



File No. J 11011/102/2018-IA-II(I)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Impact Assessment Division

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jal Wing, 3rd Floor, Aliganj,
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 31st May, 2021

To,

M/s Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Pvt. Ltd.,
Tinsukia District, Assam.

Sub: Development Drilling of 24 Drill Sites, Commissioning of two GGS, Capacity expansion of existing M-GPP and laying of underground transportation Pipeline at onshore Block AAP-ON-94/1 by M/s Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Pvt. Ltd. (HOEC) located at Tinsukia District, Assam - Consideration of Environment Clearance reg.

Sir,

This has reference to your online proposal no. IA/AS/IND2/31891/2014, dated 06th April, 2021 for environmental clearance to the above mentioned project.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has examined the proposal for environmental clearance to the project for Development Drilling of 24 Drill Sites, Commissioning of two GGS, Capacity expansion of existing M-GPP and laying of underground transportation Pipeline at onshore Block AAP-ON-94/1 by M/s Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Pvt. Ltd. (HOEC) located at Tinsukia District, Assam.

3. All Offshore and onshore oil and gas exploration, development & production proposals are listed at S.N. 1(b) of Schedule of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification under category 'A' and are appraised at Central Level by Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC).

4. Standard ToR has been issued by Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change vide letter No. J-11011/102/2018-IA-II(I) dated 23rd April, 2018. Public Hearing for the proposed project has been conducted by the Pollution Control Board, Assam at Uttar Margherita Rangamancha, near BDO Office, District Tinsukia on 21st October 2020 and chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tinsukia. The main issues raised during the public hearing are related to environmental pollution, developmental activities related to agriculture, employment, Tea plants management, assurance regarding no Bhagjan Blowout like incident will take place and safety measures, measures for preservation of ecology of Dihing Patkai Forest Reserves, protection of wildlife, infrastructure

development, health and safety etc. No Litigation is pending against the proposal.

5. Ministry had issued EC earlier vide letter no. J-11011/245/2014-IA II (I); dated 31st January 2017; to the existing project six (06) Development wells, Group Gathering Station (GGS), Gas Processing Plant (GPP) and 11.5 km Gas Pipeline from GGS to GPP in onshore Block AAP-ON-94/1 Tinsukia District, Assam in favour of M/s Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Pvt. Ltd. (HOEC).

6. The details of products and capacity are as under: -

S. No	Product Details	Existing Quantity	Proposed Quantity	Total Quantity
1.	Wells and production installation	06 wells; one GGS and GPP	24 wells and 2 GGS and expansion of capacity of GPP (from 20 mmscfd to 40 mmscfd)	30 wells, 3 GGS and one GPP – capacity of 40 mmscfd

7. PP informed that 5,00,000 m² (Total 50 ha- @ 2 ha x 24 drill site and @1 ha x 2 GGS) land will be used for proposed project. HOEC will develop greenbelt at the GGS sites and GPP sites having total area of 2330.85 m². The estimated project cost is Rs. 620.5 crore. Recurring cost for greenbelt plan, wildlife conservation plan and environmental control measures will be a total of INR 0.98 crores per annum. HOEC has earmarked INR 7.665 crores as part of PH Action Plan in line with the comments and suggestions made by the local public during Public Hearings. Additionally, HOEC will comply with the conditions mentioned by EAC in this regard. Total Employment will be 20 persons as direct & 90 persons indirect after expansion for each drill site construction and drilling. As per MoEF&CC Notification no. F. No. 22-65/2017-IA.III dated 30th September, 2020 instead of allocation of funds under CER the EAC will prescribe specific conditions in physical terms to address the concerns raised during the Public Consultation while recommending the proposal. HOEC has earmarked INR 7.665 Crores as part of PH Action Plan in line with the comments and suggestions made by the local public during Public Hearing. Additionally, HOEC will comply with the conditions mentioned by EAC in this regard.

8. All the proposed well, GGS are located within 10 km of Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary. The nearest well from the Golai-Powai Elephant Corridor is 6.9 km. Buri Dehing River is flowing through the middle of the block from east to west direction.

