

Minutes of the Meeting of Drilling Officers convened by the Deputy Director General & HOD, GSI, WR on 13-10-2009

The Chairman and Deputy Director General & HOD, GSI, Western Region, Shri V.K.Kanchan convened a meeting of the Director, all the area and unit in charges of the Drilling Division to review the progress during the FS 2008-09 and to discuss all the matters related to the drilling operations.

The Chairman welcomed all the officers and stated that this meeting is to evaluate the overall situation pertaining to the drilling operations and everybody should feel free to come out with any sort of problems being faced so as to arrive at decisions regarding remedial measures necessary for future planning. He mentioned that the MoM is particular about improving the performance of drilling and strict monitoring is desired at every level. The Chairman asked for details of the performance of each individual Drill Unit, which was presented by the Officers- in- Charge of the Drill Units.

1- Unit no 423: (Progress – 465.80 m ; Area – Dhikan Block, Dist. Pali)

Shri S.P.Sanchora, DE (Jr) stated that drilling in the area started on 12-1-09 after the machine was shifted from the Ghatol area. In reply to specific queries by the Chairman he informed that the last borehole in Ghatol area was completed on 6-10-08, later after attending to the Geophysical logging on 8-11-08 the shifting commenced on 16-11-08 and the new camp in Dhikan area was established on 19-12-08. The shifting involved 13 trips to the new camp about 500 km away. The Chairman expressed his displeasure on the fact that the entire shifting process took such a long time including unproductive stay at the old Camp for 44 days. Shri Sanchora mentioned the pending GP logging, retrieval of casings, delay due to repairs of vehicles and Vidhan Sabha elections time, as the reasons for this delay. However the Chairman felt that things if managed and planned properly could have saved a lot of time which has resulted in unnecessary enhancement of the overall expenditure. He also remarked that shifting should preferably be done through outsourcing (hiring of vehicle), which will ultimately prove much more economical.

The Chairman called for the reasons of the shortfall in the drilling progress, to which Shri Sanchora mentioned as shortage of water as the major hurdle besides problem of availability of funds, shortage of drilling bits & barrel and more than a month's time spent on road making. The Chairman remarked that the time taken for making 3 km stretch of road cannot be justified. Dr P Gupta, director T.C. Div.-I & H.O.O pointed out that the prorata targets are very poor and the progress in the given time should ideally have been around 650m. When asked to present the total expenditure figure, Shri Sanchora mentioned that they are presently not available. Shri J. N. Choudhary, Director Drilling, informed that indent of bits/barrels were placed 1½ year back, but the procurement is still pending due to single response and subsequent retendering. The Chairman expressed his displeasure that things were not brought to his notice and commented that there is lack of monitoring from the supervisory officers.

(Action: Director, & Supervisory Officers, Drilling Division)

2- Unit no 357: (Progress – 185.00m ; Area – Lignite field, Dist. Bikaner)

Shri M. Singh, STA (D) informed that the drill was deployed in the area in July 2009. He mentioned the problem of shortage of funds and requested for enhancement of RCA due to more requirement of Diesel (800-900 lit per month) in view of the more consumption due to sandy terrain, and 40 km distance between the camp and drill sites. The upper limit of sanction of RCA was discussed and Dr P. Gupta suggested that special sanction of Rs 50,000/- can be obtained from the DG, GSI. He asked the area-in-charge to submit application in this regard with proper justification. The problem of barrel and bits was also pointed out by the unit- in- charge.

(Action: Director, Drilling & In- charges)

3- Unit no 466 : (Progress – 534.85m ; Area – Delwara West Block, Dist. Banswara)

Sri S.D. Ram, STA (D), stated the reasons for shortfall in drilling to be time consumed from borehole to borehole shifting of the rig, terrain condition vegetation etc. The Chairman sharply disagreed commenting that none of these reasons are plausible. Other units in the area have been performing far better under same conditions and have recorded progress of more than 1000 m. He desired that explanation may be sought from the unit and area in charge and the Director Drilling. The problem of getting labours in the filed due to the ongoing NAREGA scheme was also discussed.

(Action: Director, TC Div-I)

4- Unit no 476 (Progress – 815.50m ; Area – Delwara North West Block, Dist. Banswara)

The progress was found to be satisfactory. Shri M.S.Saini, STA (D), commented that non availability of barrel of required size and shortage of POL in view of high capacity of the rig are the major hurdles. Dr P. Gupta instructed the concerned officers to apply for enhancement of RCA with justification, which can be sent to DG, GSI.

