

Procedure for environment related clearances in oil and gas sector:

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1. Procedure for environment clearance

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 (www.environmentclearance.nic.in) under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, which regulates development and their expansion/modernization of 39 sectors/activities listed in the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006. There are two Categories of the projects in the notification namely Category 'A' and Category 'B' projects. Category 'A' projects are appraised at the level of MoEF&CC and Category 'B' projects are appraised by the respective State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) following the procedure prescribed under the EIA Notification, 2006.

The offshore and onshore oil and gas exploration, development and production activities are covered under item 1(b) of the Schedule to the said notification and being category 'A' project is appraised in MoEF&CC.

The environmental clearance process comprises of four stages viz.

- Stage (1) Screening (Only for Category 'B' projects and activities);
- Stage (2) Scoping;
- Stage (3) Public Consultation; and
- Stage (4) Appraisal.

The environmental clearance process for oil and gas projects and activities comprises of Scoping, Public Consultation and Appraisal, as screening is only for category 'B' projects.

Scoping : Scoping refers to the process by which the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) constituted by MoEF&CC determines the comprehensive Terms of Reference (TOR) addressing all relevant environmental concerns for preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report.

For seeking TOR, operator needs to submit an online application to MoEF&CC in prescribed Form 1 along with a copy of pre feasibility project report and draft TORs proposed by the applicant. For reducing the delays, standard TORs have been developed by MoEF&CC with inputs from experts and Expert Appraisal Committees (EAC) of the respective sectors. Standardization of the TOR would enable the operator to commence the EIA study after successful online registration. The EAC will have the right and the responsibility of stipulating additional TOR in specific projects considering its project features within 30 days of the online registration of the proposals. After appraisal by the EAC, TORs are conveyed to the operator by MoEF&CC within 30 days and are also displayed on the website of MoEF&CC.

The application for prior environmental clearance/TOR if rejected by regulatory authority on the recommendations of EAC would also be conveyed to the applicant along with reasons for rejection.

Standard Terms of reference for undertaking Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study for the offshore and onshore oil and gas exploration, development and production activities and information to be included in EIA/ EMP reports as issued by MoEF&CC , are covered in Section 2. The Generic structure of EIA document is at Appendix III of the EIA notification. MoEF&CC has also uploaded the technical guidance manual for all activities covered under EIA notification 2006 including for the oil and gas sector on the portal www.environmentclearance.nic.in

Public Consultation: Public consultation refers to the process by which the concerns of affected persons and others who have plausible stake in environmental impacts of the project are ascertained for taking into account the concerns in project activities. After the draft EIA study report, based on approved TORs, is completed, the operator shall make a request through a letter to the Member Secretary of the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) or Union Territory Pollution Control Committee, in whose territory the project is located to arrange Public Hearing (PH). If a project extends beyond a state and in different districts of a state, public hearing is required in each district separately.

The concerned SPCBs would initiate the process of organising PH by giving wide publicity in national and local news papers. The details of procedure for conduct of PH is at Appendix IV of the EIA notification and covers documents required like draft EIA report, summary of EIA report in English and local language , the agencies to whom these documents are to be submitted, the Panel which will conduct PH, the videography of the process, etc.

The entire process is to be completed within 45days and proceedings are to be displayed at office of Panchayats, SPCB website etc. The operator is then required to address the issues raised in PH and annex their response in the final EIA report to be submitted to MoEF&CC for appraisal.

Appraisal: Appraisal means detailed scrutiny by the regulatory authority i. e. MoEF&CC and EAC for consideration of the project for grant of environmental clearance. For this stage the operator has to apply on line with documents like final EIA report, public hearing proceedings etc. The operator is generally invited to participate in the EAC meetings for furnishing necessary clarification in person.

The EAC then makes its recommendation to MoEF&CC for grant of prior environmental clearance on stipulated terms and conditions or rejections with reasons for the same.

The minutes of the EAC meeting are displayed on the website of MoEF&CC and the case is then processed for final decision . The environmental clearance letter is uploaded on the website and the operator is also conveyed of the decision.

The process of appraisal and conveying the decision takes 105 days.

Time taken for environment clearance: The EIA notification 2006 provides a total of 180 days for regulatory authorities to take decisions from the time complete information is received and the breakup is as following.

