

Source: The Rising Nepal January 3, 2021

Dana-Khurkot Transmission Line Completed

Myagdi, Jan 3 : The construction of the 220 VK Dana-Khurkot Sub-station and transmission line under the Kaligandaki corridor has been completed in Myagdi.

Two sub-stations have been constructed at Dana of Myagdi and Khurkot of Parbat while 110 towers and 39.6 km of power cables have been installed.

The infrastructure development and equipment installation work have been completed, and now we are working on substation charge and testing, said the project's assistant manager Laxman Phunyal.

The substation and transmission line will come into operation within the next 15 days.

The project began in 2016 with the support of the Asian Development Bank. The project implemented by the Nepal Electricity Authority was completed two years later than scheduled.

The total cost of the project to be completed in 2018 was Rs. 2.9 billion but it cost almost Rs. 3 billion as a result of the delay.

The completion of the project now ensures the connection of the power produced from hydropower projects in Kaligandaki and its tributaries and the projects in Mustang to the national grid, chief of the project Chandan Kumar Ghosh said.

The delay in the project was due to issues related to land encroachment, distribution of compensation, acquisition of forest land, and floods and landslides, claimed Ghosh.

Source: My Republica, January 4, 2021

Estimated cost of Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project crosses Rs 52 billion due to delay in construction

KATHMANDU, Jan 4: The estimated cost of the Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project (UTHP) has been projected to increase by an additional Rs 3 billion this year due to delays in the completion of the 456 MW hydropower project caused by the impact of lockdown and coronavirus, timely availability of related equipment and dilly-dallying by the contractor.

According to the UTHP, the project construction is targeted to be completed by February end and the total cost estimated till completion of the project will be around Rs 76 billion. It includes interest capitalization of Rs 24 billion. The actual construction cost alone is estimated to be Rs 52.29 billion, up from Rs 49.29 billion projected last year.

As per the UTHP officials, as of now, around 99 percent of the construction work has been completed. The construction was started a decade ago and had earlier targeted to start production by 2014. It has been delayed by over six years provided the project becomes operational in coming February.

The delay in completion of the national pride project has been mainly blamed on the hassles created by the Indian contractor Texmaco Engineering and Railway Company and the impact of coronavirus of late. Texmaco, which was awarded the hydro-mechanical work of the project, took out its hand from the project just a few months ago. Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) then handed the work to Andritz Hydro of Austria.

Of the total investment, the UTHP has managed Rs 10.59 billion from share capital while the remaining Rs 41.70 billion has been funded through bank loans. The project's financial report for the first quarter of the current fiscal year shows that NEA has invested Rs 14 billion and Nepal Telecom, Citizen Investment Trusts and Rastriya Beema Sansthan have jointly invested Rs 13 billion in the project.

Source: My Republica, January 5, 2021

Capacity of Dhalkebar substation increased, 315 MVA capacity power transformer charged

KATHMANDU, Jan 5: The capacity of Dhalkebar substation-- the country's largest substation in Dhanusha-- has been increased. The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has added 220/132, 315 MVA capacity power transformer in Dhalkebar under the Grid Substation Capacity Expansion Project with the investment of the government.

NEA's officiating managing director Hitendra Dev Shakya informed that an additional 315 MVA power transformer connected to the substation was charged at 10:30 pm on Sunday. At present, two 220/132 KV transformers with the capacity of 320 MVA are in operation at Dhalkebar substation. Now, the capacity of the substation has reached 635 MVA. Of the two 315 MVA transformers to be connected to Dhalkebar under the Grid Substation Capacity Expansion Project, one has been already charged while another one is in the process of being connected.

“As soon as the 315 MVA transformer is charged, an additional 100 MW of electricity can be imported from India in winter and supplied to meet the domestic demand. And after the 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi comes into operation, the infrastructure is ready to export electricity that cannot be consumed at home,” said Shakya.

The 400/220 kV Dhalkebar substation, which came into operation a few months ago, has three power transformers with a capacity of 315 MVA each and a total of 945 MVA capacity, which can transmit about 900 MW of

electricity. According to Dirghayu Kumar Shrestha, chief of the NEA's Broadcasting Directorate, if necessary, an additional 100 MW of electricity can be imported through the Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur cross-border transmission line as per the agreement reached with the Indian side.

“As our infrastructure is not enough, about 270 to 280 megawatts of electricity was being imported from there,” he said, adding, “The Indian side has said that an additional 100 megawatts of electricity can be supplied through the Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur transmission line.”

The NEA and Indian company NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) have signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) for Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur transmission line of up to 250 MW during July-November, 350 MW during December-April and up to 200 MW in May-June. The PPA is valid till June 30, 2021.

The Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur transmission line has been charged at 400 kV. As the 400 kV and 220 kV structures have not been prepared for the flow of electricity in Nepal, the electricity coming from India from the 400 kV transmission line is being converted to 132 kV and later supplied.

The Hetauda-Dhalkebar-Inaruwa 400 kV transmission line is under construction while the Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 kV transmission line is only in operation at 132 kV capacity. Construction work is underway to quickly charge Khimti-Dhalkebar at 220 kV. Electricity generated from the 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project will be supplied to Dhalkebar through this transmission line.

The electricity of the project will be transmitted in the national grid and the surplus electricity will be exported to India. Electricity from Upper Tamakoshi can be sent from there to East and West for domestic consumption.

In case of excess energy during monsoon, it can be exported directly to India through the Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur 400 kV cross border transmission line. A minimum of 600 MW can be imported if required in winter and the way will be opened for energy banking between the two countries. Both Nepal and India have agreed to materialize the proposed energy banking.

Source: My Republica, January 8, 2021

Power-tripping drops as a result of reform in electricity distribution system done in past: NEA

KATHMANDU, Jan 7: Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has claimed that the problem of electricity tripping has reduced this year compared to last year, with an improvement in the electricity distribution system.

At a time when the NEA is facing criticism from various fronts for “resuming load-shedding” on the pretext of disrupted power supply, the state-owned utility authority has come up with the clarification. Recently, the increasing fluctuation in power supply ignited a nightmare of the nearly-forgotten load-shedding among the people, while also bringing disruptions to business activities.

According to the NEA, during mid-November and mid-December, the Kathmandu Valley underwent sudden power cuts for 347 times. The problems that took place in 14 substations had led to power supply disruptions for 22 hours in the Valley. In the same period last year, there were power cuts for 65 hours in 577 trippings.

Hitendra Dev Shakya, officiating managing director of NEA, said the power supply was disrupted due to road maintenance, laying of drinking water pipes and works for relocating electricity poles and transformers, among others.

Shakya however attributed the reduction in tripping problems to the capacity enhancement of the transmission lines and substations done in the past. He

claimed that the NEA has sufficient electricity in its distribution system now.

“Load-shedding has now become history,” said Shakya.