

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 1100 03
Dated: March, 2024

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)
Department of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Government of Arunachal Pradesh,
Itanagar.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s Geo-Enpro Petroleum Limited, for non-forestry use of 83.412 ha. (94.712 ha proposed originally) of forest land for drilling of Oil well at 24 (originally proposed 27) new locations in Changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No. FP/AR/MIN/44736/2014)– regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Arunachal Pradesh letter No. FOR/Cons/2004/2421-25 dated 28th October 2019 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the said Act, ***'in-principle'/Stage -1*** approval to the proposal was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 14.02.2023 subsequently corrigendum letter dated 24.04.2023 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions prescribed therein. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh vide their letters No. FOR.572/Cons/2004/402-05 dated 30th January, 2024 and letter No. FOR.572/Cons/2014/765-66 dated 06.03.2024, **final approval (Stage - 2)** of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 83.412 ha. (94.712 ha proposed originally) of forest land for drilling of Oil well at 24 (originally proposed 27) new locations in Changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh, subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;

- ii. The Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over double the degraded forest land i.e. (83.412 ha. X 2 = 166.824 ha.) at Veniyi Happa VFR under Hapoli Forest Divisio within three years from the date of Stage –II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency and at least 1000 plants per hectare shall be planted over identified DFL; In no case the CA area shall come under any encroachment and all protection measures shall be taken by the State Government;
- iii. Documents pertaining to Mutation, notification & transfer of administrative control to the State Forest Department of the VFR with respect to the CA land shall be handed over to the Regional Office for its records & monitoring purposes prior to handing over the diverted land to the User Agency;
- iv. User agency will ensure that forest area nearby shall not be encroached upon due to implementation of the project;
- v. The User Agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
- vi. The State Govt. shall ensure the complete compliance on FRA, 2006; It should also be ensured that the FRA certificate issued by District collector is complete with letter number, date, name, signature and official seal, as required in the certificate;
- vii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates;
- viii. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- ix. The State Government shall upload the kml files of the area under diversion and the accepted degraded forest land for raising compensatory afforestation in the E-Green Watch portal of FSI, before handing over forest land to the user agency;
- x. The land identified for the purpose of CA shall be clearly depicted on a Survey of India topo sheet of 1:50,000 scale;
- xi. Trees should be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO;
- xii. The State Government shall ensure that the minimum number of trees/plants/poles in any case not more than mentioned in the applied forest area will be removed and the trees should be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- xiii. The User Agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of Maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- xiv. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;

- xv. No labour camp shall be set up inside the forest area. Labour management plan should be implement with emphasis that no labour camp be set up in the close vicinity of the eco-fragile and sensitive areas;
- xvi. The Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate 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 alternate fuel;
- xvii. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xviii. Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of the mining lease granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules framed there-under;
- xix. No damage to the flora and fauna of the area shall be caused;
- xx. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
- xxi. 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;
- xxii. 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;
- xxiii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the Compliance report of this approval is uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- xxiv. The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other Areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;
- xxv. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife shall be carried with by the State Government and user agency;
- xxvi. The User Agency shall submit the annual self- compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Officer and to this Ministry by the end of March every regularly;
- xxvii. The Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the para 1.16 of comprehensive guidelines issued vide this Ministry F. No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28.12.2023;
- xxviii. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval letter dated 14.02.2023 with corrigendum letter dated 24.04.2023 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules,

Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, pertaining to this project for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;

Yours faithfully,

Sd-

(S. Sundar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Department of Forest, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
2. The DDGF (Central) Regional Office, Shillong of MoEF&CC.
3. The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Shimla.
4. The User Agency.
5. The Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, for uploading.