HOEC has received wildlife clearance from Standing Committee of National Wildlife Board vide F.No.6-69/2017 WL (42ndMeeting) on 30.05.2017 and F. No. 6-119/2017 WL 43rdmeeting on 21.07.2017 for six existing wells, GGS, GPP and pipeline as well as 10 proposed wells and one proposed GGS. HOEC had applied for NBWL clearance for remaining 14 wells, one proposed GGS and pipelines.

9. Ambient air quality monitoring was carried out at 8 locations during 2.10.2017 to 31.12.2017 and the baseline data indicates the ranges of concentrations as: PM10 (29–165 µg/m³), PM2.5 (14 - 78 µg/m³), SO₂ (4.1 – 9.5 µg/m³) and NO₂ (10.2 – 34.2 µg/m³). AAQ modeling study for point source emissions indicates that the monitoring location wise maximum incremental GLCs after the proposed project would be 6.24 µg/m³, 0.24 µg/m³, 0.21 µg/m³ and 6.12 µg/m³ with respect to NO_x, SO₂, PM10 and CO. The resultant concentrations are within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

10. Total water requirement for each drill site is 24.5 m³/day of which 20 m³/day for drilling and 4.5 m³/day for domestic water. After expansion, total water requirement for GPP will be 15 m³/day. The required water will be met from groundwater. Effluent of 07 m³/day will be generated from drilling activity and will be treated through ETP and will be recycled/reused implementing no discharge. 3.6 m³/day domestic waste water will be generated from drill sites and will be treated through Septic tank and soak pit. From the operation of GPP 10-15 m³/day effluent will be generated and from plant utility 4 m³/day will be generated. The total waste water will be treated through ETP at GPP site. The treated water will be reused/recycled and no effluent will be discharged.

11. Power requirement will be met through three Diesel Generator Sets of 670 kVA each. Another 670 kVA DG set will be kept as standby. A 134 KW generator will be made available for lighting at residential camp and other emergency requirements. Stack height of 5 m will be provided as per CPCB norms to the proposed DG sets.

12. Details of process emissions generation and its management:

The operation of DG sets, movement of vehicles and machineries during construction and drilling, flaring of natural gas will result in the generation of air pollutants. Stacks will be used with DG sets and flare system as per CPCB norms.

13. Details of Solid waste/Hazardous waste generation and its management:

Drill cuttings and spent drilling mud will be disposed to HDPE lined pit within the drill site. The kitchen waste will be disposed in nearest municipal/village dumping site on a daily basis through approved waste handling contractors. Recyclable wastes will be periodically sold to local waste recyclers. Hazardous waste (waste and used oil) will be managed in accordance with Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016.

14. Certified compliance report has been obtained by RO, MoEFCC, Shillong Regional Office vide letter No. RONE/E/IA/AS/OR/34/2132 dated 27.09.2018.

15. During deliberations, EAC desired additional information/commitments related to:

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- Safety measures to be implemented to control the accidents like Bhagjan blowout.
- Assurance to abide by the conditions/recommendations issued for such blow outs.
- Submission of agreements with the agencies responsible to control such blow out accidents.
- Submit active policy number for Public Liability Insurance.
- Revised water balance and effluent by reducing fresh water requirement to 20 KLPD for each well instead of 50 KLPD.
- PH action plan shall be revised in light of discussions and conditions deliberated by EAC.

PP submitted the desired documents/commitments in compliance of all above points.

16. The proposal was considered by the EAC in its 34th meeting held on 28-29th April, 2021 in the Ministry, wherein the project proponent and their consultant M/s ERM India Pvt. Ltd., presented the EIA/EMP report as per the ToR. The Committee found the EIA/EMP report complying with the ToR and **recommended** the project for grant of environmental clearance.

