



Ref: EOGEP/CEM-RG (E) /CA/2023/5195
October 26, 2023

The Deputy Director General of Forest
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
IB- 198, Broadway Road, Sector -3, Salt Lake City,
Kolkata – 700106

Essar Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Ltd
Essar House - Durgapur
Village & Post Office – Molandighi
Block - Kanksa
Durgapur Sub-Division
Dist. - Paschim Bardhaman
Durgapur – 713212
West Bengal
India

CIN: U11203GJ2016PLC091903

E eogepl@essarenp.co.in
www.essar.com

Ref: Your Letter No 5- WBC087/2015-BHU/222 dated 21.06.2023

Respected Sir,

In reference to the above mentioned communication pertaining to EOGEP's FDP of 13.54 Ha, the following response and justifications to points raised with respect to certain T&Cs mentioned in Stage – 1 approval is placed for information, consideration and further guidance:

Issue 1: The compliance of conditions of "in-principle" approval are submitted after lapse of more than 7 years. Proper justification for delaying in submission of compliance is need to be furnished.

The delay in compliance was primarily due to non – transfer of land earmarked for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) which was finally approved by Govt. of West Bengal (GoWB) in Sept., 2022 by virtue of an Inter Departmental Transfer (IDT) order and the same has been notified as “Protected Forest” via notification issued by GoWB.

We further submit as below: -

- I. Delay in transfer of CA land was purely a procedural matter wherein land earmarked for CA was vested as per laws of the state forcing EOGEP to complete the transfer through the process of IDT (transfer of vested land from Dept. of Land and Land Reforms to Dept. of Forest, Govt. of West Bengal).

We understand that IDT approval in favour of EOGEP was first of the kind in the state and hence the timeline stretched considerably. It should be noteworthy that EOGEP was in continuous touch with all concerned Nodal officers for appraisal and updation on the matter and the issue was extensively bought up and discussed during various meetings involving Land and Forest Dept. The approval was eventually accorded in Sep 2022 post which the land was immediately transferred to Forest Dept. after satisfactorily completion of trenching and pillaring activities.

- II. The above approval process was near to closure by first half of 2020 which was again unexpectedly prolonged due to advent of the pandemic situation which delayed the process by at least 2 years.
- III. Post IDT approval, CA Land was handed over by BL&LRO, Indpur, Bankura to ADFO, Bankura South Division, Forest Dept. on Feb 6th 2023. The complete Compliance report of the Stage 1 was thereafter submitted on 16th February 2023 on the online portal of MOEF&CC, GOI.

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Issue 2: In this proposal, cost of CA was deposited in CAMPA account in the month of March 2017 and CA scheme was calculated based on old wages rate. The State Forest Department needs to confirm that whether compensatory afforestation may be possible with the CA funds deposited by the UA or needs to revised scheme based on new wages rate. Accordingly, additional CA amount may be deposited in CAMPA account by the User Agency, if required.

Previously, cost of Compensatory Afforestation amounting to Rs 14,04,000 was deposited to Ad-hoc CAMPA account on 3rd March 2017.

The revised estimated CA cost was informed as Rs 39,84,754 and accordingly demand was raised for balance payment of Rs 25,80,754 as per the Letter No 1546/28-L.L.C (LT) dated 02.08.2023 by DFO Bankura (South) Division. (Copy enclosed. Accordingly, additional amount of Rs 25,80,754/- was deposited on 10th October 2023.

Issue 3: As per Ministry's guideline No.5-3/2011-FC (Vol-I) dated 22.03.2022, the new rates of NPV will also be applicable on all the cases that were granted Stage-1/in-principle approval prior to 06.01.2022 and where even after lapse of 5 years, the Stage-II/ Final approval is not granted due to non-submission of complete compliance of the conditions stipulated in Stage-I/ in-principle approval. In this case, NPV amount deposited based on old rates. The State Forest Department required to revise the NPV amount and balance amount of NPV needs to be deposited in CAMPA account by the UA.

Previously, NPV amount of Rs.1,08,72,620 was paid to Ad-hoc CAMPA account on 3rd March 2017.

