



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
INDUSTRIES, COMMERCE & PUBLIC ENTERPRISE DEPARTMENT

ASSAM CITY GAS DISTRIBUTION POLICY 2022

1. Introduction:

Natural Gas has become the global standard for clean fuel in the non-renewable category. Other than reducing the carbon and lead imprint; it also provides a cost-effective domestic and industrial heating medium, a transportation fuel (in the form of CNG), and reliable captive power-generation source. Nearly 12% of the natural gas reserves of the country are in Assam, and this gives the right impetus for utilizing the fuel more comprehensively to actualize the concept of a gas-based economy for the State. Therefore, the Government of Assam has recognised the importance of the development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) infrastructure in urban, rural and industrial areas for providing eco-friendly clean energy to domestic, industrial, commercial and transport sectors.

In this context, providing Natural Gas to domestic households has become an essential public utility service like water supply, electricity supply, etc.; for which the Central Government has already granted “Utility Status” to CGD services. In order to put thrust on development of CGD network for providing an un-interrupted supply of piped cooking gas and transport fuel to public at large, it has been deemed necessary to bring uniformity, clarity and simplification to the process for providing permissions to Authorised Entity (CGD Entity) for the development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) infrastructure in urban, rural and industrial areas in the State of Assam by Local Body/District Authority/State Government Departments. Therefore, the **Assam City Gas Distribution (CGD) Policy 2022** has been formulated to enable systematic, regulated and time-bound implementation of City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks in the State of Assam.

2. Applicability of the Policy:

This Policy shall be applicable from its date of Notification by the State Government. Its applicability shall cover all Departments and Agencies of the State Government in all areas of the State except the Sixth Schedule areas thereof. The applicability in the Sixth Schedule areas shall commence from the date of concurrence by the respective Autonomous Councils of these Sixth Schedule areas.

3. Definitions:

In the context of this Policy, unless the context otherwise requires,

3.1. “Policy” means Assam City Gas Distribution Policy 2022

- 3.2. “State” means the State of Assam\
- 3.3. “State Government” means the Government of Assam
- 3.4. “Central Government” means the Government of India
- 3.5. “Ministry” means the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India
- 3.6. “PNGRB” means Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board
- 3.7. “CGD” means City Gas Distribution
- 3.8. “GA” means Geographical Areas
- 3.9. “SOP” means Standard Operating Procedure
- 3.10. “MDPE” means Medium Density Poly Ethylene
- 3.11. “Service Provider” means any person authorised by PNGRB who seeks permission for laying gas pipeline of CGD in the State of Assam, and provide CGD services in its respective allotted GA.
- 3.12. “Para” means the Para of this Order
- 3.13. “Department”, unless otherwise specifically mentioned, means the Department/ Agency of the State Government or Central Government which is responsible for construction, operation and maintenance of that road. For example, for National Highways, it may be NHAI, NHIDCL or State PWD (NH & Buildings). For State Roads, it may be PWD (Roads) or concerned Municipal/ Local Body.
- 3.14. “Administrative Department” means the Industries, Commerce and Public Enterprise Department of the State Government.
- 3.15. “Local Body” means a Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council or Municipal Board in a Municipal area, a Development Authority or Urban Improvement Trust in an urban area declared under the relevant law (excluding Municipal area) and Gram Panchayat for Rural areas (excluding the area under the jurisdiction of an Urban Improvement Trust or Development Authority.
- 3.16. “Act” means the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.
- 3.17. “Board” means the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board established under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Act.
- 3.18. [“District Magistrate” means the Deputy Commissioner of the administrative district wherein installation of CGD infrastructure is intended.]¹
- 3.19. [“Circle Officer” means the Circle Officer of the land revenue circle of the administrative district wherein installation of CGD infrastructure is intended.]¹