17. The EAC, constituted under the provision of the EIA Notification, 2006 and comprising of Experts Members/domain experts in various fields, have examined the proposal submitted by the Project Proponent in desired form along with EIA/EMP report prepared and submitted by the Consultant accredited by the QCI/NABET on behalf of the Project Proponent. The EAC noted that the Project Proponent has given undertaking that the data and information given in the application and enclosures are true to the best of his knowledge and belief and no information has been suppressed in the EIA/EMP report. If any part of data/information submitted is found to be false/ misleading at any stage, the project will be rejected and Environmental Clearance given, if any, will be revoked at the risk and cost of the project proponent.

18. The Committee noted that the EIA/EMP report is in compliance of the ToR issued for the project, reflecting the present environmental concerns and the projected scenario for all the environmental components. The Committee has found the baseline data is within NAAQ standards. The Committee has deliberated the action plan proposed by the project proponent to arrest the incremental GLC due to the project. The Committee has also deliberated on the CER plan and found to be addressing the issues in the study area.

19. The EAC has deliberated the proposal and has made due diligence in the process as notified under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended from time to time and accordingly made the recommendations to the proposal. The Experts Members of the EAC have found the proposal in order and have **recommended** for grant of Environmental Clearance.

20. The environmental clearance granted to the project/activity is strictly under

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the provisions of the EIA Notification 2006 and its amendments. It does not tantamount/construe to approvals/consent/ permissions etc. required to be obtained or standards/conditions to be followed under any other Acts/ Rules/ Subordinate legislations, etc., as may be applicable to the project. The project proponent shall obtain necessary permission as mandated under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, as applicable from time to time, from the State Pollution Control Board, prior to construction & operation of the project.

21. Based on the proposal submitted by the project proponent and recommendations of the EAC (Industry-2), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords environmental clearance to the project for **Development Drilling of 24 Drill Sites, Commissioning of two GGS, Capacity expansion of existing M-GPP and laying of underground transportation Pipeline at onshore Block AAP-ON-94/1 by M/s Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Pvt. Ltd. (HOEC) located at Tinsukia District, Assam,** under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006, and the amendments therein, subject to compliance of the terms and conditions as under:-

A. Specific Condition:

- (i). The environmental clearance is subject to obtaining prior clearance from the wildlife angle, including clearance from the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife, as applicable, as per the Ministry's OM dated 8th August, 2019. Grant of environmental clearance does not necessarily imply that Wildlife Clearance shall be granted to the project and that their proposal for Wildlife Clearance will be considered by the respective authorities on its merit and decision taken. PP shall also strictly follow the conditions mentioned in existing NBWL clearance.
- (ii). The project proponent shall prepare a site specific conservation plan and wildlife management plan in case of the presence of Schedule-1 species in the study area, as applicable to the project, and submit to Chief Wildlife Warden for approval. The recommendations shall be implemented in consultation with the State Forest/Wildlife Department in a time bound manner.
- (iii). Latest certified compliance report shall be submitted to Ministry within six (06) months, failing which EC will become invalid.
- (iv). Greenbelt development shall be developed/undertaken @1500-2500 trees per hectares around processing facility and Rs. 25 Lakhs shall be allotted for the same.
- (v). No drilling or any kind of activity shall be commenced until land use conversion of that specific area has been obtained.

