

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

**VENUE : AWITHANGPA HALL, MAUBUANG, MIZORAM
TIME : 23rd August 2011; 12:00 Noon**

Introduction:

A consortium of Oil India Ltd. (OIL) with 75% participating interest (PI), Shiv-Vani Oil & Gas Exploration Services with 15% PI and Suntera Resources Ltd. with 10% 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 covering 3212 sq. m. He then introduced the following local authorities and Govt. officials present.

1. Village Council Members of Maubuang Village

2. Village Council Members/leaders of Young Mizo Association(YMA), Lungsai Village
3. Village Council Members/leaders of Young Mizo Association(YMA),Damdiai Village
4. Shri Hmachhuana, Sr. Geologist, Geology & Mineral Resources Department
5. Shri Biakkima, Jr. Geologist, Geology & Mineral Resources Department
6. Shri Sanghnuna, Jr. Geologist, Geology & Mineral Resources Department
7. Shri C. Lalduhawma, Member Secretary, MPCB,
8. All Officials of MPCB.

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

9. Shri A. K. Sastry, Chief Engineer, Drilling, OIL
10. Shri A.K.Thakuria, Chief Engineer (Civil), OIL
11. Shri C. Laldinkima, Geologist, OIL
12. Shri Tridiv Hazarika, Manager (Public Relations)
13. Shri Amitabh Goswami, Administrative Officer
14. Shri Pranjal Buragohain, Consultant, Greentech E.E.C

He then invited Shri C. Lalduhawma, Member Secretary, Mizoram Pollution Control Board for introductory remark. The Member Secretary mentioned that EIA Notification was notified in 1994 and was amended in 2006. He 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.

He also highlighted that the hearing is not meant for the OIL, but 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. He 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

He 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. Refuse of the workers: It is reported in the Ex. Summary that refuse from the workers will be incinerated. However, some plastics wastes were found in their office during preliminary survey. Will it be really be possible to take care of these wastes? Besides, wastes from the process of separation of oil and gas are said to be disposed into streams? Will this pollute the water bodies? Moreover, no villagers were employed in the preliminary survey while it is reported that it will generate employment.

Response: Water after separation of oil and gas is rather harmless and it is expected that it will not pollute the stream.

Care was taken not to scatter wastes during preliminary survey and it is deeply regretted that plastic wastes are found scattered. More care will be taken regarding the wastes and that qualified and efficient villagers will surely be engaged.

2. Employment: How many Engineers, clerical staff or unskilled labours will be recruited for the work?

Response: It is not possible to predict the exact number. However, employment will surely be generated for those who are qualified, efficient and sincere.

3. Land acquisition – 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 used without necessary payment. The Chairman of the hearing then clarified that about 2 hectares will be required for the project and land acquisition will be processed as per the Land acquisition Act, 1894. Besides, periodic patta are valid for a period of 5 years only which is liable to be cancelled anytime if the same is required for public without any compensation.

4. Roads to be built through safety reserve: It is reported that oil exploratory work including building of roads was carried out near safety reserved Forests in Lungsai village areas.
Response: It was not exactly oil exploration activities. It was only contouring survey for approach road to the drilling locations. The exact drilling location and approach road is not yet determined.
5. Pollution Control: Will it be really possible to contain wastes as reported by the company? Will the same thing done during the World Bank Road Construction be repeated?
Response: It is not possible to achieve 100 % pollution control but utmost care will be taken.
6. Benefits from the project: Will it be possible for the villagers to really benefit from the project?
Response: Under Corporate Social Responsibility, the company is bound to do something which will develop the area if it is within the capacities of the company. The activities may even be bigger once production is made which will be done only through DC.
7. Proposed action by Oil India Ltd. if oil is extracted.
Response: 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 is not meant for oil refining but concerned with only exploration. The company has nothing to say about it at the moment.
8. Waste Pit while working with or abandoning the project: The drill wastes are said to be lined with HDPE. Will this pose problem after the project is abandoned or while the project is being continued?
Response: The wastes mud is bio-degradable and HDPE will prevent contamination of soil and surface water. It is therefore expected that the problem will be minimized.
9. Agreement with the government: Are there any agreements with the state government that prevent villagers to submit complaints if they are not satisfied with how the project is carried on as advocated?
Response: Such agreements are neither there nor likely. There is Pollution Control Board which is very powerful in this concern. The people are always welcome to speak out their mind if they are not satisfied. But it has to be systematic.
10. Earth Cuttings: Have you specify any area to contain earth cuttings from site preparation or road construction? It is highly desired that such area is identified so that forest are preserved.
Response: No area has been specified at present. However proposal will be made and submitted to higher authority. All guidelines by MoEF and Pollution Control Board will be followed in consultation with the village authority.
11. Water consumption: Water requirement is reported to be high. How will you manage supply from a village like Maubuang which has water scarcity problem?
Response: If enough supply is not attained, it will be transported by vehicles.

12. Air quality: If air quality is beyond acceptable limit, what will be done?

Response: It will be continuously monitored and remedial measures available will be adopted to control the air quality

13. Camp in private land: Will camp be set up in private land which seems suitable to the company?

Response: No. The site will be at least 500 m away from human habitation.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks from the Chairman

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