

**SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR OIL  
EXPLORATORY DRILLING TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY OIL INDIA Ltd., NEAR  
PHULMAWI VILLAGE, AIZAWL DISTRICT**

**VENUE : COMMUNITY HALL, PHULMAWI, MIZORAM  
TIME : 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011; 12:00 Noon**

**Introduction:**

*A consortium of Oil India Ltd. (OIL) with 85% participating interest (PI) and Shiv-Vani Oil & Gas Exploration Services with 15% PI has signed a production sharing contract (PSC) with the Government of India for the exploration and production of hydrocarbons in the Exploration Block MZ-ONN-2004/1 falling in Lunglei, Serchhip, Aizawl and Mamit districts in Mizoram under NELP-VI. PSC designates OIL as the Operator of the block. The block is located in central part of Mizoram primarily within Lunglei, Serchhip and Aizawl districts even though a small portion falls in Mamit district. The total area of the block is 3213 sq. km and lies towards south of Aizawl, the capital city of Mizoram.*

*Exploratory drilling has not been carried at any place in the block so far. Acquisition, processing and interpretation of 2-D Seismic Survey, Gravity Magnetic Survey, Geochemical Survey has been done for the block MZ-ONN-2004/1 while 3 – D surveys are in progress.*

*Based on seismic data analysis, OIL is planning to carry out exploratory drilling and testing at 5 promising locations in Phase I within 2007-2012 and at one location in Phase II during 2012-2015 period within the block area as per the minimum work programme (MWP) outlined in PSC to establish the techno-economic viability for production of hydrocarbons in the block area within a period of 8 years, that is, 2007-15. In addition to these exploratory wells, as per PSC requirement, additional appraisal/delineation wells need to be drilled for commercial production in case of discovery of oil/gas. The Capital city Aizawl is nearly 5 km north of the northern boundary of the block.*

**The public hearing is convened to obtain views, comments & suggestions on the project ‘Exploratory Drilling & Testing in Block MZ-ONN-2004/1 (Mizoram) from the people of affected areas.**

*The lists of participants are listed at Annexure.*

The Hearing was presided over by Shri J. Hmingthanmawia, ADC, Aizawl District, Aizawl, Mizoram at the scheduled date and time. The participants include all sections of life. At the outset, the chairman after welcoming all the participants briefly explained the reason for holding the Public Hearing. He said that oil exploratory drilling in Mizoram is the central government initiative and the OIL is assigned to undertake the work in this area. He then introduced the following local authorities and State Govt. officials present.

1. Village Council Members of Phulmawi Village

2. Village Council Members/leaders of Young Mizo Association(YMA), Tlungvel Village
3. All people of Phulmawi & Tlungvel village
4. Shri Lalhmachhuana, Sr. Geologist, Geology & Mineral Resources Department, G.O.M
5. Shri Lalbiakkima, Jr. Geologist, Geology & Mineral Resources Department
6. Smt P.C. Lalmuanpuii, AEE, Mizoram PCB,
7. All Officials of Mizoram PCB.

As requested by Chairman of the hearing, Shri C. Laldinkima, Geologist, OIL introduced following officials from OIL:

8. Shri Khargeswar Saikia, Chief Engineer, Drilling, OIL
9. Shri S.K Dutta, Head Drilling, OIL
10. Shri S.K. Mishra, Chief Chemist, OIL
11. Shri C. Laldinkima, Geologist, OIL
12. Shri M.P. Chaliha, Manager (Public Relations)
13. Shri Amitabh Goswami, Administrative Officer
14. Shri Pranjal Buragohain, Consultant, Greentech E.E.C
15. Shri Zothansanga, Transport Department, OIL

He then invited Smt P.C. Lalmuanpuii, AEE, Mizoram Pollution Control Board for introductory remark. The AEE mentioned that Public hearing is hold as per the EIA Notification as amended in 2006. She explained the need and objectives of holding Public Meeting saying that some developmental projects require Environmental Clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests for which Public Consultation is mandatory, hence today's Public Hearing Meeting. He added that the hearing was notified in Vanglaini 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 also 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, G.O.I

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 Chairman then requested Shri C. Laldinkima, Geologists, Oil India Limited for a presentation on the project. He explained about the meaning of various terminologies like explore, produce, transport, refining, relating to the proposed project including the functions and proposed work plan of the project. He explained the work area allotted to the company with the help of a map which extends over 4 districts of Mizoram viz Aizawl, Lunglei, Serchhip and Mamit district and 5 wells will be drilled in the first phase and one well in the second stage.

