



**OIL INDIA LIMITED**  
A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE  
NORTH EAST FRONTIER (NEF) PROJECT

DULIAJAN - 786 602 ASSAM (INDIA)  
REGISTERED OFFICE DULIAJAN

TEL : 0374-2800405  
FAX : 0374-2801799  
E-mail : nef@oilindia.in

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**The International Whaling Commission (IWC)**  
**Red House, 135 Station Road Impington**  
**Cambridge, CB4 (NP UK)**  
E-mail: secretariat@iwcoffice.org

**Sub: Hiring of Consultancy Services for Assessment of Potential Impacts on River Dolphins Pertaining to Brahmaputra River Bed (BRB) survey**

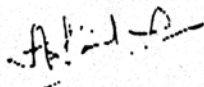
Sir,

We have received a copy of your letter no GPI/AB/DPI dated 26.10.06 written to the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. Of India which was forwarded to us for our comments. We are also as much concerned as you regarding the potential danger to the river dolphins in river Brahmaputra due to the proposed seismic survey operation. Similar concern was also shown by some other NGOs. It may be mentioned here that an Environment Impact Assessment on Brahmaputra River Bed Survey was carried out by a group of specialists from Guwahati University. As you may have observed that although the group did not have a cetacean specialists per se but they have made extensive studies to assess the potential effects on the river dolphins by the seismic survey. After making such assessment they have suggested some mitigation measures and have also given an Environment Management Plan which will be followed during the survey. Moreover, expert seismic contractor will be engaged for this work who has the expertise of doing such survey in Transition Zone areas. The survey will be definitely designed to use the optimum amount of acoustic output required for the desired geological objectives.

However, if the concerned Govt. authorities want that before any seismic survey is undertaken, appropriate expert review of the proposed work and mitigation measures will have to be carried out by specialists then definitely we will do that. Since you have expressed your desire to assist in this work by suggesting appropriate specialists either from your organization or from IUCN, we would like to request you to send details of such specialists and also the modalities for carrying out the job with cost involvement, if any. Should you require any information regarding the location, area of the operation etc., please let us know.

An early reply will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,  
OIL INDIA LIMITED

  
(A.K. Saikia)  
Project Manager (NEF)