

**DETAIL STATEMENT (ENGLISH) OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR OIL EXPLORATORY  
DRILLING TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY ONGC AT SUARHLIAP, MAMIT DISTRICT**

**VENUE . BNRGSK HALL, SUARHLIAP, MAMIT DISTRICT, MIZORAM**

**TIME: 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Hearing was presided over by Smt H. Lachhandami, 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 Vanlalfehi 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 m<sup>3</sup>/day of water will be used for drilling activities and 5 m<sup>3</sup>/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 issues pointed out by the public and clarifications from the project proponent were recorded in details which are as reported below:

**1. J. Lalchhungnunga, Suarhliap**

“It is stated in the Executive Summary No1.1.4 that the area of land required for the project is 1.56 and about 1.5-2.0 ha would be required on average. The last two lines of the para stated the requirement of land to be 2.5ha.

“The Executive Summary also stated that adequate compensation will be given for the land that will be acquired on temporary basis as per the guidelines of the local administration/ state government?. In this regard could you clarify the amount of compensation ( in figures) to be granted for these lands? I guess compensation would be given only to the land where the drilling process is to be done. If such is the case, where is the exact drilling site location? For example if the drilling site is to be located at ‘Tlangsang’, wide approach is to be constructed through Suarhliap leading to destruction of locally owned agricultural lands. If so, how much area would be destructed for the purpose. Hence, it is of utmost importance that the villagers know the exact drilling site location or is it that the company has knowledge of the location of the site which is later to be notified to the villagers. How would these acquired lands be awarded, would it be compensated or would it be in the form of remittance to the villagers? Or would it be through the mutual consent between the company and the villagers? Further ,as the DC, Mamit & SDO ( Sadar ) are witness of the hardship and poverty of the village, and if such a huge development works are to be executed in the village, would compensation and benefits be given to the contentment of the local people?

**ONGC:**

**“Drilling site:** *The co- ordinates of the drilling site is cited in the map, which is 5-10kms from Surhliap village. However, the exact location is yet unknown. After obtaining Environmental Clearance from the concerned authority, physical verification of the*

*exact location of drilling site would be surveyed with the help of GPS & co-ordinates given in the map. Hence, exact location of the site cannot be disclosed as of now.”*

**“Compensation.** *Compensation would be done as per the guidelines of the State Government. As for now, details cannot be chalked out. Further, after this Public Hearing, Environmental Clearance for the project will be applied, only after which compensation would be discussed.”*

**As clarified by Chairperson of the Meeting:** “

*“As we all are aware, all matters regarding land acquisition and rentals are to be dealt with through the office of the respective Deputy Commissioner Office. Their work involves exploration of hydrocarbons and if unsuccessful, the land might have to be abandoned. As such, the acquisition of land might be on temporary or rental basis. To sum up, the office of the Deputy Commissioner would initiate the process as per relevant acts and rules and clarification may be given to you if required.”*

**2. C. Lalchunglura, Teacher Suarhliap H/S.**

“My question is concerning the water requirement of the project. As stated in page 4 of the summary, the drilling process would require 20m<sup>3</sup> and domestic water requirement is 5m<sup>3</sup> which would be locally provided. However, as Suarhliap village faces severe scarcity of water, water scarcity problem in the village would be more intense if we are added with 100 more people. Is there any plan to resolve such issues?

“Also, as stated in page 10 (1.7), 25 local people would be employed. Meanwhile, it is stated in the last para that ‘25 qualified people would be employed’. Does this extend to the whole of Mizoram or this village only? If local people are to be employed what is the qualification required and what would be the duration of the employment? Would they be employed throughout the drilling process?

**ONGC.**

**“Employment.** *No qualification is required for employment.”*

**“Water requirement.** *The water requirement will be met by transportation of water from streams and rivers, using water tankers. We would purchase water.”*

### 3. Lairothangi, VCP + MHIP President

“It is a remarkable day indeed for the village with such a huge development works to be commenced in the village. We feel that this project would benefit the society As discussed earlier, the drilling site would occupy many private lands as Suarhliap village is mostly privately owned. I would like to mention that there is one Community Reserve Forest at ‘ Kananthar Ram”.

“We have also enquired from the office of the Deputy Commissioner, regarding the drilling site. According to the co- ordinates in the map, ‘ **Kananthar**’ is shown in two places while there is only one ‘**Kananthar**’. The directions i.e north, east, west or south are also not depicted properly in the map. So we could not make out the exact location of the proposed drilling. We had tried to contact office of the Deputy Commissioner, Mamit also. Even they could not tell us the proposed drilling area Had we been aware of the exact location of the drilling site, the Village Council Could be of much help in locating owners of the affected land.

Further, regarding social benefit of the village, I would like to bring to your notice, the problem of unemployment in the village. The Village Council and the YMA had recorded the needs of the Suarhliap and some of them are as follows:

1. Construction of Internal road
2. Construction of road for extension of village
3. Setting up of street lights.
4. Employment generation for villagers.
5. Construction of playground
6. Construction of Public lavatory
7. Afforestation
8. Water pumps.

