

Sub: Proposal to obtain approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for prospecting of Oil and Natural Gas for 21978.00 hectares of forest land in Damoh PML for drilling of 5940 Borholes of 04” diameter in favour of M/s. GM Chief Geological Services Frontier Basin Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited Dehradun, Damoh Forest Division State of Madhya Pradesh.-regarding.

- The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Land Management) and Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Government of Madhya Pradesh vide their letter No. F-1/FP/MP/MRL/27/2017/3172 Bhopal dated 11.10.2018 (Pg. 1-176/c) forwarded a fresh proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for prospecting of Oil and Natural Gas for 21978.00 hectares of forest land in Damoh PML for drilling of 5940 Borholes of 04” diameter in favour of M/s. GM Chief Geological Services Frontier Basin Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited Dehradun, Damoh Forest Division State of Madhya Pradesh.
- Details indicated in the proposal submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh are as below:-

FACT SHEET

1.	Name of the proposal	Proposal to obtain approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for prospecting of Oil and Natural Gas for 21978.00 hectares of forest land in Damoh PML for drilling of 5940 Borholes of 04” diameter in favour of M/s. GM Chief Geological Services Frontier Basin Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, Kolagarh Road, Dehradun, Damoh Forest Division State of Madhya Pradesh.
2.	Location:- (i) State (ii) District	Madhya Pradesh. Damoh, Katni.
3.	Details of the user agency	
(i)	Name of the user agency	M/s. GM Chief Geological Services Frontier Basin Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, Kolagarh Road, Dehradun.
(ii)	Nature of the user agency	Central PSU
(iii)	Category	Mining
(iv)	Total period for which the forest land is proposed to be utilized for prospecting (in years)	1
4.	Particulars of Forests:- (i) Name of forest Division (ii) Forest area involved (iii) Legal Status / Sy. No. (iv) Maps	Damoh (T) & Katni (T) Forest Division 21978 Ha. Forest land = 12461.4 ha. (Reserved Forest) (Pg. 28-36/c)
5.	(i) Vegetation (ii) Density	- 0.25 to 0.34 (PF/RF)
6.	Species-wise local/(Scientific names) and girth-wise enumeration of trees at FRL.	Not applicable.
7.	Brief note on topography and vulnerability of the forest area proposed to be utilized for prospecting to erosion.	No
8.	Approximate distance of the proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest	No

9.	Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. (if so, the details of the area the comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed)	No
10.	Details of wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion.	No
11.	Whether the forest land proposed for diversion is located within eco-sensitive zone(ESZ) of the Protected Area notified under Wildlife(Protection) Act,1972 (Note: In case, ESZ of a Protected Area is not notified,then,10kms distance from boundary of the Protected Area should be treated as ESZ.	No
12.	Whether any national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, wildlife migration corridor etc., is located within 1 Km. from boundary of the forest land proposed for diversion.	No
13.	Whether area is significant from wildlife point of view	No
14.	Whether any rare / endangered unique species of flora and fauna found in the area. If so, details thereof.	No
15.	Whether any protected archaeological / heritage site / Defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.	No
16.	Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency in col. 2 of Part-I is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project. If no, recommended area item-wise with details of alternatives examined.	No
17.	Whether any work in violation of the Act has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes, details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials. Whether work in violation is still in progress.	No
18.	Compensatory Afforestation	Not applicable.
19.	Reclamation Plan	
20.	CAT Plan	
21.	Rehabilitation of Oustees	
22.	Employment Potential Permanent / Temporary.	
23.	Whether clearance under the Environment (protection) Act, 1986 is required?	
24.	Status of Wildlife Clearance	
26.	Cost Benefit analysis.	Not given

