



सत्यमेव जयते

File No: SEIAA.3710/2024

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

(Issued by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority(SEIAA),  
ASSAM)

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Dated 01/06/2024



To,

Janakiraman Ganesan  
Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Ltd  
Lakshmi Chambers, 192, St. Mary's Road, Alwarpet, Chennai - 600018, TAMIL NADU, Near Billroth  
Hospital  
gjanakiraman@hoec.com

**Subject:** Grant of EC under the provision of the EIA Notification 2006-regarding.

**Sir/Madam,**

This is in reference to your application for Grant of EC under the provision of the EIA Notification 2006-regarding in respect of project Drilling of 03 Exploratory Oil and Gas Wells in Block -19, North-East of Margherita town of Tinsukia, District of Assam submitted to Ministry vide proposal number SIA/AS/IND2/455931/2024 dated 12/02/2024.

2. The particulars of the proposal are as below :

(i) EC Identification No.	EC24C0302AS5142012N
(ii) File No.	SEIAA.3710/2024
(iii) Clearance Type	EC
(iv) Category	B2
(v) Project/Activity Included Schedule No.	1(b) Off-shore and onshore oil and gas exploration, development and production
(vii) Name of Project	Drilling of 03 Exploratory Oil and Gas Wells in Block -19, North-East of Margherita town of Tinsukia, District of Assam
(viii) Name of Company/Organization	Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Ltd
(ix) Location of Project (District, State)	TINSUKIA, ASSAM
(x) Issuing Authority	SEIAA
(xii) Applicability of General Conditions	yes
(xiii) Applicability of Specific Conditions	yes

In view of the particulars given in the Para 1 above, the project proposal interalia including Form-1(Part A and B) were submitted to the Ministry for an appraisal by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority(SEIAA) & State Expert

Appraisal Committee (SEAC) in the Ministry under the provision of EIA notification 2006 and its subsequent amendments.

The above-mentioned proposal has been considered by State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) & State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) in the meeting held on 06/04/2024. The minutes of the meeting and all the Application and documents submitted (viz. Form-1 Part A and Part B) are available on PARIVESH portal which can be accessed by scanning the QR Code above.

The brief about configuration of plant/equipment, products and by products and salient features of the project along with environment settings, as submitted by the Project proponent in Form-1 (Part A and B) /EIA & EMP Reports/presented during SEIAA are annexed to this EC as Annexure (1).

The SEIAA, in its meeting held on 06/04/2024, based on information & clarifications provided by the project proponent and after detailed deliberations recommended the proposal for grant of EC under the provision of EIA Notification, 2006 and as amended thereof subject to stipulation of specific and general conditions as detailed in Annexure (2).

The SEIAA has examined the proposal in accordance with the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 & further amendments thereto and after accepting the recommendations of the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) & State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) hereby decided to grant EC for instant proposal of M/s Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Ltd under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and as amended thereof.

The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions, if found necessary.

The EC to the aforementioned project is under provisions of EIA Notification, 2006. It does not tantamount to approvals/consent/permissions etc. required to be obtained under any other Act/Rule/regulation. The Project Proponent is under obligation to obtain approvals /clearances under any other Acts/ Regulations or Statutes, as applicable, to the project.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

#### **Copy To**

1. The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, MOEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Rd, New Delhi-110003.
2. The Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Environment & Forest Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6 Cum Member Secretary, SEIAA, Assam for favour of kind information.
3. The Member Secretary, PCB Assam for favour of kind information.
4. The Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Housefed Building, G.S. Road, Rukminigaon, Guwahati-22 for kind information.
5. Office Copy.

