



सत्यमेव जयते

भारतसरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
एकीकृतक्षेत्रीयकार्यालय
REGIONAL OFFICE
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
लॉउसीबलुम्बतंगेन/ LUMBATNGEN,
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File No. RO-SHI/E & F/W&M/2024/ 3975-77

Dated 06.03.2025

To,

1. ✓ The Additional Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road,
Aliganj, New Delhi-110003
2. Director Inspector General of Forest (Wildlife),
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road,
Aliganj, New Delhi-110003

Sub: Proceeding of the One day Regional Workshop (2nd Edition) on Recent Advance in Environment and Forest Laws with Special reference to Oil, Petroleum and Gas Sector held on 23.01.2025 in Shillong-reg.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to inform that the Regional Office, Shillong in collaboration with SPP have Organized the (2nd Edition) of One day Regional Workshop on 'Recent Advance in Environment and Forest Law with special reference to Oil, Petroleum and Gas Sector held on 23.01.2025. A copy of the proceeding along with recommendations and enclosures are enclosed herewith for your kind perusal and reference.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As stated

(Dr. H. Tynsong)
वैज्ञानिक ई/Scientist E

Copy for kind information to:

1. The Chairman and Managing Director, Oil India Limited (OIL), Plot No. 19, Sector 16A, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301.

वैज्ञानिक ई/Scientist E



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File No. RO-SHI/E&F/W&M/2024 3947-4

Date 28.02.2025

To,

1. The Additional Director General of Forest (FC),
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road,
Aliganj, New Delhi-110003
2. The Director (IA Division),
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road,
Aliganj, New Delhi-110003
3. The Director, ROHQ,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road,
Aliganj, New Delhi-110003

Sub: Proceedings of the One day Regional Workshop (2nd Edition) on Recent Advance in Environment and Forest Laws with special reference to Oil, Petroleum and Gas Sector held on 23.01.2025 in Shillong-reg.

Sir/Madam,

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Yours faithfully,

Encl: As stated

(Dr. H. Tynsong)
वैज्ञानिक ई/Scientist E

Copy for kind information to:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shastri Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Rd, New Delhi, Delhi-11000, email id: sec.png@nic.in.

2. The Chairman & CEO, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, 5, Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110 070, email id: emd@ongc.co.in.
3. The Director General, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons, OADB Bhawan, plot No. 2, Sector 73, Noida-201 301, email id: dg@dghindia.gov.in.
4. ✓ Shri J. Lahiri, General Secretary, Society for Petroleum Professionals, ONGC Cubicle No A-01, Core-3, 6th Floor, Scope Minar, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi-110 092, email id: Joydev@sfc.asis.


वैज्ञानिक ई/Scientist E

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ONE-DAY REGIONAL WORKSHOP (SECOND EDITION) ON RECENT ADVANCES IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY LAWS, WITH A SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE OIL, PETROLEUM, AND GAS SECTOR HELD ON 23.01.2025, IN SHILLONG



1. OVERVIEW OF THE WORKSHOP: The Second Edition of the Northeast Regional Workshop on recent advances in Environmental and Forest Laws, with a special focus on the Oil and Gas Sector, was held on 23rd January, 2025, at the State Convention Centre, Pine Wood Hotel, Shillong. The workshop was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF& CC) Regional Office (RO), Shillong, in collaboration with the Society for Petroleum Professionals (SPP). The workshop was managed by Social Friendly Management Pvt. Ltd and hosted jointly by OIL & ONGC. The workshop aimed to build on the success of the inaugural workshop that was held in October, 2019. The First Edition, primarily addressed the challenges faced by oil and gas operators in securing Environmental Clearance (EC) and Forest Clearance (FC) for Oil & Gas Exploration and Production (E&P) activities by various Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) and private companies operated in the North-East Region (NER).

The event was graced by Dr. Amandeep Garg, IAS, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC, as the Chief Guest, and Ms. Imtienla Ao, IFS, DDG (Central), Regional Office, Shillong was the Chairperson. To facilitate the smooth and efficient conduct of the workshop, Dr. H. Tynsong, Scientist E, was designated as the Nodal Officer on behalf of MoEF&CC, RO, Shillong and Shri Joydev Lahiri, General Secretary of SPP, undertook the significant

responsibility of serving as the Convenor and Nodal Officer representing SPP. Their dedication, meticulous coordination, and contributions were instrumental in ensuring the success of the event and fostering meaningful deliberations.

A key recommendation from the 1st Edition of the workshop was to authorize Regional Offices to approve FC for Oil and Gas (O&G) in exploration and production (E&P) projects involving land areas up to 5 ha. This proposal was later incorporated into the Forest Conservation Rules, 2022, published in the official Gazette on 28th June, 2022, streamlining the approval process to reduce procedural delays. However, the introduction of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 2023, effective from 1st December, 2023, nullified the Forest Conservation Rules, 2022 and reversed these streamlined provisions. This regulatory shift reintroduced complexities in the FC approval process, posing new challenges for O&G E&P operators of NER. Recognizing these issues and other recommendations which are yet to be accepted/implemented by MoEFCC, N. Delhi made in the First Edition, the Second Edition of the Workshop was convened.

The workshop brought together a distinguished panel of stakeholders, including Central and State Government Officials, Industry Experts, Environmental Scientists, and Hydrocarbon Professionals, to discuss the evolving regulatory landscape and its impact on the operation of O&G E&P operators. The panel discussions focused on key unresolved matters, particularly the classification of oil and gas extraction under forest regulations—whether it should be categorized as "Mining" or "Non-Mining" activity. While the final decision on this classification remains pending, interim regulatory solutions were explored to maintain operational continuity while ensuring compliance with environmental and forest regulations. The discussions emphasized the importance of ongoing collaboration between stakeholders and the government to ensure a regulatory framework that balances environmental conservation with industry needs. The workshop also served as an educational platform, helping industry participants understand the implications of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 2023, and other recent policy changes.

Attended by key representatives from the MoEF&CC, State Forest Departments, State Pollution Control Boards, Scientific Departments, leading oil and gas corporations, and other regulatory bodies, the workshop provided a forum to discuss the latest developments affecting O&G and E&P activities in the NER.

The Second Edition of the workshop highlighted the growing importance of sustainable energy practices and regulatory compliance in Northeast India's hydrocarbon sector. Aligned with India's Hydrocarbon Vision, 2030 for the region, the event facilitated constructive dialogue between industry leaders and policymakers, striving to achieve a

balance between economic growth and environmental stewardship. By addressing critical environmental and regulatory challenges, the workshop reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a sustainable and responsible energy future for the region and the nation.

2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND EDITION ONE-DAY REGIONAL

WORKSHOP: The workshop commenced with the registration and welcome of participants and delegates, followed by the formal recognition of dignitaries. Next, the documentary film "*North East – The Birthplace of the Indian Petroleum Industry,*" produced by M/S Social Friendly Management Pvt Ltd, was screened. The film showcased the Northeast region's key role in shaping India's petroleum industry and the socio-economic effects of hydrocarbon development in the region. This is followed with speeches, presentations, discussions from different speakers, and the recommendations shared at the end of the panel discussion, as outlined below:

2.1.WELCOME SPEECH BY THE CHAIRPERSON, MS. IMTIENLA AO, IFS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS (CENTRAL), RO, SHILLONG:

Ms. Imtienla Ao welcomed all participants to the workshop and wished them a Happy New Year 2025. She highlighted the Northeast region's historical significance as the birthplace of India's oil industry over 130 years ago and emphasized the vital role of oil, petroleum, and gas in the country's economic growth. She called for collaboration between regulatory and user agencies, viewing all stakeholders as partners in development and conservation. Ms. Ao encouraged meaningful dialogue to address concerns, find solutions, and align with environmental and social priorities. She also outlined the key discussion points for the panel session, including the contentious issue of categorizing Oil & Gas in Exploration & Production (E&P) under the Environmental Clearance (EC) industry category, while Forest Clearance (FC) is classified under mining, despite the Solicitor General of India and Advocate General of Tripura's legal opinions. Finally, she reviewed the status of recommendations from the First Workshop Edition and presented its status of action/implementation as under:

Sl. No.	Recommendation	Status of implementation
1	Oil & Gas Extraction activities should be treated as non-mining activity under FC Act	Action awaited
2	FC should not be linked with the EC, as grant of EC is kept on hold till Stage-I approval is granted	Not possible to implement as per Supreme Court's Order
3	MoEF&CC should have separate provisions and guidelines on FC to Oil & Gas E&P activities	Action awaited

4	Digitized Map for Forest and Wildlife areas in NE, may be made available to the Public in Public Domain for easy access and convenient of proactive for User Agencies	Action awaited
5	Based on latest satellite imaginary, status of declared Protected Areas (PAs)/RFs in the Northeastern States, where ground reality has changed over the period of time since after their Notifications may be reviewed	Action awaited
6	For Mining Proposals up to 5 ha of forest lands, clearance under FC Act by MoEF&CC may be delegated to Regional Office instead of present practice of its approval from Central Govt, which is a very lengthy and time-consuming process	Power delegated through Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022 published on 28.06.2022 has been revoked with publication of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 notified through Gazette on 29.11.2023 and made effective from 01.12.2023
7	FC Act shouldn't be applicable for accessing reservoir at 3-4 Km depth using ERD technology, where breaking of Forest Land is not involved	FC exempted vide OM dtd 12.09.2023 for RFs and not beneath PA and ESZ areas
8	Seismic survey in ESZ/PA areas were permitted earlier but, in some cases, survey is not permitted at present. Further clarification is required	Under new FC Regulation, approval from SC-NBWL required for Seismic survey in PAs
9	Wildlife Division to reinstate its guidelines dtd 26.09.2014 which advises State Forest Directorate not to handle proposals for 10 km ESZ areas, as Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 is not applicable	Action awaited
10	Oil & Gas E&P activities are not to be prohibited in final/draft site specific ESZ notifications	Yet to be considered
11	Separate Form may be introduced for proposals executed in 10 Km ESZ area instead of using the same Form used for proposals executed inside PAs	Action awaited
12	North-Eastern States to consider for holding State Wildlife Board meetings quarterly in order to avoid delay in getting approval for the projects from SC-NBWL	No improvement so far
13	Rules and Regulations framed for Exploration & Development activities should be different and some relaxation should be given in the case of Exploration, since the activity is purely temporary in nature	Implemented Exploration activities are brought under B2 category vide gazette notification dtd 16.01.2020
14	Condition such as making approach road to be made pucca to minimize generation of suspended dust may not be necessary in the case of Exploratory drilling, since the activity is purely temporary in nature. The condition can be imposed only for Development drilling	Yet to be considered

15	Monitoring of CSR activities carried out by projects may be entrusted to concerned State Government Department such as Social Welfare Dept	Being implemented
16	NOC from CGWA may be required before any drilling operation	Being implemented
17	Condition stipulated in all ECs related to 'Subsidence Study' and ' Infra-Red Camera' is to be reconsidered	Yet to be considered
18	Project Proponents of Oil & Gas sector should undertake research activities : a) To ascertain if any impact being caused by emission, gas flaring, fugitive emissions and other pollutants on the surrounding forests b) Effect of Oil Refinery / Petrochemicals/ GGS effluent on aquatic organisms	Being implemented
19	Non-availability of TSDF Facilities in North-East Region to be addressed to	Coming up soon in Ghoramara, Dibrugarh, Assam– EC granted to Mumbai Waste Management Ltd, Hyderabad on 14.10.2024

2.2. INTRODUCTION OF SOCIETY FOR PETROLEUM PROFESSIONALS (SPP)

BY SHRI YASH MALIK, PRESIDENT: Shri Malik highlighted the urgent need for India to fully explore its untapped hydrocarbon potential to meet the country's growing energy demands. He advocated for granting “National Importance” status to Oil & Gas projects, drawing parallels with countries like Saudi Arabia, Russia, and the U.S., where such projects are designated as “National Security Projects” due to their critical role in economic stability and energy security. He further recommended the reclassification of Oil & Gas exploration and production activities, moving them out of the mining category, to streamline and expedite the approval and clearance processes. In conclusion, Shri Malik expressed his sincere gratitude to the organizers for arranging the workshop and invited the esteemed dignitaries present to join the Society for Petroleum Professionals (SPP) in order to further strengthen collaborative efforts in the sector.

2.3. KEY/PAIN POINT ISSUES OF ONGC PRESENTED BY SHRI T.K.

MATHURIYA, ED, BASIN MANAGER, ONGC, JORHAT: The key highlights of Shri Mathuriya’s presentation are summarized below:

i. Statutory Clearance Related Issues: A significant challenge in the oil and gas sector is the prolonged timelines involved in obtaining key statutory clearances. These delays affect project timelines, often hindering progress and efficiency. The process of securing Environmental Clearances (EC), Forest Clearances (FC), and Wildlife Clearances (WLC) often extends beyond reasonable expectations, creating bottlenecks in the exploration and production phases. These approvals are essential for ensuring that energy projects are environmentally sustainable and socially responsible. However, lengthy waiting periods for these clearances mean that a considerable amount of time is lost, which could otherwise be used for actual exploration and development. Additionally, the exploration blocks granted by the government typically have limited validity periods, ranging from 3 to 4 years. However, the majority of this period is consumed by the time-consuming process of obtaining the necessary statutory approvals, rather than actual exploration activities. This mismatch between the validity period and clearance timelines leads to inefficiency, with stakeholders often having to request extensions and face delays in project progress. This issue requires immediate attention to streamline the process, allowing for a more efficient, time-bound approach to exploration and production.

ii. Compensatory Afforestation: Another significant hurdle in the process of obtaining statutory approvals is the delay in the identification and allotment of land for compensatory afforestation, a critical requirement for securing forest clearance (FC). According to regulations, if any forest land is diverted for non-forest use (like oil and gas exploration), compensatory afforestation must be carried out to balance the environmental impact. However, delays in the allocation of suitable land for these afforestation projects create a bottleneck in the forest clearance process. This delay not only hampers the timely commencement of exploration and production activities but also has broader environmental implications, as the compensatory afforestation plays a crucial role in maintaining the ecological balance.

iii. Wildlife Clearance Issues: Wildlife clearance remains a contentious issue in regions where exploration blocks fall within or near protected areas, reserve forests, or wildlife habitats. A prominent example of this issue is the non-granting of wildlife clearance for areas within the Bhairabnagar Conservation Reserve in Tripura. This area was notified as a conservation reserve after the exploration block was awarded, creating a conflict between conservation objectives and development plans. As a result, the exploration activities in this region have been hindered due to the inability to obtain the necessary wildlife clearance, even

though the area was not previously a conservation reserve when the block was allocated. This situation reflects the challenges of reconciling environmental protection with the demand for energy development, highlighting the need for more effective coordination and alignment between conservation efforts and developmental projects.

iv. Unexplored High-Potential Blocks: The Assam Shelf and Nagaland region are home to some of the most high-potential oil and gas blocks in the country. However, these blocks remain unexplored primarily due to socio-political hurdles, notably the ongoing disputes between the states of Assam and Nagaland over the Disputed Area Belt (DAB). The DAB, which lies along the border of these two states, has created tensions and legal complexities, effectively preventing exploration activities in these high-value areas. The lack of clear demarcation of boundaries and jurisdictional conflicts between the states has led to delays in the award of exploration rights, further exacerbating the difficulty in accessing these rich hydrocarbon reserves. The socio-political challenges in this region require urgent resolution through dialogue and consensus-building between the involved states to ensure that exploration can proceed without further disruption.

In conclusion, he said that prolonged statutory clearances, delays in compensatory afforestation, challenges related to wildlife clearance, and socio-political conflicts require immediate reforms. Streamlining processes, enhancing inter-agency coordination, and fostering better communication between regulatory bodies and the government can significantly reduce delays and improve the efficiency of the oil and gas exploration and production industry. These changes will not only benefit the oil sector but also contribute to a more balanced approach that aligns economic growth with environmental sustainability.

2.4 SPEECH BY SHRI SALOMA YAMDO, DIRECTOR (E&D), OIL INDIA LTD:

Shri Saloma Yamdo, in his address, highlighted India's ambitious energy goals, including the mandate to reduce oil imports by 10% and achieve net-zero emissions by 2040. These targets reflect the nation's commitment to addressing climate change while balancing energy demands and economic growth. However, Yamdo pointed out that while 99% of offshore areas in India are open for exploration, significant challenges persist in onshore oil and gas production, particularly due to the complex environmental and regulatory landscape. To address these challenges, Yamdo proposed a bold yet strategic approach. One of his key suggestions was allowing Extended Reach Drilling (ERD) beneath protected areas such as Dibru Saikhowa National Park. ERD is an advanced drilling technique that enables access to

underground resources from a surface location far from the protected area. This method could minimize the surface-level environmental impact, making it possible to tap into valuable reserves without disturbing fragile ecosystems. Such a move would require careful consideration of environmental safeguards and technological advancements to ensure that exploration is done responsibly.

Additionally, Yamdo recommended streamlining policies for pipeline maintenance to ensure timely upkeep and operational efficiency. The timely maintenance of pipelines is critical for sustaining the flow of oil and gas, preventing leaks, and ensuring the safety of surrounding environments. By optimizing policies in this area, India could improve its operational efficiencies, reduce costs, and maintain a more resilient energy infrastructure.

In conclusion, while there are significant hurdles to overcome in meeting energy goals and ensuring environmental protection, Yamdo's suggestions offer a balanced path forward. By leveraging advanced technology like ERD and streamlining operational policies, India can move closer to achieving its long-term goals of reducing oil imports and attaining net-zero emissions by 2040, all while ensuring the sustainable use of its natural resources.

2.5. KEY/PAIN POINT ISSUES OF OIL PRESENTED BY SMT. MALLIKA BARUAH SARMA, ED (HSE & ESG), OIL:

Smt. Mallika addressed critical concerns regarding the balance between environmental conservation and operational efficiency in India's energy sector, particularly in relation to the Dehing Patkai National Park and Bherjan Borajan Podumoni Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS). These areas, vital for the country's biodiversity, have been significantly impacted by the delay in the notification of Site-Specific Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ), affecting 113 and 412 locations, respectively. This delay has complicated the clearance process for various development projects, thereby stalling potential economic activities and conservation initiatives that are meant to work in harmony.

Smt. Mallika underscored the importance of updating the Know Your Approval (KYA) Database in the Parivesh Portal to include Arunachal Pradesh's unclassified state forests, which would improve project planning and expedite approval processes. A more efficient and up-to-date database would ensure that developers and government bodies can make informed decisions, helping to balance forest conservation with infrastructural and industrial growth.

On the issue of Naharkatia- Barauni pipeline maintenance, she raised an urgent need to extend the timeline for emergency repairs of pipelines within forest areas. Currently, the repair timeline is set at 3 months, which is insufficient for complex maintenance activities. She proposed extending this period to 6 months to avoid unnecessary delays, particularly for pipelines falling under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Additionally, Smt. Mallika called for an exemption of Forest Clearance (FC) and Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) clearances for pipelines laid during the 1960s, before the enactment of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, stating that these older pipelines should not be subjected to the same rigorous standards as modern infrastructure.

Further, Smt. Mallika addressed the operational challenges faced by the energy sector due to the lengthy clearance process (2-4 years), which significantly limits the time available for exploration and production activities. These delays hinder India's energy development and its goal to reduce dependency on oil imports. In this context, she urged for the reconsideration of the Forest Clearance (FC) proposal for Extended Reach Drilling (ERD) beneath the Dibru Saikhowa National Park. This proposal, which was rejected in a Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting in July 2024, had been denied in light of the Supreme Court's directive prohibiting mining activities inside Protected Area and within 1 km of any Protected Area. Smt. Mallika called for a careful re-evaluation of this decision, suggesting that modern drilling techniques like ERD could allow for responsible resource extraction without compromising the integrity of protected ecosystems.

In conclusion, Smt. Mallika's speech made a compelling case for a more efficient and flexible regulatory framework that addresses the needs of both conservation and energy security. By updating databases, extending repair timelines, and rethinking policy decisions like the FC proposal for ERD, India could strike a better balance between preserving its rich natural heritage and fostering the development necessary to meet its growing energy demands.

2.6. ADDRESS BY SHRI AK MOHANTY, IFS, ADGF (FC), MOEF & CC, NEW DELHI (THROUGH VC): Shri Mohanty, in his speech, addressed the operational challenges faced by the oil and gas sector in regions with significant forest cover and protected areas. He emphasized the importance of improving the Forest Clearance (FC) process by urging operators to submit accurate KML files that clearly define all aspects of their projects, such as civil infrastructure and boreholes. This would help the Ministry to

expedite the clearance process and ensure accurate determination of the required approvals. He also stressed the need for operators to avoid proposing projects in No-Go areas, especially in protected zones where mining is prohibited, as this often leads to delays after receiving the PEL or PML. Additionally, he emphasized the inclusion of approach roads in FC proposals, as they are essential to project execution.

On the subject of Extended Reach Drilling (ERD), Shri Mohanty reaffirmed that while ERD is exempt from FC in forest areas, it remains prohibited in Protected Areas due to Supreme Court directives prohibiting mining. He also acknowledged concerns raised during the interactive session, including:

- i. **24/7 Drilling Operations:** Ms. Lily Chawang from ONGC raised the issue of the “No drilling after sunset” clause, which hinders continuous operations. Shri Mohanty agreed to review the clause to ease operational constraints.
- i. **Extended Reach Drilling near Protected Areas:** Shri Tralukya Borgohain suggested reconsidering ERD in high-potential areas near protected zones, and Shri Mohanty confirmed that ERD beneath protected areas is being considered due to its minimal surface impact.
- ii. **Encroachment Issues:** Mrs. Sitanshu from ONGC Tripura highlighted the problem of encroachment on diverted forest land. Shri Mohanty noted that such land issues fall under the state jurisdiction and require intervention from State Governments for resolution.

Shri Mohanty’s remarks provided valuable insights into the regulatory challenges and the Ministry’s efforts to streamline processes, while also emphasizing the need for cooperation between the State and Central Government to resolve land-related issues.

2.7. PRESENTATION ON GOI’S EFFORTS TO FACILITATE O&G E&P OPERATORS OF NORTH EAST IN FAST TRACKING THE STATUTORY CLEARANCE / APPROVALS FOR THE UPSTREAM E&P ACTIVITIES BY SHRI G.L DAS HOD (ENV), DGH:

Shri Das outlined several key initiatives taken by the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) to support the development of the hydrocarbon sector in the North Eastern states. One significant step is the provision of a maximum period of two years for all awarded Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) blocks, including those awarded retrospectively. This extended timeline also applies to future OALP bids, enabling more flexibility and time for exploration and development activities.

Additionally, the creation of the North East Coordination Committee (NECC) has been instrumental in fostering collaboration and addressing region-specific challenges related

to the oil and gas sector. This committee aims to streamline coordination among various stakeholders, including government agencies, operators, and local communities.

To further enhance transparency and access to information, DGH has developed the Urja Pragati Portal, which serves as a platform for disseminating details related to energy development projects in the region. This portal is expected to improve the flow of information and support better decision-making.

Finally, he concluded by informing that a joint workshops have been organized to sensitize both operators and regulatory bodies about the specific needs and challenges in the North Eastern states. These workshops facilitate knowledge sharing and help ensure that the regulatory frameworks are better suited to the region's unique requirements, fostering smoother collaboration between all parties involved. These efforts reflect a strong commitment to boosting the region's energy development and addressing its infrastructural challenges.

2.8. PRESENTATION ON THE RECENT ADVANCES IN ENVIRONMENT LAWS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO OIL, PETROLEUM AND GAS SECTOR BY DR.

VIMAL KR. HATWAL, MS (INDUSTRY 2) MOEF&CC: Dr. Hatwal provided an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, emphasizing its key provisions and significance. He also addressed the issue of Essential Deficiency Slips (EDS) issued to the User Agency (UA), stating that a majority of these deficiencies are linked to errors in the KML file submitted by the UA. This concern was earlier highlighted by Shri A.K. Mohanty, ADG (F), MoEF&CC, who noted that inaccuracies in geospatial data often lead to delays in project approvals. The discussion underscored the need for improved accuracy in submissions to streamline the environmental clearance process.