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- (vi). The company shall strictly abide by the conditions/recommendations issued by the MOPNG, OISD, DGH and DGMS w.r.t. management of blow out cases and adhere to them in all circumstances.
- (vii). The company shall comply with all the environmental protection measures and safeguards proposed in the documents submitted to the Ministry. All the recommendations made in the EIA/EMP in respect of environmental management, and risk mitigation measures relating to the project shall be implemented.
- (viii). No pipelines or its part shall be laid in the Forest land/Protected Area without prior permission/approval from the Competent Authority.
- (ix). The project proponent will treat and reuse the treated water within the drilling site location including at processing location and no waste or treated water shall be discharged outside the premises under any condition. Mobile ETP coupled with RO and mobile STP shall be installed to treat the waste water and sewage waste respectively.
- (x). During production, storage and handling, the fugitive emission of methane, if any, shall be monitored using Infra-red camera/appropriate technology.
- (xi). The project proponent also to ensure trapping/storing of the CO₂ generated, if any, during the process and handling.
- (xii). Approach road shall be made pucca to minimize generation of suspended dust.
- (xiii). The project proponent shall make all arrangements for control of noise from the drilling activity. Acoustic enclosure shall be provided for the DG sets along with the adequate stack height as per CPCB guidelines.
- (xiv). Total fresh water requirement shall not exceed 20 m³/day for each well, at drilling location and 15 m³/day for GPP and shall be met from groundwater. Prior permission shall be obtained from the concerned regulatory authority. Mobile ETP coupled with RO shall be installed to reuse the treated water in drilling system. Size of the waste pit shall be equal to the hole volume+ volume of drill cutting and volume of discarded mud if any. Two feet free board may be left to accommodate rain water. There shall be separate storm water channel and rain water shall not be allowed to mix with waste water. Alternatively, if possible, pit less drilling be practiced instead of above.
- (xv). The company shall construct the garland drain to prevent runoff of any oil containing waste into the nearby water bodies. Separate drainage system shall be created for oil contaminated and non-oil contaminated.

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- (xvi). Drill cuttings separated from drilling fluid shall be adequately washed and disposed in HDPE lined pit. Waste mud shall be tested for hazardous contaminants and disposed according to HWMH Rules, 2016. No effluent/drilling mud shall be discharged/disposed off into nearby surface water bodies. The company shall comply with the guidelines for disposal of solid waste, drill cutting and drilling fluids for onshore drilling operation notified vide GSR.546(E) dated 30th August, 2005.
- (xvii). Oil spillage prevention and mitigation scheme shall be prepared. In case of oil spillage/ contamination, action plan shall be prepared to clean the site by adopting proven technology. The recyclable waste (oily sludge) and spent oil shall be disposed of to the authorized recyclers.
- (xviii). The project proponent shall take necessary measures to prevent fire hazards, containing oil spill and soil remediation as needed. At fixed installations or plants use of ground flare shall be explored. At the place of ground flaring, the overhead flaring stack with knockout drums shall be installed to minimize gaseous emissions during operation.
- (xix). The project proponent shall develop a contingency plan for H₂S release including all necessary aspects from evacuation to resumption of normal operations. The workers shall be provided with personal H₂S detectors in locations of high risk of exposure along with self-containing breathing apparatus.
- (xx). Blow Out Preventer system shall be installed to prevent well blowouts during drilling operations.
- (xxi). On completion of the project, necessary measures shall be taken for safe plugging of wells with secured enclosures to restore the drilling site to the original condition. The same shall be confirmed by the concerned regulatory authority from environment safety angle. In case of hydrocarbon not found economically viable, a full abandonment plan shall be implemented for the drilling site in accordance with the applicable DGH / Indian Petroleum Regulations.
- (xxii). As per the Ministry's OM dated 30.09.2020 superseding the OM dated 01.05.2018 regarding the Corporate Environmental Responsibility, and as per the action plan proposed by the project proponent to address the socio-economic and environmental issues in the study area, the project proponent, as committed, shall provide education funds in technical training centers/ support in nearby village's schools, support in health care facilities, drinking water supply and funds for miscellaneous activities like solar street lights, battery, solar panel etc., in the nearby villages. The action plan shall to be completed within time as proposed.

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- (xxiii). No lead acid batteries shall be utilized in the project/site.
- (xxiv). Occupational health surveillance of the workers shall be carried out as per the prevailing Acts and Rules. All workers & employees shall be provided with required safety kits/mask for personal protection.
- (xxv). Oil content in the drill cuttings shall be monitored if oil-based mud is used and report shall be sent to the Ministry's Regional Office.
- (xxvi). The project proponent shall prepare operating manual in respect of all activities, which would cover all safety & environment related issues and measures to be taken for protection. One set of environmental manual shall be made available at the drilling site/ project site. Awareness shall be created at each level of the management. All the schedules and results of environmental monitoring shall be available at the project site office. Remote monitoring of site should be done.