- 3.20. [“RoU” means the Right of Use of the land for installation of CGD infrastructure and other purposes, and shall be inclusive of the term “RoW” meaning Right of Way.]¹
- 3.21. “Regulations” means regulations made by the Board under PNGRB Act,2006:
- 3.22. “Authorised Areas” means the specified geographical area for a city or local natural gas distribution network (hereinafter referred to as CGD network) authorised under PNGRB regulations for laying, building, operating or expanding the CGD network which may comprise of either individually or in any combination thereof, depending upon the criteria of economic viability and contiguity viz., geographic area, in its entirety or in part thereof, within a municipal corporation or municipality, any other urban area notified by the Central or the State Government, village, block, tehsil, sub-division or district or any combination thereof.
- 3.23. “Local Distribution Entity” means a local entity authorised by the Board under section 20 to lay, build, operate or expand a city or local natural gas distribution network.
- 3.24. “Natural Gas” means gas obtained from bore-holes and consisting primarily of hydrocarbons and includes (i) gas in liquid state viz., liquefied natural gas and degasified liquefied natural gas (ii) compressed natural gas (iii) gas imported through transnational pipe lines , including CNG or liquefied natural gas (iv) gas recovered from gas hydrates as natural gas (v) methane obtained from coal seams namely coal bed methane, but does not include helium occurring in association with such hydrocarbons.
- 3.25. “City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Network” means an interconnected network of gas pipelines and the associated equipments used for transporting natural gas from a bulk supply high pressure transmission main to the medium pressure distribution grid and subsequently to the service pipes supplying natural gas to domestic, industrial or commercial premises and CNG stations situated in a specified geographical area. This shall also include Natural Gas Network set up virtually with the help of LNG Storage tanks and development of downstream network for transporting of Natural Gas to the end consumer by the CGD entity.
- 3.26. “Development of a CGD Network” means laying building, operating or expanding a city or local natural gas distribution network.
- 3.27. “Piped Natural Gas” (hereinafter referred as PNG) means natural gas transported through pipelines or cascades or any other permitted mode in a CGD network for consumption by any customer in domestic, commercial or industrial segments and includes natural gas supplied to an online CNG station before its compression:
- 3.28. “Compressed Natural Gas or CNG” means natural gas used as fuel for vehicles, typically compressed to the pressure ranging from 200 to 250 bars in the gaseous state;
- 3.29. “CNG station” means filling station where one or more dispensing units are provided for sale of compressed natural gas, including mother station facility for filling of cascades.
- 3.30. “CGD entity” means a person, association of persons, firm, company or cooperative society, by whatsoever name called or referred to, other than a dealer or distributor and engaged or

intending to be engaged in refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing, import and export of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas including laying of pipelines for transportation of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas, or laying , building, operating or expanding city or local natural gas distribution network or establishing and operating a liquefied natural gas terminal;

3.31. “Work programme” until issuance of authorisation letter, means number of domestic, PNG connections, number of CNG stations and inch-kilometre of steel pipeline networks as quoted by the bidder in the bid and after such issuance means number of domestic PNG connections, number of CNG stations and inch-kilometre of steel pipeline network as mentioned in the authorisation letter as per Schedule D of CGD Authorisation Regulations;

3.32. “PRS” means Pressure Regulating Station

3.33. “DRS” means District Regulating Station

3.34. “MRS” means Metering and Regulating Station

3.35. “FRS” means Field Regulating Station

3.36. “CGS” means City Gate Station

3.37. “TOP” means Tap-Off Point

3.38. “SVS” means Sectionalizing Valve Stations

4. Justification for the Policy:

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has authorized City Gas Distribution Projects in the following Geographical Areas in Assam:

Sl. No.	Geographical Area (GA)	Authorized Service Provider
1	GA-99.15: Upper Assam Geographical Area (Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Sonari, Jorhat & Golaghat districts)	Assam Gas Company Limited (AGCL)
2	GA-9.02: Cachar, Hailakandi & Karimganj districts	Purba Bharati Gas Pvt Limited (PBGPL)
3	GA-9.03: Kamrup & Kamrup Metropolitan districts	Purba Bharati Gas Pvt Limited (PBGPL)
4	GA-11.02: Nagaon, Morigaon, Hojai, Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao districts	Adani Total Gas Ltd.
5	GA-11.03: Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Darrang, Udalgiri, Sonitpur and Biswanath Chariali districts	Assam Gas Company Limited (AGCL) & Oil India Limited
6	GA-11.04: Kokrajhar, Dhubri, South Salmara-Mankachar and Goalpara districts	Adani Total Gas Ltd

7	GA-11.05: Baksa, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Nalbari and Bajali districts	Adani Total Gas Ltd.
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Based on the allotment of GAs, the authorized Service Provider shall establish, operationalize and maintain the CGD network in their respective allotted GAs. However, in the National Conclave on “Emerging Opportunities in Natural Gas Sector” dated 23.01.2020, it was decided that the State Government needs to formulate a Policy for ensuring uniformity in regulatory and procedural aspects for expeditious expansion of CGD Network. In this regard, the Secretary of the Ministry, *vide* his D.O. Letter No. L-16016/17/2020-GP-II Dated 08/07/2021, had shared a model format for a CGD Policy, and had advised the State Government to formulate and adopt a CGD policy as per local conditions.