Dr Hatwal also apprised the house about Ministry's Action Plan for 2025, viz: Existing PARIVESH 2 portal is being upgraded by enabling Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools for scrutiny of proposals, Harmonization of the EC conditions, Monitoring and Compliance through PARIVESH 2 and a Joint interactive session with oil and gas companies along with DGH is proposed in March, 2025 for expediting the EC process

2.9. PRESENTATION ON THE PAIN POINT ISSUES RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH O&G E&P ACTIVITIES IN NER BY SHRI J. LAHIRI, GENERAL SECRETARY, SPP AND CONVENOR FOR 1ST & 2ND EDITION OF WORKSHOPS:

Shri Lahiri highlighted the

need for the Ministry to reconsider Forest Clearance (FC) proposals that were rejected by the FC Division/FAC, despite receiving approval from the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL). He referenced the Supreme Court's order dated 05.10.2015, which empowered the SC-NBWL to approve projects within Protected Areas (PAs) in line with the "Goa Foundation Case Judgment" and subsequent rulings on mining activities. His remarks emphasized the importance of aligning forest and wildlife clearance processes to ensure compliance with legal directives. Some of such proposals are as under:

- i. FC Proposal no FP/AS/MIN/28749/2017 pertaining to Extended Reach Drilling (ERD) project of Oil India Limited beneath Dibru-Saikhowa NP in Assam, which has been approved by SC-NBWL in its 44th meeting, held on 29.07.2017 and also approved by Supreme Court on 07.09.2017 clarifying that Goa Foundation Case Judgement is applicable for MLs granted under MMDR Act, 1957 and not applicable for O&G E&P activities administrated under Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948
- ii. Two FC Proposals FP/TR/MIN/13520/2015 and FP/TR/MIN/13523/2015 of ONGC for drilling locations TIDG & TIDC inside Trishna WLS in Tripura, which has been approved by SC-NBWL in its 71st meeting held on 29.12.2022.
- iii. Four FC Proposals FP/TR/MIN/13524/2015, FP/TR/MIN/13525/2015, FP/TR/MIN/13527/2015 and FP/TR/MIN/13529/2015 of ONGC for drilling locations TIAC, TIDF, TIDE & TIDA inside Trishna WLS in Tripura, which has been approved by SC-NBWL in its 65th meeting held on 24.09.2021 after provisional recommendation of the same in 52nd meeting of SC-NBWL held on 10.01.2019. In the 52nd meeting SC-NBWL advised to obtain legal opinions from Solicitor General of India (SGI) and Advocate General of Tripura, whether Extraction of Natural Gas / Oil to be considered as 'Mining' or not in terms of Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 04.08.2006 in IA 1000 in WP (C) No. 202/1995 and SGI vide opinion dtd 14.05.2021 and Advocate General of Tripura vide opinion dtd 06.05.2019 confirmed that, Extraction of Natural Gas / Oil cannot be considered as 'Mining' in terms of Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 04.08.2006

He urged consideration for exempting Forest Clearance (FC) under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for ERD projects executed beneath the forest surface of Protected Areas (PAs) and their Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs). He requested that this exemption align with the Ministry's Office Memorandum (OM) dated 12.09.2023, which already exempts FCs for ERD projects beneath Reserved Forests (RFs). Additionally, he clarified that the Supreme Court's 'Goa Foundation Case' judgment dated 21.04.2014,

which prohibits mining activities inside PAs and within 1 km of their boundaries, does not extend to Oil & Gas (O&G) and Exploration & Production (E&P) activities as clarified in Supreme Court's order dtd 07.09.2017 based on CEC's report dtd 09.05.2016 against IA 3934 of 2016 and IA 3788 of 2014 in WP(C) no 202 of 1995. Requested Ministry to make separate provisions and guidelines for granting Forest Clearance to Oil & Gas E&P projects, as requested by the Secretary, MoPNG vide hid DO letter dtd 09.01.2020 to the Secretary, MoEF&CC after obtaining due opinion from Department of Legal Affairs.

Shri Lahiri also informed that some changes made in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rule, 2023 with respect to previous Forest Conservation Rule, 2022 increased hurdle in O&G E&P activities which need to revisit as detailed below:

- i. Forest Conservation Rule, 2022 published vide Gazette Notification dtd 28.06.2022 authorised Regional Offices (ROs) to approve Oil and Gas exploration FC proposals up to ≤ 5 ha independently, whereas now all FC proposals are approved from Centre only after due deliberation before FAC and with Site Inspection Report (SIR) from ROs.
- ii. Site Inspection Report (SIR) from ROs to be mandated for O&G projects >100 ha area only as prevailed earlier instead of SIR for all proposals as per new regulation. The same has been suggested as it requires only 2-3 HA forest lands for drilling a well and approach road and most of the locations falls in remote forest areas, hence it is not realistic for ROs to visit all locations causing delay in approval process. Further, under provision of new Regulation, SIR from NO is required in case the area is >100 ha and SIR from CF for area >40 ha, hence SIR from ROs for all proposals is not justified.
- iii. Approval of Stage-I FCs becoming null and void if there is delay more than 2 years in submitting Stage-I compliance report. This Timeline was increased from 3 yrs to 5 yrs vide OM dtd 23.06.2021, need to be reinstated to 5 years.

The time line of 2 years is not sufficient for submission of Stage-I Compliance report after obtaining RoFR Certificate from DC/DMs in compliance to FRA, 2006, PRF Notification of CA land, preparation of Wildlife Management Plan in consultation with WII, Dehradun followed with its approval from Chief Wildlife Warden of the State/UTs and removal of common "Encroachments" problem in NER at Drilling locations , where most projects attracts FCs due to 64.2 % forest cover in NER as compared to 19.4 % in rest of India.

- iv. The 'change in Land Use' can be approved by some/any Govt agency as per decision of FAC in its meetings held on 23.04.2019 and 31.07.2019 need to be continued for use of forestland diverted during Exploration for re-use of the same land for future

- developmental activities. Previously, NO(FCA) of the State used to approve the same in consultation with RO/REC, which now can be approved from Centre only.
- v. The State Govt., was allowed to grant “Working Permission” prior to grant of the Final FC for the Linear Projects after grant of Stage-I FC against deposition of payable money towards CA, NPV and cost towards WLMP etc., now the State Govt., can’t grant “Working Permission” unless FRA, 2006 is compiled and PRF notification of Revenue CA land is completed. Compliance of FRA, 2006 and PRF notification to be relaxed else the purpose of ‘Working Permission’ for Linear Project will be defeated.
 - vi. 7.5 mtr “Safety Zone” mandated for each individual O&G FC proposals need to be Reconsidered/Revoked, as “7.5 mtr Safety Zone around the inner peripheral boundary” of the Mining Lease area is applicable for Mining Leases granted under MMDR Act, 1957 as stipulated in Para 7.9 of the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 released by Ministry on 28.03.2019. Hence, 7.5 mtr safety zone mandated vide Ministry’s OM dtd 03.11.2023 for each individual O&G E&P FC proposals for PEL as well as PML blocks need to be revoked, as PEL & PML areas are never fenced and only 1%- 2% of total allotted areas are used for O&G E&P activities.
 - vii. O&G seismic survey inside PAs were permitted with permission from Chief Wildlife warden of state/UT, under provision of Para 6.4 of Chapter-6 (Part-B) of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of FCA, 1980 and OM dtd 26.09.2014 need to be continued instead of mandating approval from SC-NBWL under provision of Rule 6.1(5) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 2023.
 - viii. 2% of “Total Project Cost” towards Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) for all Forest Clearances should be considered to the “Proportionate Forest lands involved” for O&G E&P projects and not the “Total Project Cost”, like it is considered for Linear Projects vide OM dtd 17.01.2023.
 - ix. Wildlife Management Plan prepared by the IFS officials of the State Government may be accepted for approval by the CWLW without insisting for its approval from WII, Dehradun.
 - x. FC Proposals getting De-listed automatically after Lapse of 90 days against the EDS query raised by the Processing Authority can be Re-listed only by NO (FCA) or IG(FC) or DDG(C), RO after submission of on-line request. Re-listing facility may be extended to UAs in similar manner such facility available in PARIVESH portal for Re-listing the EC Proposals.
 - xi. If possible to consider for eliminating PSC introduced for projects > 5 ha area. It may help to avoid delays as the ‘Proposal ID’ for Projects > 5 ha are generated only when it

is accepted by PSC and Proposal delisted by PSC during Screening of Application can be re-listed one time only, after that Fresh FC Proposal to be submitted.

Environment , Forest and Wildlife Clearance related other Pain Point issues highlighted by Shri Lahiri are as follows:

- i. Validity of EIA report and Public Hearing (PH) proceeding may be considered for increasing to 5 years in place of 3 years as of now- As it takes 4/5 years to obtain IPA in NER and by the time IPA is obtained the validity of EIA report and Public Hearing (PH) proceeding gets expired resulting to apply afresh for EC
- ii. Timeline for Submission of Stage-I FC within (12+6) months for the ECs recommended provisionally may be increased to 5 years considering the trend of IPA approval in NER. EC process need to be started afresh on de-novo basis if there is delay more than (12+6) months in submitting Stage-I FC (OM dtd 09.09.2011). Such requested for consideration as EC Validity has been increased now from 7 years to 10 years.
- iii. Uniform Consent fee and Grant, Refusal or Cancellation of Consent to Establish or Consent to Operate proposed by MoEF & CC vide Draft Gazette Notification GSR 423 (E) dtd 19.07.2024 needs stakeholder consultation, as the $(CF=CI*SF*PIF)$ calculation leads to increase fees 10 times and it authorises SPCBs/PCCs set a consent fee up to 20% higher than the estimated fee, based on local environmental issues.
- iv. 10 Km ESZ area continuing for more than last one and half decades since December, 2006 for 8 PAs in Assam & Arunachal Pradesh. The draft Notifications yet to be Published for 5 cases in Assam and Final/Draft notification in 3 cases in Arunachal Pradesh. MoEF&CC may consider as a stop gap measures, to implement CEC's recommendation dtd 20th September, 2012 against IA-1000 of 2003, which recommends ESZ areas varying from 100 mtr to 2 Km depending upon the size of the PA.

ESZ Notifications Pending for PAs in Assam: (Dihing- Patkai) NP , [Bherjan– Borjan– Podumoni] WLS , (Nambor-Doigurung) WLS , Nambor WLS and Garampani WLS

ESZ Notifications Pending for PAs in Arunachal Pradesh: D. Ering Memorial (Lali) WLS , Namdhapa Tiger Reserve and Kamlang WLS

- v. Separate Procedures to be followed for Wildlife Clearance approvals of Proposals from SC-NBWL for Projects executed in ESZ areas of the PAs, as In ESZ area except section 3(2)(v) of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 and Rule 5 (viii) and (x) of

the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and EIA Notification, 2006 no other environmental regulations are applicable. Approval from SC-NBWL which required for ESZ areas at present in Compliance to Supreme Court's Order dtd 04.12.2006 against WP(C) 460/2004 and not under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

To Reinstate the Wildlife Clearance procedures introduced through guidelines from IA Division dtd 20.08.2014 [F.NO J-11013/41/2006-IA-II (I) (part)] followed with subsequent guidelines from Wildlife Division dtd 26.09.2014 (No. 1-20/2014/WL), which directed State/UT Govt not to handle Wildlife Clearance proposals in ESZ areas at their level- Guideline of Wildlife Division dtd 26.09.2014 withdrawn vide OM dtd 01.05.2015 as a cascading effect of withdrawal of guideline dtd 20.08.2014 by IA Division vide OM dtd 30.03.2015

- vi. Separate Application Form also to be introduced for Wildlife Clearance approvals of Proposals from SC-NBWL for Projects executed in ESZ areas of the PAs, instead of using the same common Form used for projects executed inside the PAs
- vii. EC for both 'A' and 'B2' category Projects to be granted with number of wells with Block coordinates and Coordinates of wells not to be insisted as it was followed earlier. Such so suggested as the exact drilling location is finalised at later stage and the locations mentioned at the time of applying TOR for grant of EC are always tentative. Further shifting of location/ change in coordinates within the block has no significance so far the baseline data and Impact Analysis in EIA Report is concerned , since EIA study is done for the entire block as well as 10 Km radius from the block boundary .
- viii. Relaxation requested on EC grant process for the O&G and E&P Projects Closed to International Borders and falling under the territorial Jurisdiction of BSF notified by GoI on 11.10.2021 by considering such projects in Border areas as "Strategic Energy Project of National Importance" and EC may be granted either under B2 category Projects under EIA Notification, 2006 or considering such projects under 1(e) category of EIA Notification, 2006, after due prioritization of O&G E&P projects by MoHA based on recommendation from MoPNG.
- ix. Lands notified as forests in records of the State Govt but practically at present there is no forest cover over ground due to change in demographic patterns over last 3/4 decades- Need to be considered for De-Reservation after physical verifications.
- x. Pipeline of Oil India Ltd laid in acquired ROW land of 1960s and prior to enactment of FCA, 1980 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 need to be exempted from Forest and Wildlife Clearance approval processes for Day-to-Day Repair/Maintenance/ Upgradation works- Ministry may consider for a site visit of OIL's Pipeline ROW in

forest lands of Assam and West Bengal to witness the ground reality that- The 18.2 mtr width ROW of 1960s is maintained clear till date without growth of any Vegetation or Trees etc inside the Forest areas as well as in revenue lands and most part of the ROW is motorable.

- xi. Oil & Gas E&P activities are not to be 'Prohibited' in final site specific ESZ notifications (Published or To be published). It should be permitted as 'Regulated' activity by forming a 'Monitoring Committee'.
- xii. O&G E&P activities does not cause any Land Subsidence Affects, hence Subsidence Study condition not to be stipulated in all EC orders.

Shri Lahiri also wanted that followings conditions should not to be incorporated in all EC conditions for temporary activities at drilling sites (which may be included for Permanent Production Installations):

- i) Monitoring of fugitive emission of Methane using Infra-red camera at Drilling Sites,
- ii) Trapping/ Storing of CO₂ at Drilling Sites,
- iii) Mobile ETP coupled with RO for Drilling Locations,
- iv) Zero Liquid Discharge at Drilling sites,
- v) Making of pucca approach road to drilling sites as exploratory drilling activities are purely of temporary nature for a very short duration

He also stressed that condition for Green Belt development in 33% of the total block area should be applicable for permanent production installations only and not for following Cases:

- a) While granting B₂ category EC for Offshore Exploratory drilling activities within 12 nautical miles- Since such has been stipulated for development of green belt in onshore area over 33% of the total offshore block area in KG/OSDSF/GSKW/2018 Block of OIL in Andhra Pradesh
- b) When the entire project is executed in Forest land (Drilling well and approach road)
- c) Onshore Exploratory Drilling Locations (Temporary activities)

Shri Lahiri also highlighted key concerns regarding the validity of Environmental Clearance (EC), regulatory inconsistencies, and procedural improvements for Oil & Gas (O&G) and Exploration & Production (E&P) projects which detailed as under:

- a. EC validity is considered until the start of production operations as per EIA Notification, 2006. However, State Pollution Control Boards (PCBs) often deny Consent to Operate (CTO) for wells drilled after 10 years, assuming EC expiry, despite the wells being part of an approved Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) validity period and partial production activity already started. Ministry is requested to issue an Office Memorandum (OM) clarifying this issue. Additionally, the EC validity period for O&G E&P projects (10 years, extendable by one year) should align with the 20-year PML validity granted by the Government of India.
- b. A uniform Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is needed for granting B2 Category ECs across States/UTs, as the current approval process varies. Assam's SOP (effective January 2021), which ensures EC approval within 45 days, was suggested as a model for nationwide adoption. Furthermore, the validity of Certified Compliance Reports (CCR) for expansion projects should be extended from 1 year to 3 years/5 yrs, in line with the validity of EIA reports and public hearings per OM dated 08.06.2022/subsequent amendments.
- c. Clarification was also sought on whether a 2% Net Present Value (NPV) is payable for O&G PMLs on forest land as per OM dated 24.06.2015, following the removal of Forest Clearance (FC) approval from the Central Government under Section 2(1)(iii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. If NPV is payable, an online mechanism should be developed to collect this amount prior to granting PMLs by the State Governments.
- d. It was also highlighted by Shri Lahiri that EAC should not insist for allotment of certain % of project cost as thumb rule for expenditure towards CER (Corporate Environment Responsibility) expenditures around the project area as it is not possible to spend the stipulated amount around the project area within the short time span of 3 yrs or 5 yrs against high valued O&G projects, which in turn results as non-compliances while obtaining CCR for Expansion projects. It was apprised by him that CER introduced by the Ministry vide OM dtd 01.05.2018 @ 2% to 0.125% of the Capital Investment depending upon Green and Brown field projects was abolished by the Ministry vide OM dtd 30.09.2020 followed with subsequent clarification OMs dtd 20.10.2020 and 25.02.2021, which advises EAC/ SEACs not to prescribe CER terms in EC order as % of Capital Investment, it should stipulate conditions as per the issues raised during Public Hearings and the commitments made by the PPs in the EMP of EIA Report for the project

- e. Lastly, a standardized checklist for EDS queries on Forest Clearance proposals was recommended to avoid repeated queries from the same office, using existing queries available in the PARIVESH portal.

Shri Lahiri further, made some suggestions for resolving non-availability CA land issue in NER which are as under:

1. Green Credit Scheme & Compensatory Afforestation (CA) Framework:

- i. Project Proponents (PPs) enrolled with the Ministry under the “Green Credit Scheme” may be allowed to exchange these credits for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) purposes.
- ii. The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) may consider allocating CA land from the Sustainable Land Management Program and the Forest & Tree Cover (FTC) Program (planned till 2030), aligned with India’s goal of restoring 26 million ha of degraded land and creating a carbon sink of 2.5-3.0 billion tons by 2030 (as announced by the Hon’ble Prime Minister at CMS-COP13 in February 2019).
- iii. State/UT Governments may be advised to create encroachment-free land banks for CA, ensuring a non-inviolate status in DSS (Decision Support System).
- iv. MoEF&CC may promote the Green Credit Scheme under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model to generate a pool of pre-approved CA land with clearance from State Forest Departments.

2. Environmental Clearances (EC) & Regulatory Simplification:

- i. Wildlife Management Plan should not be insisted for ‘A’ category EC proposals during appraisal at the Central level, as its preparation is the responsibility of State/UT Governments. Instead, User Agencies (UAs) should only be required to deposit 2% of the total project cost into the CAMPA fund (as per OM dated 08.06.2022).
- ii. The requirement for six-monthly EC compliance reports should be abolished for projects that have achieved financial closure and are operational. These projects should instead be monitored under the CTO framework by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs).
- iii. Projects with EC approvals or those that have applied for EC should be exempted from requiring a separate CTE, in line with CPCB guidelines issued on 02.02.2017 and 02.11.2018.

3. Forest & Wildlife Land Management in the Northeast Region (NER):

- i. Preparation of digitized maps for forest and wildlife areas in the NER to aid in conservation planning- Which was also suggested during 1st edition of the workshop in October, 2019
- ii. Resolution of long-pending land possession and clearance issues in Arunachal Pradesh:
 - a. OIL India Ltd. has been unable to take possession of 7.111 ha forest land for locations KUP & KUL in Ningru PML (Diyun Circle, Changlang district) despite final FC clearance on 25.02.2021. The company plans to drill 10 wells in this area, and EC was already granted on 07.01.2020.
 - b. GeoEnpro Petroleum Ltd. has a long-pending case for the regularization of FC violations for 30 drilling locations (31.79 ha) in Kharsang PML, awaiting resolution since 2019, despite settling ₹12.57 crore as Panel CA and Panel NPV as per Central Government directives vide letter dtd 27.09.2017 while granting FC under 2(iii) of FCA, 1980 for the purpose of granting PML by the State Govt.
Request for modification of condition (v) in the FC approval letter dated 27.09.2017 regarding action against erring officials involved in granting PML in 1997 (effective from 1995). Correspondence from the Chief Secretary, GoAP (12.04.2023) and PCCF(C) & HoFF, GoAP (20.09.2024) has been sent to MoEF&CC for resolution.

Shri Lahiri also distributed a hand out of his Presentation content in the beginning, copy of which is enclosed as annexure to this proceeding of the meeting

3. PANEL DISCUSSION: The panel discussion was chaired by Dr. Amandeep Garg, IAS, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC, and moderated by Ms. Imtienla Ao, IFS, DDG (Central), RO, Shillong. Panellists included senior forest and environment officials from Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Manipur, along with experts from MoEF&CC and Tripura SPCB.

Dr. Amandeep Garg emphasized aligning national energy security with environmental sustainability, particularly in the Northeast, a biodiversity hotspot with significant hydrocarbon potential. Key discussion themes included:

- i. **Policy Reforms:** Integrating Environmental (EC) and Forest Clearances (FC) for streamlined approvals.

- ii. **Wildlife Clearance Delays:** Regularizing Wildlife Board meetings for faster decisions.
- iii. **Development in ESZs:** Allowing regulated hydrocarbon activities with strict safety measures.
- iv. **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Strengthening consultations with state governments and industry.

3.1. Key Recommendations:

- i. Enhancing technological interventions like better KML data for project proposals.
- ii. Prioritizing strategic energy projects near international borders.
- iii. Amending the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 2023 to address pain point issues related to Oil & Gas E&P activities.
- iv. Extending EIA report and Public Hearing Proceeding validity from 3 to 5 years.
- v. FC and WLC exemptions for OIL's pipeline laid in 1960s prior to enactment of FCA, 1980 and W(P) Act, 1972
- vi. Expediting pending ESZ notifications for 8 PAs in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in the closed vicinity of Oil Blocks.
- vii. Establishing uniform B2 category EC approval SOPs across all State/UTs .
- viii. Aligning EC validity with PML duration , which is feasible.