Terms of Reference by MoEF&CC	: 30 days.
Conduct of Public Hearing by SPCB	: 45 days
Appraisal and environmental Clearance by MOE&CC	: 105 days
Total	: 180 days.

2. Standard Terms of Reference (TOR) for preparation of EIA reports in oil and gas sector

1(b): STANDARD TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONDUCTING ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY FOR OFFSHORE AND ONSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION PROJECTS AND INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN EIA/EMP REPORT

A. STANDARD TOR FOR OFFSHORE OIL & GAS EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT & PRODUCTION

- 1) Executive summary of the project.
- 2) No. of exploratory wells for which environmental clearance is accorded and No. of new wells proposed during expansion. Status and No. of the wells Which are completed and closed.
- 3) Project Description and Project Benefits;
- 4) Cost of project and period of completion.
- 5) Employment to be generated.
- 6) Distance from coast line.
- 7) Details of sensitive areas such as coral reef, marine water park, sanctuary and any other co-sensitive area.
- 8) Recommendation of SCZMA/CRZ clearance as per CRZ Notification dated 6th January, 2011 (if applicable).
- 9) Details on support infrastructure and vessel in the study area.
- 10) Climatology and meteorology including wind speed, wave and currents, rainfall

etc.

- 11) Details on establishment of baseline on the air quality of the areas immediately affected by the exploratory drilling and also particularly with reference to hydrogen sulphide, sulphur dioxide, NO_x and background levels of hydrocarbons and VOCs.
- 12) Details on estimation and computation of air emissions (such as nitrogen oxides*, sulphur oxides*, carbon monoxide*, hydrocarbons*, VOCs*, etc.) resulting from flaring, DG sets, combustion, etc. during all project phases.
- 13) Base line data collection for surface water for one season leaving the monsoon season within 1 km for each exploratory wells, particularly in respect of oil content in the water sample and sediments sample.
- 14) Fisheries study w.r.t. benthos and marine organic material and coastal fisheries.
- 15) Source of fresh water. Detailed water balance, waste water generation and discharge.
- 16) Noise abatement measures and measures to minimize disturbance due to light and visual intrusions in case of project site closed to the coast.
- 17) Procedure for handling oily water discharges from deck washing, drainage systems, bilges etc.
- 18) Procedure for preventing spills and spill contingency plans.
- 19) Procedure for treatment and disposal of produced water.
- 20) Procedure for sewage treatment and disposal and also for kitchen waste disposal.
- 21) Details on solid waste management for drill cuttings, drilling mud and oil sludge, produced sand, radioactive materials, other hazardous materials, etc. including its handling and disposal options during all project phases.
- 22) Storage of chemicals on site.
- 23) Commitment for the use of water based mud (WBM) and synthetic oil based mud in special case.
- 24) Details of blowout preventer Installation.
- 25) Risk assessment and mitigation measures including whether any independent reviews of well design, construction and proper cementing and casing practices will be followed.
- 26) Handling of spent oils and oil from well test operations.

- 27) H₂S emissions control plans, if required.
- 28) Details of all environment and safety related documentation within the company in the form of guidelines, manuals, monitoring programmes including Occupational Health Surveillance Programme etc.
- 29) Restoration plans and measures to be taken for decommissioning of the rig and restoration of onshore support facilities on land.
- 30) Documentary proof for membership of common disposal facilities, if required.
- 31) Any litigation pending against the project or any directions/order passed by any Court of Law against the project. If so, details thereof.
- 32) Total capital and recurring cost for environmental pollution control measures.

B. STANDARD TOR FOR ONSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT & PRODUCTION

- 1) Executive summary of a project.
- 2) Project description, project objectives and project benefits.
- 3) Cost of project and period of completion.
- 4) Site details within 1 km of the each proposed well, any habitation, any other installation/activity, flora and fauna, approachability to site, other activities including agriculture/land, satellite imagery for 10 km area. All the geological details shall be mentioned in the Topo sheet of 1:40000 scale, superimposing the well locations and other structures of the projects. Topography of the project site.
- 5) Details of sensitive areas such as National Park, Wildlife sanctuary and any other eco-sensitive area along with map indicating distance.
- 6) Approval for the forest land from the State/Central Govt. under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, if applicable.
- 7) Recommendation of SCZMA/CRZ clearance as per CRZ Notification dated 6th January, 2011 (if applicable).
- 8) Distance from nearby critically/severely polluted area as per Notification, if applicable. Status of moratorium imposed on the area.
- 9) Does proposal involve rehabilitation and resettlement? If yes, details thereof.
- 10) Environmental considerations in the selection of the drilling locations for which environmental clearance is being sought. Present any analysis suggested for minimizing the foot print giving details of drilling and development options

considered.