In view of the above, the State Government has decided to frame this Policy for providing Rules and Regulations and a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for establishing CGD networks in the State.

5. Nodal Officers:

- a) Seniormost Secretary to the Government of Assam, Industries, Commerce and Public Enterprise Department, shall be the Nodal Officer at the State Level.
- b) The District Magistrate shall be the Nodal Officer at District level. The District Nodal Officer shall discharge the duties under this order ensuring swift and timely approvals. In case of any delay in permissions/approvals beyond the timeline prescribed in this order, the entity may forward the same to State Nodal Officer.

The Nodal Officers shall co-ordinate works and issues related to Central Government agencies like Railways, PESO, NHAI, NHIDCL, NBWL, etc. at their respective levels.

6. General Permission for Laying of CGD Pipelines: [Application]¹ for all RoU permissions and utility crossings for laying underground gas pipelines shall have to be submitted by authorized Service Providers to the District Nodal Officer as a Single Point Window, along with the following documents: -

- a) Copy of the authorisation letter, issued by PNGRB.
- b) The location map showing the proposed underground gas pipeline including route planned [and methodology of digging]¹.
- c) The entity shall also submit the soft copy of the application along with all the forms, statements, and documents.

6.1 [Issuance of digging permission and associated RoU permissions in the land under the Right of Way (RoW) acquired by the Competent Authority [*as notified by the Central Government under Section 2 (a) and Section 3 (1) of the Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962*] to the aforementioned authorized Service Provider companies for laying of steel and/ or MDPE pipelines under City Gas Distribution system, on the basis of the application along with a detailed plan (*vide*

Para 6), shall be ensured by the District Magistrate concerned preferably within 15 days from the submission of the aforementioned application; but in no case later than 30 days from the date of submission of the detailed plan. This modus operandi is in accordance with the Office Memorandum No. RDM-15011/271/2022/3 Dated Dispur, the 15th November, 2022 of the Revenue and Disaster Management Department; promulgated as per the approval of the State Cabinet of its Cabinet Memorandum on 23rd September 2022]¹

[The digging permission and associated Right of Use (RoU) permissions for laying pipeline thus accorded shall be intimated by the District Magistrate concerned to the authorized Service Provider concerned, marking copies thereof to the concerned State Government Departments/ Agencies in whose jurisdiction the area is falling – e.g. PWD (NH), PWD (Roads), Municipal Administration Department, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Panchayat & Rural Development Department, Irrigation Department, etc.]¹

[If the digging permission and associated Right of Use (RoU) permissions for laying steel and/ or MDPE pipeline from the concerned District Magistrate is neither provided to the authorized Service Providers within 30 days of submission of their application along with detailed plan, nor rejection of their application is done through an explicit speaking order of the District Magistrate within the same time period, then the authorized Service Providers can commence digging immediately.]¹

- 6.2 The authorized Service Provider companies, while laying and maintaining gas pipelines, shall comply with all applicable State Government and Central Government Acts, Rules and Regulations.
- 6.3 The Service Provider shall not have any Right over and Ownership of any road underneath which its pipeline would be laid; as per provisions of Petroleum and Minerals Pipeline (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962.
- 6.4 If the Service Providers concerned submit their digging plans six months in advance to the Administrative Department; the Administrative Department can provide one time approval to the authorized Service Providers for laying of steel and/ or MDPE pipeline across all the Geographical Areas (GAs) in the Authorized Area of Assam, including laying sub-transmission pipelines.
- 6.5 The State Government may consider establishing of Utility Corridors in towns for ease of laying of CGD and other pipelines under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, in order to avoid disturbance to common public and for ensuring overall safety.