27.	Total Cost of the Project (Rupees in lakhs)	600
28.	Site Inspection Report of the Divisional Forest Officer in compliance to the conditions stipulated in the col. 7 (xi, xii) 8 and 9 previous approval.	(Pg. 129-130/c)
29.	Recommendations:	-
i.	DFO	(Pg.131/c)
ii.	CCF	(Pg.135/c)
iii.	PCCF / Nodal Officer	(Pg.175/c)
iv.	State Government	(Pg.176/c)
30.	Compliance of Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.	Not applicable.
31.	District Profile, Damoh	Not given.
i.	Total Geographical area (in Ha.)	
ii.	Total forest area (in Ha.)	
iii.	Total area diverted since 1980	
iv.	Total area proposed for afforested since 1980 (a) forest land including penal Compensatory Afforestation (b) non-forest land.	
v.	Total area afforested since 1980 27.04.17 (a) forest land (b) non-forest land	

3. The lease shall be valid for a period of 07 years with effect from 10.02.2015 to 09.02.2022 as per the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, New Delhi vide his letter No. O-12012/104/2004-ONG-II dated 12.05.2015 (Pg. 141-142/c).
4. The user agency has undertaken to adhere to the provisions of Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 & its amendments. No trees will be cut for the drilling or boreholes and necessary shifting of proposed points will be done to locate the boreholes in the open land in the forest areas. Only existing path will be used to access the proposed points and no new paths will be constructed.
5. The proposal for prospecting No CA scheme is required for the instant project.
6. The Regional Office, Bhopal vide their letter No. 6-MPA06/2018-BHO/116 dated 08.02.2019 (Pg. 178-187/c) has submitted a Site Inspection Report as carried by the DCF, Bhopal.
7. The inspection was carried out by team consist of DCF (C), TO (F), TA (DSS), RO (WZ), Bhopal and the representative of MP Forest Department and ONGC Ltd., Dehradun.

Date of Inspection: 31/01/2019 & 01/02/2019.

i. Legal Status of Forest land proposed for diversion.

1) Reserved Forests (Damoh)	-	12,461.40 ha
2) Protected Forests (Damoh)	-	5,705.60 ha
3) Reserved Forests (Katni)	-	3,811.00 ha
	Total Forest	21,978.00 ha
4) Non-forests	-	21,641.00 ha

ii. How the land proposed for diversion is to be utilized? : For prospecting of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

- iii. Whether the proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential): **No.**
- iv. Total cost of Project. : **Rs. 600 lakhs.**
- v. Wild Life: **No direct sighting of wildlife during site inspection.**

Whether the forest area proposed for diversion is important from Wildlife point of view **NO.**
or not:

- vi. Aerial distance from the nearest boundary of any protected area : **beyond 10 km from Protected area & adjoining to the eco-sensitive zone of Veerangana Durgawati WLS, Madhya Pradesh (Draft Notification declaring Eco Sensitive Zone around Veerangana Durgawati WLS, Madhya Pradesh, S. O. 437 [14.02.2017]).**
- vii. Vegetation :
 - a. Trees to be felled : **Nil**
 - b. Effect of removal on the general ecosystem in the area: **prospecting proposal.**

As per Part-II, Canopy Density is 0.1 to 0.5 & Eco Class – V-B & IV-B. The area is protected and reserved forest.

The area contains very less vegetation and mainly barren hills with CD less than 0.4. The vegetation containing *Tectona grandis*, *Ficus bengalensis*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Ziziphus spp.*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Lantana camara*, etc. were observed. The area / forests primarily were under degraded condition and forest was encroached or given under FRA.

- viii. Background note of the proposal:

The project needs diversion of 21,978 ha of Forest Land and 21,641 ha of non-forest land for the prospecting of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Entire area will be used for prospecting via shot holes technique. The final outcome of the exercise will give the amount of Petroleum and Natural Gas in the Damoh area specifically Vindhyan basin rock / system.

- ix. Compensatory Afforestation :
As the prospecting will not have any permanent changes in land, No compensatory afforestation is required for the purpose of forest land to be used for exploratory drilling as per provisions of Guidelines of MoEF&CC, Government of India vide F. No. 11-96/2009-FC dated 04.07.2014.
- x. Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act ? : **No, as per part-II**
- xi. Whether the proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced people? :

No. But during site inspection the encroachment on forest land was seen, this could be the FRA patta holders also and they need to be compensated for the crop damage.

