



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
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No. 3-AS B 045/2015-SHI 4281-82

19th February, 2018

To

The Secretary,
Environment & Forest Department,
Government of Assam,
Dispur, Guwahati

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 1.918 ha of forest land for drilling of proposed location URAA under Golaghat Division in favour of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

Sir,

This has reference to the State Govt letter No.FRS.210/2017/206 dated 08.11.2017 on the subject mentioned above, seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section 2 of the FCA, 1980.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, I am directed to inform that the Central Government hereby conveys its **"In Principle Approval"** for diversion of 1.918 ha of forest land for drilling / **exploratory purpose only** of proposed location URAA under Golaghat Division in favour of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. subject to the following conditions:

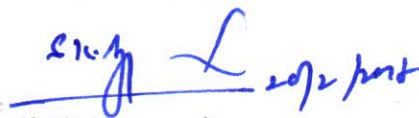
- (i) The User agency shall transfer the cost of compensatory afforestation as estimated by State Forest Department over 3.836 ha of degraded forest land has been identified for C.A. in Deopahar Reserve Forest in Golaghat range, Golaghat Forest Division in Golaghat district to Adhoc CAMPA through State Forest Department.
- (ii) The State Govt shall charge the Net Present Value of the forest land diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008 & 09.05.2008 in IA No.566 in WP (C) No.202/1995 and as per the guideline issued by this Ministry vide letter No. 5-3/2001-FC dated 05.02.2009 in this regard.
- (iii) The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization/revision of the same by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- (iv) All the above funds received from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred preferably through RTGS in the newly opened State –specific saving Bank Account of the Ad-hoc CAMPA Fund (CAF) in New SB Account No. 520101263743434 of Corporation Bank, CGO Complex, Phase-I, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
- (v) The User Agency shall bear and deposit the amount of the cost of demarcation of the land proposed for diversion directly to the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer shall demarcate the land proposed for

diversion on the ground by erecting at least 4' high cement-concrete pillars duly numbered, forward and backward bearing and distance from pillar to pillar written on the pillars and DGPS co-ordinates to be inscribed on the pillars. The competent authority shall verify and issue a certificate to this effect. Photographs showing permanent boundary pillars with GPS co-ordinates to be submitted.

- (vi) The certificates for the payment in respect to Sl. No. (v) shall be furnished to this office by the user agency.
- (vii) The user agency shall submit an undertaking not to start any commercial production if exploration is successful, without prior mandatory clearance / approval from MoEF&CC.
- (viii) The user agency shall obtain the mandatory Environment Clearance as per the provision of Environment(Protection) Act 1986, if required.
- (ix) The user agency will have to obtain the Forest Conservation) Act, 1980 clearance for removal, if any, of the stone, river sand, river boulders in forest land, if necessary.
- (x) 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 be revoked considering that the user agency is no longer interested in the project.
- (xi) The permission for exploratory drilling or prospection would not ipso facto imply any commitment on the part of Central Govt for diversion of forest land even if minerals/oil/hydrocarbons are struck for mining.
- (xii) The time for exploratory drilling will be for a period of 3 (three) years. In case the User Agency requires more time then extension is to be sought from this Regional office.

After receipt of the compliance report from the State Government on fulfillment 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 orders approving the diversion of forest land are issued by the Central Government.

Yours faithfully,


(S.K. Aggarwal)

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(C)

Copy to:

- (i) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Government of Assam, Environment & Forests Department, Aranya Bhawan, Rop Konwar Jyoti Prasad Agarwal Path, Near Srimanta Sankardev Kalakhetra, Panjabari, Guwahati -781037.



Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(C)