**ONGC:** *“As per the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), the ONGC would take up socially initiative projects such as construction of school toilets, street lights, internal road and creation of employment to some extent.”*

**Chairman of the Meeting:** *“The ONGC has provided a list of social initiatives taken up by them where the projects have been undertaken. These are donations for organizing medical camps at Meidum, Moriah Station for the blind, Aizawl, Chawlhmun H/igh*

*School, Young Mizo Association (YMA) Conference, Kolasib District Hospital, Hortoki-water supply scheme, women empowerment, for inmates of Kolasib Jail, Bethany Rehabilitation etc. These social initiatives should be lead by the Village Council; the District Administration will also assist the Village Council in this matter if required.”*

#### **4. H.Laldingluaia. Teacher, Middle School. Suarhliap**

“My question is in regard to page 9 (1.6) of the summary regarding Risk Assessment & Disaster Management Plans. It is stated that various safety provisions in the proposed facility are to be provided and training to ensure effective communication and functioning. However, it does not state the provision to be provided to the workers in case of accidental death or disability during the execution of the project. What are the provisions regarding this matter?

ONGC: *Accidents etc will be compensated as per the Mines Act,1952. As per Govt. directive each and every people who is working in the site, who has met such accidents, would be entitled to whatever compensation available as per Government Acts”*

**Chairman of the Meeting** *(on repeating the second query asked by the School teacher which remains unattended): “If accidental death occurs in any case, can you tell the amount to be received in the form of compensation?”*

ONGC: *“The amount to be compensated cannot be said as for now. However, compensation or remittance will be provided as per the Mines Act, 1952. Further, the ONGC has taken up necessary precautionary measures to prevent occurrence of such accidents. Since, the past 5 years, only 1 accident has been reported from 100 wells. The employees are provided with safety gears such as hard hat etc. and only trained workers, provided with safety gears etc will be permitted to work in the danger zone whereas local people will be working within the safety area.”*

#### **5. Pu Lalzarthanga, Suarhliap**

“We had just seen from the presentation that there was something about ‘Safe zone’, which makes me conclude that there will be an unsafe or danger zone. Many of us present here are parent and I would like to say that school going children and the

younger youths used to go in the wild forest. In this regard, could you please specify the exact distance between the danger zone and residential area? How far is the safe zone from the residential area? I want to ask for the safety of the community whether it would be dangerous for children playing nearby the site.

ONGC: *"The drilling site will be fenced. Zone zero where actual work/drilling will be done is located quite at the centre of the site and nobody will be allowed to enter within 200 meters of zone zero. Only one zone i.e Zone Zero is a dangerous zone and fencing will be made within 200 meters of this zone and tight security will be placed. So, there will be no danger in this regard."*

Chairman of the Meeting: *"This area will be restricted for entry by making demarcation. The danger zone will be far from the residential area and it will be fenced so as to prevent unauthorized entry. So, let's hope that it will not be dangerous as they had informed us and they too will do their part in maintaining the safety of the public. But, I would like to request the local people to explain these things to the children. As we all know children are playful and tend to roam about out of the watchful eye of parents and grandparents. So we need to carefully inform them about this drilling place."*

#### **6. Pu B. Sangzuala, Suarhliap**

"If Hydrocarbons is found, various equipments would be installed which might create air pollution. We the Villagers, if exposed to such kinds of pollution would be affected immensely. I would therefore like to ask if there is any plan to save us from such pollution."

ONGC: "Regarding pollution from the project, Mizoram Pollution Control Board is keeping strict vigilance on our activities. We are working with some 2-3 contracts which would be monitoring air, noise and water pollution and whatever residue including water would be recycled. So there will be no problem regarding this matter."

#### **7. Thangbika, Suarhliap**

"In reference to 1<sup>st</sup> page of the Executive Summary report under the head 'Location details of the project', it is reported that there is one **Forest** within the project area. As officials of ONGC reported that they had not yet visited, there is uncertainty on the

details of the said forest. It is still unknown whether the said Forest is in **Tlangsang** or **Bawk Tlang**. There is a forest in Bawk Tlang and let us assume that it is the one which is reported in the Executive Summary. Meanwhile, 4<sup>th</sup> page of the report says that the land requirement shall be around 200 m which may be around 7-7.5 Ha. With all the span of the area required and a depth of about 4000 meter to be drilled, it could be presumed that massive drilling equipments would be required and an approach road shall also be required. Would owners of affected private land en route to the drilling site be entitled to get compensation? Is compensation to be processed by the company directly through their own rules or through office of the Deputy Commissioner? What kind of policy would be in place for the process of compensation?"

ONGC, *"Drilling site may probably fall within a forest land and one or two private land may be included. If we are to acquire private lands, compensation shall be given and processed through office of the Deputy Commissioner. We are not permitted to make any agreement directly with any party or an individual. Joint service would also be required to locate the drilling area and compensation would be granted to any acquired land as per relevant rules under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner."*

**Chairman.** *"There are certain procedural steps to follow for acquisition of land. It has to be processed through office of the Deputy Commissioner and the ONGC officials are also well aware of the process. The company shall submit application and joint survey shall be conducted by Officials of ONGC, Revenue Department and office of Deputy Commissioner. Though the company officials could not yet inform the exact drilling site and the land which might be affected at the moment, everything shall be processed and carried out as per the relevant rules."*

The Meeting ended with the vote of thanks from representative of the Mizoram Pollution Control Board.