- 11) Baseline data collection for air, water and soil for one season leaving the monsoon season in an area of 10 km radius with centre of Oil Field as its centre covering the area of all proposed drilling wells.
- 12) Climatology and Meteorology including wind speed, wind direction, temperature rainfall relative humidity etc.
- 13) Details of Ambient Air Quality monitoring at 8 locations for PM2.5, PM10, SO2, NOx, CO, VOCs, Methane and non-methane HC.
- 14) Soil sample analysis (physical and chemical properties) at the areas located at 5 locations.
- 15) Ground and surface water quality in the vicinity of the proposed wells site.
- 16) Measurement of Noise levels within 1 km radius of the proposed wells.
- 17) Vegetation and land use; flora/fauna in the block area with details of endangered species, if any.
- 18) Incremental GLC as a result of DG set operation, flaring etc.
- 19) Potential environmental impact envisaged during various stages of project activities such as site activation, development, operation/ maintenance and decommissioning.
- 20) Actual source of water and 'Permission' for the drawl of water from the Competent Authority. Detailed water balance, wastewater generation and discharge.
- 21) Noise abatement measures and measures to minimize disturbance due to light and visual intrusions.
- 22) Details on wastewater generation, treatment and utilization /discharge for produced water/ formation water, cooling waters, other wastewaters, etc. during all project phases.
- 23) Details on solid waste management for drill cuttings, drilling mud and oil sludge, produced sand, radioactive materials, other hazardous materials, etc. including its disposal options during all project phases.
- 24) Disposal of spent oil and lube.
- 25) Storage of chemicals and diesel at site. Hazardous material usage, storage and accounting.
- 26) Commitment for the use of water based mud (WBM) only.
- 27) Oil spill emergency plans for recovery/ reclamation.

- 28) H₂S emissions control.
- 29) Produced oil/gas handling, processing and storage/transportation.
- 30) Details of control of air, water and noise pollution during production phase.
- 31) Measures to protect ground water and shallow aquifers from contamination.
- 32) Whether any burn pits being utilised for well test operations.
- 33) Risk assessment and disaster management plan for independent reviews of well designed construction etc. for prevention of blow out. Blowout preventer installation.
- 34) Environmental management plan.
- 35) Total capital and recurring cost for environmental control measures.
- 36) Emergency preparedness plan.
- 37) Decommissioning and restoration plans.
- 38) Documentary proof of membership of common disposal facilities, if any.
- 39) Details of environmental and safety related documentation within the company including documentation and proposed occupational health and safety Surveillance Safety Programme for all personnel at site. This shall also include monitoring programme for the environment.
- 40) A copy of Corporate Environment Policy of the company as per the Ministry's O.M. No. J-11013/ 41/2006-IA.II(I) dated 26th April, 2011 available on the Ministry's website.
- 41) Any litigation pending against the project and or any direction/order passed by any court of law against the project. If so details thereof.

3. Consultants Accredited by Quality Council of India (QCI) for preparation of EIA reports (Annexure-1)

The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report and Environment Management Plan (EMP) are required to be prepared and presented before the concerned Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) by the environmental consultant organisations which are accredited for a particular sector and the category of project for that sector with the Quality Council of India (QCI)/National Accreditation Board for Education and Training (NABET) or any other agency as may be notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change from time to time.

A list of EIA consultant organisations accredited by Quality Council of India for offshore and onshore oil and gas exploration, development & productions,

sector-1(b) and oil & gas transportation pipeline (crude and refinery/ petrochemical products), passing through national parks/sanctuaries/ coral reefs/ecologically sensitive areas including LNG terminal, sector 6-(a) is given as Annexure-1 .