In conclusion, Dr. Garg urged collective action to resolve bottlenecks in hydrocarbon exploration while ensuring ecological balance. He assured that the workshop's recommendations would be reviewed by the concerned Divisions of MoEF&CC for necessary action.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS AFTER DELIBERATION IN THE WORKSHOP: After an in-depth discussions on the existing Government Policies and Regulations governing Oil and Gas E&P Operations in the North Eastern Region, several key recommendations have been identified. These suggestions seek to address operational challenges, enhance regulatory efficiency, promote sustainable development and ease of doing business. The following recommendations are proposed for MoEF & CC's consideration to support necessary policy improvements:

4. i. ENVIRONMENT CLEARANCE RELATED ISSUES: The following are key policy changes recommended for Environmental Clearance:

Sl. No.	Issue	Proposed Solution
1	<p>Extension of Validity of EIA Report & Public Hearing Proceedings and Timeline for Submission of Stage-I FC</p>	<p>Extend validity of EIA Report & Public Hearing Proceedings from 3 to 5 years</p> <p>Justification: It takes 4-5 years time in getting IPA in NER and by the time IPA is obtained, EIA report and PH proceeding validity of 3 years gets expired attracting fresh EC as mandated vide OM dtd 08.06.2022</p> <p>Extend Stage-I FC submission timeline from (12+6) months (OM dtd 09.09.2011) to 5 years for the ECs recommended by EAC provisionally</p> <p>Justification: EC validity for O&G E&P projects now increased from 7 years to 10 years, hence time line for submission of IPA need to be extended</p>
2	<p>Uniform Consent Fee & Approval Process</p>	<p>Conduct stakeholder consultation before finalizing the new consent fee formula proposed by MoEF & CC vide Draft Gazette Notification GSR 423 (E) dtd 19.07.2024</p> <p>Justification: The fees increases by 10 times under the new formula ($CF=CI*SF*PIF$)</p> <p>Authority not to be vested to SPCBs/PCCs to raise fees 20% higher depending upon local conditions</p> <p>Justification: Industry facing a challenge at present in Andhra Pradesh, where vide State Gazettes G.O.Ms.No.13, dtd 26.02.2021 and G.O.Ms.No.10, dtd 14.02.2023 State PCB increased Fixed Cost to Rs. 25 Lakhs per annum for each facility irrespective of Investments and introduced a Variable Cost @10 Paisa per standard m³ of natural gas and crude oil by taking into account of Consented Capacity per Annum</p> <p>The payable CFO fees as per G.O.Ms.No.10, dtd 14.02.2023 amounts to Rs 9.179 cr for production of 50,000 Barrels of Oil per day / 25,00,000 Standard m³ of gas per day and if further 20 % allowed to increase it would become Rs 11.015 cr</p>
3	<p>Grant of EC for O&G Exploration Projects based on Block coordinates and not with Well coordinates</p>	<p>EC for both 'A' and 'B2' category Projects to be granted based on block coordinates as followed earlier instead of insisting for well coordinates as of now</p> <p>Justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The exact drilling location is finalised at later stage and the locations mentioned at the time of applying TOR for grant of EC are always tentative ii) Shifting of location/ change in coordinates within the block has no significance so far the baseline data and Impact Analysis in EIA Report is concerned , since EIA study is done for the entire block as well as 10 Km radius from the block boundary

4	<p>Relaxation for EC approval process for O&G Projects closed to International Borders and falling under the territorial Jurisdiction of BSF notified by GoI on 11.10.2021</p>	<p>Consider O&G Projects closed to International Borders and falling under the territorial Jurisdiction of BSF as "Strategic Energy Projects of National Importance" after due certification from MoHA and classify them either under B2 Schedule or under schedule 1(e) of EIA Notification, 2006</p> <p>Justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Oil Blocks Closed to International Borders in Rajasthan, Gujarat, NER & WB, are vulnerable to many cross border issues ii) Conducting Public Hearing (PH) with Videography of PH proceeding within the Territorial Jurisdiction of BSF is not permissible iii) PH process also non conducive in Border Areas because of mixed population iv) Chances of loosing Oil reserves in the Border areas are very high if secrecy is not maintained about the available reserves of Hydrocarbon in the Border States
5	<p>Land Subsidence Study stipulated in EC orders for O&G E&P Projects</p>	<p>Land Subsidence study conditions not to be stipulated in all EC orders as O&G E&P activities do not cause land subsidence affects</p> <p>Justification: O&G E&P activities do not cause land subsidence affects as revealed in the study undertaken by OIL in July, 2019 in its 135 years old Digboi Oil Field where more than 1,000 wells drilled since 1889 and other Oil fields in Upper Assam and Arunachal Pradesh through National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Hyderabad, another study by OIL in November, 2024 thr'o NRSC,ISRO Hyderabad in Rajasthan Fields and report submitted by the Sub-Committee constituted by MoEF&CC to study subsidence affect in KG Basin fields in pursuance to the direction of Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Hyderabad dated 29th June, 2009 against Writ Petition No. 13341/08</p>
6	<p>Exemptions of certain conditions from EC order for Temporary Drilling Activities</p>	<p>Following conditions not to be stipulated in EC orders for temporary drilling sites - Such may be considered for permanent production installations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Installation of Infra-red camera for Methane monitoring ii) CO₂ trapping/ storing iii) Mobile ETP coupled with RO iv) Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) v) Making of permanent approach roads to drill sites <p>Justification: Compliance of these in short duration temporary drilling site is not feasible resulting to non-compliances at later stage</p>

7	Green Belt Development over 33% of block area	33% green belt development condition may be stipulated only for permanent production sites, not for following cases: i) Grant of B ₂ category EC for Offshore Exploratory drilling activities within 12 nautical miles- Development of green belt in onshore area over 33% of the total offshore block area has been stipulated for KG/OSDSF/GSKW/2018 Block of OIL in Andhra Pradesh (EC Identification No. EC22B002AP110407 dtd 24.08.2022) ii) When the entire project is executed in Forest land (Drilling well and approach road) iii) Onshore Exploratory Drilling Locations (Temporary activities)
8	EC Validity vs. CTO Grant for wells drilled after 10 years	Clarifications required that, EC remains valid even after 10 yrs once production begins within validity period of EC. State Pollution Control Boards (PCBs) often deny Consent to Operate (CTO) for wells drilled after 10 years, assuming EC expiry, despite the wells being part of an approved Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) validity period and partial production activity already started. Justification: EC validity defined in EIA Notification, 2006: [SO 2944(E) dtd 14.09.2016] as “ The “Validity of Environmental Clearance” is meant the period from which a prior Environmental Clearance is granted by the Regulatory Authority,to the “ Start of Production Operations by the Project or Activity ”
9	Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for B2 Category ECs	Develop an uniform SOP across all states, adopting model of Assam for granting EC within 45 days Justification: The present evaluation/ approval process varies from State to State for grant of B2 Category ECs
10	Alignment of EC and PML Validity	Extend EC validity for O&G E&P Projects from 10 to 20 years to align with the PML validity period Justification: At present validity of EC for is only 10 years with provision of extension by max one year , whereas PMLs are normally granted for 20 Years and Field Development Plans are made based on validity period of the block
11	Extension of Validity of Certified Compliance Report (CCR)	Increase CCR validity from 1 year to 3 years/5 yrs in line with the validity of EIA Report and Public Hearing Proceedings Justification: Proposed to align with validity of EIA Report and Public Hearing Proceedings
12	Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) Requirement	WMP preparation for Category ‘A’ ECs not to be insisted during appraisal of proposals before EAC at Central Level Justification: Preparation of WMP is the responsibility of the State Govt as clarified in OM 08.06.2022 and PPs only have to

	while apprising “A” category ECs at Centre	deposit 2% of the projects cost for the Proportionate Forest Land Involved / Project cost into the CAMPA fund
13	Strengthening of SEIAAs	SEIAAs may be strengthened by appointing a dedicated Chairman and Member Secretary who are not engaged in any other official responsibilities. Justification: This will enable them to focus more effectively on reviewing monitoring reports and Six-Monthly Compliance reports for projects granted EC by them.
14	Not to prescribe CER compliance condition in EC order in terms of allocation of certain % of Capital Investment	CER introduced vide OM dtd 01.05.2018 has been revoked vide OM dtd 30.09.2020 followed with subsequent clarification OMs dtd 20.10.2020 and 25.02.2021 and the PPs has to now comply the issues raised during Public Hearings and the commitments made by the PPs in the EMP of EIA Report for the project. Actual demands with estimated amount and timeline of implementation to be appraised before EAC prior to grant of EC or a certain % of Project cost may be allocated towards CER, whichever is less. Justification: It is not possible to spend a huge amount around the remote project sites within the stipulated time line of 3 yrs/ 5 yrs for high valued O&G projects resulting to non-compliances in many cases, as faced by ONGC, MRPL, Mittal Energy etc

4. ii. FOREST CLEARANCE RELATED ISSUES: The following are key policy changes recommended for Forest Clearance:

Sl. No.	Topic	Key Points
1	Goa Foundation Case Judgment of Supreme Court on banning Mining activities inside PAs and 1 km from the boundaries of the PAs is not applicable for O&G, E&P activities	Ministry to reconsider for approval of following FC proposals rejected even after approval from SC-NBWL in conformity to Supreme Court’s order dtd 05.10.2015 including approval of one proposal by Supreme Court (FC Proposal Nos: FP/AS/MIN/28749/2017 (ERD Project of OIL beneath Dibru-Saikhowa NP in Assam), FP/TR/MIN/13523/2015 & FP/TR/MIN/13520/2015 (ONGC’s Drilling Locations TIDG & TIDC inside Trishna WLS in Tripura) , FP/TR/MIN/13529/2015, FP/TR/MIN/13527/2015 , FP/TR/MIN/13525/2015 and FP/TR/MIN/13524/2015 (ONGC’s Drilling Locations TIAC, TIDF, TIDE & TIDA inside Trishna WLS in Tripura)) Justification: Goa Foundation Case Judgment of

		<p>Supreme Court dtd 21.04.2014 in IA-1000 of WP (C) No. 202/1995 followed with last order of Supreme Court dtd 26.04.2023 is not applicable for O&G, E&P activities</p> <p>i) 'Goa Foundation Case' judgement is applicable only to Open Cast/ Surface Mining Leases granted under MMDR Act, 1957 and Oil Mining Leases are granted under Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 as clarified by Supreme Court vide order dtd 07.09.2017 based on recommendation of CEC vide report dtd 09.05.2016 against IA 3934 of 2016 and IA 3788 of 2014 in WP(C) no 202 of 1995</p> <p>ii) Extraction of Natural Gas / Oil Can not be considered as 'Mining' in terms of Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 04.08.2006 in IA 1000 in WP (C) No. 202/1995 - Legal Opinions given by Solicitor General of India on 14th May, 2021 /Addl Solicitor General of India on 22nd June, 2017/ Advocate General of Tripura on 6th May, 2019</p> <p>iii) Supreme Court's order dtd 05.10.2015 authorised SC-NBWL to approve projects inside PAs in conformity to 'Goa Foundation Case' judgement and subsequent other orders and only CEC can challenge Project approved by SC-NBWL -CEC has not challenged any of the above referred project</p>
2	FC Exemption for ERD Projects inside RF/PA and ESZ area of PAs	<p>ERD projects beneath PA/ESZ should be exempted from FC similar to exemption granted for RFs (OM dtd 12.09.2023)</p> <p>Justification: Goa Foundation Case judgement of Supreme Court is not applicable for O&G E&P activities, hence ERD campaign can be taken up deep beneath the surface of PAs or ESZ areas</p>
3	Separate Guidelines for O&G E&P FC Proposals	<p>Ministry to create specific FC guidelines for O&G E&P projects, as recommended in 2019 workshop</p> <p>Justification: After obtaining legal opinion from Dept of Legal Affairs Secretary, MoPNG vide DO Letter dtd 09.01.2020 requested Secretary, MoEF&CC to frame different Forest Regulations for O&G Upstream sector instead of treating it at par with the 'Mining Operations' carried out under First Schedule of MMDR Act, 1957, viz Coal, Iron, Manganese etc</p>

4	<p>Changes required in Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 enacted wef 01.12.2023</p>	<p>Delegation of power to ROs for approval of FC for O&G E&P Projects up to <= 5 ha</p> <p><u>Justification:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Most of the O&G E&P projects require forest land < 5 ha ii) FC Rules, 2022 published through gazette dtd 28.06.2022 and made effective from 18.07.2022 delegated independent Power ROs to approve O&G E&P Projects up to <= 5 ha area, even without concurrence of ROHQ, need to be reinstated
		<p>SIR requirements from ROs for O&G E&P projects > 100 Ha area only to be mandated as it prevailed earlier</p> <p><u>Justification:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) SIR from ROs for all O&G E&P projects is not realistic and causing delay, as most of the locations are in remote areas ii) Under provision of the new Regulation, SIR from CF is required in case the area is >40 ha and SIR from NO is required in case the area is >100 ha – Hence SIR from ROs also should be >100 ha only
		<p>Timeline extensions for submission of Stage-I FC Compliance Report from 2 to 5 years</p> <p><u>Justification:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) This Timeline was Increased from 3 yrs to 5 yrs vide OM dtd 23.06.2021 because of obvious reasons only ii) Submission of Stage-I FC Compliance Report may not be possible within 2 years for Constrains such as: Obtaining RoFR Certificate from DC/DMs in compliance to FRA, 2006 /PRF Notification of CA land / Preparation of Wildlife Management Plan in consultation with WII, Dehradun and taking approval from CWLW/ “Encroachments” in forest lands (Common Problem in NER), which delays in Erection of Boundary Pillars in compliance to IPA and submission of Compliance Report
		<p>Change in Land use approval authority had with NO (FCA) of the State/RO to be reinstated instead of its approval from Centre</p> <p><u>Justification:</u> It was decided in FAC’s meetings held on 23.04.2019 and 31.07.2019 that, UAs once diverted</p>

	<p>Changes required in Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 enacted wef 01.12.2023</p>	<p>forestland during “Exploration Phase” with due approval under FCA, 1980 can Re-use the same land for future “Developmental works” without going through repetitive FC approval Process and such ‘ Change in Land use’ can be approved by Any /Some Govt Agency</p> <p>Working permissions for Linear projects to be granted w’out insisting for compliances of FRA, 2006 and PRF notification of CA land after grant of Stage-I FC against deposition of payable money towards CA , NPV and cost towards WLMP etc</p> <p>Justification: If RoFR certificate and Protected Forest Notification of CA land are readily available for Linear projects then PPs can directly get Final FC after submission of Stage-I FC Compliance Report – Obtaining RoFR certificates in compliance to FRA, 2006 is a challenging task for the ‘Linear Projects’ passing through several villages as getting Gram Sabha and FRC resolutions are big challenges. Similarly PRF notification also a long lead time item</p> <p>7.5 mtr safety zone mandated vide OM dtd 03.11.2023 for for O&G E&P FC proposal need to be revoked</p> <p>Justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Para 7.9 of the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, issued by the Ministry on 28.03.2019 stipulates that, 7.5 meter wide Peripheral Strip to be maintained in the form of ‘Safety Zone’ along the Inner Boundary of the Mining Leases <i>Granted under purview of First Schedule of MMDR Act, 1957</i> - Which doesn’t accommodate O&G E&P activities ii) PEL is a License (not Mining Lease) and O&G PML Blocks are never Fenced as only 2%-3% of the area is used iii) All Safety distances are maintained in Well Plinth areas based on OISD, DGMS Safety Standard/ Guidelines etc iv) It is not justified to cut trees during diversion of forest lands and then again plant trees for creating Green Belt in 7.5 mtr ‘Safety Zone’ <p>O&G Seismic survey permissions inside PAs may be granted with consent of CWLW w’out insisting for approval from SC-NBWL under the new FC Regulations</p> <p>Justification: Seismic Survey inside the PAs was</p>
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	<p>Changes required in Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 enacted wef 01.12.2023</p>	<p>permitted with permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden under provision of Para 6.4 of Chapter-6 (Part-B) of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of FCA, 1980 released by MoEF&CC vide letter dtd 28.03.2019 referring Wildlife Division's O.M. No.6-133/2014(part) dated 26.09.2024 - Need to be reinstated</p> <p>Cost towards WMP should be 2% of proportionate forest land involved and not 2% of total project cost as mandated vide OM dtd 08.06.2022 Justification: Except drilling locations, all other project components are constructed in non-forest lands, hence payable WMP cost should be to the "Proportionate Forestlands involved" in line with the same is considered for Linear Projects vide OM dtd 17.01.2023</p> <p>FC Proposals getting de-listed automatically after Lapse of 90 days against the EDS query raised by the Processing Authority can be Re-listed only by the NO (FCA) of the concerned State/UT or IG of Forests (FC) at Centre or DDG (Central) at RO of MoEF&CC and UAs can't relist the same in PARIVESH portal Justification: Re-listing provisions of FC proposals be provided to UAs in line with the such provisions available for EC proposals in PARIVESH portal</p>
5	<p>WMP preparation in consultation with WII</p>	<p>WMP approval from WII not to be insisted against FC proposals, once same is prepared by IFS officers of the States Justification: IFS officials of the States are equally competent to prepare WMP</p>
6	<p>O&G E&P Activities after Sun Set</p>	<p>O&G Drilling activities not to be Prohibited after Sun Set in IPAs and needs amendment for IPAs granted from Centre for the proposals FP/AS/MIN/87902/2020 and FP/AS/MIN/47775/2020 Justification: Oil well drilling is a continuous operation on 24x7 basis and such can't be stopped after sun set, else the well will be killed</p>
7	<p>De-Reservation of notified Forest Land in Records of State Govt</p>	<p>Land classified as forest but there is no Forest Cover in actual due to demographic changes should be considered for de-reservation Justification: i) Pending which in many cases, even after grant of FC possessions couldn't be obtained – OL is not able to take possession of 7.11 Ha forestlands for Locations KUP & KUL even after grant of Final FC on 25.02.2021 in Ningru PML, Arunachal</p>

		<p>Pradesh</p> <p>ii) Also in some cases many prospective hydrocarbon blocks had to be sacrificed when analysed in DSS of Dehradun- OIL had to relinquish 113.61 sq Km highly prospective area from 540.688 sq Km in Ningru PML, Arunachal Pradesh while obtaining FC approval under sec 2(iii) of FCA, 1980 in August, 2017, when Miao Town etc are falling in the relinquished 113.61 sq Km</p>
8	<p>Exemption of FC for OIL's 1.157 Pipeline laid in 1960s for Repair & Maint activities under purview of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980</p>	<p>OIL's pipeline laid in the 1960s prior to enactment of - FCA, 1980 should be exempted from FC for repair/maintenance activities, similar line such exemption granted to transmission lines and roads vide OMs dtd 06.09.2021 & 09.11.2020 instead of 3 months exemption granted vide OM 23.12.2022 for Emergency repair works</p> <p><u>Justification:</u></p> <p>i) The 18.2 mtr width and 1,157 Km long Pipeline Right of Way (ROW) land from Naharkatia in Assam to Barauni in Bihar, passing through the State of West Bengal, was acquired by GoI in 1960s and was handed over to Burmah Oil Company Ltd, which later on nationalised as Oil India Ltd (OIL) in 1981</p> <p>ii) Since it is ROW and not ROU- It is mandatory on OIL's part to ensure that the Pipeline ROW is kept cleared from growth of any Vegetation or any Tree because of mandatory Safety norms of an Operating Pipeline -Hence since 1960s till date , no growth of Tree/Vegetation allowed over the Pipeline ROW inside the Forest Areas in Assam and West Bengal</p> <p>iii) ROW of OIL's Pipeline is marked as “ Forest Fire Line” between two forest compartments in many local Forest Maps and helps in restricting “Forest Fires.”</p> <p>iv) Bushes whatever grows over the Pipeline ROW are cleared annually during the winter season along with painting of (Km Markers, ROW Boundary Pillars and Cathodic Test Points) along the entire 1,157 Km Pipeline ROW from Naharkatia to Barauni</p> <p>v) Most part of the ROW is motorable except the patches of River/ Stream/ Railway Crossings</p>

	Exemption of FC for OIL's 1.157 Pipeline laid in 1960s for Repair & Maint activities under purview of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980	<p>vi) Repair/ Maintenance/ Upgradation works in Pipeline doesn't require any widening of Pipeline ROW or Felling of trees and the activities are restricted within 18.2 mtr width acquired ROW only</p> <p>vii) Not a single Tree Felling was involved while laying the 660 Km Numaligarh- Siliguri Product Pipeline (NSPL) in 2009 NSPL in the same ROW of 1960s inside RF and PAs in West Bengal</p> <p>viii) World's oldest Pipeline serving as "Lifeline for NE Refineries" on 24 x7 basis for more than last six decades since 1960s till date and crossed its designated life span of 35 years- Hence time to time Repair/ Maintenance/ Upgradation works is very much essential for safety of Biodiversity and Wildlife habitats in the forest areas through which the Pipeline passes in Assam and West Bengal</p> <p>ROW inspection may be planned for verification of ground reality</p>
9	2% NPV Payment Clarification for forest land in PML block and Payment Mechanism	<p>Clarification needed on payable 2% NPV for PMLs after abolishment of FC under section 2(1)(iii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.</p> <p>Online payment mechanism presently not available for collecting the same since on-line FC application is no more in place to facilitate making payments prior to grant of PML</p>
10	Standard Checklist for raising EDS Query against FC Proposals	<p>A standardized checklist for raising EDS queries against FC proposals need to be made available in the PARIVESH portal by compiling the EDS queries readily available in PARIVESH portal against various O&G E&P FC Proposals</p> <p>Justification: Repeated EDSs are raised, even when there is a standing instruction vide DO letter dtd 22.12.2021 from O/o DG & SS, MoEF&CC to all State and UTs and all ROs of MoEF&CC, that, EDS queries can be raised once only against any FC proposal- Non-compliance of these leads to delay in FC approval process</p>
11	Suggestion for Resolving CA Land Availability issue in NER	<p>i) PPs enrolled with Green Credit Scheme may be allowed to exchange the same for the CA purposes</p> <p>ii) Ministry may consider for allotment of CA land</p>

		<p>from ‘Sustainable Land Management Program’ / “Forest & Tree Cover (FTC) Program” planned till 2030, where it has been targeted to retrieve 26 million ha degraded land for creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 - 3.0 billion tons by 2030</p> <p>iii) Felicitating for creation of encroachment free land bank for CA purposes by the State/UT Govts with “Non-Inviolate status in DSS</p> <p>iv) To promote “Green Credit Scheme” in PPP model for generating pool of readymade CA land with pre-approval from State Forest Dept</p> <p>Justification: Not much benefit could be availed so far for arranging CA land from other State/UTs having forest covers 20 % or less of its total geographical area in case the project execution State/UT is having forest density more than 33 % of its total geographical area as notified by Ministry vide OMs dtd 22.05.2019 & 07.11.2022</p>
12	Digital Mapping of Forest & Wildlife Areas	Digital maps for NER forests and wildlife areas need to be prepared as also recommended during 2019 workshop
13	PARIVESH Portal Update	"Know Your Approval (KYA)" database needs updates, especially for Unclassed State Forests in Arunachal Pradesh
14	Classification of ERD High Priority Areas	High prospect ERD areas with zero surface impact should be classified as "High Priority" for O&G E&P Projects and necessary relaxation on FC approval process
15	Resolution of Long-Pending FC Issues	<p>Possession of 7.111 ha Forest Land for OIL's Ningru PML ,Arunachal Pradesh pending since 25.02.2021</p> <p>FC violation case for 30 wells involving 31.79 Ha forest lands in Kharsang PML of Geo Enpro in Arunachal Pradesh awaited since 24.04.2019 against proposal no FP/AR/MIN/ 39891/2019 even after settlement of Rs 12.57 cr as Panel CA and Panel NPV as per directive from Central Govt vide letter dtd 27.09.2017 while granting FC under section 2(iii) of FCA, 1980 for the purpose of granting PML by the State Govt</p> <p>Suggestion: Committee formed by GoAP on 24.03.2022 followed with submission of report to SO, Guwahati vide PCCF & HoFF’s letter dtd 28.04.2023 may be considered as action initiated without awaiting for end result against ATR</p> <p>Justification:</p>

		<p>i) Chief Secretary, GoAP vide letter dtd 12.04.2023 requested Secretary, MoEF&CC, for regularisation of the FC proposal at the earliest</p> <p>ii) O/o PCCF(C) & HoFF, GoAP vide letter dtd. 20.09.2024 requested DGF & SS, MoEF&CC to modify the condition-(v) stipulated in Central Govt's FC approval letter dtd 27.09.2017 in regard taking action against the erring officials associated with execution of the Kharsang PML deed in 1997 with effectivity of the PML from 1995 w'out obtaining FC under 2(iii) of FCA, 1980 from Central Govt</p>
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4. iii. **WILDLIFE CLEARANCE RELATED ISSUES**: The following are key policy changes recommended related to Wildlife Clearance:

Sl. No.	Topic	Key Points
1	Pending ESZ Notification for PAs in NER	<p>Early Draft notification of ESZ areas requested for 5 PAs in Assam & Draft/Final notification for 3 PAs in Arunachal Pradesh</p> <p>i) Draft notifications pending for 5 PAs in Assam: (Dihing- Patkai) NP , [Bherjan– Borjan– Podumoni] WLS, (Nambor-Doigurung) WLS , Nambor WLS and Garampani WLS</p> <p>ii) Arunachal Pradesh (3 PAs): Draft notification pending for D. Ering Memorial (Lali) WLS and Final Notification pending for Namdhapa Tiger Reserve and Kamlang WLS against combined Draft ESZ Notification published on 10.11.2023</p> <p>Justification: 10 Km ESZ area continuing for more than last one and half decades since 04.12.2006 in compliance to Supreme Court's order in WP(C) 460/2004 affecting O&G E&P activities in the vicinity of these PAs</p>
2	Wildlife Clearance approval Process and Application Form for ESZ areas	<p>Approvals process from SC-NBWL for projects in ESZ areas not to be treated at par with the projects inside the PAs. The process introduced vide Wildlife Division's guideline dtd 26.09.2014 in conjunction with OM from IA Division dtd 20.08.2024 need to be reinstated, which directed State/UTs not to handle ESZ area proposals at their ends</p> <p>Justification: Projects in ESZ areas requires approval from SC-NBWL just because in Compliance to Supreme Court's Order dtd 04.12.2006 against WP(C) 460/2004 and not under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972</p>

		Wildlife Clearance application Form for Project in ESZ area also has to be different from projects inside PAs Justification: In ESZ area- Except applicability of section 3(2)(v) of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 and Rule 5 (viii) and (x) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and EIA Notification, 2006, no other Environmental Regulations are applicable
3	Exemption of Wildlife Clearance for OIL's 1,157 Km long Pipeline laid in 1960s for Repair & Maint activities under purview of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972	Pipeline of OIL's was laid much prior to enactment of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 Justification: Same as stated against Recommendation No (8) for Forest Clearance related issues with request for planning for ROW site Inspection may be planned in (Buxa Tiger Reserve, Jaldapara NP and Mahananda WLS) in West Bengal and Kaziranga NP & Tiger Reserve in Assam
4	O&G E&P Projects in ESZ area notifications	O&G E&P projects should be classified as "Regulated" in ESZ notifications and not "Prohibited."