N.B. '1' added/ modified as per approval of Hon'ble State Cabinet of Cabinet Memorandum of Revenue & Disaster Management Department [vide File No. RDM-15011/271/2022; ECF No. 209367]

7. Grant of Permission for Utilisation of Road & Restoration Thereafter:

With regard to the granting of permission for road cutting for utilization of the road for laying of CGD pipelines, and restoration thereafter, in urban and rural areas, as well as highway roads; the following SOP shall be applicable.

7.1 Laying of CGD Pipelines along and across Road: In order to lay the pipelines along any road, the authorized Service Provider company can opt for either Open Cut Method or Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) method. However, Open Cut method shall not be generally allowed for crossing of the State and National Highways and major Municipal Roads; and Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) method or Moling method only shall be followed therein. Open cut method may be allowed for crossing only in case of minor rural roads with the permission of the concerned Chief Engineer of the Department/ Agency of the State Government.

7.2 Application for Utilization of Road for Laying CGD Pipelines: The authorized Service Provider company shall submit application for road cutting to a) the Executive Engineer, PWD (NH) or NHAI or NHIDCL *in case of* National Highways; or b) the Commissioner/ Executive Officer of concerned Urban Local Body *in case of* Municipal Roads or c) Executive Engineer, PWD (Roads) *in case of* State Highways and other PWD roads; with intimation to the District Nodal Officer. While submitting the Application for road cutting permission for laying of pipelines, the Service Provider company shall submit an undertaking for shifting of gas pipelines at their own cost if any obstruction is identified during widening of road in future. The copy of the road cutting applications, as submitted by authorized Service Providers to the concerned Government Department / Agency, is to be submitted to the District Nodal Officer also so as to monitor the Single Point Window.

Once all payments are made by the Service Provider, requisite permission for road cutting has to be issued within 10 working days from the date of receipt of payment.

7.3 Road Restoration: After laying/ lowering of the pipelines, the restoration of roads shall be done either by the Department which is responsible for construction, operation and maintenance of that road (*i.e.* Departmental Restoration) or by the respective Service Providers themselves (Self Restoration). Restoration charges in case of both Departmental Restoration and Self Restoration are as specified below.

7.3.1 Departmental Restoration: Departmental Restoration means that road restoration which is undertaken by the Department which is responsible for construction, operation and maintenance of that road. For example, for National Highways, it may be NHAI, NHIDCL or State PWD (NH & Buildings). For State Roads, it may be PWD (Roads) or concerned Municipal Body.

In case of Departmental Restoration, the Department shall collect the restoration charges from the Service providers as per the rates specified in Table-I before according permission for road cutting for laying of Gas distribution pipelines.

Sl. No.	Types of Method/ Type of Surface	Road Restoration charges in INR	
		Urban areas	Rural areas
	Open, Cutting Method		
1	BT Roads	500.00 /RM	500.00 / RM
2	CC Roads	700.00 /RM	700.00 / RM
3	WBM Roads	400.00/ RM	400.00 / RM
4	Foot Paths/ Paver Blocks	600.00/ RM	600.00 / RM

5	Shoulders/Berms	100.00 /RM	100.00 /RM
6	Beyond Roadway (Roadway means Pavement, Shoulders including embankment)	100.00 /RM	50.00 / RM
	HDD Method		
7	Restoration of Pits on the Roadway (Pit Size 1.5mx 1.5mx1.5m)	600.00/Pit	600.00/Pit
8	Restoration of Pits beyond the Roadway.	200.00/Pit	200.00/Pit

- i. The above rates are applicable for the year 2022-23. These rates shall be revised by 10% after every 3 years, on 1st April of that 3rd year.
- ii. The above fees are not inclusive of GST and Labour Cess. GST [as per currently applicable rate]² on the Restoration Charges [*i.e.* as applicable subject to the condition that that would change as per the directions of the Government of India from time to time] and Labour Cess @ 1% have to be paid in addition to the Restoration Charges.
- [iii. The above rates of restoration are indicative. As far as possible, actual estimation shall be made by the concerned department and the cost so arrived at shall be adopted.]³

N.B. '2' and '3' added on acceptance of views of PW (Roads) Deptt

7.3.2 Self Restoration:

The authorized Service Providers shall be allowed to restore the road cutting portions by themselves, subject to the condition that a Performance Bank Guarantee for the amount as per the rates specified below valid for a period of one year shall be kept with the Department which is responsible for construction, operation and maintenance of that road. The Service Provider shall restore the road to the original profile [and ensure stability of the restoration]⁴ at their own cost. Upon restoration [and re-restoration as may be required]⁵ the BG shall be returned to the Service Provider. If the Service Provider fails to restore as per the specifications or causes damages the utilities and does not restore the same, the performance guarantee shall be invoked by the Department concerned for making good of the damages / defects in restoration.