4. Procedure for clearance under Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification 2011 (Wherever part of activities in the oil and gas sector falls in CRZ areas)

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEF&CC) has issued Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification (<http://www.moef.nic.in/rules-regulations/crz-notifications>) on 6th January, 2011 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 declaring certain areas as CRZ and imposing restrictions on setting up and expansion of new industries, operations or processes.

The CRZ areas are :

- (i) the land area from High Tide Line(HTL) to 500mts on land ward side along sea front
- (ii) the land area between HTL and 100 mts or width of the creek, whichever is less, on the land ward side along the tidal influenced water bodies that are connected to the sea
- (iii) the land area falling between Hazard line and 500mts from HTL on landward side in case of sea front and 100mts in case of tidal influenced water body. The hazard line to be demarcated by MOEF&CC through Survey of India taking in to account tides, waves, sea level rise and shoreline changes.
- (iv) the land between HTL and Low Tide Line (LTL) ,which is termed as the inter tidal zone
- (v) the water and the bed area between LTL to the territorial water limit (12 Nm) in case of sea and the bed area between LTL at the bank to the LTL on opposite side of bank of tidal influenced water body.

The setting up of new industries and expansion of existing industries are prohibited within CRZ areas. However, activities of mining of sand, rocks and other sub strata material are permitted, as exception, under clause 3(x) of CRZ notification with following sub clauses:

- (a) Those rare minerals not available outside the CRZ area
- (b) Exploration and exploitation of oil and natural gas.

As exploration and exploitation of oil and natural gas is a permissible activity under clause 3(x) of CRZ notification 2011, regulations of permissible activities in CRZ would need to be followed which are detailed in clause 4 of the notification. For projects which are listed under permissible activities under the CRZ notification 2011 and also attract EIA notification, 2006, for such projects

clearance under EIA notification 2006 shall only be required subject to being recommended by concerned State or Union territory Coastal Zone Management Authority (CZMA).

The procedure for clearance under CRZ notification 2011 is as following:

- (i) The operator shall apply online to MoEF&CC for seeking Terms of Reference for the project including the components which fall under the CRZ notification, 2011.
- (ii) The concerned Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) would recommend TOR including the need or otherwise of Public Hearing.
- (iii) Further consideration of project would need the recommendations of the concerned State Coastal Zone Management Authority (CZMA), in addition to the procedure covered in EIA, notification, 2006
- (iv) The operator shall apply with following documents for seeking recommendations under CRZ notification of the concerned CZMA
 - Form 1 (Annexure IV of the notification)
 - Rapid EIA report including marine and terrestrial component
 - Comprehensive EIA with cumulative studies for projects in the stretches classified as low and medium eroding by MOEF based on scientific studies an in consultation with State Govt and Union Territory Administration.
 - Disaster Management report: Risk management report and Management Plan
 - CRZ map indicating HTL and LTL demarcated by one of the authorised agencies in 1: 4000 scale (list of authorised agencies are indicated in section 5).
 - Project layout superimposed on the above
 - CRZ map covering 7 km radius around the project site
 - CRZ map indicating CRZ I, II, III, IV including other notified areas
 - No objection Certificate from the concerned State Pollution control Board for projects involving discharge of effluents, solid waste, sewage and the like.
- (v) The concerned CZMA then shall examine the above documents in accordance with the approved CZMP and in compliance with CRZ notification 2011 and make recommendations within 60 days from date of receipt of complete information to MoEF&CC for oil and natural gas sector.
- (vi) MoEF&CC shall consider such projects for clearance based on the recommendations of concerned CZMA, Public hearing proceedings if a part of TOR and final EIA etc within a period of 60 days.

- (vii) The decision of MOEF&CC would be conveyed to CZMA and the operator and would also be uploaded on website.

5. List of Institutes / Agencies authorised for demarcation of High Tide Line (HTL) / Low Tide Line (LTL) in Coastal Regulation Zone

- (i) Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad.
- (ii) Centre for Earth Science Studies , Thiruvananthapura.
- (iii) Institute of Remote Sensing ,Anna University , Chennai,
- (iv) Institute for Wetland Management and Ecological Designs, Kolkata
- (v) Naval Hydrographer"s Office, Dehradun
- (vi) National Institute of Oceanography ,Panjim, Goa
- (vii) National Institute of Ocean Technology(NIOT),Chennai,
- (viii) National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) ,Chennai.

