



OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LIMITED

SECRETARIAT

Regd. Office : Jeevan Bharati, Tower-II, 124, Indira Chowk, New Delhi-110001

ONGC/CS/SE/2012

February 29, 2012

FAX/COURIER

The Secretary
Bombay Stock Exchange Ltd,
Corporate Relationship Department
Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers
Dalal Street, Fort, MUMBAI – 400 001

Fax: 022-22723121/22722037
2272 2041

The Manager
~~Listing Department~~
National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.
Exchange Plaza, C-1, Block-G
Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), MUMBAI – 400 051

Fax: 022-26598237/38
022-66418125/26

Sub: Response to Press speculation regarding Cove Energy plc.

Dear Sirs,

Pursuant to Clause 36 of the Listing Agreement, please find enclosed a Statement regarding Cove Energy plc on the above subject.

This is for your kind information and record please.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
for OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LTD.


(N.K. Sinha)
Company Secretary

Encl : As above

NOT FOR RELEASE, PUBLICATION OR DISTRIBUTION, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN, INTO OR FROM ANY JURISDICTION WHERE TO DO SO WOULD CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF THE RELEVANT LAWS OR REGULATIONS OF THAT JURISDICTION

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS BEING MADE UNDER RULE 2.4 OF THE CITY CODE ON TAKEOVERS AND MERGERS (THE "TAKEOVER CODE"). ACCORDINGLY, THERE CAN BE NO CERTAINTY THAT ANY OFFER WILL ULTIMATELY BE MADE

28 February 2012

STATEMENT REGARDING COVE ENERGY PLC

Response to press speculation regarding Cove Energy plc ("Cove")

ONGC Videsh Limited ("OVL") and GAIL (India) Limited ("GAIL") (together the "Consortium") note the recent press speculation and confirm that they are currently participating in the formal sale process announced by Cove on 5 January 2012.

At this stage, no decision has been made by the Consortium whether to make an offer for Cove or the price at which any such offer may be made. Therefore, there can be no certainty that the Consortium will make an offer for Cove, or as to the terms of any offer.

The Panel on Takeovers and Mergers has granted certain dispensations in connection with the formal sale process (detailed in the announcement made by Cove on 5 January 2012) and has confirmed that the 28 day deadline referred to in Rule 2.6(a) of the Takeover Code will not apply to the Consortium in respect of this announcement.

Enquiries:

Bank of America Merrill Lynch
Ashwin Punde
Anya Weaving

+44 (0)20 7996 1000

Merrill Lynch International ("BofA Merrill Lynch"), a subsidiary of Bank of America Corporation, is acting exclusively for the Consortium in connection with the possible offer and for no one else and will not be responsible to anyone other than the Consortium for providing the protections afforded to its clients or for providing advice in relation to the possible offer.

Disclosure requirements of the Takeover Code (the "Code")

Under Rule 8.3(a) of the Code, any person who is interested in 1% or more of any class of relevant securities of an offeree company or of any paper offeror (being any offeror other than an offeror in respect of which it has been announced that its offer is, or is likely to be, solely in cash) must make an Opening Position Disclosure following the commencement of the offer period and, if later, following the announcement in which any paper offeror is first identified. An Opening Position Disclosure must contain details of the person's interests and short positions in, and rights to subscribe for, any relevant securities of each of (i) the offeree company and (ii) any paper offeror(s). An Opening Position Disclosure by a person to whom Rule 8.3(a) applies must be made by no later than 3.30 pm (London time) on the 10th business day following the commencement of the offer period and, if appropriate, by no later than 3.30 pm (London time) on the 10th business day following the announcement in which any paper offeror is first identified. Relevant persons who deal in the relevant securities of the offeree company or of a paper offeror prior to the deadline for making an Opening Position Disclosure must instead make a Dealing Disclosure.

Under Rule 8.3(b) of the Code, any person who is, or becomes, interested in 1% or more of any class of relevant securities of the offeree company or of any paper offeror must make a Dealing Disclosure if the person deals in any relevant securities of the offeree company or of any paper offeror. A Dealing Disclosure must contain details of the dealing concerned and of the person's interests and short positions in, and rights to subscribe for, any relevant securities of each of (i) the offeree company and (ii) any paper offeror, save to the extent that these details have previously been disclosed under Rule 8. A Dealing Disclosure by a person to whom Rule 8.3(b) applies must be made by no later than 3.30 pm (London time) on the business day following the date of the relevant dealing.

If two or more persons act together pursuant to an agreement or understanding, whether formal or informal, to acquire or control an interest in relevant securities of an offeree company or a paper offeror, they will be deemed to be a single person for the purpose of Rule 8.3.

Opening Position Disclosures must also be made by the offeree company and by any offeror and Dealing Disclosures must also be made by the offeree company, by any offeror and by any persons acting in concert with any of them (see Rules 8.1, 8.2 and 8.4).

Details of the offeree and offeror companies in respect of whose relevant securities Opening Position Disclosures and Dealing Disclosures must be made can be found in the Disclosure Table on the Takeover Panel's website at www.thetakeoverpanel.org.uk, including details of the number of relevant securities in issue, when the offer period commenced and when any offeror was first identified. You should contact the Panel's Market Surveillance Unit on +44 (0)20 7638 0129 if you are in any doubt as to whether you are required to make an Opening Position Disclosure or a Dealing Disclosure.