Sl. No.	Types of Method/ Type of Surface	Performance Bank Guarantee for Self-Restoration in INR:	
		Urban areas	Rural areas
	Open, Cutting Method		
1	BT Roads	200.00 /RM	200.00 / RM
2	CC Roads	300.00 /RM	300.00 / RM
3	WBM Roads	200.00/ RM	200.00 / RM
4	Foot Paths/ Paver Blocks	200.00/ RM	200.00 / RM
5	Shoulders/Berms	100.00 /RM	100.00 /RM
6	Beyond Roadway	50.00 /RM	50.00 / RM
	HDD Method		
7	Restoration of Pits on the Roadway	200.00/Pit	200.00/Pit
8	Restoration of Pits beyond the Roadway.	100.00/Pit	100.00/Pit

- i. The above rates are applicable for the year 2022-23. These rates shall be revised by 10% after every 3 years, on 1st April of that 3rd year.
- ii. The above fees are not inclusive of GST and Labour Cess. GST [as per currently applicable rate]⁶ on the Restoration Charges [*i.e.* as applicable subject to the condition that that would change as per the directions of the Government of India from time to time] and Labour Cess @ 1% have to be paid in addition to the Restoration Charges.

N.B. '4', '5' and '6' added on acceptance of views of PW (Roads) Deptt

7.3.3 Technical Specifications for Restoration:

- (a) Open Cut Method for Crossing the Road (BT Road / CCC Road / WBM Road/ Foot Paths/Paver Blocks):
The Road Crust shall be re-laid as per the existing crust of the road while restoring the trench. The trench cut shall be filled up with Stone dust below the Crust. The Earth obtained from the excavated trench shall be disposed of at suitable places as directed by the Engineer-in-Charge.
- (b) Open Cut Method for laying pipe along the road on Shoulders/Berms:
The trench cut from bottom of the trench and upto 500mm below Road Crust level may be filled up with the earth obtained from excavation/borrowed earth. The top 500mm of trench cut portion shall be filled with Stone dust.
- (c) Open Cut Method for laying pipe along the road beyond carriageway:
The trench cut may be filled up with the earth obtained from excavation of trench/ borrowed earth.
- (d) HDD Method for Pits dug on the carriageway:
The Pit shall be filled with the earth obtained from excavation / borrowed earth from bottom of the trench and upto 500mm below Road level. The top 500mm of Pit shall be filled with Stone dust.
- (e) HDD Method for Pits dug beyond carriageway:
The Pit shall be filled up with the earth obtained from excavation of trench / borrowed earth.

8. Setting up of CGS, DRS, TOP, SVS and CNG Stations – Role of State Government Departments and Agencies: While the authorized Service Provider in the GA concerned seeks to set up City Gate Station (CGS), District Regulating Station (DRS), Tap-Off Points (TOP), Sectionalizing Valve Stations (SVS) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations, the concerned State Government Departments and agencies shall facilitate the same by ensuring timely granting of permissions as per the following Standard Operating Procedure.

8.1 No Objection Certificate shall be given by the Circle Officer of the Revenue Circle concerned on application for setting up of CGS, DRS, TOP, SVS and CNG station. In order to reduce the project time, the approval should be granted within 15 (fifteen) days of application. If it could not be accomplished within the stipulated timeline of 15 (fifteen) days the matter should be referred with the detailed report to the District Magistrate, who shall dispose of the matter within next 15 days. Either approval has to be accorded within the total stipulated time of 30 days, or explicit rejection has to be

communicated by a speaking order – with justification in standard format – within the same time period; after which it shall be deemed to have been approved and work at the site can be started.