B. General Condition:

- (i) No further expansion or modifications in the plant, other than mentioned in the EIA Notification, 2006 and its amendments, shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/SEIAA, as applicable. In case of deviations or alterations in the project proposal from those submitted to this Ministry for clearance, a fresh reference shall be made to the Ministry/SEIAA, as applicable, to assess the adequacy of conditions imposed and to add additional environmental protection measures required, if any.
- (ii) The energy source for lighting purpose shall be preferably LED based, or advanced having preference in energy conservation and environment betterment.
- (iii) The overall noise levels in and around the plant area shall be kept well within the standards by providing noise control measures including acoustic hoods, silencers, enclosures etc. on all sources of noise generation. The ambient noise levels shall conform to the standards prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 Rules, 1989 viz. 75 dBA (day time) and 70 dBA (night time).
- (iv) The company shall undertake all relevant measures for improving the socio-economic conditions of the surrounding area. CER activities shall be undertaken by involving local villages and administration and shall be implemented. The company shall undertake eco-developmental measures including community welfare measures in the project area for the overall improvement of the environment.
- (v) The company shall earmark sufficient funds towards capital cost and recurring cost per annum to implement the conditions stipulated by the

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Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change as well as the State Government along with the implementation schedule for all the conditions stipulated herein. The funds so earmarked for environment management/ pollution control measures shall not be diverted for any other purpose.

- (vi) A copy of the clearance letter shall be sent by the project proponent to concerned Panchayat, Zilla Parishad/Municipal Corporation, Urban local Body and the local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/ representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal.
- (vii) The project proponent shall also submit six monthly reports on the status of compliance of the stipulated Environmental Clearance conditions including results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) to the respective Regional Office of MoEF&CC, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and SPCB. A copy of Environmental Clearance and six monthly compliance status report shall be posted on the website of the company.
- (viii) The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31st March in Form-V as is mandated shall be submitted to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently, shall also be put on the website of the company along with the status of compliance of environmental clearance conditions and shall also be sent to the respective Regional Offices of MoEF&CC by e-mail.
- (ix) The project proponent shall inform the public that the project has been accorded environmental clearance by the Ministry and copies of the clearance letter are available with the SPCB/Committee and may also be seen at Website of the Ministry and at <https://parivesh.nic.in/>. This shall be advertised within seven days from the date of issue of the clearance letter, at least in two local newspapers that are widely circulated in the region of which one shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned and a copy of the same shall be forwarded to the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry.
- (x) The project authorities shall inform the Regional Office as well as the Ministry, the date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of the project.
- (xi) This Environmental clearance is granted subject to final outcome of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble High Court, Hon'ble NGT and any other Court of Law, if any, as may be applicable to this project.

22. The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions, if found necessary at subsequent stages and the project proponent shall implement all the said conditions in a time bound manner. The Ministry may revoke or suspend the environmental clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is

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not found satisfactory.

23. Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated data and failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

24. Any appeal against this environmental clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

25. The above conditions will be enforced, inter-alia under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 read with subsequent amendments therein.

26. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

31.05.2021

(Ashok Kr. Pateshwary)
Director

Copy to: -

1. The Secretary, Environment & Forest, H-Block, 2ndFloor, Janata Bhawan, Disupr, **Guwahati** - 781006 (Assam)
2. Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Env., Forest and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Guwahati, 4th Floor, HOUSEFED Building, G.S. Road Rukminigaon, Guwahati - 781022
3. The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 32
4. The Member Secretary, Pollution Control Board Assam, Bamunimaidam, Guwahati - 21 (Assam)
5. Monitoring Cell, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi
6. District Collector, Tinsukia, Assam
7. Guard File/Monitoring File/ Parivesh Portal /Record File

31.05.2021

(Ashok Kr. Pateshwary)
Director

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