

F. No. 11-36/ 2013-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi - 110 003
Dated: 3rd May, 2017

To,
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
All States/Union territories

Sub: Guidelines under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980- Clarification on drilling of shot holes for seismic surveys- reg.

Sir,

In continuation of this Ministry's letter dated 03.03.2016, I am directed to say that para 1.3 of guidelines issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 inter-alia provides that investigations and surveys carried out in connection with development projects such as transmission lines, hydro-electric projects, seismic surveys, exploration for oil drilling, mining etc. will not attract the provisions of the Act as long as these surveys do not involve any clearing of forest, and operations are restricted to cleaning of bushes and lopping of trees branches for purpose of sighting. This Ministry has received representations, wherein this Ministry has been requested to clarify the number of shot holes to be drilled for seismic survey, which will not attract the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

After careful examination of the matter in this Ministry, I am further directed to say that the seismic surveys for oil and gas exploration which require use of small explosive material specific to seismic survey for purpose of energy generation in shot holes in forest land will not attract the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act Provided that these surveys do not involve any clearing of forest, and operation are restricted to cleaning of bushes and lopping of trees branches for purpose of sighting and the density of shot hole for such seismic survey is restricted up to 16 boreholes of maximum 6.6" diameter per 10 sq km.

Yours faithfully,

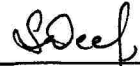

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. Prime Minister's Office (Kind attn.: Shri Ajit Kumar, Deputy Secretary).
2. The Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. The Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
4. The Director General, the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Govt. of India, OIBB Bhawan, Tower A, Plot No.2, Sector-73, Noida-201301.
5. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, All States/UTs.
6. Nodal Officers, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 All States/UTs.

7. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
8. Joint Secretary in-charge, Impact Assessment Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
9. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
10. All Directors/Assistant Inspector General of forest in Forest Conservation Division of MoEF&CC.
11. All Advisors/Directors/Dy Directors in Impact Assessment Division of MoEF&CC.
12. Sr. Director (Technical), NIC, MoEF&CC with a request to place a copy of the letter on website of this Ministry.
13. Sr. PPS to the Secretary for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi.
14. Sr. PPS to the Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEF&CC, Gol.
15. Sr. PPS to the Addl. Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEF&CC, Gol.
16. PS to the Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEF&CC, Gol.
17. Guard File.



(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)