- 8.2** [In accordance with the Office Memorandum No. RDM-15011/271/2022/4 Dated Dispur, the 15th November, 2022 of the Revenue and Disaster Management Department – promulgated as per the approval of view of the approval of the Hon’ble State Cabinet to the Cabinet Memorandum of Revenue & Disaster Management Department (*vide* its File No. RDM-15011/271/2022; ECF No. 209367); the Circle Officers of Land Revenue Circles of all the non-scheduled Districts of Assam shall accordingly be authorized under the Assam Agricultural Land (Regulation of Reclassification and Transfer for Non-Agricultural Purpose) Act, 2015 to accomplish reclassification or reclassification-cum-transfer of agricultural land for industrial purpose only for laying of City Gas Distribution pipeline systems, per extant provisions of the aforesaid Act, within the limits up to 10 Bighas (*i.e.* 1.34 Ha approximately) of land falling within their jurisdiction.]¹

[While accomplishing the task for transfer of agricultural land to industrial purpose, the Circle Officer shall also take the views of other Government Departments within the Circle level like-Agricultural, Water Resources etc. and/or take such advice as may be deemed necessary for arriving at a decision. Circle Officer shall take the prior concurrence of the concerned Local Authority under whose jurisdiction the agricultural land falls with regard to the proposed industrial purpose as provided in the Section 5 (4) and (5) of the aforesaid Act.]¹

[On receipt of the application for land reclassification and/ or reclassification -cum-transfer for the purpose stated above under Section 5, Sub-section (1) & (2) of the Assam Agricultural Land (Regulation of Reclassification and Transfer for Non-Agricultural Purpose) Act, 2015, the Circle Officer shall complete the entire process within 30 days from the date of receipt of the application. If the process could not be accomplished within the stipulated timeline, the matter shall be referred with the detailed report to the Deputy Commissioner, who shall dispose of the matter within next 15 days.]¹

N.B. ‘1’ added/ modified as per approval of Hon’ble State Cabinet of Cabinet Memorandum of Revenue & Disaster Management Department [vide File No. RDM-15011/271/2022; ECF No. 209367]

- 8.3** Approval for the retro-fitment of CNG kits shall be provided by Transport Department of the State Government within 30 days of filling of requisition seeking approval by vendors after they produce certificates in compliance to the CMV rules 1989 issued by testing agencies.
- 8.4** Transport Department of the State Government shall encourage clean energy transition through adoption and use of CNG with initiatives like conversion of State Transport buses to CNG, provision to operate CNG station at ASTC depots, promote conversion of taxis & commercial vehicles to CNG, speedy RTO approvals and (with the support of the Administrative Department) promoting use of Natural Gas & CNG in industries across the GAs.
- 8.5** Transport Department of the State Government shall accord permission for transportation of CNG cascades.

- 8.6 Transport Department of the State Government shall customize the VAAHAN portal and all DTO offices to enable granting registration permission for CNG/ LNG vehicles.
- 8.7 Once CNG is readily available, Transport Department of the State Government shall issue guidelines enabling new commercial vehicles to have dual fuel facility with CNG as one of the fuels.
- 8.8 Transport Department of the State Government shall issue guidelines requiring all vehicles which have completed 10 years in operation to be mandatorily shifted to CNG, once CNG is readily available. In this regard, the Transport Department of the State Government shall encourage conversion of State Transport buses to CNG in a phased manner.
- 8.9 The Revenue and Disaster Management Department of the State Government shall establish a Land Bank for opening of CNG Stations, comprising road-side land in all major road connectivity projects (*viz.* National Highways, State Highways, MDR, Assam Mala Project), wherever possible.
- 8.10 Guwahati Municipal Corporation and municipal bodies of other towns/ cities shall issue regulation allowing issuance of single trade license covering operation of CNG stations within their respective town/ city limits.

