

No. J-16011/22/2002-IA-III
Ministry of Environment & Forests

Paryavaran Bhawan
CGO Complex
Lodi Road
New Delhi - 110005

Dated: 15 January, 2003

Subject: CRZ Clearance for Seismic Exploration Programme in the CB-OS-2 Block in the Gulf of Khambhat in Bharuch District in Gujarat by Cairn Energy India Pvt. Limited - regarding.

The undersigned is directed to refer to Forests & Environment Department, Government of Gujarat Letter No. ENV-10.02-92.P1 dated August 28, 2002 regarding the subject mentioned above. Subsequent clarifications furnished by M/s Cairn Energy India Pvt. Limited vide their letters No. HSE11 HPBL09 dated November 22, 2002 and No. HSE12 HPBL09 dated December 20, 2002 and No. HSE12 HPBL11 dated 26.12.2002 have also been considered.

2. The present proposal involves seismic survey in the CRZ areas of the CB/OS-2 Block in Surat District by M/s Cairn Energy India Pvt. Ltd. as operator on behalf of the joint venture comprising Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. and Tata Petrodyne under a production sharing contract with the Government of India. The block extends from Dandi to Delwara along the eastern margin and from Ghogha to Mahuva on the western margin of Gulf of Khambhat. An estimated 400 line km are being planned for the current survey, out of which a large area lies in the mud flats & intertidal area, while only small area will be surveyed in the elevated mainland. It is also noted that the planned approach is a combination of marine and land seismic techniques; hydrophones and geophone receiver groups and air gun and explosive cord source points.

The proposal has been examined and Ministry of Environment & Forests hereby accords CRZ/environmental clearance to the said project subject to effective implementation of the following conditions and environmental safeguards:

- (A) Specific Conditions:
- (i) No change in the scope of the project should be made without prior approval of this Ministry.

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- (ii) The conditions stipulated by Forests and Environment Department, Govt. of Gujarat vide their letter No. ENV-10.02-92-P1 dated 28th August, 2002 recommending the CRZ clearance for this project shall be strictly implemented.
- (iii) The project proponent shall obtain the requisite NOC from Gujarat Pollution Control Board once the probable sites are identified for production purposes.
- (iv) The conditions stipulated by Gujarat Maritime Board in their letter No. GMB/CNO/BVR/7/14447 dated 31.3.2001 shall be strictly implemented.
- (v) The project proponents shall not tap the ground water in any case.
- (vi) The project proponents shall take into cognizance and implement all the suggestions/recommendations given by NEERI, Nagpur in their rapid Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. The project proponent shall also prepare and submit the comprehensive EIA report and shall be obliged to implement all the suggestions recommendations given in the comprehensive EIA report.
- (vii) All necessary precautions shall be taken by the project proponent to ensure that there is no change in the hydrology and natural drainage system due to the proposed exploration activities. The site shall be restored to its near original condition once the survey is completed and all the debris/waste shall be removed and disposed off at the site authorized for the said purpose. No residuals should be left either on or in the ground.
- (viii) Prior to commencement of seismic operations in the project, all necessary approvals from the Directorate of Explosives, Nagpur should be taken for the nature quantity and storage of explosives required for the survey. No explosives should be left over in the field or in the region. The explosives are to be properly stored and controlled with proper security. Emergency response plan should be prepared and tried for its efficacy during the operation of the project.
- (ix) No seismic camps should be erected in close proximity to the inhabitations or water bodies. No dynamite or explosive cord should be used within 120 m of wells, flow lines or other oil field infrastructure.
- (x) Vehicles should not be allowed to move through the open fields without the explicit permission of the concerned land owners. Safety precautions should be taken while driving vehicles, transporting equipment/explosives through the village roads and near habitations.

- (xi) Before the commencement of the project, the project proponent shall submit an approved plan (approved by Government of Gujarat) detailing as to how they would compensate monetarily the affected people/local communities due to the project.
 - (xii) There should be a chase boat on stand by to inform the local fisherman to go away from the seismic lines. The programme and the field activity schedule of the project should be intimated to the Fishery Department having jurisdiction over the area in advance to inform the local fishing communities. Before starting seismic operations, the chase boat should make a pre-round around the proposed area with a view to clear off any fishing nets and small fishing boats operating in the area.
 - (xiii) Before commencement of the project, a detailed study shall be carried out by the project proponent for identifying the fish breeding and spawning grounds and the project activities shall be kept away from them. The project proponent(s) should monitor the water quality (both off shore and on shore) in local and adjacent areas surrounding the drilling site periodically to assess the impact of the project if any and results submitted to Ministry/CPCB.
- (B) General Conditions:
- (i) A separate Environment Management Cell with suitably qualified staff to carry out various environment related functions should be set up under the charge of a Senior Executive who will report directly to the Chief Executive of the Company.
 - (ii) The project will be monitored by this Ministry's Regional Office at Bhopal. Full support should be extended to the officers of this Ministry's Regional Office at Bhopal and the officers of the Central and State Pollution Control Boards by the project proponents during the inspection for monitoring purposes by furnishing full details and action plans including the action taken reports in respect of mitigative measures and other environmental protection activities.
 - (iii) After completing exploration, for production purpose, separate proposal with all relevant details should be submitted to this Ministry through proper channel.
 - (iv) In case of deviation or alteration in the project including the implementing agency, a fresh reference should be made to this Ministry for modification in the clearance conditions or imposition of new ones for ensuring environmental protection. The project proponents should be responsible for implementing the suggested safeguard measures.

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- (v) This Ministry reserves the right to revoke this clearance, if any of the conditions stipulated are not complied with to the satisfaction of this Ministry.
 - (vi) This Ministry or any other competent authority may stipulate any other additional conditions subsequently, if deemed necessary, for environmental protection, which shall be complied with.
 - (vii) A copy of the clearance letter shall be marked to the concerned Panchayat/local NGO, if any, from whom any suggestion/representation has been received while processing the proposal.
 - (viii) State Pollution Control Board/Committee should display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional Office, District Industries Center and Collector's Office/Tehsildar's Office for 30 days.
 - (ix) The project proponent should advertise at least in two local newspapers widely circulated in the region around the project, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and copies of clearance letters are available with the Gujarat State Pollution Control Board and may also be seen at Website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at <http://www.envforc.nic.in/>.
 - (x) The Project proponents should inform the Bhopal Regional Office as well as the Ministry, the date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of work.

The above mentioned stipulations will be enforced among others under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Hazardous Chemicals (Manufacture, Storage and Import) Rules, 1989, the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 and its subsequent amendments and the public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 and the Rules made there under from time to time. The project proponents should also ensure that the proposal complies with the provisions of the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan of Gujarat State and the Supreme Court's Order dated 18th April, 1996 in the Writ Petition No. 1664 of 1993 to the extent the same are applicable to this proposal.

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Additional Director

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Copy to :

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi.
2. The Secretary, Department of Environment, Govt. of Gujarat, Sachivalaya,
Gandhinagar-382010.
3. The Chairman, CPCB, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East
Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 110032.
4. The Chairman, Gujarat state Pollution Control Board, Gandhinagar,
Gujarat.
5. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional Office (WZ), Ministry of
Environment and Forests, E-3/240, Arera Colony, Bhopal-462016.
6. Sr. Advisor (H), MOEF.
7. Regional Office Cell, MOEF.
8. Monitoring File.
9. Guard File.

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