

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 3rd November, 2023

To

The Deputy DGF(Central),
Regional Office, MoEF&CC,
Shillong

Sub: Clarification sought by the Directorate General of Hydrocarbon and Oil India Limited on the applicability of maintenance of safety zone in respect of Oil and Gas proposals and petroleum mining leases - reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Directorate General of Hydrocarbon's Do No. DGH/IGF(MoEFCC)/092023 dated 25.09.2023 and Oil India Limited's letter no. FB:01/5(MW)/348/2023 dated 30.08.2023 on the above subject requesting a clarification on the applicability of the safety zone in the Petroleum Mining Leases (PML) and to say that after examination of the matter in the Ministry, it is observed that given the large areas involved in the PMLs, it may not be prudent to maintain a safety zone around the entire mining lease like conventional mining leases granted under the MMDR Act, 1957. Moreover, it is also not possible for the user agency to demarcate the boundary of PML, which usually runs into thousands square kilometres, as per relevant guidelines of safety zone issued by the MoEF&CC. However, keeping in view the hazardous effects of the mining of mineral oil in the absence of proper upkeep and management, it is mandatory to comply with the safety norms as prescribed under the Petroleum And Natural Gas (Safety in Offshore Operations) Rules, 2008 in the impact zone of bore well area.

In view of the above, I am directed to convey that safety zone of 7.5 meter wide strip along the inner boundary of impact areas of a drilling bore hole(s) or oil well pad shall be maintained by the user agency as green belt by undertaking plantations or allowing the natural regeneration to come up. In addition, the hazardous zone around the bore well, oil pads or pipelines or other ancillary infrastructure should be maintained by the various user agencies engaged in the mining or transportation of mineral oil as per the norms stipulated in the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, and rules framed thereunder.

Yours faithfully,

Signed by

Charan Jeet Singh

Date: 03-11-2023 10:25:19

**(Charan Jeet
Singh)**

Scientist D

Copy to:

1. The Director General, Directorate General of Hydrocarbon, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, DIDB Bhawan, Tower-A, Plot No. 2, Sector -73 Noida – 201301 (UP)
2. The Chairman and Managing Director, Oil India Limited, Plot No. 19, Near Film City, Sector 16A, Noida – 201301 (UP).
3. Monitoring Cell, Forest Conservation Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
4. Guard File.