File No.8-33/2019-FC

Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (FC Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bag Road, New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 28th September, 2020

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests), Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 94.712 ha of Forest Land for drilling of Oil well at 27 new locations in changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh by M/s Geo-Enpro Petroleum Limited seeking forest clearance under Section 2(ii) of FC Act, 1980-regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to Govt of Arunachal Pradesh's letter no. No.FOR.572/Cons/2014/1989-90 dated 12.08.2020 forwarded the Shape-file/ KML file for the proposed area of diversion and revised site identified for compensatory afforestation for seeking prior approval under Section 2(ii) of FC Act, 1980 for diversion of 94.712 ha of Forest Land for drilling of Oil well at 27 new locations in Changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh by M/s Geo-Enpro Petroleum Limited.

- 2. After examination of said compliance as furnished vide Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh's letter dated 12.08.2020, it is found that the C.D. containing KML file for the site identified for compensatory afforestation land is blank. The same was tried to obtain through e-mail from State Govt. but could not be obtained. However, the same has been provided by the user agency through e-mail. Based on the examination of Shape-file/ KML file as received in the Ministry, the following observation are made:
 - i. On analyzing the given coordinates as received through e-mail from the user agency, it is learnt that the Compensatory Afforestation has now been proposed in 190 had degraded forest land in Mutur VFR under Tawang Social Forestry Division. In this regard, it may clarify as to whether the land identified now for CA is notified forest land or Degraded Unclassed Forests (USF) which is admissible under the para 2.4. of Handbook of comprehensive guidelines issued under FCA,1980 for Arunachal Pradesh.
 - ii. The shape/ drawing of the revised CA shape-file is not matching with the drawing as indicated on Survey of India (SoI) Map. Therefore, SoI map of 1:50000 indicating the revised CA site may be provided.
 - iii. It is observed through GIS-DSS tool that the Oil drilling wells namely NL-04, NL-08, NL-23 and some part of Oil drilling lease/ mining lease area is falling in the Coal Block namely Namchik- Namphuk *(Map enclosed)*. This need to be clarified as the same Forest land cannot be diverted in favour of two user agencies.

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In view of above, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh is again requested to supply the information as indicated at para 2(i) to (iii) above at the earliest for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

Encl.as above.

Sd/-

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

- 1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
- 2. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
- 3. The Dy. Director General (Central), Regional Office, Shillong.
- 4. User Agency.
- 5. Monitoring Cell of FC Divisions, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.