

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR OIL EXPLORATORY DRILLING
TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY ONGC AT SUARHLIAP, MAMIT DISTRICT

VENUE : BNRGSK HALL, SUARHLIAP, MAMIT DISTRICT, MIZORAM

TIME: 21st October 2016; 12:00 Noon

Introduction.

The NELP Block AA-ONN-2001/2 in the state of Mizoram measuring 5340 sq.km was awarded to ONGC-IOC (80% and 20% PI) consortium with ONGC as Operator which is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of the Government of India, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Out of the proposed 3 exploratory drilling wells within the block, 2 exploratory drilling wells falls in Kolasib district and 1 exploratory drilling well in Mamit district, Mizoram. The ONGC has identified three well locations HOAC, HOAD and BRBAA are included in present EIA study.

As per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification dated 14th September, 2006, the proposed exploratory drilling project falls under 'Category A' of Activity Type 1(b). The proposed project intends to identify the presence of hydrocarbon prospects through exploratory drilling and to delineate and quantify hydrocarbon pools in discovered fields through exploratory drilling. The proposed project will basically involve drilling of three exploratory wells in the block.

The public hearing is convened to obtain views, comments & suggestions on the project 'Exploratory Drilling & Testing in NELP Block AA-ONN-2001/2 from the people of affected areas.

The lists of participants are listed at Annexure.

The Hearing was presided over by Smt H. Lalchhandami, SDO (Sadar), Mamit District, Mamit, Mizoram at the scheduled date and time. The participants included all sections of life. At the outset, the chairperson after welcoming all the participants briefly explained the reason for holding the Public Hearing. She said that oil exploratory drilling in Mizoram is the central government initiative and the ONGC is assigned to undertake the work in this area. She then requested for self introduction of all stakeholders present.

1. Shri R.L. Malsawma, Technical Officer, Geology & Mineral Resources Department, G.O.M
2. Shri Zarzoliana, Technical Officer, Geology & Mineral Resources Department, G.O.M
3. Pu P. C. Lalvuana, Functional Manger, DIC, Mamit
4. Pi P.C. Lalmuanpuii, AEE, Mizoram Pollution Control Board,
5. Dr. Alfred Malsawmsanga, Scientific Assistant
6. Pi Lucy Ngurkhumi Sailo, Scientific Assistant
7. Pu Joseph Lalhmunliana, Junior Scientific Assistant
8. Pu K. Vanlalfamkima, Programme Officer, Environmental Information System(ENVIS), MPCB
9. Pi. C. Malsawmzuali, Information Officer, Environmental Information System(ENVIS), MPCB
10. Pi. B. Laldikzuali, Information Technology Asst (IT Asst), Environmental Information System(ENVIS), MPCB

As requested by Chairperson of the hearing, Mr. R. K Dewal, Deputy GM, ONGC introduced following ONGC officials:

1. Shri Pradip Jain, Chief Manager (HR)
2. Shri Barapatra, Chief Engineer, Infocom,
3. Shri Rajendran, Chief Engineer, HSE,
4. Shri Sudhir Patil, Chief Geologist
5. Shri Manavalan, Chief Geologist,
6. Shri Satyaki Paul, Deputy Manger (HR),
7. Shri D.N Burman, Sr. HR Executive,
8. Shri Suhail Ali, Asst .Technician,
9. Shri Manahoran, Consultants VIMTA Lab Limited, Hyderabad
10. Miss Vanlalfeli Fanai, Interpreter

The Chairperson then invited Smt P.C. Lalmuanpuii, AEE, Mizoram Pollution Control Board for introductory remark. The AEE mentioned that Public hearing is held as per the EIA Notification as amended in 2006. She explained the need and objectives of holding Public Hearing saying that some developmental projects require Environmental Clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India for which Public Hearing is mandatory, hence today's Programme. She added that the hearing was notified in Vanglaini (a leading Local Newspaper in Mizo language) and the Times of India for 30 days during which the draft EIA Report prepared by the Company was kept for suggestion and

comments as per the aforesaid rule. She also reported that no suggestions or comments were received from the affected area during this period.

She further highlighted that the hearing is meant for the public so that they have a say in the environmental impact of this developmental project but it is not to take approval or consent from the public. She also mentioned that all proceedings will be recorded in print and in video which will be sent to the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India.