The revised NPV has now been calculated as Rs 183,75,269.40 and demand for the same was raised for payment of balance NPV of Rs 75,02,649.40 (Demand letter No 2624/8 dated 26.07.2023 issued by DFO Budwan Forest Division and letter No 2214/8 dated 26.07.2023 of Durgapur Forest Division). Accordingly, additional amount of Rs 75,02,649 was deposited on 10th October , 2023.

Issue 4: FRA certificate needs to be submitted in the Ministry's defined format.

The FRA issued by District Magistrate was originally submitted on September 2018. On subsequent intimation for obtaining FRA in the revised format, the concerned DM was approached for issuing a revised FRA Certificate and the same was finally issued on 12th August, 2023. (copy enclosed).

Issue 5: The condition wise comments of the State Forest Department on the compliance of "in-principal" are not enclosed. The same need to be furnish.

To be provided by Forest Department, GoWB.

In view of the above, we request you to kindly accord Stage II (Final) approval.

Thanking You,

For, Essar Oil and Gas Exploration & Production Ltd


Ranjan Jindal
Chief Financial Officer





Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Forests
Office of Divisional Forest Officer, Burdwan Division
Golapbag, P.O.-Rajbati, Pin-713104, Dist-Purba Bardhaman
Phone & Fax - 0342-2950507
E-Mail: dfobdn@yahoo.co.in & dfobur_wb@nic.in



No. 2624 / 8 - ; Dated, Burdwan, the 26 / 07 / 2023

To : The Project Director,
Essar Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Limited Office, Essar House- Durgapur,
Vill & PO- Molandighi , Block-Kanksa , Durgapur -713212.

Sub: Diversion of 13 .54 ha.(9.32 ha. in Burdwan Division & 4.22 ha. in Durgapur Division) of forest land for laying of pipeline & construction of access road to CBM Well sites for production of coal bed methane at Raniganj CBM Block (Proposal No- FP/WB/OTHERS/7248/2014) – Demand note for NPV thereto.

Ref: 1. Chief Conservator of Forests, FCA, WB's memo no. 2798/L</2M—1081/2014 dt. 23-06-2023.
2. This Office letter no. 2232/8- dt. 30-06-2023.

In compliance with condition no. 2 and 3 of IRO letter dt. 21.06.2023 and in reference to this office letter dt. 30.06.2023 demand is hereby raised for payment of balance NPV in accordance with the revised rate for the forest land 13 .54 ha.(9.32 ha. in Burdwan Division & 4.22 ha. in Durgapur Division) proposed for diversion and against which in principal approval has already been accorded vide no.5-WBC087/2015-BHU. Dt. 28.08.2017 in favour of you.

The payment should be made to the specific account in Parivesh Portal of Govt. of India and a receipt of the same should be submitted to this office on compliance.

Forest Type	Land Area (ha.)	Classification	Rate per ha.	Total NPV for 9.32 ha.	Amount paid for 9.32 ha. against Burdwan Division	Balance to be paid for 9.32 ha. against Burdwan Division
Very Dense Forest	9.32	Dry Deciduous Forest, Eco-Class - III	Rs.13,57,110.00	Rs.1,26,48,265.20	Rs.74,83,960.00	Rs. 51,64,305.20

This is for your Kind information and taking immediate action.

Encl. As stated above.

Divisional Forest Officer
Burdwan Division

No. 2624(4) / 8 - ; Dated, Burdwan, the 26 / 07 / 2023

Copy forwarded for kind information & necessary action to :-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation Act, West Bengal.
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Conservation Act, West Bengal.
3. The Chief Conservator of Forests, South-East Circle, West Bengal.
4. The Divisional Forest Officer, Durgapur Division.

Divisional Forest Officer
Burdwan Division



Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Forests,
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Durgapur Division
Aranyapally, Shashtri Avenue, Durgapur-12
E-mail- dfodur-wb@nic.in
Office Tel. / FAX- 0343-2999651



Memo No. 2214/8

Dated, Durgapur, The 26/07/2023

To : The Project Director,
Essar Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Limited Office, Essar House- Durgapur,
Vill & PO- Molandighi , Block-Kanksa , Durgapur -713212.