#### **Annexure 1**

#### **Specific EC Conditions for (Off-shore And Onshore Oil And Gas Exploration, Development And Production)**

#### **1. Standard And Specific Conditions**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>EC Conditions</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b><u>General Conditions</u></b> 1. 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

S. No	EC Conditions
	<p>in the project proposal from those submitted to this Ministry for clearance, a fresh reference shall be made to the Ministry/SEIAA/SEAC, as applicable, to assess the adequacy of conditions imposed and to add additional environmental protection measures required, if any.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The energy source for lighting purpose shall be preferably LED based, or advanced having preference in energy conservation and environment betterment.</li> <li>3. 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).</li> <li>4. 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.</li> <li>5. The company shall earmark sufficient funds towards capital cost and recurring cost per annum to implement the conditions stipulated by the 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.</li> <li>6. 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.</li> <li>7. 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&amp;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.</li> <li>8. 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 &amp; CC by e-mail.</li> <li>9. 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 <a href="https://parivesh.nic.in/">https://parivesh.nic.in/</a>. 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.</li> <li>10. 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.</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Specific Conditions</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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.</li> <li>2. Total fresh water requirement shall not exceed 39 m<sup>3</sup>/day will be met from groundwater. Prior permission shall be obtained from the concerned regulatory authority.</li> <li>3. The project proponent will treat and reuse the treated water within the factory and no waste or treated water shall be discharged outside the premises. Mobile ETP coupled with RO shall be installed to reuse the treated water in drilling system. Size of the waste shall be equal to the hole</li> </ol>

S. No	EC Conditions
	<p>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.</p> <p>4. Approach road shall be made pucca to minimize generation of suspended dust.</p> <p>5. 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.</p> <p>6. 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.</p> <p>7. 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.</p> <p>8. 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.</p> <p>9. 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.</p> <p>10. 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.</p> <p>11. Blow Out Preventor system shall be installed to prevent well blowouts during drilling operations.</p> <p>12. 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.</p> <p>13. 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.</p> <p>14. No lead acid batteries shall be utilized in the project/site.</p> <p>15. Occupational health surveillance of the workers shall be carried out as per the prevailing Acts and Rules. All workers &amp; employees shall be provided with required safety kits/mask for personal protection.</p> <p>16. Oil content in the drill cuttings shall be monitored and report &amp; shall sent to the Ministry's Regional Office.</p> <p>17. The project proponent shall prepare operating manual in respect of all activities, which would cover all safety &amp; 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.</p>

S. No	EC Conditions
	18. PP shall sensitize and create awareness among the people working within the project area as well as its surrounding area on the ban of Single Use Plastic in order to ensure the compliance of Notification published by MOEFCC on 12th August, 2021. A report along with photographs on the measures taken shall also be included in the six-monthly compliance report being submitted to concerned authority.

## 2. Specific Conditions By Seac

S. No	EC Conditions
2.1	<p><b>A) CSR activities:</b></p> <p>D) CSR activities shall be carried out in terms of the approved EMP and compliance shall be uploaded in the PARIVESH portal.</p> <p><b>B ) ECR (Environment Corporate Responsibility):</b></p> <p><b>Green Belt:</b></p> <p>I ) The proponent shall develop Green Belt around the Wells comprising 33% of the area of the project area and shall ensure planting of indigenous species of plants as are prescribed. For the purpose, the concerned DFO may be consulted to have the quality planting materials ready in advance in the Departmental Nursery and requisite fund for the purpose should be made available to the DFO in time.</p> <p>II) The recommended species of plants in the area could be of species like Nahor (<i>Mesua ferrea</i>), Dalchini (<i>Cinnamomum spp</i>), Hollock (<i>Terminalia myriocarpa</i>), Hilikha ( <i>Terminalia chebula</i>), Jamun (<i>Syzygium cuminii</i> ), Cham (<i>Artocarpus chaplasha</i>), Dimaru (<i>Ficus spp</i>), Ow Tenga ( <i>Dillenia indica</i>), Thekera (<i>Garcinia spp</i>), Som (<i>Machilus persea</i>) etc etc.</p> <p>III ) Density of plantations shall be <b>1,250</b> plants per Hectare and the Proponent is required to raise plantations in 33% of the area against the <b>Well</b> as prescribed.</p> <p>IV) The proponent shall take all requisite measures to maintain natural environment in the oil fields and its surroundings are to be maintained in healthy and environment friendly conditions. All necessary measures and precautions must have to be taken by the proponent to prevent any probable / random oil spillage, discharge of effluents in the surroundings.</p> <p>Compliance of the same shall duly be uploaded by the Proponent in the PARIVESH portal.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> Recommended for <b>grant of the EC for Well</b> named <b>EC-D</b> as indicated above.</p>

### Additional EC Conditions

N/A