He also explained in detail with the help of pictures about drilling well bore and casing and the drilling procedure which is reported to be done with water based mud. He mentioned that a depth of about 5 km will be drilled which will taper towards the bottom.

He also explained about the ground water and surface water quality, soil characteristics, agricultural crops, climatology & meteorological quality like rainfall and humidity, air quality data obtained by the company around the work area. He also informed the public that about 25-30 KLPD will be used for drilling machine, 10-15 KLPD for mud preparation and 3 KLPD will be used for cooling. 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. Wastes management team will also kept at the site to oversee waste management in the drilling site

The Chairman 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. Area required for the drilling:

Response: About half the size of the 1<sup>st</sup> AR Ground (football playground) will be required.

2. Employment: Are there any employment benefits to the public? How many labours will be required?

Response: Unskilled job will be generated for those who are qualified, efficient and sincere. It is not possible to say the exact number at the moment.

3. Land acquisition & Compensation– How will land acquisition be processed? Most of the plot here are either through periodic patta or Village Council Pass.

Response: No land will be procured without necessary payment.

Land will be acquired through the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 and compensation will only be decided by the government.

4. Air Pollution: It is reported in the EIA Report that emission from the DG Set will be directed away from human habitation or highway. Will this be enough to control pollution and if someone fall sick because of pollution, will it be possible to receive medical treatment in PHC? Will carbon be released from the project?

Response: It is expected that air pollution from DG set will be of limited extent through continuous monitoring and adoption of remedial measures available. Carbon is what the company searches for.

There is no chance of any people falling sick due to the emission from the DG set. The emission from the DG set will be monitored periodically. CO<sub>2</sub> and CO will be emitted if hydrocarbon is found.

5. Refinery: Do you plan to set up refinery in Mizoram?

Response: No. The company is not meant for oil refining but concerned with only exploration.

If found in huge quantity, crude oil may be transported outside by pipeline or it may be used for industry if set up by the Mizoram government. The company has nothing to say about it at the moment.

6. Social Benefits from the project: Will it be possible to benefit from the project in the form of playground, Water tank, more local labours in drilling and approach road?

Response: Under Corporate Social Responsibility, the company is willing to render financial help towards construction of playground, Water tank and qualified, efficient and sincere persons will be engaged. Besides, the company will think of the requested approach road regarding suitability of the alignment.

However, since the company is only in exploration stage, there are some restrictions that company has to undergo under CSR activities. Unless and until oil or gas is commercially viable, it is not possible to implement any CSR activities.

7. Land acquisition if the project fails:

Response: Land acquired shall be dealt with in line with the state government decision.

8. Distance of the paddy from the project site: How much distance should be maintained between cultivating field and the project site?

Response: The project site will be fenced. Anywhere outside the fencing will be safe enough.

9. Site selection, number of sites and expected time for commissioning exploratory work.

Response: Four sites like Phulmawi, Maubuang, Darlung/S. Sabual and Thenzawl are selected in the first phase through geological survey undertaken by the company since 2007. It will be started as soon as EC and formal consent is obtained from regulatory authority and the road/ bridge upgradation/repair job assessed by OIL and PWD Mizoram is to be complied including construction of approach road.

10. Safe distance between human habitation & the project site:

Response: The site should be at least 500 m away from human habitation.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks from Pu C. Laldinkima, Geologist, OIL

(J. HMINGTHANMAWIA),  
Additional Deputy Commissioner,  
Aizawl District