



भारत सरकार
Government of India

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, गुवाहाटी/Integrated Regional office, Guwahati

चौथी मंजिल, हौसेफेड इमारत, जी एस रोड, रुक्मिणी गाँव, गुवाहाटी- ७८१०२२

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F. No.3 AS B 043/2018-SHI/2489-2490

24th May, 2022

सेवा मे,

अतिरिक्त प्रमुख सचिव/ Addl. Chief Secretary,
पर्यावरण और वन विभाग/ Environment & Forest Department,
असम सरकार/ Government of Assam,
दिसपुर/ Dispur, गुवाहाटी /Guwahati -781006.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 1.89 ha of forest land for drilling location KSAD under Golaghat Division in favour of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Jorhat.

Sir,

This has got reference to the State Government's letter No. FRS 121/2018/127 dated 04.06.2018 and letter No. FRS 121/2018/202 dated 20.05.2022 on the subject mentioned above seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the proposal has been examined by the Regional Empowered Committee constituted by the Central Govt, under Section 3 of the aforesaid Act.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal and the recommendation by the REC in its meeting held on 09.10.2018 and subsequent approval of Ministry through e-office, In-Principle Approval (IPA) was granted vide Regional Office, Shillong letter of even number dated 03.01.2019 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions.

3. In this connection and on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government vide letter No. FRS 121/2018/185 dated 20.05.2022 and its uploading on Ministry's portal on 24.05.2022 with submission of compensatory levies by e-challan and online payment by user agency under CAMPA, **Final Approval** of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 1.89 ha of forest land for **exploratory drilling location 'KSAD'** under Golaghat Division in favour of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Jorhat, subject to the following conditions, subject to the following conditions:

(i) The legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.

- (ii) The compensatory afforestation shall be raised and maintained over double the degraded forest land of 3.78 ha identified in compartment No. 116, Digboi Range, Digboi Forest Division in Tinsukia district of Assam as per the funds deposited by the User Agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided.
- (iii) At the time of payment of Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the user Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- (iv) The State Govt shall ensure that **the revised rates of Net Present Value amount** of the forest land being diverted under this proposal is transferred through online portal by the user agency into CAMPA account of the State concerned as per the Ministry letter **File No.5-3/2011-FC(Vol-I) dated 21.03.2022** before issuing of the Final Approval.
- (v) Permanent demarcation of forest land for diversion shall be done on the ground at project cost before handing over the forest land to the user agency.
- (vi) **The kml files of the area to be diverted, the compensatory afforestation areas with all the requisite details shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal before issuing of the Final Approval by the State Govt.**
- (vii) The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
- (viii) The User Agency shall obtain the Environmental Clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- (ix) The lay out of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
- (x) No labour camps shall be established on the forest land.
- (xi) Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternative fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternative fuel.
- (xii) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
- (xiii) The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
- (xiv) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
- (xv) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India. /
- (xvi) The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year,

and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the concern Dy. Director General (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed;

- (xvii) Land so diverted shall revert back to the Forest Department in case it is not needed for the above use after due restoration to its original status (as far as possible and to the satisfaction of state Forest Department.)
- (xviii) The period of exploratory drilling will be for a period of 3(three) years and in case of non-completion of the drilling, the user agency shall apply for extension through the State Govt 6(six) months prior to the expiry of approval period.
- (xix) 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.
- (xx) The user agency shall take precautions and care all the time not to impact adversely the surrounding forests and forest land by their actions/activities.
- (xxi) Tree felling shall be done only when absolutely unavoidable and such removal, if any shall be done under the supervision of the Forest department.
- (xxii) The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area.
- (xxiii) The user agency shall explore the possibility of successful translocation of maximum number of trees identified to the felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- (xxiv) The user agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated condition to the State Govt, concerned IRO and to the Ministry by the end of March every year.
- (xxv) Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry letter No 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.06.2019.
- (xxvi) The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure provisions of compliance of all the Acts, Rules, Hon'ble Court order (s) and NGT order(s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
- (xxvii) All the clearance/NOCs under different applicable rules/regulations/local laws and under Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 as required vide

MoEF, New Delhi guideline No. 11-9/1998-FC(pt) dated 03.08.2009 shall be complied with.

- (xxviii) This approval may be revoked if the above conditions of approval are not complied to the satisfaction of the Integrated Regional Office, Guwahati.
- (xxix) Any other conditions that the Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife. The state Govt shall ensure compliance of all the above conditions.

भवदीय,

(W. Longvah)

वन महानिरीक्षक (केंद्रीय)

Inspector General of Forests(C)

Copy to:

प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक & HoFF/ Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, असम सरकार/ Govt of Assam, पर्यावरण और वन विभाग/ Environment and Forest Department, अरुणा भवन / Aranya Bhawan, रोप कोवर ज्योति प्रसाद अग्रवाल पथ/ Rop Konwar Jyoti Prasad Agarwal Path, श्रीमंत शंकरदेव कालखेत्र के पास/ Near Srimanta Sankardev Kalakhetra, पंजाबारी/ Panjabari, गुवाहाटी / Guwahati-781037.

वन महानिरीक्षक (केंद्रीय)

Inspector General of Forests(C)

o/c