Sub : Diversion of 13.54 ha.(9.32 ha. in Burdwan Division & 4.22 ha. in Durgapur Division) of Forest land for laying of pipeline & construction of access road to CBM Well sites for production of coal bed methane at Raniganj CBM Block (**Proposal No- (FP/WB/OTHERS/7248/2014)** – Demand note for NPV thereto.

Ref: Chief Conservator of Forests, FCA, WB's memo no. 2798/L</2M—1081/2014 dt. 23-06-2023.

In compliance with condition no. 2 and 3 of IRO letter dt. 21.06.2023 demand is hereby raised for payment of balance NPV in accordance with the revised rate for the forest land 13.54 ha.(9.32 ha. in Burdwan Division & 4.22 ha. in Durgapur Division) proposed for diversion and against which in principal approval has already been accorded vide no.5-WBC087/2015-BHU. Dt. 28.08.2017 in favour of you.

The payment should be made to the specific account in Parivesh Portal of Govt. of India and a receipt of the same should be submitted to this office on compliance.

Forest Type	Land Area (ha.)	Classification	Rate per ha.	Total NPV for 4.22 ha.	Amount paid for 4.22 ha. against Durgapur Division	Balance to be paid for 4.22 ha. against Durgapur Division
Very Dense Forest	4.22	Dry Deciduous Forest, Eco-Class - III	Rs.13,57,110.00	Rs.57,27,004.20	Rs.33,88,660.00	Rs.23,38,344.20

This is for your Kind information and taking immediate action.

Enclo. As stated above.

Divisional Forest Officer
Durgapur Division

No. 2214/8

Dated, Durgapur, The 26/07/2023

Copy forwarded for kind information & necessary action to :-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation Act, West Bengal.
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Conservation Act, West Bengal.
3. The Chief Conservator of Forests, South-East Circle, West Bengal.
4. The Divisional Forest Officer, Burdwan Division.

Divisional Forest Officer
Durgapur Division



Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Forests
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
Bankura (South) Division
Machantala, Bankura, Pin- 722 101



Phone No:- 03242-250 307, Fax No:- 03242-252 371, e-mail:- dfosouth.bks@gmail.com, Visit us at:- www.bankuraforest.in

No. 1543 / 28-L.L.C (LT)

Dated, Bankura, the 02/08/2023

- From :** The Divisional Forest Officer,
Bankura (South) Division.
- To :** The Chief Operating Officer,
Raniganj East, CBM Project – Durgapur.
Essar Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Ltd.
AN 81B Sector 2B, Martin Luthar Road, Bidhan Nagar, Durgapur – 713212.
- Sub :** Diversion of 13.54 ha. of forest land for laying of pipeline & construction of access road to CBM
Well sites for production of Coal Bed Methane at Raniganj CBM Block (Proposal No. FP/Wb/
OTHERS/7248/2014) – Demand note regarding.
- Ref :** i) The CCF, FCA, W.B's kind Office Memo No. 2798/L</2M-1081/2014 dt. 23.06.2023.
ii) The MoEF & CC, Govt. of India's kind Memo No. 5-WBC087/2015-BHU/222 dt.21.06.2023.

With reference to the subject mentioned above and in compliance with condition no. 2 of MoEF & CC, Govt. of India's letter dt. 21.06.2023, demand has been raised for payment of balance cost of CA on 13.54 ha. CA land in accordance with the revised rate for of CA scheme.

The payment should be made to the specific account in Parivesh Portal of Govt. of India and a receipt of the same should be submitted to this office on compliance.

Division	CA area	Previous estimated value	Revised estimated value	Balance amount to be paid
Bankura (South) Division	13.54 ha.	14,04,000.00	39,84,754.00	25,80,754.00

This is for your information and taking necessary action.

Ex

(Shri E. Vijayakumar, IFS)
Divisional Forest Officer,
Bankura (South) Division.