6. Procedure for transfer of environment clearance

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) notification of 14th Sept, 2006 mandates prior Environmental Clearance (EC) for projects and activities covered in Schedule to the notification including onshore and offshore exploration of oil and gas.

Para11 of the notification is about Transferability of Environmental Clearance (EC) and is reproduced below.

Quote

"A prior environmental clearance is granted for a specific project or activity to an applicant may be transferred during its validity to another legal person entitled to undertake the project or activity on application by the transferor or by the transferee with a written " no objection " by the transferor to and by the regulatory authority concerned , on the same terms and conditions under which the prior environmental clearance was initially granted and for the same validity period. No reference to the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned is necessary in such cases".

Unquote.

Indicative list of documents required for transfer of clearance

- Valid environmental clearance.
- MoU between both parties i.e. transferee and transferor.
- Commitment by new agency/ operator to implement EC conditions given to the original operator.
- Present status of project by operator / monitoring report by MoEF&CC regional office.

- Details of legal notices received and court cases etc, if any, to the original operator and compliance commitment by the new operator.

7. Procedure for forest clearance under Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 & time lines for forest clearance

If a proposal involves diversion of forest land for non forestry purposes, prior approval of the Central Government is required under the Forest (Conservation), Act, 1980 and amendments made to it from time to time. The act is implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India and detailed Rules have been notified by MoEF&CC for implementation of this Act. The user agency is required to pay for such proposed forest land diversions in form of the Net Present Value (NPV) depending on the extent of area of forest land to be diverted, it's class & density, ecological value etc.

The Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003 have been revised vide notification G.S.R.185(E) dated 14th March, 2014 for consideration of forest diversion cases in various slabs such as up to 5 ha., between 5 and 40 ha., above 100 ha. etc along with time lines at various stages of consideration. Further, a notification G.S.R.713 (E) dated 10th October, 2014 has been issued titled "Forest (Conservation) Second Amendment Rules 2014"

Details of the procedure for diversion of forest land, the assessment of NPV to be paid etc are available on the portal of MoEF&CC: www.envfor.nic.in . In this portal under Forest Approval, a support system (www.forestclearance.nic.in) is provided including Manual for User Agency which covers step by step procedure for clearances of projects to be considered by. This support system also provides for FAQ related to forest clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The proposals for forest clearance are considered in two stages. Stage-I clearance is referred to as in-principle clearance and stage two clearance is the final clearance after which the work in forest area can be undertaken.

Following tables give the levels at which the forest diversion cases are considered with various thresholds and time allocated at each level for taking a decision at stage-I clearance (as per notification of 14th March, 2014).

Stage-I clearance

Time Lines for Processing of Forest Clearance Proposals in the State Govt./Union Territory administration

Level	5ha. (days)	5 to 40 ha.* (days)	40 to 100 ha. (days)	More than 100ha. (days)
Nodal Officer	10	10	10	10
DCF	30	30	45	60
District Collector for FRA				
CF	10	10	30	30
Nodal Officer / PCCF	10	20	25	30
State Govt.	30	30	30	30
Transit Period	20	20	20	20
Total, days	110	120	160	180

Time Lines for Processing of Forest Clearance Proposals in the Central Government

Level	5 ha. (days)	5 to 40 ha.* (days)	40 to 100 ha. (days)	More than 100 ha. (days)
Pre-inspection by MoEF/ RO to examine completeness	5	5	10	10
Site Inspection by RO	-	-	-	45
FAC	-	-	30	30
REC	-	30	-	-
Approval by Competent authority (CA)	20	-	30	30
Communication of approval of Competent Authority	5	5	5	5
Transit Period	-	-	-	10
Total, days	30	40	75	130

*Including the proposals seeking diversion of forest land up to 5 ha for mining and regularisation of encroachments. Diversion of forest land for oil and gas sector activities under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is covered under mining.

Following table gives the levels at which the forest diversion cases are considered with various thresholds and time allocated at each level for taking a decision at stage-II clearance (as per notification of 14th March, 2014).