(Action: Director, Drilling & In-charges)

5- Unit no 425 (Progress – 671.75m ; Area – Delwara West Block, Dist. Banswara)

Shri D. Prasad, STA (D), stated the problem of non availability of barrels and bits. The Chairman asked for the details of the procurement process so far. Director Drilling narrated that purchase of these items are to be carried out at regional level and accordingly indent was placed in July 08. First PAC was held in Jan 09 and due to single response retendering was done in April 09. Since then matter is yet to be finalized. The Chairman expressed displeasure that the matter was not reported earlier and desired that an explanation should be sought from the DCOS in view of the delay resulting in hampering of the drilling progress in several areas. Dr P. Gupta commented that the progress is highly irregular during different months and far short of the monthly prorata targets. The Chairman reiterated that the targets have to be achieved at any cost and the

supervisory officer should ensure this with proactive steps such as supply of store items from other units if required. He desired explanation to be sought from the In charge Unit no. 425 for poor performance. He also wished that the fund problems should be immediately looked into and sorted out by the supervisory officer in consultation with the H.O.O.

(Action: Director, Drilling , H.O.O. & all In-charges)

6- Unit no 465 (Progress – 255.00m ; Area – Nangal Block, Dist. Jhunjhunun)

Shri Chhailu Ram, STA (D), informed that the drilling in the area commenced on 4-5-09. He narrated that the bigger casing size, limited space for erecting the Derek, want of bits and a thick sludge zone in the borehole, are the reasons for slow progress. Director TC-I remarked that this borehole has to be completed with spill over drilling and later the rig has to take up drilling in Dhanota area where deeper boreholes are to be drilled and hence preparatory exercise for arranging tools etc should be made.

(Action: Director, Drilling, Unit- in -charge)

7- Unit no 464 : (Progress – 989.05m ; Area – Dariba Block, Dist. Sikar)

The Chairman desired to know whether any deviation of the borehole was noticed. The in charge replied that no deviation was reported. The Chairman remarked that the area is prone to deviation and fast drilling is bound to cause wide deviations which can take place in any direction, therefore all possible precautions are to taken to prevent deviation as this leads to erroneous interpretations and the whole drilling may go a waste.

(Action: Unit- in -charge)

8- Unit no 451: (Progress – 820.80m ; Area – Panchokharkhara Block, Dist. Sikar)

Shri Bhagwan Singh STA (D), reported that during Oct. & Nov. 2008 there was no progress due to want of forest clearance. When enquired about no progress in April, he stated that this was due to waiting for the borehole site. Chairman once again warned to be careful so as to avoid deviation of borehole due to more speed of the drilling operation.

(Action: Unit- in -charge)

9- Unit no 426 (Progress – 820.80m ; Area – Salampura Block, Dist. Bhilwara)

Shri Gajbir Singh STA (D), reported shortage of barrel and 76mm bits as well as funds in the wage-head. He also mentioned water loss in the last borehole. Chairman stressed the need to expedite the procurement of the drilling bits and barrel and wished that the DCOS should be asked to explain when the supply will be available.

(Action: Director, TC Div-I)

10- Unit no 408 (Auger Drill) (Progress – 510.90m ; Area – Dist. Jaisalmer)

Shri K.L.Meena STA (D), listed the problems being faced for repair of pump due to lack of facility in the area, shortage of staff, driver and wage- funds.

During discussions on overall situation, the supervisory officers pointed out that the mechanics from the erstwhile E & T Division, recently posted in field, are not showing any interest in learning technical operations and it is difficult to extract work from them. Chairman viewed this very seriously and advised that strict action should be taken against such officials. Director TC Div.-I suggested that exact work allotment of each member of the crew should be made with issue of circulars and this should be monitored. The Chairman warned that there can be no excuse and all have to perform in the interest of the department as well as in their own interest. He enquired about the present strength with drilling division and whether it is sufficient, to which Director Drilling replied that the strength is sufficient.

The Chairman desired that the requirement of stores should be assessed beforehand to avoid hurdles in progress. He categorically mentioned that no machine is to be dumped at the Headquarters, and the Salampura camp should be retained for the purpose, in view of better connectivity and possibility of future investigations in the area. He instructed that the Sindeswar Camp may be wound up at the earliest. He also enquired about the details of the visits of the Supervisory Officers to the operational areas and remarked that the present level of supervisory visits is highly insufficient. Regarding the work allotment among supervisory it was felt that it was uneven and should be redistributed in a manner that more involvement of the supervisory officers in the actual drilling operations in field can be possible. He categorically stated that all the supervisory officers must essentially spend 60 days and the Director Drilling should spend 50 days, in field to monitor the drilling. The H.O.O. pointed out that the Pay Bill entries pertaining to the Drilling Division have not been made and must be made within this week so as to ensure salary disbursement through ECS. The Chairman informed that the MoM is firm on the matter of pay disbursement through ECS and there is no way out but to facilitate this by completing the formalities, or else the concerned officer will be held responsible.

(Action: Director, Drilling & all In- charges)

Concluding the discussions, the Chariman stressed the need to improve the performance of drilling operations through dedicated work and proper supervision or else in the changing scenario the very existence of drilling set up in the department may be questioned and alternatives may be considered. He wished that all concerned will put up their best and help the region to carryout the mineral exploration work as per the expectations of the department and uphold traditions of the Western Region.

Shri J.N.Choudhary, Director Drilling proposed a vote of thanks.