No. 1543 / 28-L.L.C (LT)

Dated, Bankura, the 02/08/2023

Copy forwarded for your information to –

- i) The Additional Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation Act.
- ii) The Chief Conservator of Forests, FCA.
- iii) The Chief Conservator of Forests, Central Circle, West Bengal.

- iv) The Divisional Forest Officer, Durgapur Forest Division.
- v) The Divisional Forest Officer, Burdwan Forest Division.



(Shri E. Vijayakumar, IFS)
Divisional Forest Officer,
Bankura (South) Division.

Payment Details of NPV and CA

S No	Type of deposit { NPV /CA/ WMP/ Others (specify)}	Whether by RTGS/DD /NEFT (Specify)	UTR/ DD No	Amount deposited (Rs)	Date of deposit	Name of Bank from which amount transferred to amount CAF	Bank Account of CAF managed by CAMPA in which fund deposited
1	NPV & CA	RTGS	AXISF17062062055	1,22,76,620.00	04.03.2017	Axis Bank Ltd	150910THERS72482014845
2	Incremental NPV & CA	RTGS	PUNBR52023101019854650	1,00,83,403.40	10.10.2023	Punjab Nation Bank	1509119972480836
TOTAL				2,23,60,023.40			


Date: 26.10.2023

Place: Durgapur

For, Essar Oil and Gas Exploration & Production Ltd


Ranjan Jindal
Chief Financial Officer



<p>জেলাশাসক এবং জেলাসমাহিতারকরণ পশ্চিম বর্ধমান জেলাশাসকের গোপনীয় বিভাগ ইমেইল - dmpaschimbardhaman@gmail.com ফোননম্বর- 0341-2254545 ফ্যাক্সনম্বর- 0341-2254242</p>		<p>Office of the District Magistrate & Collector Paschim Bardhaman CA Section of the DM Email-dmpaschimbardhaman@gmail.com Phone No- 0341-2254545 Fax No- 0341-2254242</p>
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For Linear Project

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

In compliance of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India's letter No. 11-9/98-FC (pt.) dated 3rd August 2009 wherein the MoEF&CC issued guidelines on submission of evidences for having initiated and completed the process of settlement of rights under the schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (recognition of Forest Right) Act, 2006 ('FRA', for short) on the forest land proposed to be diverted for non-forest purposes read with MoEF&CC's letter 5th February 2013 wherein MoEF&CC issued certain relaxation in respect of linear projects, it is certified that 13.54 hectare of forest land proposed to be diverted in favour of **Essar Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Limited** for laying of pipeline and use of access road to CBM Well Site in the district of Paschim Burdwan falling within the jurisdiction of Burdwan and Durgapur Forest Division .

Mouzas involved under Kanksa administrative Block (9.3261 ha):

Akandara, Arrah, Bamunara, Bandra, Bhagabanpur, Bishtupur, Chua, Domra, Garadaha, Gopalpur, Hariki, Ijjatganj, Jambon, Jamdoba, Jatgoria, Kandorkona, Keshabpur, Kuldiha, Malandighi, Paschim Gangarampur, Pathardiha, Piyariganj, Rajkusum, Rupganj, Sodhumara, Saraswatiganj, Sundiara, Trilokchandrapur villages.

Mouzas involved under Durgapur-Faridpur administrative Block (4.2102 ha):

Bargaria, Chackgopaldebpur, Chakbhabani, Dhabani, Goalara, Gopendenga, Haribazar, Jemua, Kamalpur, Kantaberia, Paranganj, Pardai, Parulia, Pratappur villages.

It is further certified that:

- The complete process for identification and settlement of rights under the FRA has been carried out for the entire 13.54 hectares of forest area proposed for diversion. **The proposed area does not cover any part of the FRA, 2006 since there is no claim in this area as on date.**
- The diversion of forest land for facilities managed by the Government as required under section 3 (2) of the FRA have been completed and the content of the Gram Sabhas is not required because the **proposed area does not cover any part of the FRA, 2006 since there is no claim in this area as on date.**
- The proposal does not involve recognized right of Primitive Tribal Groups and Pre-agricultural communities.

District Magistrate & Collector

Paschim Bardhaman