

Seismic survey yet to start at major fields

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Two state-owned gas companies have failed to start seismic survey at five major operative fields within the stipulated time for ascertaining reserve dampening the government's first-track gas augmentation programme, officials said.

Planning ministry officials said the state-owned Bangladesh Gas Field Company Ltd. (BGFCL) and the Sylhet Gas Fields Ltd (SGFL) have sought two more years from the Planning Commission to complete their works.

The government's highest project approval body ECNEC endorsed the scheme in October 2008 for conducting three dimensional (3D) seismic survey to determine the actual reserve and dispersion of the structures at the highly prospective fields by December 2010.

Under the first-track gas development programme of the present government, the state-run gas production firms have undertaken the projects in a bid to produce more gas from the existing five gas fields.

The BGFCL will ascertain actual reserves and dispersion of gas structure at its Titas and Bakhrabad fields and the SGFL at its Koilastila, Rashidpur and Sylhet (Haripur) fields.

"We have sought two more years for completing the survey. If we get additional two years time we are hopeful of getting good result from the highly efficient gas fields," a top BGFCL official told the FE.

The gas companies said that works at the fields have slowed down for delay in appointment of service providing firms following the complex approval process by Asian Development Bank (ADB), which is financing the project.

"Although we have procured seismic survey equipment in 2009, we could not precede further due to delay in the appointment of the service providers," said the BGFCL official.

BGFCL and SGFL have already appointed the country's lone gas exploration company BAPEx to conduct three-dimensional (3-D) seismic survey to ascertain the actual gas reserves and identify dispersion of gas structures.

"As the reserve and gas structures in the five gas field were ascertained many years ago, now we want to re-ascertain the reserves and dispersion of the gas structures of those fields again to know the present situation," a senior Petrobangla official told the FE.

If we find new structures or dispersed gas structures in those fields some other new wells will be drilled for additional gas production there, the official said.

"By December 2012 we will be able to ascertain actual remaining reserve and dispersion of gas structures at all the five gas fields. It will help the government workout energy supply plan for next couple of decades," the BAPEx general manger said.

The five operative gas fields Titas, Bakhrabad, Kailastila, Rashidpur and Sylhet are supplying about 30 per cent of the total 2000-million cubic feet of gas supply per day (mmcf) to the national grid.

According to state-owned Petrobangla, Titas is the largest field in the country with total recoverable reserve at 5.13 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas followed by Habiganj at 3.85TCF, Bibiyana at 2.4 TCF, Kailastila at 1.9TCF, Rashidpur at 1.4TCF and Bakhrabad at 1.05 TCF and Sylhet gas field at 487.7 BCF.

Remaining recoverable reserve at the Titas field is 2.35TCF, at Habiganj 2.4 TCF, Bibiyana 2.31 TCF, Kailastila 1.5 TCF, Rashidpur 980 billion cubic feet (BCF), Bakhrabad 375.4 BCF and at Sylhet (Haripur) gas field 292.6 BCF.

Now, the country has a gas supply shortfall of over 200mmcf of gas hampering industrial growth especially in the energy-hungry Chittagong region.

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