9. Allotment of Land for setting up CNG, CGS & DRS Stations and other CGD Facilities:

- 9.1 The authorized Service Providers shall stand committed to PNGRB for setting up certain fixed number of CNG retail outlets as well as DPNG connections as part of minimum work programme (MWP), during first eight years from grant of authorisation in their respective Geographical Areas.
- 9.2 The District Nodal Officer shall ensure that specific provisions for plots of land for CGS, TOP, SVS, DRS and CNG stations are included in the Master Plan for the respective Urban Areas at Key traffic corridors measuring (minimum 2000 sqm).
- 9.3 The Revenue and Disaster Management Department or Industries, Commerce & Public Enterprise Department of the State Government may provide land, subject to availability, needed for completing minimum work programme at key traffic corridors within city limits, National Highways, State Highways and other areas of the GAs. The tentative locations for setting up CGS, TOP, SVS, DRS and CNG stations in respective GAs shall be submitted by the authorized Service Providers to the Revenue & Disaster Management Department or Industries, Commerce & Public Enterprise Department of the State Government.
- 9.4 [In accordance with the Office Memorandum No. RDM-15011/271/2022/5 Dated Dispur, the 15th November, 2022 of the Revenue and Disaster Management Department – promulgated in exercise of the power conferred under provision of Section 16 (i) of the Assam Agricultural Land (Regulation of Reclassification and Transfer for Non-Agricultural Purpose) Act, 2015 in view of the approval of the Hon'ble State Cabinet to the Cabinet Memorandum of Revenue & Disaster Management Department (*vide* its File No. RDM-15011/271/2022; ECF No. 209367); the lands allotted to AIDC/ AIIDC/ ASIDC (the PSUs under Industries & Commerce Department) for industrial purposes shall be exempted

from the purview of the Assam Agricultural Land (Regulation of Reclassification and Transfer for Non-Agricultural Purpose) Act, 2015 *in case of* such lands being used for laying of City Gas Distribution pipeline system.]¹

[The land thus used for the industrial purpose of laying of City Gas Distribution pipeline system only shall be reclassified before effecting any transfer/ lease as per provisions of Section 3-A of the Assam Land Revenue Re-assessment Act, 1936 (as amended) and Clause 23 of the Assam Land Records Manual.]¹

Other necessary amendments, wherever required, may also be carried out by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department of the State Government in its Land Allotment Policy, for making provisions for allotment of plots of land for setting up of CGS, TOP, SVS, DRS and CNG stations, wherever feasible.

N.B. '1' added/ modified as per approval of Hon'ble State Cabinet of Cabinet Memorandum of Revenue & Disaster Management Department

[vide File No. RDM-15011/271/2022; ECF No. 209367]

9.5 While granting permissions for new buildings, Real estate developers/builders will be asked to develop PNG gas pipelines and gas based genset in the proposed buildings.

10. Monitoring Committee:

There shall be a District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC) in each district, and a State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC) in the State.

- **District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC):** The DLMC shall be headed by the District Magistrate, and comprise Superintendent of Police; Circle Officers of all Revenue Circles; District Transport Officer (DTO); Executive Engineers of all Engineering Departments including PWD (NH), PWD (Roads), Irrigation, Water Resources, etc.; Commissioners and Executive Officers of Municipal/ Local Bodies. The DLMC shall have to meet at least once in a month; and the representatives of the authorized CGD Service Provider company/ies operating in the District shall have to be invited to the meeting.
- **State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC):** The SLMC shall be headed by the Seniormost Secretary of the Administrative Department, and shall comprise the Seniormost Secretaries (or their representatives not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the State Government) of Transport, Housing and Urban Affairs, Municipal Administration, PWD (NH and Buildings), PWD (Roads), Irrigation, Water Resources, Home and Political and Power (E) Departments and such other Departments the Committee may deem fit to incorporate. The SLMC shall meet at least every quarter, and representatives of all authorized Service Providers operating in the State shall have to be invited to the meeting.

11. Grievance Redressal Mechanism :

- District Nodal Officer shall take a monthly review for all the complaints/ grievances lodged by consumer members of the public *or* any regulatory Authority *or* any authorized CGD Service Provider.

- The complaint lodged by the public *or* any regulatory Authority shall be forwarded to concerned authorized CGD Service Provider within 3 (three) working days; and the authorized CGD Service Provider shall have to address the same and will submit the compliance of each complaint within 7 (seven) working days to the District Nodal Officer.
- The complaints lodged by authorized CGD Service Providers to the District Nodal Officer shall be forwarded to concerned authorities within 3 (three) working days; and the concerned authority shall have to address the complaint and submit the compliance to the District Nodal Officer within 7 (seven) working days.

12. General Provisions:

- a) The authorized Service Providers of CGD services shall have 80% of their total employees from among the permanent residents of the State.
- b) In case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Policy, the decision of Seniormost Secretary of the Administrative Department shall be final.
- c) The State Government shall reserve the right to modify the Policy and to amend any clause to the Policy for reasons to be recorded in writing.



(Dr. Lakshmanan, S. IAS)

Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Industries, Commerce & Public Enterprise Department.