4. iv. EXPANDED RECOMMENDATIONS:

Sl. No.	Topic	Recommendation
1	Inspection of Oil Fields by a Joint Team	Ministry may consider to send a team comprising members from FC Division, IA Division and Wildlife Division to inspect oilfields in Upper Assam, Tripura, and Arunachal Pradesh to assess challenges and regulatory impact.
2	Stakeholder consultation with the upstream Oil & Gas E&P operators prior to making major changes in environmental regulations	Stakeholder consultation with the NOC/ Pvt upstream Oil & Gas E&P operators, DGH, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas etc prior to making major changes in environmental regulations related Environment/ Forest/ Wildlife clearances or Consent related matters from State PCBs or PCCs of UTs

5. VOTE OF THANKS BY SMT. L.J. SYIEMIONG, IFS, DIG(F), RO, MOEF&CC,

SHILLONG: Smt. Syiemiong expressed her sincere gratitude to Dr. Amandeep Garg, IAS, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC, for his unwavering commitment in attending the workshop despite travel challenges. She also extended her heartfelt thanks to Ms. Imtienla Ao, IFS, DDG(C), for her warm welcome address and for inspiring Oil & Gas Operators to see themselves as partners in advancing Ease of Doing Business (EODB). She was deeply appreciative of the esteemed dignitaries, including senior forest officials, regulatory authorities, and industry leaders, whose presence and valuable contributions greatly enriched the discussions. A special note of thanks was given to Mr. A.K. Mohanty, IFS, ADG (Forests), for addressing queries virtually, as well as to central and state government representatives, oil & gas professionals, and environmental experts for their participation and commitment.

Recognizing the workshop's objective of fostering meaningful improvements in environmental regulations, Smt. Syiemiong sincerely thanked the distinguished speakers for their insightful deliberations on industry challenges, regulatory reforms, and the integration of AI-driven solutions in environmental clearances. She also extended her appreciation to the panel members for their engaging discussions and to Social Friendly Management Pvt. Ltd. for their flawless and exceptional management of the whole workshop, and their contributions in creating the workshop's theme music and documentary film-“ North East-The Birth Place of Indian Petroleum Industry”.

In conclusion, she expressed her deep appreciation to all participants for their valuable time, dedication, and support in making the 2nd Edition of the Northeast Regional Workshop a meaningful and successful event.

Sd/-
(DDG(C) MoEF&CC),
RO, Shillong

Encl:

- List of participants.
- Hand out distributed by Shri J. Lahiri before start of his presentation
- List of contents uploaded in Pen Drive and distributed to all delegates
- Workshop proceeding related all details can be viewed in web site link <https://bit.ly/shillong-workshop-25> including those of 1st edition of workshop held on 21.10.2019



Regional workshop on Recent advances in Environment & Forest Laws with special reference to Oil, Petroleum & Gas Sector (2nd Edition)

Venue: State Convention Centre, Pine Wood Hotel, Shillong

Date: 23.01.2025


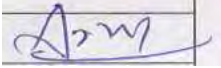

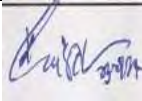
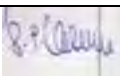
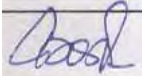

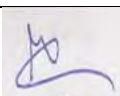
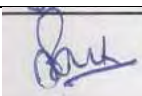
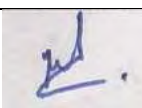
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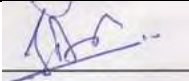
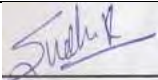
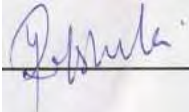
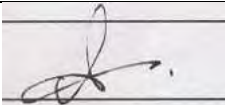
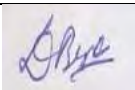
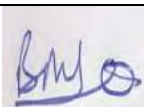
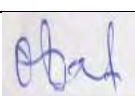
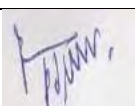
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REGIONAL WORKSHOP

RECENT ADVANCES IN ENVIRONMENT & FOREST LAWS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO OIL & GAS SECTOR (2ND EDITION)

January 23, 2025

Organized by
**Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests &
Climate Change, Shillong**

In Collaboration With
Society for Petroleum Professionals

Hosted by
Oil India Limited

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Pain Point Issues Related to O&G E&P Activities in NER - Proposed for Discussion Today

**Joydev Lahiri, General Secretary
Society for Petroleum Professionals**



Pain Point Issues related to O&G E&P Activities -We Propose to Discuss Today

- 1) “Goa Foundation Case Judgement of Supreme Court” on “Ban of Mining Activities” inside PA and within 1 Km from boundary of the PAs- Not applicable for O&G E&P activities in reference to Supreme Court’s order dtd 07.09.2017
- 2) 13 issues need to be considered related to FC approval process introduced wef 01.12.2023 under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rule, 2023 for O&G E&P activities
- 3) Ongoing vicious cycle between “Recommendation of Provisional EC by EAC subjected to submission of Stage-I FC ” and its “ Null and Void” status when approached with Stage-I Forest Clearance after its approval in 4-5 yrs time
 - Stage I FC submission Timeline is 12 months only (extendable by 6 months) for the cases EC provisionally recommended -Failing which, EC to be applied afresh
 - Validity of EIA Report and Public Hearing (PH) proceedings are 3 years and when approached with Stage-I FC after 4/5 years it requires fresh base line studies for the EIA report and fresh PH process
- 4) Uniform fees for grant of Consent to Establish (CTE) or Consent to Operate (CTO) proposed by MoEF&CC vide draft gazette notification GSR 423 (E) dtd 19.07.2024 -Needs stakeholder consultations before final notification
- 5) 10 Km ESZ area continuing for more than last one and half decades since 4th December, 2006 for 8 PAs in Assam & Arunachal Pradesh in pursuance to Supreme Court’s order in WP (C) 460/2004- Draft Notifications yet to be Published for 5 PAs in Assam and Draft/Final notifications for 3 PAs in Arunachal Pradesh
- 6) **Separate procedures** to be formulated for Wildlife Clearance approvals of projects from SC-NBWL for proposals executed in ESZ areas of the PAs, instead of treating these at par with the projects inside the PAs- Mechanism introduced by Ministry on 26.09.2014 for Wildlife clearances approval directly from SC-NBWL at Central level for projects in ESZ areas has been withdrawn wef 01.05.2015 as a cascading effect of an OM from IA division dtd 30.03.2015
- 7) **Separate Wildlife Clearance Application Forms** to be formulated for projects in ESZ areas and Projects inside PAs , **instead of using common Form both the cases**- As only section 3(2)(v) of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 and Rule 5 (viii) and (x) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and EIA Notification, 2006 are applicable in ESZ area. WLC required in ESZ areas in compliance of Supreme Court’s order dtd 04.12.2006 against WP(C) 460/2004 only and not under W(P) Act, 1972, which is applicable for projects inside PAs

- 8) EC for both 'A' and 'B2' category projects to be granted with number of wells along with Block coordinates- Coordinates of wells not to be insisted- Such was followed earlier and discontinued of late

Justification: EIA study is done for the entire block as well as 10 Km radius from the block boundary- Hence so long the no of wells remains unchanged within the block boundary in NFL, well coordinates have no significance in the Baseline data of EIA Report – Thus well coordinates not to be insisted

- 9) Relaxation on EC grant process for the O&G E&P Projects closed to International Borders and falling under the Territorial Jurisdiction of BSF notified by Gol on 11.10.2021 -Such may be considered as “**Strategic Energy Project of National Importance**” and EC may be granted either as B2 category Projects under EIA Notification, 2006 by exempting Public Hearings and EIA Study

Relaxation proposed in line with FC exemption granted by Gol under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinuyam, 1980 **for distance up to 100 Km along international borders** for project of National Importance / National Securities and strategic linear projects

- 10) Lands notified as forests in records of the State Govt but practically at present there is no forest cover over ground due to change in demographic patterns over last 3/4 decades- Need to be considered for De-Reservation

- 11) 1,157 Km Naharkatiya- Barauni Pipeline of OIL laid in 1960s, much prior to enactment of FCA, 1980 and W(P) Act, 1972, need to be exempted from Forest Clearance and Wildlife Clearance approval processes for Day to day Repair/Maintenance and Upgradation works- A site inspection may be undertaken in OIL's Pipeline ROW of 1960s to amend the OM of the Ministry dtd 23.12.2022, which wrongly envisaged that, with the passage of time, natural vegetation and Tree have grown over the Pipeline ROW of OIL and by breaking of lands in connection with Day to Day Repair/ Maint/Upgradation works inside forests would result into felling of trees and damage the surrounding Flora & fauna -Hence granted FCA, 1980 exemption for a maximum period of 3 months for tackling Emergency situations like Pipeline leak/ burst etc

- 12) Oil & Gas E&P activities are not to be 'Prohibited' in final site specific ESZ notifications (Published or To be published) - It should be permitted as 'Regulated' activity by forming a 'Monitoring Committee'

- 13) Subsidence Study condition not to be stipulated in all EC orders, as O&G E&P activities do not cause any land subsidence affects

- 14) These are not to be stipulated in all EC Orders and may be considered for permanent Production installations-

Monitoring of fugitive emission of methane using Infra-red camera / Trapping & Storing of CO₂ / Mobile ETP coupled with RO for drilling locations/ Zero Liquid Discharge at drilling locations / Making of Pucca Approach Road to Drilling sites to minimize generation of suspended dust – Else such results to non-compliances when seeking CCR from RO, MoEF&CC for Expansion projects

- 15) Green Belt development in 33% of the total Block area should be applicable for Permanent Production Installations only and not for all Cases, viz: Offshore drilling activities within 12 nautical miles, Onshore temporary drilling activities and when the entire Project is executed in forest lands
- 16) Clarification on EC Validity for O&G E&P Projects Vice-versa CTO Grants by PCB/PCCs- Grant of CTOs denied in some States even after putting the part of the Project activities into Production within 10 years validity period of EC
- 17) An uniform SOP need to be formulated for grant of B2 Category Exploratory ECs –As the present evaluation/ approval process varies from State to State
- 18) Validity of EC for O&G E&P Projects is only 10 years with provision of extension by max one year, whereas PML blocks are normally allotted by Gol for 20 years- To consider for making EC validity Coterminous with the validity period of PML
- 19) Validity of CCR (Certified Compliance Report) for Expansion Projects to be increased from 1 year to 3 years in line with the validity of EIA Report and PH proceeding are made 3 yrs vide OM dtd 08.06.2022
- 20) Whether NPV @ 2% still payable while granting O&G PMLs involving Forest lands in pursuance to OM dtd 24.06.2015 ? Since FC approval from Central Govt under section 2(1) (iii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 has been abolished under new FC Regulations and at present no provision available in PARIVESH portal for on-line payment of NPVs prior to grant of PML by the respective State/UT Govt.
- 21) Request for formulation of a “**Standard Check List for raising EDS Queries**” against FC proposals- Repeated EDSs are raised against the same proposals at various levels
- 22) Suggestions for resolving the CA land non-availability issue in NER
- 23) Wildlife Management Plan not to be insisted by EAC (Industry-2) while considering ‘A’ category EC proposals - As preparation and Implementation of Wildlife Management Plan is the responsibility of the State/UT Govts and UAs only have to deposit 2% of the total Project Cost in ‘CAMPA’ fund towards the said account (OM 08.06.2022)
- 24) **In Assam, CTE is not granted till EC is accorded for the Project-** A clarification OM required from the Ministry
- 25) May consider for abolishing submission of 6 monthly EC Compliance Report for Projects declared Financial Closures and the Project is put into Operational services and monitored with CTO under Air & water Acts
- 26) CTE need to be Exempted for the Projects having EC / applied for EC- CPCB already issued guidelines in this respect on 02.02.2017 and 02.11.2018
- 27) Preparation of Digitised Map for Forest and Wildlife areas in NER

Request for Resolving the Two Long Pending Issues of NER:

- 1) OIL is not getting possession of 7.111 ha Forest lands due to encroachments in Locations KUP & KUL in Ningru PML under Diyun Circle of Changlang district in Arunachal Pradesh- Final FC granted on 25th February, 2021
- 2) Regularization of FC Violation Case for 30 drilling locations (31.79 Ha) in Kharsang PML of GeoEnpro Petroleum Ltd in Arunachal Pradesh awaited since 2019 even after settlement of Rs 12.57 cr as Panel CA and Panel NPV as per directive of Central Govt while granting FC vide letter dtd 27.09.2017 under section 2(iii) of FCA, 1980 for the purpose of granting PML by the State Govt of Arunachal Pradesh

“Goa Foundation Case Judgement of Supreme Court” on “Ban of Mining Activities” inside PA or within 1 Km from boundary of the PA

Not applicable for O&G E&P activities in reference to Supreme Court’s order dtd 07.09.2017 on OIL’s ERD Projects



Extraction of Natural Gas / Oil Can not be considered as 'Mining' in terms of Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 04.08.2006 in IA 1000 in WP (C) No. 202/1995- Hence "Ban on Mining Activities" inside PAs and within 1 Km from the Boundary of the PAs in compliance to "Goa Foundation Case Judgement" of Supreme Court dtd 21.04.2014 in IA-1000 of WP (C) No. 202/1995 followed with last order of Supreme Court dtd 26.04.2023 is not applicable for O&G E&P activities

A) Operational Frameworks: O&G E&P Activities and Conventional Mining Activities

- Extraction of "**Mineral Oils**" (Petroleum Oil & Natural Gas) governed under Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 and Mining of other "**Minerals**" governed under First Schedule of MMDR Act, 1957- Distinct Constitutional, Legislative and Operational frameworks prevails
Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 2024 passed in Rajya Sabha on 03.12.2024 clarifies that Extraction of "**Mineral Oils**" (Petroleum Oil & Natural Gas) is not 'Mining' activities
- Regulations 3 (aa) & 3(b) of MMDR Act, 1957 **Excludes "Mineral Oil (Natural Gas and Petroleum Oil)"** from the purview of the MMDR Act, 1957
- Under purview of Forest Regulations, O&G E&P Activities are presently treated at par with Coal, Iron and other mining activities performed under purview of MMDR Act, 1957, **which attracts "Goa Foundation Case Judgement"** of S'Court dtd 21.04.2014 in IA-1000 of WP (C) No. 202/1995 followed with its subsequent order dtd 26.04.2023 **but no way this judgement attracts O&G E&P activities**
- Under EIA Notification, 2006, Oil & Gas E&P activities are considered as "**Industrial Project**" under schedule 1(b) and **Mining Projects** are categorised in EIA Notification under schedule 1(a)

B) Supreme Court's Final Judgement dtd 07.09.2017 in OIL's ERD Project beneath Dibru-Saikhowa NP, Assam

'Goa Foundation Case' judgement dtd 21.04.2014 is not applicable for OIL's ERD Project (O&G E&P activities) since 'Goa Foundation Case' judgement is applicable only to Open Cast/ Surface Mining Leases granted under MMDR Act, 1957 and Oil Mining Leases are granted under Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948

B.1) Supreme Court awarded Final Judgement on 07.09.2017 for OIL's ERD Project beneath Dibru-Saikhowa NP, Assam based on followings:

- **Recommendation of CEC vide its Report dtd 09.05.2016** against IAs 3934 of 2016 and IA 3788 of 2014 in WP(C) no 202 of 1995- **CEC Clarified in Para (6) and (7) of the Report that, 'Goa Foundation Case' judgement is not applicable** for ERD campaign of OIL to drill 7 wells to access Hydrocarbon Reservoir beneath Dibru-Saikhowa NP in Assam and use of this technology in **no way adversely Impact the Flora and Fauna around the NP**
- **SC-NBWL approved the Project** in its 44th meeting held on 29.07.2017 in conformity to **Supreme Court's order dtd 05.10.2015** and **Supreme Court's Directive to SC-NBWL vide its order dtd 28.07.2017 for OIL's ERD Project**

CEC's Report dtd 09.05.2016

6. The Applicant has submitted that this Hon'ble Court's orders dated 14.2.2000 in IA No. 548 which prohibits removal of dead dying trees and the order dated 4.8.2006 in IA No. 1413 and related IA's in IA No. 1412 and related IA's (Temporary Working Permit matter) in T.N. Godavarman Thirumalpad Vs. Union of India (WP(C) No. 202/1995 prohibits mining within and within 1 km. of from boundary of the National Parks and Sanctuaries is not applicable in the present case. The Applicant is also seeking clarification / relaxation that the order and judgment dated 21.4.2014 in the Goa Foundation reported in (2014) 6 SCC 590 which prohibits mining within and within one kilometre from the boundary of any National Park and Sanctuary declared under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and which is applicable only to open cast / surface mining leases granted under the MMDRA Act and not leases under the provisions of the Oil Fields (Development and Regulation) Act, 1948. The Applicant has prayed that this Hon'ble Court may direct the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) to consider the

proposal of the Applicant to allow extraction and evacuation of oil and gas from deep below the earth under the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.

7. In view of the above, the CEC in terms of the order dated 5th October, 2015 recommends that this Hon'ble Court may consider directing the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) to consider on merits the Applicants present proposal for extraction and evacuation of petroleum and natural gas from deep below the earth under Dibru - Saikhowa National Park by using HDDDT and ERD technology as this technology will in no way adversely impact the flora and fauna in and around the said National park.

This Hon'ble Court may please consider the above report and may please pass appropriate orders in the matter.


(P.V. Jayakrishnan)
Chairman

Dated: 6th May, 2016

Supreme Court's Approval for OIL's ERD Project vide Order dtd 07.09.2017

ITEM NO.6

COURT NO.4

SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

INTERLOCUTORY APPLICATION NO. 3934 IN Writ Petition(s) (Civil)
No(s). 202/1995

IN RE : T.N. GODAVARMAN THIRUMULPAD Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS. Respondent(s)

(FOR MODIFICATION OF COURT'S ORDER DATED 05.10.2015)

Date : 07-09-2017 This application was called on for hearing
today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MADAN B. LOKUR
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPAK GUPTA

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Harish N. Salve, Sr. Adv. [A.C.] [NP]
Mr. A.D.N. Rao, Advocate [A.C.]
Mr. Siddhartha Chowdhury, Advocate [A.C.] [NP]
Ms. Aparajita Singh, Advocate [A.C.] [NP]

For Respondent(s) Mr. Ranjit Kumar, SG
Mr. S. Wasim A. Qadri, Adv.
Mr. Saeed Qadri, Adv.
Mr. Ayush Aggarwal, Adv.
Mr. Navnit Kumar, Adv.

Ms. Pinky Anand, ASG
Ms. Gargi Khanna, Adv.
Mr. Ravindara Bana, Adv.
Ms. Snidha Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Raj Bahadur, Adv.
Mr. G.S. Makker, Adv.

Mr. Haris Beeran, Adv.

M/S Corporate Law Group

Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, Adv.
Mr. Sayooj Mohandas, Adv.
Mr. Rohit K. Mahonta, Adv.



UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

We have been taken through the Minutes of 44th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 29.07.2017 and letter dated 09.08.2017 of the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Wildlife Division) regarding the proposal given by the Oil India Limited to extract hydrocarbon beneath 3900-4000 meters of Dibru Saikhowa National Park. The proposal has been accepted subject to certain conditions which are indicated in Agenda Item 42.3.2 of the said Minutes.

In view of the above, the application is allowed. However, we make it clear that the Oil India Limited will also be bound by the undertaking dated 25.07.2017 as mentioned in the letter of Dr. R. Dasgupta, Executive Director (Corporate Affairs) for Chairman and Managing Director:

- i) OIL will carry out Bio-diversity Impact Assessment study through Assam State Biodiversity Board, for which budgetary offer have already been obtained on 12th May, 2017.
- ii) OIL will carry out subsidence study followed with taking mitigation measures, in order to ensure that there is no impact in the forest surface above the reservoir at height 3,900 to 4,000 mtr, due to extraction of hydrocarbon from the reservoirs.
- iii) All mitigation measures will be in place in case of any eventuality causing Oil Spillage inside the Park area such as - Install Blow Out Preventer at well head and provide necessary valves in the Production installations located outside the Park area. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), approved by the competent authority, pertaining to Oil Spillage, will be strictly adhered to.
- iv) Undertake schedule test and inspection of the area periodically in order to asses any abnormality in the surface area above the reservoir inside the Park.

v) OIL will also ensure strict compliance of the conditions stipulated in EIA Notification, 2006 for both inside the Park areas as well as ESZ area of it.

