

JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING PROJECT IN FOREST AREA

The Government of India is focused on converting India to a gas-based economy, pushing for an increase of CNG stations to 10,000 countrywide by 2030. The CNG Pipeline projects are the part of India's journey towards 'one nation-one gas grid'.

Under proposed project, a CNG Pipeline from Nhavare to Bori Pardhi is to be laid along the existing road, within its RoW. The proposed alignment traverse through a patch of Forest Land in the Shirur & Daund Range of Pune Forest Division. The Forest land to the extent of 0.0468 Ha. approximately is required for the purpose of laying underground CNG Pipeline. Hence, the proposal attracts provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The project requires Forest Clearance i. e. prior approval under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The pipeline is, necessarily, to be laid along the existing road connecting Nhavare to Bori Pardhi, within its RoW (which is, technically, already under non- forest use). The project has definite locations and definite routes for pre- approved locational class tap off/dispatch station, location of sectionalizing valves, Intermediate pigging/pumping stations and receipt station, etc. As such, the project is site specific. The Forest Land proposed for diversion is, thus, unavoidable. The barest minimum Forest Land, to the extent of 0.0468 Ha., is required/ proposed for the project.

Date: 07 / 01 /2022

Place: Pune

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