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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 13th July, 2022

To,
The Regional Officer (Central),
Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC,
4th Floor, HOUSEFED Building, G.S. Road Rukminigaon,
Guwahati - 781022

Sub: Clarification on permission for the land use change in respect of hydrocarbon projects i.e. conversion of exploratory well into development well in the already diverted area – reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to Integrated Regional Office of this Ministry’s letter no. 3 ASB 027/2020-SHI/1986-1987 dated 8.02.2022 on the above subject wherein, adverting to a request of the State of Assam, an advice has been sought from the Ministry whether the State can issue permission for the and use change i.e. conversion of exploratory well into development well in respect of those proposals where drilling and development/explorations/extraction has been proposed in the existing and diverted well sites.

In this connection, it is informed that issue already stands addressed in the Guidelines dated 30.09.2019 issued by the Ministry. It is has been amply clarified in the said guidelines that since the area has been diverted under the section 2 (ii) for non-forestry use and subsequent change in the use from exploratory drilling to extraction (exploitation) can be undertaken subject to approval of change in land use by a Government agency. Therefore, pursuant to approval of change in the land use by a competent authority of Government, the change in land use in the already diverted area can be undertaken by the user agency.

Yours faithfully,

CHARAN
JEET
SINGH

Sd/-
(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist ‘D’

Copy to:
1. Principle Secretary (Forests), All States/UTs
2. PCCF (HoFF), All States/UTs
3. Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, All States/UTs
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.