S. No	From	To	Days
1.	Nodal Officer	DFO	5
2.	DFO	User Agency	10
3.	User Agency	DFO	30
4.	DFO	CF	15
5.	CF	Nodal Officer	15
6.	Nodal Officer	State Govt./UT	15
7.	State Govt/UT	MoEF&CC/RO	15
8.	MOEF&CC/RO	State Govt/UT	20
	Total, No of days		125

8. Procedure for transfer of forest clearance from one user agency to another.

Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980-Guidelines and Clarifications (Up to June 2004) published by MoEF&CC provides for implementation of provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In chapter C of these guidelines, para 2.8 of Chapter 2 refers to Transfer of Lease of forest land and is reproduced below.

“2.8 Transfer of Lease.

Where transfer of lease on forest land, from one user agency to another for the same purpose for which the forest land was diverted, becomes necessary, prior permission of the Central Government would be required. For this purpose, the State Government and the original user agency is required to submit no-objection certificate for such transfer and, the new user agency has to submit an undertaking that they shall abide by all the conditions on which the forest land was leased to the original user agency and any other condition which may be stipulated by the Central /State Government in future. ”

The para 2.8 of the guidelines was subsequently modified on 3rd May, 2013 to address the cases where the diversion of forest land was obtained in favour of Central Government / undertakings by availing concessions applicable to them

but later on those approvals are proposed to be transferred in favour of agencies other than Central Government or Central Government Undertakings. Following accordingly has been added to para 2.8

“Provided that in case of transfer of lease is from Central Government / Central Government Undertakings to a user agency other than Central Government / Central Government Undertakings, the proposal seeking approval under the Act will be examined afresh. The Central Government after examination of the proposal and conditions stipulated in the approval accorded under the Act, shall modify the conditions stipulated in the approval accorded in favour of Central Government / Central Government Undertakings and/or shall stipulate additional condition(s) so as to ensure that the special concessions admissible to the Central Government / Central Government Undertakings are not extended to the user agency to whom the lease is proposed to be transferred. ”

Transfer fee: As per office order of MoEF&CC F. No. 11-9/1998-FC dated 3rd May, 2010 titled diversion of forestland for non forest purpose under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Guidelines for Transfer of Lease from one user agency to another user agency, the operator needs to pay 10% of Net Present Value (NPV) for forest diversion evaluated for original user agency or Rs. One lakh, whichever is less as transfer fee.

Indicative requirements for transfer of FC.

- Valid forest clearance letter.
- Transfer possible for same activity in area approved for diversion.
- Both parties have to agree for transfer (State Govt. and user agency),
- All stipulated clearance conditions to be implemented by new user agency,
- MoEF&CC to finally recommend the transfer of FC with additional conditions, if deemed necessary.
- Transfer fee to be deposited as per above referred OM of MoEF&CC dated 3rd May, 2010.

9. Wildlife clearance (Wherever part of activities in the oil and gas sector falls in protected areas and eco-sensitive zones)

Apart from environment and forest clearances, the operator would need to obtain clearance under the Wildlife(Protection) Act, 1972 if the activities are proposed in protected areas like national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, tiger reserves and eco-sensitive zones etc www.envfor.nic.in/division/wildlife. Details of the procedure for wildlife clearance are available on the portal of MoEF&CC: www.envfor.nic.in

10. Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO)

The consent to establish and consent to operate are required under both the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention

and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 from respective State Pollution Control Boards. The broad timelines for issuing consent under these acts are given below

Section 25 of the Water Act 1974 titled 'Restriction on new outlets and new discharges' inter alia states that the consent, unless given or refused earlier, be deemed to have been given unconditionally on expiry of a period of 4 months of making an application in this behalf complete in all respects to the board.

Section 21 of the Air Act 1981 titled 'Restrictions on use of certain industrial plants' inter alia states that within a period of 4 months after receipt of application for consent, the State Board shall by order in writing and for reasons to be recorded in the order, grant the consent applied for subject to such conditions and for such period as may be specified in the order or refused consent.

- **Disclaimer:-**The contents in "Procedure for environment related clearances in oil and gas sector" reflects indicative procedures based on the information available in public domain as also the portal of MoEF&CC. These notifications and procedures were amended by MoEF&CC for further rationalisation in the past and are likely to get amended from time to time. The operator is advised to see the notifications and its amendments from relevant statutes and keep updated for obtaining clearances.