under section 2 of FCA-1980) **4.8444 ha** for the purpose of underground gas pipeline. The site inspection of the land involved in the proposal has been done by me from 16th to 18th July, 2016.

- On inspection, it was found that the land required by the user agency is a forest measuring 4.844ha of Digboi RF (West Block) and Upper Dehing RF (West Block).
- The requirement of forest land is unavoidable and bare a minimum required for the project.
- The proposed underground pipeline route is selected along the periphery of the Reserve Forest, where the density of the forest is low. Laying the pipeline along the periphery of the forests have increased the length of pipeline by few kilometers, but in this process, passing pipeline through very dense virgin forest has been avoided. This has prevented felling large number of trees and deforestation in the middle of the Reserve Forest. This will reduce disturbance of wildlife and breaking of canopy.
- No protected archeological/ heritage site / defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
- There is no human habitation along the pipeline route within the forest land.
- Average distance of the pipeline from the northern boundary of Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary is about 9Km.
- Tree enumeration and validation of trees species was done as per as per rules / regulation in force.
- Enumeration Report shows that the number of "Upper Girth Tree" is only 11 against total number of trees 309 along the proposed route 8.074 km.

Brief description of the forests: The forests are Tropical Wet Evergreen Assam valleyforests. The towering Hollong tree which dominates the emergent layer of this rainforest. The important species of overwood are *Dipterocarpus macrocarpus*, *Mesua ferrea*, *Castanopsis indica*, *Shorea assamica*, *Vatica lanceaefolia*, *Amoora wallichii*, *Dysoxylum hinctiferum* etc. The other species found in under storey are *Garcinia lanceaefolia*, *Michelia muni*, *Baccaureusupida*, *Bischofia javanica*, *Myristica limifolia* etc. The shrub and herb layer has *Glochidion* spp., *Alpinia* spp., *Mallotus philippinensis*, Wild Banana, Tree fern, Pepper etc.

Remarks:

- Presently no works in violations of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 is taking place
- Therefore the project is recommended for its acceptance subject to observance of applicable rules / regulations and Forest Conservation Act ,1980.

(R.K.Das, IFS)

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