



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय
INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जल वायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
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F. No. 3-TR C 062/2021-SHI/ 3199-3200

10th February, 2023

सेवामे,

सचिव/Secretary,

त्रिपुरा सरकार/ Government of Tripura

पर्यावरण और वन विभाग /Department of Environment & Forests,

कुंजावन, अगरतला/ Kunjaban, Agartala.

Sub : Proposal for diversion of 6.131 Ha of Forest Land for exploration of hydrocarbon/natural gas through drilling, DSA, waste pit and approach road at location GOAN at Mouja-Dakshin Sonaichari & Tekka RF under South District by ONGC Tripura.

Sir,

This has got reference to the State Government of Tripura letter vide No. F.6-1192/FC/For-2019/854-60 dated 26.10.2021 on the subject mentioned above seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. After careful examination and recommendation of the proposal of the State Government by the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) in its meeting held on 28.07.2022 and approval of MoEF&CC, New Delhi, the Central Government hereby accords **Stage-I approval** under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of **6.131 Ha** of Forest Land for exploration of hydrocarbon/natural gas through drilling, DSA, waste pit and approach road at location GOAN at Mouja-Dakshin Sonaichari & Tekka RF under South District by ONGC Tripura, subject to the following conditions:

A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land by the State Forest Department.

1. The user agency shall transfer, the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal as per the latest guidelines of MoEF & CC dated 19.01.2022;
2. The user agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
3. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited to CAMPA account only through e-portal(<https://parivesh.nic.in>). Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance;
4. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
5. Any change in the diameter of borehole and number of bore holes will be reported to the concerned Regional Office in advance for consideration and recommendations to the Central Government;
6. The User agency shall deposit Rs 25.00 Lakhs for the soil conservation and biodiversity measures in and around the two lakes below the drill site.

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7. Undertaking from the User Agency that no damages to the forest and the adjacent patches of plantation during widening of the road.
8. The User Agency should provide income generation activities for livelihood of nearby villagers in consultation with the State Govt.
9. Fencing of the portion of the approach road which passes through thick forests & plantation by the user agency, wherever required.
10. The user agency shall submit an undertaking not to start any commercial production if exploration is successful, without prior approval of change of land use by a Government agency;
11. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the District Collector;
12. The charges for felling, logging and transportation of project affected trees should be collected from the User Agency at the rates approved by the State Govt and deposited with DFO concerned for utilization immediately following the diversion of forest land;
13. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-Fc dated 28.03.2019;
14. The KML files of the area to be diverted, the CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal before issue of final approval by the State Government.
15. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);

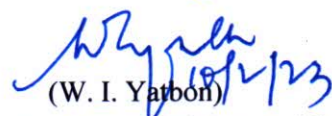
B: Conditions which need to be strictly complied on field after handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Forest Department but the compliance in form of undertaking shall be submitted prior to Stage-II approval:

1. The legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
2. Compensatory afforestation shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department over **12.262 ha** in C/S Plot No. 2238, Khatian No. 2/4 & in C/S Plot No. 2023, Khatian No. 2/82 mouja-Kashari RF., as per the fund deposited by the User Agency & scheme furnished by the State Govt with proper fencing as per the scheme prepared;
3. Permission for carrying out of exploratory drilling or any payment of NPV deposited for such operations will not confer any right with the user agency to carry out commercial exploitation except as per guidelines of Ministry dated 30.09.2019;
4. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less;
5. Permanent demarcation of forest land for diversion shall be done on the ground at project cost before handing over the forest land to the User Agency;
6. The user agency shall obtain the mandatory Environment Clearance as per the provision of Environment (Protection) Act 1986;
7. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
8. The User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
9. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
10. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Central Government;
11. The User Agency shall not expand its occupation or use surrounding forest/forest land in any manner otherwise expressed in this clearance;
12. Land so diverted shall revert back to the Forest Department in case it is not needed for the above use after due restoration to its original status (as far as possible and to the satisfaction of state Forest Deptt.);

13. The User Agency shall take all possible precautions & care all the time not to impact adversely the surrounding forests and forest land by their actions/activities;
 14. Tree felling shall be done only when absolutely unavoidable and such removal, if any, shall be done under the supervision of the Forest Department;
 15. The layout plan shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
 16. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area;
 17. The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phase manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the concerned Dy. Director General(Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed;
 18. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019;
 19. The user agency shall comply with all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
 20. All other clearance/NOCs under different applicable rules/regulations /local laws and under Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights)Act, 2006 as required vide MoEF, New Delhi guideline No.11-9/1998-FC(pt) dated 03.08.2009 shall be complied with;
 21. This approval may be revoked if the above conditions of approval are not complied to the satisfaction of the Integrated Regional Office, Shillong;
 22. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, IRO, Shillong may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife. The State Government shall ensure compliance of all the above conditions;
 23. As per Ministry's letter No 11-30/96-FC(Pt) dt 14.9.2001, if the compliance of stipulated conditions is awaited from the State Govt for more than 5(five years, the in-principle approval would be summarily revoked considering that the user agency is no longer interested in the project;
3. After receipt of the compliance report from the State Government on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, final approval will be issued in this regard. Formal transfer of forest land shall not be effected by the State Govt till final approval is granted by the Central Government.

This is issued with approval of Deputy Director General of Forests (C).

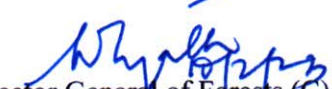
भवदीय,


(W. I. Yarboon)

उपवनमहानिरीक्षक (केंद्रीय)/ Deputy Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy to:

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tripura, Department of Environment & Forests, Kunjaban, Agartala.


उपवनमहानिरीक्षक (केंद्रीय)/ Deputy Inspector General of Forests (C)