(MEENAKSHI KOHLI)
COURT MASTER (SH)

(SUMAN JAIN)
COURT MASTER

C) **Chronology of approval of OIL's ERD Project by SC-NBWL and then by Supreme Court**

Supreme Court passed **Six orders to SC-NBWL/MoEF&CC** including **imposing a fine of Rs 25,000/- to MoEF&CC** prior to its Final Judgement dtd 07.09.2017 against OIL's ERD Project in IAs 3934 of 2016 and IA 3788 of 2014 are as follows:

- **Supreme Court's order dtd 10.05.2016:** Directed SC-NBWL for consideration of OIL's ERD Project **for due approval or submit a report to the Court, if found the proposal is not worth for acceptance/approval**
- **Supreme Court's orders dtd 03.03.2017 and 13.04.2017:** Directed SC-NBWL to furnish Report **within 4 weeks time** against OIL's ERD project in reference to its earlier order dtd 10.05.2016
- **Supreme Court's order dtd 09.05.2017:** **Imposed a fine of Rs 25,000/-** to MoEF&CC, since no report was forwarded by MoEF&CC to the Apex court against its previous Three orders
- OIL's ERD proposal was listed for first time for hearing in the 42nd meeting of SC-NBWL held on 15.05.2017 and Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Assam was directed to send his report latest by 31.05.2017- CWLW vide his report dtd 24.05.2017 negated the OIL's proposal which MoEF&CC submitted to Supreme Court through affidavit on 06.07.2017 and OIL submitted reply affidavit to Supreme Court on 12.07.2017
- **Supreme Court's order dtd 17.07.2017:** Directed Member Secretary, SC-NBWL to resolve the OIL's ERD Proposal issue once for all **by convening a meeting on 24th July,2017 at 11:00 hrs** by inviting OIL, Commissioner & Secretary (Env & Forests), Govt of Assam and Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam
- **Member Secretary, SC-NBWL accordingly convened a meeting on 24.07.2017** under Chairmanship of DGF&SS, MoEF&CC which along with OIL **was attended by Addl Chief Secretary, GoA, Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam** and it was directed to CWLW to send its revised report at the earliest so that OIL's proposal can be listed/approved in SC-NBWL meeting scheduled on 29.07.2017
- Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam **recommended OIL's ERD Proposal** on 26.07.2017, which was submitted by MoEF&CC to Supreme Court on 27.07.2017 intimating that same will be taken up on 29.07.2017
- **Supreme Court's order dtd 28.07.2017:** Directed SC-NBWL to decide on the ERD proposal of OIL in its scheduled meeting on 29.07.2017 and **intimate the Court its decision** before next hearing scheduled on 14.08.2017
- **SC-NBWL approved OIL's ERD project in its 44th meeting held on 29.07.2017 in conformity to Supreme Court's order dtd 05.10.2015 and in compliance to Supreme Court's directive vide order dtd 28.07.2017**
- **Supreme Court vide its order dtd 07.09.2017** approved the OIL's ERD project based on CEC's Report dtd 09.05.2016 (recommended non-applicability of "Goa Foundation Case Judgement") and approval of the same by SC-NBWL in its 44th meeting held on 29.07.2017

In spite of going through above approval process - FC proposal for OIL's ERD Project applied on 04.09.2017 has been rejected by FAC on 04.07.2024

Rejection of OIL's ERD Project is a Loss to Nation:

7 ERD wells proposed by OIL was to produce 700 KL Crude Oil per day which in turn intended to save about Rs. 450 crores of foreign currency per annum towards import of crude oil and approx. Rs 225 crores per annum likely to contribute to the State and Central exchequer in the form of taxes etc

D) **Other Legal Perspectives** :Extraction of Natural Gas / Oil Can not be considered as 'Mining' in terms of Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 04.08.2006 in IA 1000 in WP (C) No. 202/1995

- **Legal Opinions also given earlier by SGI (14th May, 2021) , Addl SGI (22nd June, 2017) and Advocate General of Tripura (6th May, 2019) - Extraction of Natural Gas / Oil Can not be considered as 'Mining' in terms of Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 04.08.2006 in IA 1000 in WP (C) No. 202/1995**
- **Supreme Court vide its order dtd 05.10.2015** Empowered Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) to approve Projects inside the PAs **in Conformity to "Goa Foundation Case Judgement"** and its other orders dtd 14.02.2000, 16.12.2002, 13.11.2000, 9.5.2002, 25.11.2005 and 14.09.2007 etc- **It clarified that Decision of SC-NBWL is binding for all and only CEC can challenge SC-NBWL's decision by flinging appropriate application before the Supreme Court**

Hence Project approved by SC-NBWL in conformity to "Goa Foundation Case in compliance to Supreme Court's order dtd 05.10.2015 can't be rejected without further referring the matter to Supreme Court through CEC

- **In conformity to Supreme Court's order dtd 05.10.2015, SC-NBWL approved following O&G E&P projects:**
 - i) Projects within 1 Km from the boundary of the PA in Assam was approved by SC-NBWL in the 43rd meeting (27.06.2017), which previously was rejected in the SC-NBWL's 42nd meeting (15.05.2017), considering 'Mining' and applicability of Goa Foundation case
 - ii) OIL's ERD Project deep beneath the forest surface of PA in Assam was approved in SC-NBWL's 44th meeting (29.07.2017) as per chronology appraised above
 - iii) **Seven Projects** inside PA in Tripura was provisionally approved first in SC-NBWL's 52nd meeting (10.01.2019) was given final approval in SC-NBWL's 65th meeting (24.09.2021) after obtaining due legal opinions on 'Mining' or not from SGI and Advocate General of Tripura
 - iv) Approved **two project** Inside PA in Tripura in SC-NBWL's 71st meeting (29.12.2022) in respect to approval of above projects

SC-NBWL approved these **Four projects** after due confirmation that, O&G E&P activities can not be considered as 'Mining' in terms of Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 04.08.2006 in IA 1000 in WP (C) No. 202/1995 and thus 'Goa Foundation Case' judgement dtd 21.04.2014 is not applicable for O&G E&P activities- As on date, except Project no (i) referred above, rest three are stands as 'Rejected'

E) **Request to MoEF&CC for Reconsideration of FC Proposals rejected for following Three cases which were approved by SC-NBWL in conformity to “Goa Foundation Case Judgement” and in conformity to Supreme Court’s order dtd 05.10.2015**

- 1) **Rejected in 2024:** ERD FC Proposal of OIL to drill 7 wells beneath Dibru-saikhowa NP Assam, approved by SC-NBWL in its 44th meeting on 29.07.2017 and Supreme Court also accorded its approval for it vide order dtd 07.09.2017- FAC rejected the proposal in the meeting held on 4th July, 2024 (FP/AS/MIN/28749/2017)
 - 2) **Rejected in 2023:** 2 FC proposals of ONGC for drilling locations TIDG & TIDC inside Trishna WLS, Tripura, approved by SC-NBWL in its 71st meeting held on 29.12.2022 returned to State vide RO’s letter dtd 30.08.2023 (FP/TR/MIN/13523/2015 and FP/TR/MIN/13520/2015)
 - 3) **Rejected in 2022:** 4 FC proposals of ONGC for drilling locations TIAC, TIDF, TIDE & TIDA inside Trishna WLS, Tripura, approved by SC-NBWL in its 65th meeting held on 24.09.2021 returned to State vide RO’s letter dtd 11.11.2022 (FP/TR/MIN/13529/2015, FP/TR/MIN/13527/2015 , FP/TR/MIN/13525/2015 and FP/TR/MIN/13524/2015)
-

F) **Extraction of O&G E&P activities are equated at par with Coal, Iron and other Mining activities under purview of Forest Regulations, where Coal, Iron and other Mining activities are governed under MMDR Act, 1957, which doesn’t include ‘Mineral Oil (Oil & Gas)’**

- **“Mining” related all OM /Guidelines** framed by the Ministry under purview of the **‘Forest Regulations’ are Exclusively specific to MMDR Act, 1957 only** and Extraction of O&G E&P activities are equated at par with Coal, Iron and other Mining activities performed under purview of MMDR ACT, 1957
- Supreme Court’s order dtd 08.08.2014 in conjunction with CEC’s report dtd 25.02.2014 against IA-3627 of 2013, well clarified in Para 6(vi) and Para (8) of CEC’s Report that- Oil & Gas E&P activities Grossly Differ Materially from the “Mining of Minerals” under provision of the MMDR Act, 1957- It also spelt clearly that, Guidelines issued by MoEF&CC from time to time regarding payment of the NPV etc in respect to Mining Leases granted under the MMDR Act, 1957 only and no such guidelines have so far been issued for Oil PML blocks granted under purview of Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959
- Forest Advisory Committee also Realized in its meetings held on 23.04.2019 and 31.07.2019 that, Equating O&G E&P Activities with Coal, Iron and other Mining activities is not Justified:
 - The guidelines related to Exploration and Developmental activities in the forest areas for hydrocarbon sector had been deliberated many times in MoEF&CC but still there are certain issues related to Hydrocarbon sector which needs to be resolved for which MoEF&CC is receiving repeated requests from stakeholders of Hydrocarbon sectors for appropriate

modifications in the existing guidelines of MoEF&CC – Quotes from MoM

- Exploration activities in hydrocarbon sector is equated with the Exploration activities in Coal and Iron sector for the purpose of Diversion of forest land under the provisions of FCA 1980 -This has apparently created many difficulties in obtaining FC approvals– Quotes from MoM
- Prospecting (including Seismic Surveys) and Exploration activities in Hydrocarbon Sector cannot be Regulated as per general guidelines meant for Mining of other Minerals under MMDR Act, 1957 – Quotes from MoM

Abstract from Minutes FAC Meeting Held on 23.04.2019

4. FAC discussed the recommendation of the committee and observed that the guidelines related to prospecting and exploration had been deliberated many times in MoEF&CC but still there are ceratin issues related to Hydrocarbon sector which needs to be resolved. This includes NPV imposed in seismic surveys, exploration in hydrocarbon is equated with exploration in coal and iron sector for the purpose of diversion of forest land under the provisions of FCA 1980 etc. This has apparently created many difficulties in obtaining approvals.

- absent -
(S. D. Vora)
Member



(A. K. Mohanty)
Inspector General of Forests (FC)

(Dr Sanjay Deshmukh)
Member

- absent -
(Sh Anmol Kumar)
Member

(Saibal Dasgupta)
Addl. Director General of Forests (FC)

Additional Commissioner (Soil Conservation)
Ministry of Agriculture (Member)


(Siddhanta Das)
Director General of Forests & Special Secretary

डॉ. एम.एम. कुट्टी
सचिव
Dr. M. M. Kutty
Secretary



भारत सरकार
पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस विभाग
शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली - 110 001
Government of India
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
Shaastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 001
Tel. 011-23383501, 011-23383502
Fax: 011-23070723
E-mail: sec.png@nic.in

Dear Sir,

D.O. O-23012(12)3/2019-ONGJ
January 9th, 2020

Please refer your D.O. letter No.FC-11-71-2019-FC dated 27.06.2019 informing setting up a Committee under Chairmanship of Additional Director General of Forests to streamline the guidelines for prospecting & exploration of Oil and Gas in forest areas.

2. The said Committee in its meeting held on 18.06.2019 had decided that "Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas may seek legal advice of Ministry of Law & Justice as to whether survey, exploration and extraction of oil and natural gas is to be treated as mining activity or not. The advice may be conveyed to MoEF&CC for further action".

3. The matter was referred to Department of Legal Affairs, which after detailed deliberation has opined that "the specific requirement for certain specific activities, framing of separate guidelines is purely an administrative policy matter/decision and not a legal issue. Hence it is for the administrative Ministry to take up the matter with MoEF&CC. However, if in the course of framing guidelines any legal issue arises the same may be formulated and referred to this Department for advise".

4. You will appreciate that mining of **minerals** (other than mineral oils) and **mineral oils** have distinct Constitutional, legislative and operational framework. Exploration and production activities in respect of **mineral oils** are governed under Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 whereas the mining of **minerals** (other than mineral oil) is governed by Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

5. In view of the above position and also considering the advice of Department of Legal Affairs, I request you to formulate separate guidelines in respect of environment / forest / wildlife clearances for oil and gas sector.

With regards

Yours sincerely

[Dr. M M Kutty]

Shri C.K. Mishra
Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh, Lodhi Colony,
New Delhi

After obtaining legal opinion from Dept of Legal Affairs Secretary, MoPNG vide above DO letter dtd 9th January, 2020 requested Secretary, MoEF&CC -To frame

different Forest Regulations for O&G Upstream sector instead of treating it at par with the 'Mining Operations' carried out under MMDR Act, 1957, viz Coal, Iron, Manganese etc -**Ministry vide OM dtd 03.11.2022 introduced "Mining of Mineral Oil"** a separate category in PARIVESH Portal for submission of FC applications for O&G E&P projects- But O&G E&P projects are still treated under FC Regulations at par with the coal, Iron, Manganese mining activities administrated under MMDR Act, 1957

Introduction of "Mining of Mineral Oil" a separate category in PARIVESH Portal vide OM dtd 03.11.2022

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 3rd November, 2022

To

The Director General
Directorate General of Hydrocarbon,
Ministry of Petroleum & natural Gas,
Government of India,
OIDB Bhawan, Tower-A, Plot NO. 2,
Sector-73, Noida (Uttar Pradesh)

Sub: Request from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, GoI to introduce a separate category in the PARIVESH portal for Hydrocarbons projects –reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your DO No. DG/DGH/02/2022 dated 19.10.2022 on the above subject requesting to create a separate category 'Mining of Mineral Oils' in Parivesh for proposals pertaining to the exploration of hydrocarbons. In this connection, it is to inform that matter, 'whether exploration of hydrocarbon is mining or not', is still under consideration in the Ministry. It is further to inform that request dated 19.10.2022 to create a separate category for hydrocarbon project was examined in the Ministry and it has been decided that Ministry would create a separate category "Mining of Mineral Oils" in PARIVESH 2.0 for proposals pertaining to hydrocarbon sector.

It is also to clarify that creation of separate category for the hydrocarbon projects shall not entail any procedural relaxation to these projects. This separate procedure is just to facilitate separate accounting and analysis of hydrocarbon mining projects. Procedures, as envisaged in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Rules and Guidelines framed thereunder, as applicable to conventional mining proposals will continue to remain applicable to the proposals pertaining to Hydrocarbon sector.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-

Signed by Charan Jeet
Singh

(Charan Jeet Singh)

Date: 03-11-2022 15:43:54

Scientist 'D'

Reason: Approved

Copy to:

1. Sr. PPS to DGF&SS/PPS to Addl. DGF(FC)
2. Director (Technical) NIC, with a request to create a separate category 'Mining of Mineral Oils' for hydrocarbon projects in PARIVESH 2.0
3. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
4. Guard file

In above backdrop, we request Ministry for Consideration of followings:

- 1) MoEF&CC may consider to make separate provisions and guidelines for granting Forest Clearance to Oil & Gas E&P projects, as requested by the Secretary, MoPNG vide hid DO letter dtd 09.01.2020 to the Secretary, MoEF&CC after obtaining due opinion from Department of Legal Affairs- Instead of Equating Oil & Gas E&P activities at par with Coal and other Mining activities performed under purview of First Schedule of MMDR Act, 1957

Note:

- i) With implementation of Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 2024 (already passed in Rajya Sabha on 03.12.2024), O&G E&P Activities no more by default also can be considered as 'Mining' like coal, iron etc
 - ii) Framing of separate FC Regulations for O&G E&P activities may be considered in line with the Oil Mines Regulation, 1984 (amended in 2017) formulated under Mines Act, 1952 to monitor Safety and Labor Welfares related issues associated with O&G E&P Activities -Similar modalities may be thought of under purview of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980
- 2) To consider for amendment of OM dtd 12.09.2023 on 'FC Exemption for ERD Projects' and FC may be exempted for O&G ERD Projects beneath Forest Surfaces of PAs / ESZ areas of PAs / Sensitive Corridors and Other Wildlife Sensitive areas in line with exemption permitted for RFs vide OM dtd 12.09.2023
 - 3) Reconsideration for approving following FC Proposals approved by SC-NBWL and Rejected by FC Division/FAC:
 - i) **Rejected in 2024:** ERD FC Proposal of OIL to drill 7 wells beneath Dibru-Saikhowa NP Assam, approved by SC-NBWL in its 44th meeting on 29.07.2017 and Supreme Court also accorded its approval for it vide order dtd 07.09.2017- FAC rejected the proposal in the meeting held on 4th July, 2024 (**FP/AS/MIN/28749/2017**)
 - ii) **Rejected in 2023:** 2 FC proposals of ONGC for drilling locations TIDG & TIDC inside Trishna WLS, Tripura, approved by SC-NBWL in its 71st meeting held on 29.12.2022 returned to State vide RO's letter dtd 30.08.2023 (**FP/TR/MIN/13523/2015 and FP/TR/MIN/13520/2015**)
 - iii) **Rejected in 2022:** 4 FC proposals of ONGC for drilling locations TIAC, TIDF, TIDE & TIDA inside Trishna WLS, Tripura, approved by SC-NBWL in its 65th meeting held on 24.09.2021 returned to State vide RO's letter dtd 11.11.2022 (**FP/TR/MIN/13529/2015, FP/TR/MIN/13527/2015 , FP/TR/MIN/13525/2015 and FP/TR/MIN/13524/2015**)

Forest Clearance Approval Patterns in NE States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Tripura

**Prior to Enactment of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules,
2023 wef 01.12.2023**

Annex- A

Arunachal Pradesh- Pattern of Forest Clearances for O&G E&P projects in the State

Sl	Year/Date of Application	FC Proposal No & Operator	Stage-I and Final FC Approval Details	Time Taken for FC Approval/ Remarks	Details of Proposal
1	2014 (27.05.2014)	FP/AR/MIN/ 44736/2014 (GeoEnpro Petroleum Ltd)	IPA on : 14.02.2023 Final FC on: 15.03.2024	9 yrs 10 months taken to grant Final FC (IPA: 8 yrs 9 months + Final FC: 1 yr 1 month)	FC for diversion of 83.412 ha forest lands in Kharsang PML block for drilling of 40 dev and 5 Expl wells from 27 well pads (original area of 94.712 Ha reduced to 83.412 ha by dropping three well pads from 27 pads: NL-04, NL- 08 and NL-23 since block is overlapping with Namchik-Namphuk Coal Block)
2	2013 (05.09.2013)	FP/AR/MIN/ 43217/2013 (OIL)	IPA on : 26.11.2020 Final FC on: 30.03.2022	8 yrs 6 months time taken to grant Final FC (IPA: 7 yrs 2 months + Final FC: 1 yr 4 months)	FC for Diversion of 32.836 Ha Ha forestland in Ningru PML for Drilling location NMA
3	2015 (29.07.2015)	FP/AR/MIN/ 14231/2015 (OIL)	Initial FC under section 2(1)(iii): 16.02.2020 Final FC under 2(1)(iii): 27.05.2024	8 yrs 10 months time taken To accord FC for Granting a PML	FC for grant of 58.3585 sq Km Ningru Extn PML to OIL by GoAP against the block allotted by GoI on 30.06.2003
4	2018	FP/AR/MIN/ 35810/2018 (HOECL)	FC under section 2(iii): 07.08.2019 (Final FC Pending)	Final FC for the purpose of granting PML not received in 6 years	FC for grant of AA/ONDSF/Kherem/2016 PML to HOECL by GoAP – Operator finally relinquished the block
5	2018 (15.11.2018)	FP/AR/MIN/ 37058/2018 (OIL)	IPA on : 13.10.2020 Final FC on: 25.02.2021	Possession not obtained in 3 yrs even after grant of Final FC due to Illegal encroachments	FC for Diversion of 7.111 Ha forestland in Ningru PML for locations KUP & KUL
6	2016 (18.07.2016)	FP/AR/MIN/ 23213/2016 (OIL)	IPA on 31.08.2020 (Final FC Pending)	4 yrs in getting Stage-I FC (Final FC Due)	FC for Diversion of 3.60 Ha forestland in Deomali PEL for location DML-3/1_ – Operator finally relinquished the block

7	2020 (21.12.2020)	FP/AR/MIN/ 65716/2020 (OIL)	IPA on: 20.01.2024 (Final FC Pending)	3 yrs 1 month time taken for granting IPA (Final FC Pending)	Revival of FC for 8 locations involving diversion of 29.32 Ha forestlands in Ningru PML, which was granted in 1992 and then revoked by MoEF&CC in 2001
8	2018 (01.11.2018)	FP/AR/MIN/ 36885/2018 (OIL)	IPA on: 08.01.2024 Final FC on:30.10.2024	5 yrs 2 months time taken for granting IPA and another 10 months for Final FC	Regularization of FC for 13 drilling locations involving 34.508 Ha forestlands accounted as violation of FCA, 1980 while according FC from Central Govt for the purpose of granting PML by State Govt
9	2019 (24.04.2019)	FP/AR/MIN/ 39891/2019 (GeoEnpro Petroleum Ltd)	Violation of FCA, 1980 accounted while according Central Govt's vide letter dtd 27.09.2017 For FC under section 2(iii) of FCA, 1980 for the purpose of granting PML by the State Govt, since no such approval was taken from Central Govt While Executing the Kharsang PML Deed for first time more than Two decades back in 1997, with effectivity of the PML from 1995	More than 5 yrs lapsed (IPA Awaited for Regularization of FCA Violation Proposal even after settlement of Panel CA, Panel NPV etc in 2018-19)	Regularization of FC for 30 drilling locations involving 31.79 Ha forestlands in Kharsang field accounted as violation of FCA, 1980 while according FC from Central Govt under 2(iii) on 27.09.2017 for the purpose of granting PML by State Govt- Panel CA Rs 2.36 cr , Panel NPV Rs 10.21 cr for each year since 1995 and 5 times lease transfer charges of Rs 5 Lakh deposited against demand letter dtd 06.09.2018 from State Govt in pursuant to Central Govt's approval dtd 27.09.2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chief Secretary, GoAP vide letter dtd 12.04.2023 requested Secretary, MoEF&CC, for regularisation of the FC proposal at the earliest, which is awaited since 2019 ▪ O/o PCCF(C) & HoFF, GoAP vide letter dtd. 20.09.2024 requested DGF & SS, MoEF&CC to modify the condition-(v) stipulated in Central Govt's FC approval letter dtd 27.09.2017 in regard taking action against the earring officials associated with execution of the Kharsang PML deed more than two decades back in 1997 with effectivity of the PML from 1995 w' out obtaining FC under 2(iii) from Central Govt -Request has been made to eliminate the said condition as a pre-requisite for grant of FC approval under section.2(ii) and allow operationalization of the field, in larger national interest

10	2020 (10.11.2020)	FP/AR/ Pipeline/ 54968/2020 (OIL)	IPA on : 18.08.2022 Working Permission on :09.01.2023 Final FC : 09.02.2023	Final FC within 2 yrs 3 months (Linear Pipeline Project)	FC for Diversion of 12.05 Ha forestlands for construction of Kumchai-Kusijan Pipeline in the State of Arunachal Pradesh
11	2023 (07.06.2023)	FP/AR/MINOIL/ 431651/2023	Stage-I FC not Approved Yet	IPA awaited (1 year +)	FC for Diversion of 3.33 Ha. of Forest land for drilling at Location KHAR in Ningru PML * B2 EC granted on 24.06.2024
12	2023 (21.11.2023)	FP/AR/MINOIL/ 451999/2023	Stage-I FC not Approved Yet	IPA awaited (1 year +)	FC for Diversion of 4.88 Ha Forest land for drilling at Location OCKA in Lohit RF in Namsai District under OALP Block AA-ONHP-2017/13

Annex-B

Assam - Pattern of Forest Clearances for O&G E&P projects in the State

Sl	Year of Application	FC Proposal No & Operator	Stage-I and Final FC Approval Dates	Time Taken for FC Approval/ Remarks	Details of FC Proposal for Forestland Diversion
1	2012 & 2016 (26.12.2016) (Initial Offline application of 2012)	FP/AS/MIN/ 23241/2016 (OIL)	IPA on : 28.07.2023 (Final FC Due)	Almost 7 yrs taken to grant IPA (Final FC Due)	FC for Locations DGR in Doomdooma PML for diversion of 3.411 ha forestlands
2	2016 (02.12.2016)	FP/AS/Others/ 20093/2016 (ONGC)	IPA on : 18.07.2023 (Final FC Due)	IPA in 6 yrs 7 months (Final FC Due)	FC for Laying of oil flow line from well no NRAA to Nambar GGS in Nambar area under Golaghat Division involving 1.43 ha forestland diversion
3	2012 & 2016 (Initial Offline application of 2012)	FP/AS/MIN/ 23089/2016 (OIL)	IPA on : 07.07.2021 Final FC on: 18.08.2022	6 yrs 1 month time to get Final FC (IPA: 5 years + Final FC: *1 year 1 month)	FC for Location MKD in Mechaki PML for diversion of 3.545 ha forestlands
4	2012 & 2016 (Initial Offline application of 2012)	FP/AS/MIN/ 23331/2016 (OIL)	IPA on : 07.07.2021 Final FC on: 19.07.2022	6 yrs time to get Final FC (IPA: 5 years + Final FC: *1 year)	FC for Location MKE in Mechaki PML for diversion of 2.253 ha forestlands
5	2016 (23.11.2016)	FP/AS/Others/ 20207/2016 (ONGC)	Stage-I FC Awaited (FCA,1980 violation pointed out by IRO, Guwahati -Executed with IPA and not taken Final FC)	More than 8 yrs already lapsed (RO raised EDS on 11.03.2024)	FC for Laying of Oil Flow Line from KSAG to KSAB in Doyang RF under Golghat Forst Division involving 1.44 ha forestland diversion
6	2016 (30.07.2016)	FP/AS/MIN/ 20304/2016 (ONGC)	IPA on : 19.02.2018 (FCA,1980 violation pointed out by IRO, Guwahati -Executed with IPA and not taken Final FC)	Final FC awaited (Last EDS 30.06.2022)	FC for Location: URAA in Golaghat District PEL for diversion of 1.918 ha forestlands
7	2016 (26.12.2016)	FP/AS/MIN/ 20315/2016 (ONGC)	Proposal Withdrawn by UA	After waiting for Stage-I FC for 5 yrs 10 months- The proposal withdrawn by UA on 25.10.2022	FC for Drilling location KSAE in Kalyanpur PML involving diversion of 2.09 ha forestlands