- xii. Reclamation Plan : details and Financial Allocation : **Not applicable**
- xiii. Cost benefit ratio: **Not applicable.**
- xiv. Utility of project: **For prospecting of Petroleum and Natural Gas.**
- xv. Number of Scheduled Case & Scheduled Tribe involved in the Project: **Not submitted.**
- xvi. Gram Sabha resolution and Compliance of FRA 2006-DC Certificate: **Not submitted.**

- xvii.** Whether the land being diverted has any socio-cultural / religious value: **No.**
- xviii.** Whether any sacred groves or very old growth of tree of forest exist in the area proposed for diversion?
: **No**
- xix.** DFO (Damoh & Katni) & CCF (Sagar & Jabalpur) recommendation: **Recommended the project.**
- xx.** Recommendation of Nodal officer and the State government: **Recommended.**
- xxi.** Details of comments of the APCCF (LM), MP on alternate routes/alignments for locating the projects. :
Recommended by APCCF (LM), MP.
- xxii. Observations / comments of DCF(C), RO, Bhopal:**

- a) The proposal is of 21,978 ha prospecting and very limited information is made available by the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.
- b) This office has gathered the details of the compartment from MP forest website (<http://intranet.mpforest.gov.in/MPFD15/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fMPFD15%2fWPMS%2fWorkingplanlibrary%2fDataUpdation.aspx>) and DSS portal. The DSS report is enclosed herewith (A-I).
- c) As per DSS, a 82 nos. compartments for Damoh & Katni forest divisions are involved in the present proposal in the PML / block lease boundary / exploration boundary (referred as *PML boundary*). The presence of the MDF was noted over 60 nos. compartments (7 nos. compartments in Katni FD and 53 nos. compartments in Damoh FD) out of 82 nos. compartments.

xxiii. Comments of DCF(C), RO, Bhopal:

- a) The compartment visited during site inspection area:

Sl. No.	Forest Divisions	Range	Forest Compartment No.
1.	Damoh	Singrapur	57, 58, 59, 323
2.		Tejgarh	62, 306, 34, 35
3.	Katni	Bahoriband	197,198,199

- b) The NOC of concerned Gram Panchayat needs to be submitted.
- c) The proposal attracts the MoEF&CC guideline F. No. 5-3/2017-FC dated 09/05/2018 and F. No. 5-3/2007-FC dated 24/12/2018.
- d) SIR of DFO (Damoh) reports involvement of 71 nos. of compartment and SIR of DFO (Katni) does not given the list of compartment involved in the project.
- e) The DSS analysis reveals that:
- i. There is approx. 30 m shift in *PML boundary* submitted on *e.portal* and Compact Disc (*PML boundary*) along with the proposal.
 - ii. Some of bore holes lie in the water body and river.
 - iii. As per the DSS analysis on KML file (CD along with proposal) of *PML boundary* comes to be 28,368.04 ha, the forest area in *PML boundary* comes to be 15,309.11 ha in place of 21,978 ha as given in the proposal. The nos. of bore holes in the forest area inside the *PML boundary* comes to be 3,785 nos. in place of 5,940 nos as given in the proposal. A total of 2,155 nos. of bore holes are marked / fall outside the *PML boundary*. The matter was discussed with the representatives of ONGC Ltd. and they have submitted the justification for the same vide ONGC ltd letter dt. 29/01/2019 copy enclosed (A-II).

- f) No tree are marked for feeling in the proposal, however, no tree felling shall be carried out during implementation of the project.

xxiv. Recommendations of APCCF(C), R.O., Bhopal :

In view of the details mentioned in the site inspection report of Dy. Conservator of Forest (C), undersigned recommends the proposal for obtaining approval under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for prospecting of Oil and Natural Gas for 21,978.00 hectares of forest land in Damoh PML for drilling of 5,940 Boreholes of 04" diameter in favour of M/s. GM Chief Geological Services Frontier Basin Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited Dehradun, Damoh Forest Division State of Madhya Pradesh under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the above given observation and condition.

In view of the above facts related to the proposal, it is proposed that proposal with the Site Inspection Report as submitted by the Regional office (Western Zone), Bhopal, may be submitted to the FAC for its consideration in its forthcoming meeting scheduled to be held on **21.02.2019**.
