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Recommendation of the Divisional Forest Officer

Name of Project : Paradip - Numaligarh Crude Oil Pipeline (PNCPL) Project

Proposal No. : FP/JH/Pipeline/152551/2022

Proposed area : 6.101 Ha. (PF-0.030 ha. PPF-3.100 ha. & JJ-0.226 ha. Waste Land-2.745ha.)
of diversion

The pipeline corridor passes through Dumka and Godda districts in the state of Jharkhand covering a length of 142.7km. The proposed area for diversion for Numaligarh Refinery Limited is 6.101 hectares of forest land [Protected Forest - 0.03 ha., Jungle Jhari - 3.326 ha. and Waste Land (Forest according to Section 4 of IFA) - 2.745ha]spread in 32 villages in Dumka Forest division. It is undulating and vulnerable to soil erosion.

User agency has already explored alternative routes to minimise the damage to the forest land. In addition to it the user agency has also applied for only a 10m wide corridor for laying the pipeline in forest land in comparison to 18m wide corridor in private lands.

This forest is degraded in nature and belongs to Eco Class-3, bearing average forest density 0.2-0.4. The terrain is undulating and prone to soil erosion. It is also necessary to mention here that as the pipeline will be maintained by the user agency regularly so the impact on the soil and its local ecosystem will be continuous in nature. Hence, a soil moisture conservation plan is recommended to minimise the damage.

As far as wild life is concerned Hyena, Python, Jackal etc. have been found. Movement of Elephant has also been reported in the applied forest area. A site-specific wildlife management plan is needed to mitigate the conservation concerns arising due to the dissection of habitat patches.

The proposed pipeline is necessary in all aspects and needed for the development of the country. Hence, the project is recommended with conditions.

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