8	2016	FP/AS/Others/ 18536/2016 (ONGC)	IPA on : 27.01.2020 Final FC on: 29.04.2022	6 yrs time to get Final FC (IPA: 4 years + Final FC: 2 year)	6 Trunk pipeline replacement involving diversion of 20.72 ha forestlands in Doyang RF
9	2016 (25.08.2016)	FP/AS/Others/ 21128/2016 (ONGC)	IPA on 29.11.2021 (Corrigendum on 11.12.2021) Final FC on: 02.11.2023 (Working permission: 12.7.2022)	7 yrs time to get Final FC (IPA: 5 years + Final FC: 2 year)	FC for laying of 3 segment of Pipelines in Geleky Reserve Forest under Sivsagar Division for diversion of 4.43 ha forestlands
10	2016 (27.12.2016)	FP/AS/MIN/ 21919/2016 (ONGC)	IPA on : 03.01.2018 Final FC on: 05.04.2022	5 yrs 4 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 1 year 1 month + Final FC: * 3 years 3 months)	FC for Location KHDD In Khoraghat PML for diversion of 2.24 ha forestlands
11	2016	FP/AS/MIN/ 20313/2016 (ONGC)	IPA on :28.11.2018 Final FC on: 24.05.2022	6 yrs time to get Final FC (IPA: 2 years + Final FC: * 3 years 6 months)	FC for location KSAD in Kasamargaon PML by diverting 1.89 ha forestlands Illegal Encroachment in forest land by 5 families was resolved on 20.11.2021 by paying compensation @ Rs 2.15 Lakh/ bigha to each family against IPA grant on 28.11.2018
12	2012 & 2017 (10.01.2017) (Initial Offline application of 2012)	FP/AS/MIN/ 23425/2017 (OIL)	IPA on :28.07.2023 (Final FC Due)	Almost 6.5 yrs taken to grant IPA (Final FC Due)	FC for Locations DHD in Doomdooma PML for diversion of 2.696 ha forestlands
13	2017 (04.09.2017)	FP/AS/MIN/ 28749/2017 (OIL)	Stage-I FC Rejected in FAC meeting held on 04.07.2024 (Doesn't involve any diversion of Forestlands or any Impact on Forest surface)	FC Proposal rejected after 7 years on 04.07.2024	FC for Drilling of 7 wells using ERD Technology from outside of the Forest Boundary of Dibru-Saikhowa National Park (DSNP) and accessing the reservoir at depth 3, 900 mtr to 4,000 mtr below the forest surface by using 0.069 ha forestland at depth 3.9 to 4 Km below the forest surface Project approved by SC-NBWL on 29.07.2017 in conformity to Supreme Court's order dtd 05.10.2015 and approved by Supreme Court vide judgement dtd 07.09.2017 endorsing that applicable ban on Mining Activities inside PA and 1 Km from boundary of PAs as per its 'Goa Foundation Case Judgement' is not applicable for the ERD Project -Was rejected in FAC meeting held on 04.07.2024 considering applicability of "Goa Foundation Case" judgment of Supreme Court dtd 21.04.2014

14	2017 (12.01.2017) Revised: 26.08.2021	FP/AS/MIN/ 22288/2016 (146383/2021) (ONGC)	Stage-I FC Awaited (Proposal revised to 2.22 ha- REC pointed out overlapping area on approach road)	More than 7 yrs already lapsed	FC for Location KHDE in Khoraghat PML for diversion of 2.28 ha forestlands (CA land to be provided in Non Forest land as per new FC Regulation)
15	2017 (Revised application dtd 26.08.2021)	FP/AS/MIN/ 146383/2021 (ONGC)	IPA on: 16.03.2023	Almost 6 yrs taken to grant IPA (Final FC Due)	FC for drilling 06 wells- from KHDH cluster in Khoraghat Ext -1 PML involving diversion of 2.569 ha forestlands
16	2017 (02.02.2017)	FP/AS/MIN/ 23925/2017 (ONGC)	IPA accorded on 29.10.2018 Revoked Subsequently on 29.04.2022	Stage-I FC granted after 1 yr 8 months on 29.10.2018- Revoked after 3 yrs 6 months on 29.04.2022	FC for Location KHDF In Khoraghat PML for diversion of 3.48 ha forestlands (Total 5 yrs 2 months time lapsed till Revoking)
17	2018 2022	FP/AS/MIN/ 31205/2018 FP/AS/MIN/ 154403/2022 (Oil Max)	IPA on: 29.08.2023 (Final FC Due)	IPA in 5 yrs (Final FC Due)	Development Drilling of 2 wells in Discovered Small Field (DSF) Block: AA/ONDSF/ Duarmara/2016 involving diversion of 9.3 ha forestland
18	2018	FP/AS/MIN/ 32798/2018 (Ramayana Ispat Pvt Ltd)	IPA on: 11.04.2023 (Final FC Due)	IPA in 5 yrs (Final FC Due)	Development Drilling of 2 wells in Discovered Small Field (DSF) Block: AA/ONDSF/Dipling /2016 involving diversion of 3.06 ha forestland
19	2018 (25.08.2018)	FP/AS/MIN/ 35379 & 37979 /2018 (ONGC)	Stage-I FC Awaited Land use change permission Granted (Use of Expl FC for Dev works- UA to comply for final Fc-2% WLM cost and EC for Dev activities)	More than 6 yrs already lapsed	FC for Location DPDA in Dayalpur PML involving diversion of 2.16 ha forestlands (Duplication with Location SUAA, which already having FC)
20	2018 (01.01.2018)	FP/AS/MIN/ 37983/2018 (ONGC)	IPA on: 20.06.2022 (Final FC Due)	IPA in 6 yrs (Final FC Due)	FC for Locations DPDM, DMDN, DPDO, DPDP, DPDQ and DPDR in Dayalpur PML involving diversion of 2.629 ha forestlands
21	2018 (01.01.2018)	FP/AS/MIN/ 37981/2018 (ONGC)	IPA on: 20.06.2022 (Final FC Due)	IPA in 6 yrs (Final FC Due)	FC for Locations DPDD, DPDH, DPDI, DPDJ, DPKK and DPDL in Dayalpur PML involving diversion of 2.73 ha forestlands

22	2018 (01.01.2018)	FP/AS/MIN/ 37979/2018 (ONGC)	IPA on: 20.06.2022 (Final FC Due)	IPA in 6 yrs (Final FC Due)	FC for Locations DPDA, DPDB, DPDC, DPDE, DPDF and DPDG in Dayalpur PML involving diversion of 2.597 ha forestlands
23	2018 (08.09.2018)	FP/AS/MIN/ 35222/2018 (ONGC)	IPA granted from Centre initially 09.02.2024 and Final IPA granted on 21.10.2024	Grant of IPA took almost 6 years (Final FC Awaited)	FC for Drilling location KSAI in Kasomariagaon PML (Addl) involving diversion of 2.1 ha forestlands (Proposal recommended in 20th REC meeting on 30.01.2023 required three hearings before FAC on 17.01.2024, 30.04.2024 and 23.09.2024 for grant of IPA from Centre on 21.10.2024 due to CA land issue, which finally had to be replaced with NFL)
24	2018 (14.12.2018)	FP/AS/MIN/ 36318/2018 (ONGC)	IPA on :07.09.2022 Final FC on: 04.04.2024	5 yrs 4 months time taken for Final FC (IPA: 3 years 9 mth+ Final FC: 1 year 7 mth)	FC for Drilling location KSAH in Kasomariagaon PML involving diversion of 1.75 ha forestlands
25	2018 (05.12.2018)	FP/AS/MIN/ 37305/2018 (ONGC)	IPA on :07.09.2022 Final FC on: 16.10.2023	4 yrs 10 months time taken for Final FC (IPA: 3 years 9 mth+ Final FC: 1 year 1 mth)	FC for Drilling location NRAD in Nambar PML involving diversion of 1.85 ha forestlands
26	2018 (05.12.2018)	FP/AS/MIN/ 37332/2018 (ONGC)	IPA on :07.09.2022 Final FC on: 01.03.2024	5 yrs 3 months time taken for Final FC (IPA: 3 years 9 mth+ Final FC: 1 year 6 mth)	FC for Drilling location KHBD in Khoraghat Extn.-I PML involving diversion of 2.08 ha forestlands
27	2018 (27.12.2018)	FP/AS/MIN/ 37035/2018 (ONGC)	Offline permission granted by O/o PCCF & HoFF on 20.12.2022 for use of same diverted forestlands accorded previously during Exploration phase	Total 4 yrs time taken for validating FC of Exploratory phase for further developmental activities	FC for Location NRDJ in Nambar PML involving diversion of 1.99 ha forestlands
28	2018 (15.09.2018)	FP/AS/MIN/ 35969/2018 (ONGC)		Total 4 yrs 3 moths time taken for validating FC of Exploratory phase for further developmental activities	FC for Locations KSDA and KSDD in Kasomariagaon PML involving diversion of 2.55 ha forestlands
29	2018 (15.09.2018)	FP/AS/MIN/35965/2018 (ONGC)			FC for Locations KSDB and KSDC in Kasomariagaon PML involving diversion of 1.80 ha forestlands

30	2018 & 2021 (Revised proposal submitted in January 2021 against original application of 2018)	FP/AS/Pipeline/ 119243/2021 (OIL & HOECL)	IPA on :30.03.2022 (Final FC Due- 4 yrs)	Working permission obtained on 28.6.2022 Final FC awaited	Laying of OIL's 8" crude oil & HOEC's 18" gas Pipeline from Duliajan to Digboi involving diversion of 13.43 ha forestlands
31	2019	FP/AS/Others/ 38082/2019 (ONGC)	IPA on : 07.07.2021 Final FC on: 29.08.2023	4 yrs time taken for Final FC (IPA: 2 years + Final FC: 2 years)	FC for construction of Kasomariagaon EPS in Doyang RF by diverting 3.63 ha forestlands Illegal Encroachment in forest land by 14 families was resolved after 4 yrs on 07.01.2023 by paying compensation @Rs 3 Lakh/ bigha to each family
32	2020 (22.07.2020)	FP/AS/MIN/ 46794/2020 (ONGC)	Stage-I FC Awaited	More than 4 yrs already lapsed	FC for Drilling location LGM involving diversion of 7.2 ha forestlands in Langai Reserved forest (Non Forest land to be provided for CA purposes as per new Regulations)
33	2020 (22.07.2020)	FP/AS/MIN/ 47775/2020 (ONGC)	IPA on :09.08.2024	IPA in 4 yrs (Final FC Due)	FC for Drilling location TNAA in Cachar District PML involving diversion of 6.09 ha forestlands (Non Forest land to be provided for CA purposes as per new Regulations)
34	2020 (30.12.2020)	FP/AS/MIN/ 113884/2020 (ONGC)	IPA granted from Centre initially 09.02.2024 and Final IPA granted on 21.10.2024	Almost 4 yrs time taken to grant IPA (Final FC Awaited)	FC for Drilling location TLAB in Kasomariagaon PML involving diversion of 1.781 ha forestlands (Proposal recommended in 24th REC meeting on 29.05.2023 required three hearings before FAC on 17.01.2024, 30.04.2024 and 23.09.2024 for grant of IPA from Centre on 21.10.2024 due to CA land issue, which finally had to be replaced with NFL)
35	2020 (30.12.2020)	FP/AS/MIN/ 113896/2020 (ONGC)	IPA granted from Centre initially 09.02.2024 and Final IPA granted on 21.10.2024	Almost 4 yrs time taken to grant IPA (Final FC Awaited)	FC for Drilling location DPAB in Kasomariagaon PML (Addl. Area) involving diversion of 1.889 ha forestlands (Proposal recommended in 17th REC meeting on 27.10.2022 required three hearing before FAC on 17.01.2024, 30.04.2024 and 23.09.2024 for grant of IPA from Centre on 21.10.2024 due to CA land issue, which finally had to be replaced with NFL)
36	2020 (30.03.2020)	FP/AS/MIN/ 87902/2020 (ONGC)	IPA granted from Centre initially 09.02.2024 and Final IPA granted on 21.10.2024	Almost 4 yrs time taken to grant IPA (Final FC Awaited)	FC for Drilling location SPAA in Kasomariagaon PML involving diversion of 1.731 ha forestlands (Proposal recommended in 24th REC meeting on 29.05.2023 required three hearing before FAC on 17.01.2024, 30.04.2024 and 23.09.2024 for grant of IPA from Centre on 21.10.2024 due to CA land issue, which finally had to be replaced with NFL)

37	2020 (14.02.2020)	FP/AS/MIN/ 44361/2020 (Vedanta Ltd)	IPA on : 07.07.2023 Final FC on: 20.06.2024	4 yrs 4 mths time taken for Final FC (IPA: 3 years 5 mths+ Final FC: 11 months)	FC for Drilling Well Pad 29 (Khehuto) in AA-ONHP-2017/1 block involving diversion of 4.125 ha forestlands
38	2020 (14.02.2020)	FP/AS/MIN/ 44360/2020 (Vedanta Ltd)	IPA on : 27.10.2022 Final FC on: 20.06.2024	4 yrs 4 mths time taken for Final FC (IPA: 2 years 8 mths+ Final FC: 1 yr 8 mths)	FC for Drilling Well Pad 28 (Khehuto) in AA-ONHP-2017/1 block involving diversion of 2.43 ha forestlands
39	2020 (03.08.2020)	FP/AS/MIN/ 47130/2020 (ONGC)	IPA on : 07.09.2022 Final FC on: 12.04.2024	3 yrs 8 mths time taken for Final FC (IPA: 2 years 1 mths+ Final FC: 1 yr 7 mths)	FC for Drilling location KSAJ in Kasomargaon PML involving diversion of 1.751 ha forestlands
40	2020 (03.08.2020)	FP/AS/MIN/ 47129/2020 (ONGC)	IPA on : 27.10.2022 Final FC on: 16.10.2023	3 yrs 2 mths time taken for Final FC (IPA: 2 years 2 mths+ Final FC: 1 yr)	FC for Drilling location KSAK in Kasomargaon PML involving diversion of 1.717 ha forestlands
41	2020	FP/AS/MIN/ 113899/2020 (ONGC)	IPA on : 30.03.2022 Final FC on: 16.10.2023	3 yrs time taken for Final FC (IPA: 2 years + Final FC: 1 yr)	FC for Drilling location ELAI in East Lakhbari Extn PML involving diversion of 1.771 ha forestlands
42	2020 (10.11.2020)	FP/AS/ Pipeline / 55045/2020 (OIL)	IPA on : 30.03.2022 (Final FC Due)	Working permission obtained on 28.6.2022 Final FC awaited	FC for Diversion of 27.43 ha forestlands for construction of Kunchai-Kusujan Pipeline in the State of Assam
43	2020 (23.10.2020)	FP/AS/MIN/ 51724/2020 (OIL)	IPA on : 07.07.2023 Final FC on: 30.01.2024	Final FC in more than 3 yrs time (IPA in : 2 yr 9 month + Final FC in 6 months)	Forest diversion proposal for oil & gas well drilling at Loc. KA-2 located in Dhansiri Reserve Forest in NELP Block AA-ONN-2010/2 in Karbi Anglong District, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council of Assam

44	2021 (26.08.2021)	FP/AS/MIN/ 146335/2021 (ONGC)	IPA on : 16.03.2023 (Final FC Due)	IPA in 2 yrs (Final FC Due)	FC for drilling 06 wells from KHDO Cluster in Khoraghat Ext -1 PML involving diversion of 2.686 ha forestlands
45	2021 (30.08.2021)	FP/AS/MIN/ 146426/2021 (ONGC)	IPA on : 16.03.2023 (Final FC Due)	IPA in 2 yrs (Final FC Due)	FC for drilling 06 wells from KHDI cluster in Khoraghat Ext -1 PML involving diversion of 2.583 ha forestlands
46	2021 (03.09.2021)	FP/AS/MIN/ 146633/2021 (ONGC)	IPA on : 16.03.2023 (Final FC Due)	IPA in 2 yrs (Final FC Due)	FC for drilling 06 wells- KSDE, KSDI, KSDJ, KSDK, KSDL and KSDM in Kasomariagaon PML involving diversion of 2.282 ha forestlands
47	2021 (02.09.2021)	FP/AS/MIN/ 146691/2021 (ONGC)	IPA on : 16.03.2023 (Final FC Due)	IPA in 2 yrs (Final FC Due)	FC for drilling 06 wells- DPDU, DPDV, DPDX, DPDY and DPDZ in Kasomariagaon PML involving diversion of 2.75 ha forestlands
48	2021 (07.04.2021)	FP/AS/MIN/ 140252/2021 (ONGC)	IPA on : 07.07.2023 (Final FC Due)	IPA in 2 yrs (Final FC Due)	FC for Drilling location NRAH in Nambur PML involving diversion of 1.7888 ha forestlands
49	2021 (16.04.2021)	FP/AS/MIN/ 140108/2021 (ONGC)	IPA granted from Centre initially 09.02.2024 and Final IPA granted on 21.10.2024	Almost 3.5 yrs time taken to grant IPA (Final FC Awaited)	FC for Drilling location TLAA in Kasomariagaon PML involving diversion of 1.76783 ha forestlands (Proposal recommended in 17th REC meeting on 27.10.2022 required three hearings before FAC on 17.01.2024, 30.04.2024 and 23.09.2024 for grant of IPA from Centre on 21.10.2024 due to CA land issue, which finally had to be replaced with NFL)
50	2021 (24.03.2021)	FP/AS/MIN/ 139315/2021 (ONGC)	IPA granted from Centre initially 12.02.2024 and Final IPA granted on 21.10.2024	Almost 3.5 yrs time taken to grant IPA (Final FC Awaited)	FC for Drilling location ELAJ in Kalyanpur PML involving diversion of 2.2091 ha forestlands (Proposal recommended in 24th REC meeting on 29.05.2023 required three hearings before FAC on 17.01.2024, 30.04.2024 and 23.09.2024 for grant of IPA from Centre on 21.10.2024 due to CA land issue, which finally had to be replaced with NFL)

51	2021 (30.03.2021)	FP/AS/MIN/ 139446/2021 (ONGC)	IPA granted from Centre initially 09.02.2024 and Final IPA granted on 21.10.2024	Almost 3.5 yrs time taken to grant IPA (Final FC Awaited)	FC for Drilling location SUAD in Suphayam PML involving diversion of 1.8212483 ha forestlands. (Proposal recommended in 24th REC meeting on 29.05.2023 required three hearings before FAC on 17.01.2024, 30.04.2024 and 23.09.2024 for grant of IPA from Centre on 21.10.2024 due to CA land issue, which finally had to be replaced with NFL)
52	2021 (22.04.2021)	FP/AS/MIN/ 126230/2021 (ONGC)	IPA on : 07.09.2022 Final FC on: 16.10.2023	2 yrs 6 mths time taken for Final FC (IPA: 1 year 5 mths + Final FC: 1 yr 1 mth)	FC for Drilling location MJAA in Kalyanpur PML involving diversion of 1.763 ha forestlands
53	2021 (26.03.2021)	FP/AS/MIN/ 139701/2021 (ONGC)	IPA on : 27.10.2022 Final FC on: 16.10.2023	2 yrs 7 mths time taken for Final FC (IPA: 1 year 7 mths + Final FC: 1 yr)	FC for Drilling location KHBK in Khoraghat Extn-1 PML involving diversion of 1.779 ha forestlands
54	2021 (20.01.2021)	FP/AS/MIN/ 119173/2021 (ONGC)	Offline permission granted by O/o PCCF & HoFF on 20.12.2022 for use of same diverted forestlands accorded previously during Exploration phase	Total 1 yr 11 months time taken for validating FC of Exploratory phase for further developmental activities (Change in Land Use)	FC for Drilling locations KSDF, KSDG and KSDH in Khoraghat PML involving diversion of 2.55 ha forestlands
55	2021 (19.01.2021)	FP/AS/MIN/ 119062/2021 (ONGC)			FC for Drilling locations KHDS and KHDG from Existing Location KHDF involving diversion of 3.48 ha forestlands
56	2021 (20.01.2021)	FP/AS/MIN/ 119067/2021 (ONGC)			FC for Drilling locations DPDS and DPDT from existing location Suphayam 1 involving diversion of 1.69 ha forestlands
57	2021 (04.10.2021) *Had to apply on-line in 2024	Offline application Submitted for FC Transfer (Vedanta Ltd)	FC Transfer from ONGC to Vedanta Ltd - Awaited	After 3 yr it has been advised to apply on-line as per new Rules	To transfer FC for Well Pad-22 in PEL Block AA-ONHP-2017/1 by transferring one out of the three FCs granted to ONGC vide letter no. 3-AS B 059/2005-SHI/3068-70 dated 20.12.2006. It involves diversion of 1.78 ha forestlands - UA requested CCF & NO (FCA) vide letter dtd 04.10.2021

58	2022 (06.05.2022)	FP/AS/Others/ 154603/2022 (ONGC)	Stage-I FC Awaited	More than 2 years old proposal	FC for Creation of production facility GGS/EPS in Khoraghat area PML involving diversion of 4.1 Ha forest land
59	2023 (07.06.2023)	FP/AS/MINOIL/ 432400/2023 (OIL)	Stage-I FC Awaited	More than 1 year old proposal	Diversion of 3.73 Ha Forest land for drilling four no. of wells DJM, Well A, Well B, Well C at old Plinth of Bogapani-2
60	2023 (07.06.2023)	FP/AS/MINOIL/ 432352/2023 (OIL)	Stage-I FC Awaited	More than 1 year old proposal to be submitted afresh	Diversion of 3.24 Ha Forest land for the project location with four wells i.e. Well DJJ, Well A, Well B, Well C from Bogapani-1 Plinth- Proposal to be submitted afresh as per remarks from DFO dtd 13.05.2024
61	2023 (28.03.2023)	FP/AS/MINOIL/ 422315/2023 (ONGC)	Stage-I FC Awaited	More than 1 year old proposal	Forest Clearance for the location BWNA in Golaghat District involving diversion of 2.2864 Ha forest lands (CA land to be provided in Non Forest land as per new FC Regulation)
62	2023 (27.04.2023)	FP/AS/MINOIL/ 426584/2023 (ONGC)	Stage-I FC Awaited	More than 1 year old proposal	Forest Clearance for the Exploratory Drilling Location BWNB in Golaghat District involving diversion of 1.709 Ha forest lands (CA land to be provided in Non Forest land as per new FC Regulation)
63	2023 (25.04.2023)	FP/AS/MINOIL/ 424232/2023 (ONGC)	Stage-I FC Awaited	More than 1 year old proposal	Forest Clearance for the Exploratory Drilling Location CJAA in Golaghat District involving diversion of 1.7784 Ha forest lands (CA land to be provided in Non Forest land as per new FC Regulation)
64	2023 (21.04.2023)	FP/AS/MINOIL/ 426530/2023 (ONGC)	Stage-I FC Awaited	More than 1 year old proposal	Forest Clearance for the Exploratory Drilling Location KHBN in Golaghat District involving diversion of 1.904 Ha forest lands (CA land to be provided in Non Forest land as per new FC Regulation)
65	2023 (25.04.2023)	FP/AS/MINOIL/ 426742/2023 (ONGC)	Stage-I FC Awaited	More than 1 year old proposal	Forest Clearance for the Exploratory Drilling Location KHBO in Golaghat District involving diversion of 1.74 Ha forest lands
66	2023 (25.04.2023)	FP/AS/MINOIL/ 426966/2023 (ONGC)	Stage-I FC Awaited	More than 1 year old proposal	Forest Clearance for the Exploratory Drilling Location DPAAE in Golaghat District involving diversion of 1.877 Ha forest lands

67	2023	FP/AS/MINOIL/ 431917/2023 (Vedanta O&G Ltd)	Stage-I FC on 08.09.2024	IPA in one year (Final FC Due)	Forest Clearance for Diversion of 1.7155 Ha forest land for Drilling at Well Pad# Jagun Updip (JG-UD) in AA-ONHP-2017/3 Block
68	2023	FP/AS/MINOIL/ 443620/2023 (Vedanta O&G Ltd)	Stage-I FC on 22.10.2024	IPA in one year (Final FC Due)	Forest Clearance for Diversion of 4.4998 Ha forest land for Drilling at Well Pad# SP-1-East-2 in AA-ONHP-2017/4 Block
69	2024 (09.05.2024)	FP/AS/MINOIL/ 472173/2023 (Vedanta O&G Ltd)	Stage-I FC Awaited	Less than 1 year old proposal	Forest Clearance for Diversion of 1.695 Ha forest land for Drilling at Well Pad# 22 (FW-005) in AA-ONHP-2017/1 Block

Annex-C

Tripura: Pattern of Forest Clearances for O&G E&P projects in the State of Tripura in NER