She requested the public to speak out their views, comments and suggestions regarding environmental impact of the proposed project so that the Company could make changes in the draft and make final report accordingly.

The Chairperson then requested Smt Vanlalfelei Fanai, Interpreter for ONGC for a Presentation on the project. She introduced the Company i.e the ONGC as leading Oil Company in India. She explained the work area allotted to the company with the help of a map which extends over Kolasib (two wells) and Mamit district (1 well) and that the site is identified based on the study and interpretation of the stratigraphy and with 2-D and 3- D seismic data.

She explained about the environmental settings of the proposed site, criteria for selection of well location which mainly comprises of safe distance from the nearest village habitat; radio transmitters and rivers and natural water bodies.

She also informed the public with the help of pictures typical drilling cycle and drill site, time frame for completion of drilling works and that a depth of about 4400 m will be drilled using water base mud. She also explained in detail about drilling well bore and casing and the drilling procedure, waste management system and pollution control issues proposed within the drill site.

She also explained about different type of resources required during drilling and preliminary studies conducted with respect to ground water and surface water quality, soil characteristics, agricultural crops, climatology & meteorological quality like rainfall and humidity, air quality data obtained by the company in the block.

She also informed the public that about 20 m³/day of water will be used for drilling activities and 5 m³/day for domestic purposes. The source of pollution, risk and accidents that could occur in the work area and various mitigation measures like pit for drilling mud, chimney for smoke from DG set, Blow Out Preventor (BOP) for fire explosion, etc for the same and trained personnel will be deployed to take care of accidents.

The Chairperson then invited comments, views and suggestions from participants of the hearing. The main issues raised and clarifications from the project proponent were as summarized below:

1. **Drill site:** Which is the exact location of drill site? Would there be compensation too to owners of land along the Approach road to the drill site if construction is required?

Response: It would be 5-10 km away from Suarhliap. The coordinates are located but the exact location would be ascertained by tracking with GPS

2. **Employment:** What qualification would be required against the reported 25 in the Summary?

Response: "Unskilled job would be generated which would not require qualification"

3. **Land acquisition & Compensation-** How would land acquisition be processed?

Response: "No land would be procured without necessary payment". Land would be acquired on temporary basis and assessment of compensation would only be done by Deputy Commissioner's Office, Mamit as per relevant Acts and Rules and that no individual assessment would be done by the Company

4. **Provision for financial help for accidental death:**

Response : As per Govt. Mines Act, if any person happen to meet an accidental death while on duty, financial help would be provided in deed though the exact amount could not be mentioned at the moment. The Company has met only one such accident in five years from the existing 100 wells in the country. Besides, Local workers would not be deployed in Danger Zone and that only trained personnel would be deputed for such area.

5. **Air Pollution.** How would air pollution from the drilling be controlled? As furnished in the EIA Report, would directing emission from the DG Set away from human habitation or highway only, be enough to control the pollution. Would the Company provide free treatment to a person(s) if fallen sick due to pollution created by the project? Would carbon be released from the project?

Response. All kinds of pollution like air, water, noise etc would be closely monitored and would be under strict vigilance by the MPCB". Effluent Treatment plant would be provided in the Plant to check water pollution.

6. **Social Benefits from the project.** Would the Community be benefited from the project like construction of playground, public Urinary, internal road, expansion of the village preservation of Forests Reserves maintained by the Village, Water pump?

Response. "Under Corporate Social Responsibility, the company is willing to render financial help towards construction of playground, school toilet and Street lights. Construction of internal roads may also be looked into for consideration"

7. Safe distance between human habitation & the project site. How would the local people demark the danger area?

Response. "The site would be fenced so as to restrict entry and the danger area would not be large".

8. **Water Requirement.** "How would water requirement of 25 m³/day be met in an area where there is severe scarcity of water"?

Response. Water requirement would be met by transporting from rivers or any other source using tankers

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks from Pu Joseph Lalhmunliana, JSA, MPCB

(H. LALCHHANDAMI),
Sub Divisional Officer (Sadar),
Mamit District, Mamit

9. Area required for the drilling: H

Response: About 1.56 hectares would be required (Well site) and 0.44 hectares for Camp site.