Sl	Year / Date of Application	FC Proposal No & Operator	Stage-I and Final FC Approval Details	Time Taken for FC Approval/ Remarks	Details of Proposal
1	2015 (26.06.2015)	FP/TR/MIN/ 13529/2015 (ONGC)	Stage-I FC/IPA- Denied	9 yrs already lapsed SC-NBWL approved the proposals on 21.09.2021 considering non-applicability of 'Goa Foundation' case judgement of Supreme court on Mining -But FC Division rejected FC proposals considering applicability of 'Goa Foundation' case judgement, which bans Mining activities inside PA and 1 Km from its boundary-	FC for Diversion of 1.368 Ha forest land for location TIAC inside Trishna WLS
2	2015 (26.06.2015)	FP/TR/MIN/ 13527/2015 (ONGC)	Stage-I FC/IPA- Denied		FC for Diversion of 1.96 Ha forest land for location TIDF inside Trishna WLS
3	2015 (26.06.2015)	FP/TR/MIN/ 13525/2015 (ONGC)	Stage-I FC/IPA- Denied		FC for Diversion of 1.496 Ha forest land for location TIDE inside Trishna WLS
4	2015 (26.06.2015)	FP/TR/MIN/ 13524/2015 (ONGC)	Stage-I FC/IPA- Denied	Accordingly RO, Shillong returned the proposals to State on 11.11.2022	FC for Diversion of 1.76 Ha forest land for location TIDA inside Trishna WLS
5	2015 (26.06.2015)	FP/TR/MIN/ 13523/2015 (ONGC)	Stage-I FC/IPA- Denied	9 yrs already lapsed SC-NBWL approved the proposals on 29.12.2022 considering non-applicability of 'Goa Foundation' case judgement of Supreme court on Mining -But FC Division rejected FC proposals considering applicability of 'Goa Foundation' case judgement, which bans Mining activities inside PA and 1 Km from its boundary-	FC for Diversion of 1.28 Ha forest land for location TIDG inside Trishna WLS
6	2015 (26.06.2015)	FP/TR/MIN/ 13520/2015 (ONGC)	Stage-I FC/IPA- Denied	Accordingly RO, Shillong returned the proposals to State on 30.08.2023	FC for Diversion of 0.20 Ha forest land for location TIDC inside Trishna WLS

7	2015 (26.06.2015)	FP/TR/MIN/ 13521/2015 (ONGC)	IPA on : 06.04.2021 Final FC on: 04.10.2021	6 yrs 4 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 5 years 10 months + Final FC: 6 months)	Diversion of 1.11 Ha forest land for location TIDD (*(FC granted inside Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary))
8	2015 (26.06.2015)	FP/TR/MIN/ 13528/2015 (ONGC)	IPA on :12.01.2021 Final FC on: 13.09.2021	6 yrs 2 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 5 years 6 months + Final FC: 8 months)	Diversion of 1.42 Ha forest land for location TIAG *(FC granted inside Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary)
9	2016 (18.05.2016)	FP/TR/MIN/ 19169/2016 (ONGC)	IPA on : 09.11.2020 Final FC on: 30.06.2021	5 yrs time to get Final FC (IPA: 4 years 5 months + Final FC: 7 months)	FC for Drilling of location BMST involving diversion of 1.74 Ha forestlands
10	2016 (21.04.2016)	FP/TR/OTHERS/ 18888/2016 (JOGPL)	IPA on 30.09.2024	More than 8 years for IPA (Payable NPV @ 2% for the Forest land in PML Block to be settled yet)	FC for construction of Drill Site, Waste pit, Drill Site Accommodation, TSR Camp and its approach road for location Dev-2A involving 1.368 ha of forest land.
11	2017 (18.05.2017)	FP/TR/MIN/ 21542/2016 (ONGC)	IPA on : 17.03.2022 Final FC on : 10.08.2022	5 yrs 3 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 4 years 10 month + Final FC: 5 months)	FC for Drilling of location BMDH involving diversion of 1.74 ha forestlands
12	2017 (04.05.2017)	FP/TR/MIN/ 21544/2016 (ONGC)	IPA on : 17.06.2021 Final FC on : 08.11.2021	4 yrs 5 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 4 years 1 month + Final FC: 4 months)	FC for Drilling of location GODA involving diversion of 3.52 Ha forestlands
12	2017 (04.05.2017)	FP/TR/MIN/ 21543/2016 (ONGC)	IPA on :17.06.2021 Final FC on : 21.10.2021	4 yrs 5 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 4 years 1 month + Final FC: 4 months)	FC for Drilling of location GODB involving diversion of 1.74 Ha forestlands
13	2017 (13.06.2017)	FP/TR/MIN/ 21546/2016 (ONGC)	IPA on : 30.09.2020 Final FC on : 21.06.2021	4 yrs time to get Final FC (IPA: 3 yrs 3 months + Final FC: 9 months)	FC for Drilling of location BRMAE involving diversion of 1.74 ha forestlands
14	2017 (03.05.2017)	FP/TR/MIN/ 25897/2017	IPA on : 14.03.2023 Final FC on :01.11.2023	6 yrs 6 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 5 yrs 10 months + Final FC: 8 months)	FC for Drilling of location BMDE involving diversion of 0.551 Ha forestlands

15	2017 (03.05.2017)	FP/TR/MIN/ 21541/2016 (ONGC)	IPA on : 06.11.2020 Final FC on : 01.03.2021	3 yrs 10 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 3 years 6 months + Final FC: 4 months)	FC for Drilling of location GOAI involving diversion of 3.34 Ha forestlands
16	2017 (13.06.2017)	FP/TR/MIN/ 21545/2016 (ONGC)	IPA on : 20.10.2020 Final FC on : 18.02.2021	3 yrs 8 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 3 years 4 months + Final FC: 4 months)	FC for Drilling of location BRMAD involving diversion of 3.32 ha forestlands
17	2017 (13.06.2017)	FP/TR/MIN/ 25930/2017 (ONGC)	IPA on : 29.11.2019 Final FC on : 17.06.2020	3 yrs time to get Final FC (IPA: 2 years 5 months + Final FC: 7 months)	FC for Drilling of location KHBS involving diversion of 1.74 Ha forestlands
18	2017 (13.06.2017)	FP/TR/MIN/ 25929/2017 (ONGC)	IPA on : 25.04.2018 Final FC on : 16.04.2020	2 yrs 10 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 10 months + Final FC: 2 yrs *)	FC for Drilling of location KHBR involving diversion of 1.998 ha forestlands
19	2019 (13.02.2019)	FP/TR/MIN/ 25929/2017 (ONGC)	IPA on : 20.10.2020 Final FC on : 21.06.2021	2 yrs 4 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 1 yr 8 months + Final FC: 8 months)	FC for Drilling of location BRMAJ involving diversion of 1.74 ha forestlands
20	2019 (15.02.2019)	FP/TR/MIN/ 38786/2019 (ONGC)	IPA on : 17.06.2021 Final FC on : 21.10.2021	2 yrs 8 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 2 years 4 months + Final FC: 4 months)	FC for Drilling of location ROBL involving diversion of 1.783 ha forestlands
21	2019 (01.05.2019)	FP/TR/MIN/ 38526/2019 (ONGC)	IPA on : 17.06.2021 Final FC on : 08.11.2021	2 yrs 7 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 2 years 2 months + Final FC: 5 months)	FC for Drilling of location BREB involving diversion of 1.74 ha forestlands
22	2019 (24.01.2019)	FP/TR/MIN/ 38549/2019 (ONGC)	IPA on : 09.11.2020 Final FC on : 22.07.2021	2 yrs 5 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 1 year 9 months + Final FC: 8 months)	FC for Drilling of location GOAO involving diversion of 1.863 ha forestlands
23	2019 (30.04.2019)	FP/TR/MIN/ 30149/2017 (ONGC)	IPA on : 26.11.2020 Final FC on : 30.06.2021	2 yrs 2 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 1 year 7 months + Final FC: 7 months)	FC for Drilling of location ROBJ involving diversion of 1.721 ha forestlands

24	2019 (11.01.2019)	FP/TR/MIN/ 38162/2019 (ONGC)	IPA on : 20.10.2020 Final FC on : 30.03.2021	2 yrs 2 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 1 year 9 months + Final FC: 5 months)	FC for Drilling of location AMAA involving diversion of 1.74 ha forestlands
25	2020 (09.11.2020)	FP/TR/MIN/ 53948/2020 (ONGC)	IPA on : 17.03.2022 Final FC on : 21.09.2022	1 yr 10 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 1 year 4 months + Final FC: 6 months)	FC for Drilling of location ROBM involving diversion of 3.054 ha forestlands
26	2020 (06.11.2020)	FP/TR/MIN/ 53577/2020 (ONGC)	IPA on : 23.12.2021 Final FC on : 25.07.2022	1 yr 9 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 1 year 2 months + Final FC: 7 months)	FC for Drilling of location TMAB involving diversion of 2.63 ha forestlands
27	2020 (09.11.2020)	FP/TR/MIN/ 65526/2020 (ONGC)	IPA on : 23.12.2021 Final FC on : 05.07.2022	1 yr 9 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 1 year 2 months + Final FC: 7 months)	FC for Drilling of location GODD involving diversion of 1.56 ha forestlands
28	2020 (04.11.2020)	FP/TR/MIN/ 53358/2020 (ONGC)	IPA on : 23.12.2021 Final FC on : 05.07.2022	1 yr 9 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 1 year 2 months + Final FC: 7 months)	FC for Drilling of location SDAH involving diversion of 2.978 ha forestlands
29	2020 (06.11.2020)	FP/TR/MIN/ 53710/2020 (ONGC)	IPA on : 06.10.2021 Final FC on : 11.04.2022	1 yr 5 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 11 months + Final FC: 6 months)	FC for Drilling of location BMSU involving diversion of 2.652 ha forestlands
30	2021 (31.05.2021)	FP/TR/MIN/ 142678/2021 (ONGC)	IPA on : 10.02.2023 (Final FC Due)	1 year 8 months in getting IPA (Final FC Due) (Pending with UA since 11.06.2024)	FC for Drilling of location GOAN involving diversion of 6.131 ha forestlands
31	2021 (04.06.2021)	FP/TR/MIN/ 143105/2021 (ONGC)	IPA on : 08.02.2023 Final FC on : 01.09.2023	2 yr 3 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 1 Year 8 months + Final FC: 7 months)	FC for Drilling of location RO#15A involving diversion of 0.76229 ha forestlands
32	2021 (09.07.2021)	FP/TR/MIN/ 144493/2021 (ONGC)	IPA on : 10.02.2023 Final FC on : 18.07.2023	2 yr 1 month time to get Final FC (IPA: 1 Year 8 months + Final FC: 5 months)	FC for Drilling of location BRMAK involving diversion of 1.98 ha forestlands

33	2021 (12.08.2021)	FP/TR/MIN/ 145220/2021 (OIL)	IPA on : 10.02.2023 Final FC on : 31.07.2023	2 yr time to get Final FC (IPA: 1 Year 6 months + Final FC: 6 months)	FC for Drilling of location TULC involving diversion of 9.4 ha forestlands for the PML block-AA/ONDSF/TULAMARA/2018
34	2021 (12.08.2021)	FP/TR/MIN/ 145542/2021 (OIL)	IPA on : 30.12.2022 Final FC on : 30.08.2023	2 yr time to get Final FC (IPA: 1 Year 5 months + Final FC: 7 months)	FC for Drilling of location TULA involving diversion of 5.24 ha forestlands for the PML block-AA/ONDSF/TULAMARA/2018
35	2021 (12.08.2021)	FP/TR/MIN/ 145135/2021 (OIL)	IPA on : 30.12.2022 Final FC : 31.07.2023	2 yr time to get Final FC (IPA: 1 Year 5 months + Final FC: 7 months)	FC for Drilling of location TULB involving diversion of 4.82 ha forestlands for the PML block-AA/ONDSF/TULAMARA/2018
36	2021 (13.08.2021)	FP/TR/MIN/ 145546/2021 (OIL)	IPA on : 30.12.2022 Final FC : 31.07.2023	2 yr time to get Final FC (IPA: 1 Year 5 months + Final FC: 7 months)	FC for Drilling of location TULD involving diversion of 5.47 ha forestlands for the PML block-AA/ONDSF/TULAMARA/2018
37	2021 (09.07.2021)	FP/TR/MIN/ 144616/2021 (ONGC)	IPA on : 15.11.2022 Final FC : 12.04.2023	1 yr 9 months time to get Final FC (IPA: 1 Year 4 months + Final FC: 5 months)	FC for Drilling of location BMDK involving diversion of 1.36 ha forestlands
38	2022 (28.11.2022)	FP/TR/Pipeline/ 441472/2022 (ONGC)	IPA awaited	2 years lapsed- Stage-I FC Awaited (Forwarded to RO on 11.12.2024)	FC for Laying of Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline from ADB GCS to Baramura GCS involving diversion of 4.397 ha of forest land
39	2022 (28.11.2022)	FP/TR/ROAD/ 407372/2022 (ONGC)	IPA on : 17.04.2024 (Final FC Awaited)	2 years lapsed- Stage-I FC Awaited (Pending with UA since 19.06.2024)	FC for construction of Approach Road leading to Drill site for Exploratory location BRMAH involving diversion of 1.3 ha of forest land
41	2022 (26.10.2022)	FP/TR/MIN/QRY 403097/2022 (JOGPL)	IPA awaited	2 years old Proposal (Reply on 04.12.2024 against EDS of 23.09.2024)	FC for construction of drill site, waste pit, drill site accommodation, TSR camp for location Dev 37A involving 2.036 ha of forest land.
42	2022 (26.10.2022)	FP/TR/MIN/QRY 403782/2022 (JOGPL)	IPA awaited	2 years old Proposal (Proposal sent to Delhi on 07.11.2024 and sent to RO on 09.12.2024 for SIR)	FC for construction of Drill Site, Waste Pit, Drill Site Accommodation TSR Camp for location DEV-37B involving 1.572 ha of forest land.

43	2023 (17.05.2023)	FP/TR/MIN/QRV 403652/2022 (JOGPL)	IPA awaited	1 years 6 months old Proposal (Proposal sent to Delhi on 07.11.2024 and sent to RO on 09.12.2024 for SIR)	FC for construction of Drill Site, Waste Pit, Drill Site Accommodation TSR Camp for location DEV-34A-1 involving 2.031 ha of forest land.
44	2023 (28.06.2023)	FP/TR/ROAD/ 434883/2023 (ONGC)	IPA awaited	More than 1 year old proposal Stage-I FC Awaited (EDS from RO dtd 25.11.2024)	FC for the approach road falling in Tripura for the Exploratory Drilling Location LGM located in Assam , involving diversion of 0.076 ha forest land
45	2023 (21.07.2023)	FP/TR/MINOIL/ 437032/2023 (ONGC)	IPA awaited	More than 1 year old proposal Stage-I FC Awaited (Pending with DFO- Joint Site visit completed on 25.11.2024)	FC for Diversion of 2.012 ha of forest land for Exploration of Hydrocarbon / Natural Gas through Drilling, Waste-pit and Approach Road of location ADAU
46	2023 (24.08.2023)	FP/TR/MINOIL/ 441472/2023 (ONGC)	IPA awaited	More than 1 year old proposal Stage-I FC Awaited (As advised on 06.08.2024, UA has to obtain a NOC from “Bhairabnagar Conservation Reserve Management Committee” and “Bhairab Nagar Conservation Reserve Management Committee” yet to be constituted after the same was dissolved during Panchayat Election-2024 and PCCF &HoFF vide letter dtd 06.11.2024 requested GoT for formation of the same)	FC for Diversion of 2.89 ha of forest land for Exploration of Hydrocarbon / Natural Gas through Drilling, Waste-pit and Approach Road of location AA-ONO202-RJA-A
47	2023 (23.09.2023)	FP/TR/MINOIL/ 441472/2023 445121/2023 (ONGC)	IPA awaited	More than 1 year old proposal Stage-I FC Awaited (Joint field visit held on 25.10.2024 and awaited approval from GoT)	FC for Diversion of 0.9642 ha of forest land for Exploration of Hydrocarbon / Natural Gas through Drilling, Waste-pit and Approach Road of location AA-ONO-184-BOA-A

48	2023 (21.12.2023)	FP/TR/MINOIL/ 441472/2023 462777/2024 (OIL)	IPA awaited	Project Screening Committee in its meeting held on 03.06.2024 has advised for joint site verification along with District Administration, DFO and UA which was completed on 26.09.2024 Forwarded to RO, Shillong on 07.12.2024	FC for Diversion of 6.755 ha of forest land for construction of approach road to Exploratory Location OSTA involving 6.755 ha of forest land
49	2023 (21.12.2023)	FP/TR/SRY/ 456223/2023 (ONGC)	IPA awaited	Awaited Recommendation from State Board for Wildlife for Seismic Survey inside PA against recommendation from Chief Wildlife Warden on 02.05.2024- State Board for Wildlife yet to be notified since after request made by the Forest Dept to Govt vide letter dtd 04.09.2024	Wildlife Clearance from SC-NBWL for 3D Seismic Survey inside the PA for OALP Block of ONGC at Rajnagar
50	2024 (27.06.2024)	FP/TR/MINOIL/ 482410/2024 (JOGPL)	IPA awaited	Less than 1 year old proposal (Joint visit completed by DFO, Dhalai on 27.11.2024)	Forest Clearance for the location D2 in AA-ONN-2002/1 Block involving diversion of 7.757 Ha Forestlands

19 Recommendations of the 1st Edition of the NE Regional Workshop held on 21st October, 2019

Forwarded to Centre vide RO, MoEF&CC's letter
dated 11th December, 2019

Top Recommendations After 1st Edition of Workshop

Held on 21 October, 2019



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
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No. RO-NE/E/IA/W&M/2018/ 3472-74

Date: 11th December, 2019

To,


1. The Additional Director General of Forests (FC),
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi-110003
2. Mrs. Geeta Menon, IAS,
Joint Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi-110003
3. The Director, ROHQ,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-110003

Sub: Proceedings of the One day Regional Workshop on Recent Advances in Environment and Forest Laws with special reference to Oil, Petroleum and Gas Sector held on 21.10.2019-reg.

Sir/Madam,

With reference to the subject above, I am directed to inform that the North Eastern Regional Office, Shillong have organized a one day Regional Workshop on 'Recent Advances in Environment and Forest Laws with special reference to Oil, Petroleum and Gas Sector' on 21.10.2019. A copy of the proceedings of the workshop with recommendations is enclosed herewith for your kind perusal and reference.

Yours faithfully,


(Dr. H. Tynsong)
Scientist 'D'

Encl: As above.



Participants of 1st Edition of Workshop





Annexure: I.**List of Attendances**

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75	Mr Om Prakash Singh	ONGC	GGM-Asset Manager	9868282184	-
76	Mr Amar Jyoti Das	ONGC	CGM-Asset Manager, Silchar	9969227109	-
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91	Mr Avinash Jindal	Ramayana Ispat Pvt Ltd	MD		-
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107	Dr Mihir Das	Govt of Tripura	Scientist C	9436168686	-

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110	Mr.Kawlhunna	Mizoram	IFS		-
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112	Mr Raj Thilak S	Govt of Arunachal Pradesh	Member Secretary, (PCB) Director,	7005633361	-
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116	Shri Raju Das	Govt of Assam	Assam Tribune		-
117	Mr Y. Suryanarayana	Govt of Assam	Chairman (PCB)	7086052548	-
118	Sri A. M. Singh	Govt of Assam	PCCF & HoFF	9435730125	-
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120	Mr Surya Prakash	SamvridhiiInfotech	Director	9871700700	
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123	Mr Kush Lungani	-	-	-	-
124	Mr Zulfi	-	-	-	-
125	Mr Hitesh	-	-	-	-
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Proceedings of the One Day Regional workshop on Recent Advances in Environment & Forest Laws with special reference to Oil, Petroleum & Gas Sector held on 21.10.2019 at Shillong

Workshop Overview:

North Eastern Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Shillong, Meghalaya, supported by Oil India Limited, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., IGGL, Cairn Oil and Gas (Vedanta Ltd)., and HOECL have organized a One Day Regional Workshop on 21st October, 2019 at the State Convention Center in Shillong, Meghalaya. The theme of the workshop is, '*Recent Advances in Environment & Forest Laws with Special Reference to Oil, Petroleum & Gas Sector*'. More than 120 participants from the regulatory agencies which included representatives from MoEF & CC, New Delhi, Central Pollution Control Board, State Forest Departments, Department of Geology and Mining and State Pollution Control Boards as well as the industry sectors have participated in the workshop. The list of participants of the meeting is attached as Annexure I.

The objective of the workshop was to bring both regulators and user agencies concerning Oil, Petroleum and Gas Sectors on one platform for deliberation on issues pertaining to the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and other ancillary acts thereto. The workshop aimed to discuss and implement recent Orders, Directions, Guidelines issued by MoEF&CC besides the court orders issued from time to time; and also to enlighten user agencies concerning Oil, Petroleum and Gas Sectors on the applicability of the provisions laid down in the EIA Notification, 2006; FC Act, 1980; WP Act, 1972 and activities within Eco-sensitive Zone and inside Protected Areas. The workshop was designed for pondering on the process of following extent rules concerning Environment and Forest by the user agencies and adopt available cleaner technology thereby achieving environmental norms. The main non-compliances of EC stipulated conditions were also discussed.

The workshop started with registration and welcoming of all participants and delegates to the workshop. This was followed with felicitation of dignitaries namely, Shri Saibal Dasgupta, Additional Director General (Retd.), MoEF & CC, Shri S. K. Aggarwal, Deputy Director General of Forests (C), RO, Shillong, Shri Amar Nath, Joint Secretary (Exploration), MoPNG, Dr. S. K. Bajpayee, Joint Secretary, MoEF & CC, Dr. J.P. Gupta, Member Secretary EAC (Industry-2) along with the selective Industry representatives.

Shri R. L. Sanga, Deputy Inspector General of Forests (C) addressed the gathering with a warm welcome note. He thanked OIL, ONGC Ltd., Cairn Oil and Gas (Vedanta Ltd), HOEC and

Shri R. K. Borah, GM (Land), OIL enquired that as per FCA and guideline issued in Jan, 2014 if Forest area is inside the PML area, full or part, it is required to take FC under Sec 2(iii) for the entire block and cannot start any activity in the entire block. Shri S. Das mentioned that if such cases arise, then option is to divide the block into forest & non-forest area and start operation in non-forest area by giving undertaking.

Shri S.K. Rai, CGM (HSE&C) enquired regarding condition of FRA clearance is mandatory or not before grant of PML. It was replied that the issue was taken up with Ministry of Tribal Affairs and had issued a circular stating that grant of FRA is not mandatory before grant of PML. Shri Siddhanta Das mentioned that FRA was made to give legal rights to the tribe dwellers. FRA is not linked to FCA as it comes under a different Ministry.

Shri S. Subramanian enquired regarding the EC condition on 33% greenbelt development around the project. He mentioned that during the course of implementation, purchasing additional land for plantation becomes difficult and Forest division is also contacted for help who conveyed their regret regarding the same. Shri S. Das explained regarding different types of forest having more than 01% tree density. He mentioned that Ministry is planning to develop Government/Community owned waste lands having less than 01% density into forest land in PPP model.

Recommendations:

At the end of all the presentations and deliberations, following points/issues emerged for concerned authorities to consider amending/incorporating in the relevant Acts, Rules, Notifications, Office Memoranda, etc:

A. Forest Related Matter:

- i. Oil & gas extraction should be treated as non-mining activity under FC Act.
- ii. FC should not be linked with EC application, as grant of EC is kept on hold till Stage-I Approval is granted.
- iii. MoEF & CC should have separate provision and guidelines on FC to Oil & gas activities.
- iv. Digitized maps for Forest and Wildlife areas in N-E, may be made available to the public in public domain for easy access and convenient of proactive action for User Agency.
- v. Based on latest satellite imagery, status of declared Protected Areas (PAs)/RFs in the North-Eastern States, where ground reality has changed over the period of time since after their Notifications may be reviewed.
- vi. For mining proposals up to 5 ha of forest lands, clearance under FC Act by MoEF&CC may be delegated to Regional Office instead of present practices of its approval from Central Government, which is a very lengthy and time-consuming process.
- vii. FC Act shouldn't be applicable for accessing reservoir at 3-4 km depth using ERD technology.
- viii. Seismic Survey in ESZ/PA areas were permitted earlier but, in some cases, survey is not permitted at present. Further clarification is required.

- ix. WL division to reinstate its guidelines dated 26.09.2014 which advises State Forest Directorate not to handle proposals for 10 Km ESZ areas, as Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 is not applicable.
- x. Oil & Gas E&P activities are not to be prohibited in final site specific ESZ Notifications.
- xi. Separate form may be introduced for proposals executed in 10 Km ESZ area instead of using the same Form used for proposals executed inside PAs.
- xii. North-Eastern States to consider for holding State Wildlife Board Meetings Quarterly in order to avoid delay in getting approval for the projects from SC-NBWL.

B. Environment Related Matter:

- i. Rules and Regulations framed for exploration and development activities should be different and some relaxation should be given in the case of exploration, since the activity is purely temporary in nature.
- ii. Condition such as making approach road to be made pucca to minimize generation of suspended dust may not be necessary in the case of exploratory drilling, since the activity is purely temporary in nature. This condition may be imposed only for development drilling.
- iii. Monitoring for CSR activities carried out by projects may be entrusted to concerned State Government Department such as Social Welfare Department.
- iv. NOC from CGWA may be required before any drilling operation.
- v. Condition in EC related to subsidence study and infra-red camera is to be reconsidered.
- vi. Project proponent of oil and gas sectors should undertake research activities on a) to ascertain if any impact is being caused by emissions, gas flaring, fugitive emissions and other pollutants on the surrounding forests and b) effect of Oil Refinery/Petrochemical/GGS effluent on aquatic organisms.
- vii. Non-availability of TSDF Facilities in North-East Region is to be addressed to.

**Maps Showing Oil Blocks Falling
Within 50 Km Territorial Jurisdiction
of BSF from International Borders**

MAP SHOWING ACTIVE BLOCKS AND 50 KM BUFFER LINE FROM INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY

68°0'0"E

72°0'0"E

LEGEND

- - - 50 KM. BUFFER FROM INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY
- OALP ACTIVE BLOCK
- PRODUCING FIELD
- NELP ACTIVE BLOCK
- DSF ACTIVE BLOCK
- NOMINATION BLOCK
- EEZ BOUNDARY
- STATE BOUNDARY



30°0'0"N

30°0'0"N

26°0'0"N

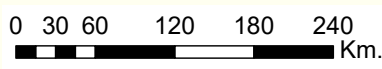
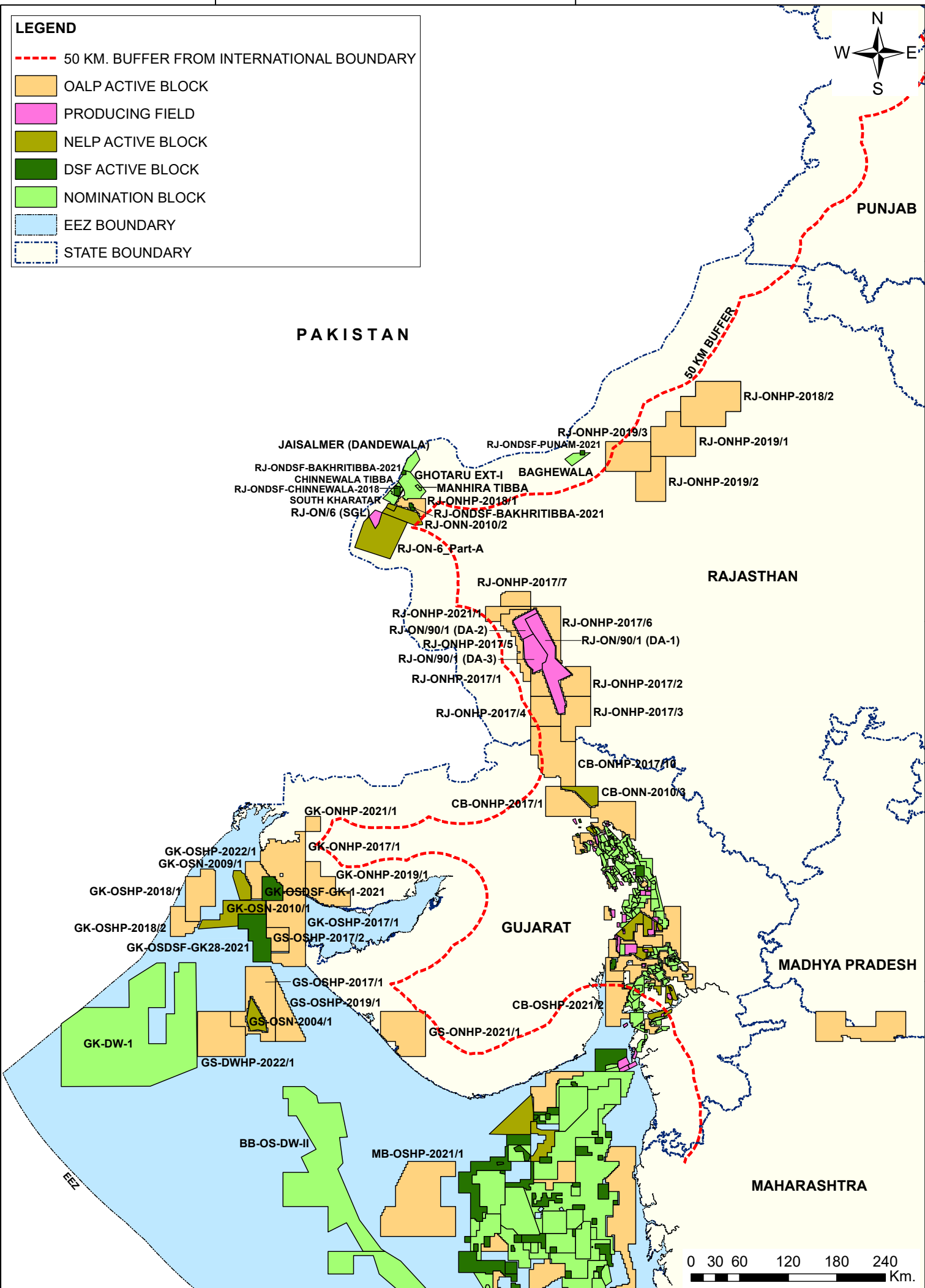
26°0'0"N

22°0'0"N

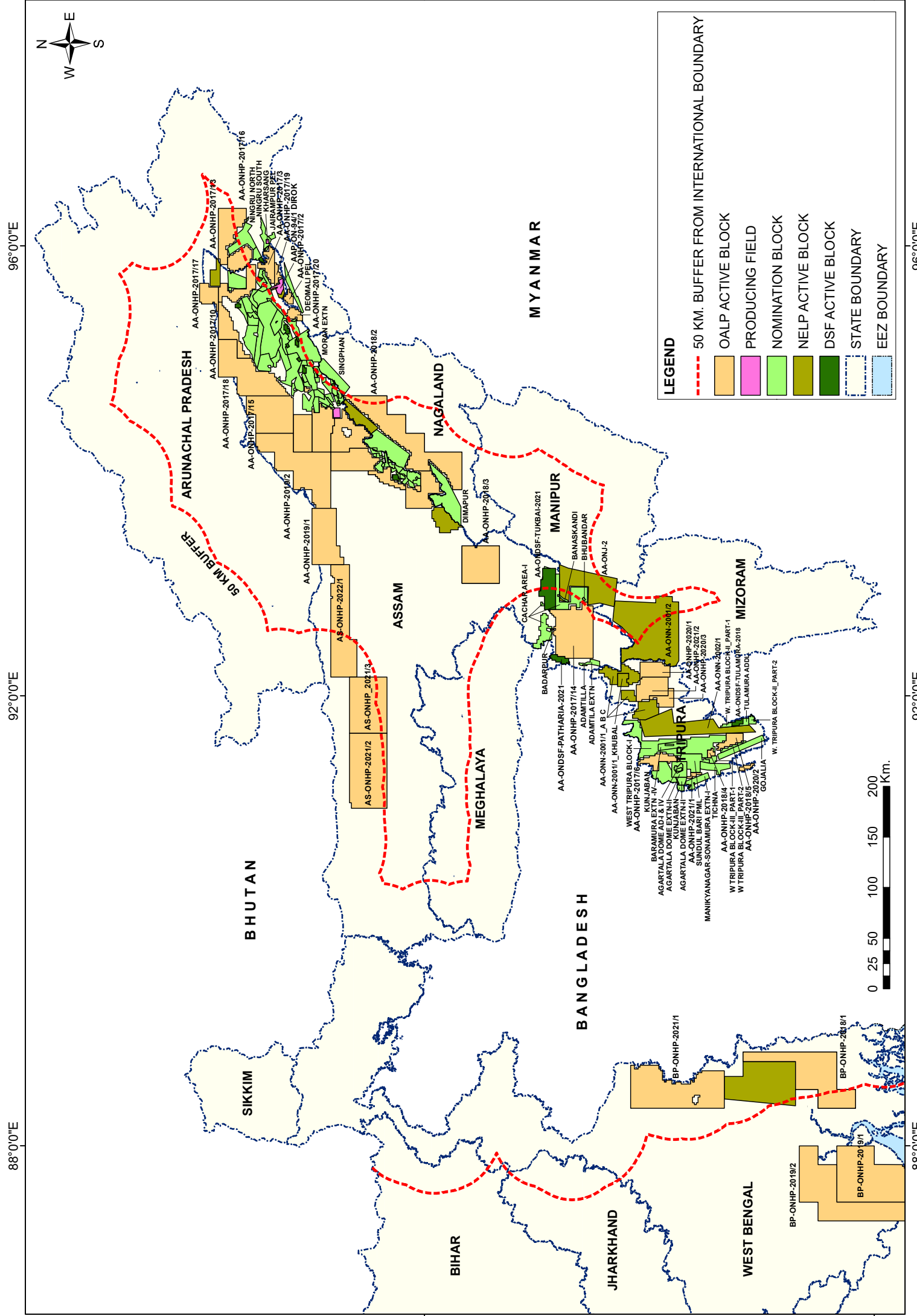
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72°0'0"E

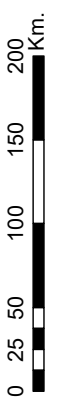


MAP SHOWING ACTIVE BLOCKS AND 50 KM BUFFER LINE FROM INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY



LEGEND

- - - 50 KM. BUFFER FROM INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY
- OALP ACTIVE BLOCK
- PRODUCING FIELD
- NOMINATION BLOCK
- NELP ACTIVE BLOCK
- DSF ACTIVE BLOCK
- STATE BOUNDARY
- EEZ BOUNDARY



96°00'E

92°00'E

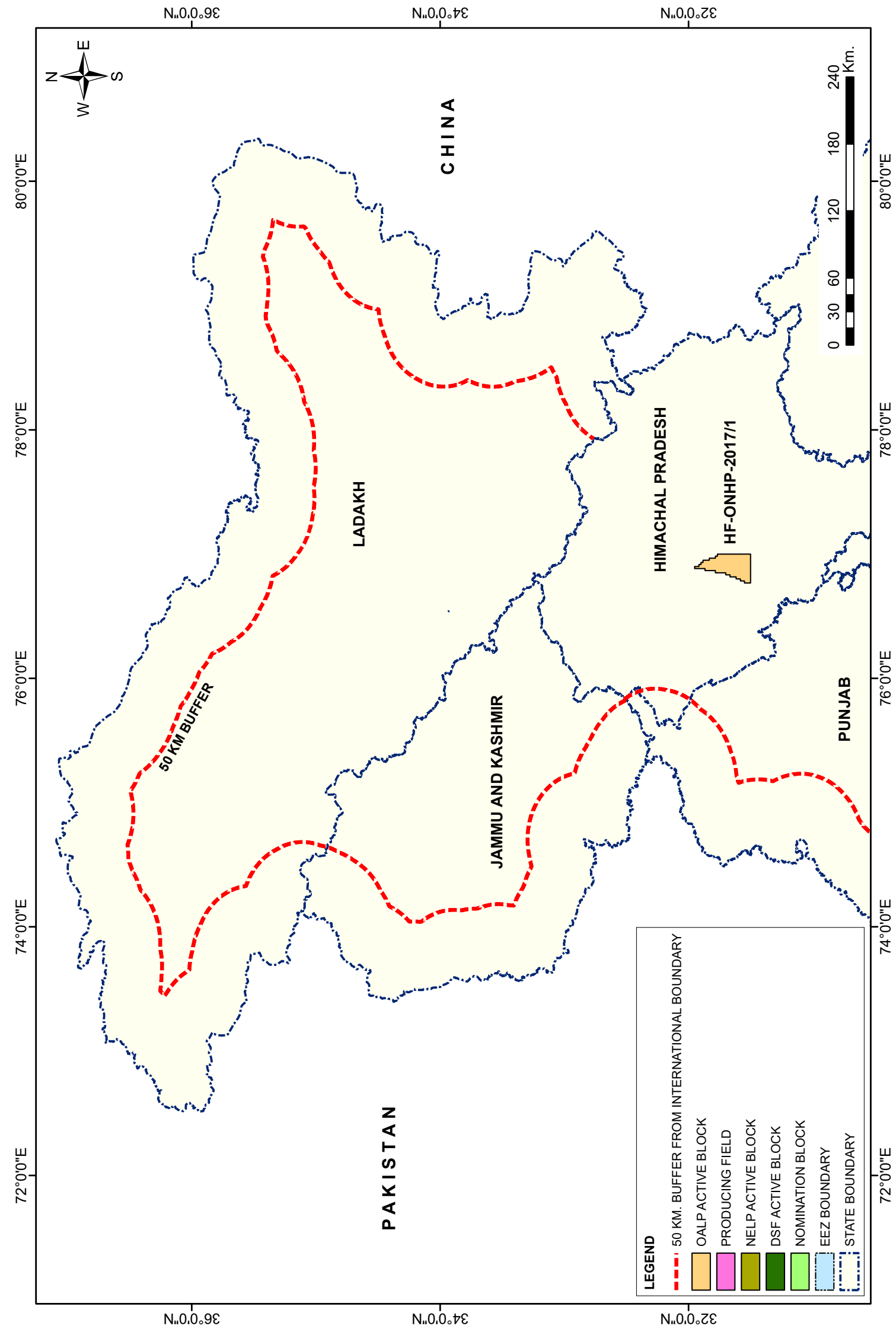
88°00'E

96°00'E

92°00'E

88°00'E

MAP SHOWING ACTIVE BLOCKS AND 50 KM BUFFER LINE FROM INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY





Delegate Kit Digital Content Inventory

Documents & Media in Pen Drives

Recent Advances in Environment & Forest Laws
With Special Reference to Oil & Gas Sector (2nd Edition)



Sl. No	Document details	Date of Publish
1	FC Transfer Procedure	
1.1	Guidelines under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for transfer of approvals granted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to mining leases allotted to new lessee as per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2021.	7th July, 2021
1.2	Request for modification in MoEFCC guideline dated 07 July 2021 regarding transfer of approval granted under FC, Act, 1980 of mining lease allotted to a new lease.	27 th April, 2022
1.3	MoEFCC to IRO Guwahati clarification on re-diversion of FC.	23 rd May, 2023
2	FC Violations	
2.1	Processing of proposals involving violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Authorising State Government/Union territory Administrations to take cognizance of the offence committed under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980	15th May, 2023
2.2	Processing of proposals pertaining to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 –reg.	8th September, 2022
2.3	Processing of proposals involving ex-post facto approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 cases pertaining to the violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by the Integrated Regional Offices of the Ministry.	22 nd March. 2022
3	Offshore- OISD	
3.1	Guidance notes to the PNG Rules, 2008	April, 2012
3.2	Offshore Gazette Notification, MoPNG	18 th June, 2008
3.3	Petroleum and Natural Gas (Safety in Offshore Operations) Rules, 2008.	18th June, 2008
4	Specific Important Circulars	
4.1	Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991	
4.2	Air Quality Standard, 2009	
4.3	The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981	
4.4	Battery M&H Rules, 2001	
4.5	Battery Waste Rules, 2002	
4.6	Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Plant-EC	30 th April, 2015
4.7	BIS Standard Water	
4.8	E-Waste Rules, 2016	
4.9	E-Waste Management Rules, 2022	
4.10	EWM Rules, 2016	
4.11	General Standards For Discharge of Environmental Pollutants	
4.12	Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016	
4.13	Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2018	
4.14	Pollution Control Green Book	
4.15	Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016	
4.16	Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974	
4.17	Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977	
4.18	Water Cess Rate, 2003	



4.19	Water Rules, 1975	
4.20	Water Act, 1974	
5	PESO Rules	
5.1	Explosives Rules, 2008.	
5.2	Explosives Act, 1884	
5.3	Gas Cylinders Rules, 2004	
5.4	Inflammable Substances Act, 1952	
5.5	Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989.	
5.6	The Petroleum Act, 1934	
5.7	Petroleum Rules 2001	
5.8	Static and Mobile Pressure Vessels (Unfired) Rules, 1981	
6	PH related Office Memorandums	
6.1	Environmental clearance based on Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index	22 nd January, 2010
6.2	Adherence to procedure for conduct of Public Hearing	28 th Sep, 2011
6.3	Exemption from Public Consultation for projects within Industrial Estates	27 th April, 2018
6.4	PH Exemption – 1	3 rd June, 2009
6.5	PH Exemption – 2	24 th Aug, 2009
6.6	PH Office Memorandum	30 th Sep, 2020
6.7	PH No additional studies Office Memorandum	9 th Oct, 2014
6.8	PH violations cases	12 th Nov, 2020
6.9	Procedure for PH- 1	19 th April, 2010
6.10	Procedure for PH- 2	9 th Oct, 2014
7	Plastic Single Use Ban	
7.1	Implementation of ban on Single Use Plastic OM	18 th July, 2022
7.2	Ban on Single Use Plastic	21 st July, 2022
7.3	Gazette Notification	12 th Aug, 2021
8	SC- NBWL approval not required in ESZ area if EC is not applicable	
8.1	ESZ area-Pipeline Laying-SC-NBWL Not Required	6 th Sep, 2018
8.2	Clarifications on projects requiring prior approval of Standing Committee of NBWL (SC-NBWL) under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972	24 th July, 2020
9	Certified Compliance Report (CCR)	
9.1	Consideration of expansion proposal for grant of EC	20_10_2009
9.2	Consideration of expansion proposal for grant of EC	30_05_2012
9.3	EC for expansion projects	07.09.17
9.4	Validity of CCR_	08_06_2022
9.5	Guideline for granting EC for expansion of Coal mining projects	30.05.2014
10	Corporate Environment Responsibility(CER)- OM	
10.1	CER OM_30 SEPT'2020	30.09.2020
10.2	CER_OM_25_02_2021	25.02.2021
10.3	Corporate Environment Responsibility- all OMs	01.05.2018



10.4	CER-OM-20 Oct'20	20.10.2020
11	Central Ground Water Authority(CGWA) Related	
11.1	CGWA Process	
11.2	Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation- Gazette Notification	29th March, 2023
11.3	Guidelines for Bulk Supplier	
11.4	Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation- Gazette Notification	24th September, 2020
11.5	Guidelines on Saline Water	
11.6	CONSOLIDATED MoJs GUIDELINES TO REGULATE AND CONTROL GROUND WATER EXTRACTION IN INDIA	
11.7	CGWA Note	
12	CRZ from APCZMA	
12.1	5 Km From Shore-AP-Pollution Control	23.11.2020
12.2	Amendment to CRZ clearance datd 09.04.2012	01.05.2014
12.3	CZMA-CZMP Authority	
12.4	EC-CRZ Combined Clearance	01.05.2017
12.5	United EC & CRZ	13.11.2017
13	CRZ OMs	
13.1	Coastal Pollution Control- 5 Km from Shore-Andhra Pradesh	23.11.2020
13.2	Procedure for clearance of permissible activities as per the CRZ notification, 2011	26.04.2022
13.3	COASTAL REGULATION ZONE NOTIFICATION MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS	6th January, 2011
13.4	CRZ_Notification 2019	18th January, 2019
13.5	SOP for CRZ Map making	12.10.2023
13.6	IPZ Notification 2011	6th January, 2011
13.7	IPZ Notification_2022	05.05.2022
13.8	Procedure for clearance of permissible activities as per the CRZ notification, 2019	29.11.2022
14	Expansion Project-CCR	
14.1	Consideration of expansion proposal for grant of EC	20_10_2009
14.2	Consideration of expansion proposal for grant of EC	30-05-2012
15	FC Amendment Act-2023	
15.1	Fixing the appointed date on which the Forest act 2023 came into force	03-11-2023
15.2	THE FOREST (CONSERVATION) AMENDMENT ACT, 2023 Gazette	4th August, 2023
16	FC must for SC-NBWL Meeting	
16.1	77th SC-NBWL MoM	30.01.24
16.2	FC must before SC-NBWL	18-03-2024
17	Seismic Survey forest land OM	
17.1	FAC Minutes	31.07.2019
17.2	Seismic Survey forest land OM	30.09.2019



17.3	Seismic survey hydrocarbon and coal OM	14.01.2020
17.4	Seismic Survey forest land OM	17.11.2020
17.5	Scientific Reasearch in PAs	-----
18	Stage-I FC for EC	
18.1	Stage I FC must for EC	09.11.2011
18.2	Stage-I FC if delayed-EC	18.05.2012
19	Wildlife Management Plan Cost Payment	
19.1	Wildlife Management Plan	08.06.2022
19.2	Wildlife Management Plan	10.01.2023
19.3	Wildlife Management Plan	16.01.2023
20	WL Related OM	
20.1	ESZ Proposal Direct to Delhi (NBWL)	26.09.2014
20.2	ESZ Proposal Direct to Delhi (NBWL)-Enclosures	26.09.2014
20.3	WLC in ESZ areas	26.09.2014
20.4	Reforms in WLC	26.09.2014
20.5	OM Reg projects within 10km of protected areas	20.08.2014
20.6	WL-Inside PAs	24.02.2023
20.7	OM Reg projects within 10km of protected areas	08.08.2019
20.8	WL-NBWL Guideline-Revised	13.12.2023
20.9	WL-Online Integration with FC and EC	10.04.2015
20.10	Wildlife Passage Plan for Linear Projects	13.07.2018



List of Documents:

SI No.	Document Details	Date of Publish
1.	FC Transfer	07.02.2014
2.	7.5 m Safety Zone-For all O&G proposal FCs.	03.11.2023
3.	8.8.14- State Govt not to Impose Further Conditions	08.08.2014
4.	Guidelines regarding 2% NPV	24.06.2015
5.	B1 & B2 Projects	24.12.2013
6.	Compliance Certificate for Exp Projects	30.05.2012
7.	Activities Permitted prior to EC	29.03.2022
8.	Addl Conditionn Stage-1 Not allowed	22.03.2021
9.	Adhinyam Rules 2023-Guideline for States	29.11.2023
10.	Baseline Data Validisation-3 yrs	08.06.2022
11.	CA Applicability for land diverted prior to 1980	21.03.2023
12.	CA land PSU	18.08.2020
13.	CA_Fund_Act 2016	03.08.2016
14.	CAF(AP) Rules 2018	20.11.2018
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17.	CER-All OMs	-----
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23.	EC –FC requirement in ESZ area & Outside Protected Area	17.05.2022
24.	Pre-embedded prior EC/FC for the identified mineral block with proven reserves (proposed mining lease areas)	29.04.2020
25.	EC Clarification of EC not applicable beyond 12 NM by Adani	11.08.2020
26.	EC SOP for identification and handling of violation cases under EIA notification 2006	07.07.2021
27.	EC Reforms under taken in Parivesh 2.0 for dealing with Category B proposals in SEIAA/SEAC	08.12.2023
28.	EC Procedure while surrendering prior EC	29.03.2022
29.	EC Clarification on the time period within which the EC has to be transferred after transfer/acquisition/change in name etc. of the company	03.11.2023
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32.	EC-SOP-Dealing Mining Proposals	15.01.2024
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2.	Exempted category considered under Van(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980	29.11.2023
3.	Consolidated Guideline & Clarifications issued under Van(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and Van(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023	29.11.2023
4.	Forest Conservation Rule, 2022	28.06.2022
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