

Source: The Rising Nepal, 13 February 2021

Dispute Delays Completion Of Urlabari Substation Construction

Urlabari, Feb. 13: A dispute has erupted over a plan of erecting electricity transmission poles from the Damak Distribution Centre of Nepal Electricity Authority to the under-construction substation at Urlabari-4.

The dispute started after a family of Athiyawari of Urlabari-8 did not allow NEA to erect the poles in a private road they had opened.

Phulmaya Baraili of the family said, "We have opened a 12 feet road for our convenience. The private road is not in the map. We will not allow our land to be devalued by installing the electricity poles in our private road."

She also said that the bank would refuse to take the land as collateral when a high speed power line passed through it.

"I needed about Rs. 4.5 million to send my son to Australia. But the bank denied to provide me the loan by keeping land as collateral," she said.

Chairman of Urlabari-8 Kul Bahadur Karki said that electricity could not be transmitted after the Baraili family objected to the plan.

He said that there was an option to bring the electricity transmission pole from the side of the government road.

Nepal Electricity Authority's Urlabari Distribution Centre is distributing electricity from its own substation.

The NEA's system strengthening project in 19 kattha of land in Urlabari-4 has reached the final stage of substation construction, and the power distribution process is moving ahead.

"As soon as the dispute gets resolved, we will distribute electricity from our own substation," said Digambar Yadav, chief of Urlabari Distribution Centre.

The NEA has set up four distribution centres in Morang, and Urlabari Distribution Centre has been distributing electricity to Damak Distribution Centre till now.

Transmitting electricity from a distance tends to be 'low voltage'.

Yadav, chief engineer of the distribution centre, said that the problem of low voltage would end once the construction of the substation with a capacity of eight MVA was completed.

According to Yadav, there are 42,000 customers under the Urlabari distribution

centre.

The Urlabari Centre has distributed electricity to Urlabari, Pathari Shanishchare Municipality, Miklajung Municipality and three wards of Ratuwamai Municipality. Engineer Yadav said that if the substation could not be operated in the dry season, there would be problems in power supply in the hilly villages of Miklajung and the southern villages of Pathari Shanishchhare Municipality.

He said that load-shedding could occur if the substation was not brought in operation.

Source: My Republica, 14 February 2021

NEA ED Shakya assumes office

KATHMANDU, Feb 14: Newly-appointed Executive Director (ED) of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) Hitendra Dev Shakya on Sunday assumed his office at the central office of NEA.

Shakya was appointed as the ED of NEA from the meeting of Council of Ministers held on February 8.

After assuming his office, Shakya said that quality in power supply, strengthening of transmission line and identifying markets for power export were his major priorities.

He also promised to increase per capita power consumption to 500 units and expedite the ongoing projects of power production, transmission and distribution.

Source: The Rising Nepal, 14 February 2021

Penalty Worth 3 Lakh Rupees Recovered From Power Thieves

Inaruwa, Feb 13: The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has arrested 35 persons on the charge of power theft. These people were found using power from NEA transmission line without registering themselves for it.

Based on a complaint by dutiful customers, the NEA with the help of Nepal Police and Armed Police arrested them.

Following the arrest, they were fined Rs. 11,830 each and reprimanded, according to NEA Inaruwa unit chief Ramuddar Shaha. A total of Rs. 378,240 was collected in fine from them.

Power theft is one of the major reasons for power leakage of the NEA service. "We are now working to control theft by cent percent with the help of our customers," Shaha said. Furthermore, the customers not paying tariff for a long time are also being punished, with 122 having their power lines disconnected.

The Unit has more than 45,000 consumers.

Source: The Rising Nepal, 16 February 2021

Upper Chaku-A, 22 MW Hydel Project To Begin Production

By Chitra Mijar, Sindhupalchowk, Feb. 16: The Upper Chaku-A Hydroelectric project constructed on the initiation of entrepreneurs of Sindhupalchowk is all set to begin the production of electricity.

The hydropower project having 22.2 MW capacity is starting production within two weeks. "The project, which is in the ownership of Shivashree Hydropower Limited will start generating electricity commercially 15 days after the one-week trial is done," said Bishnu Bahadur Khatri, managing director of Shivashree Hydropower Limited, adding, "A total of 8 MW electricity will be generated for now, which will be connected to the National Transmission Line."

"The electricity generated from the hydel project constructed at Phulpingkatti of Bhotekohshi Rural Municipality in Sindhupalchowk will be connected to the national transmission line via substation located at Lamosanghu, 22 kilometers away from the Upper Chaku- A project," added Khatri.

He informed that the project would produce 8 MW electricity for now as the water level in the river has dried up during the winter season. "Around 22.2 MW electricity as per the capacity of the project will be produced during the monsoon," Khatri said.

The construction of Upper Chaku A completed four years past the deadline as a 2,500 km tunnel was constructed from a dam located at Chanduraku of Phulpingkatti to the powerhouse at Changlekatti.

The project informed that the construction was delayed due to the 2015 earthquake and various rain-induced disasters.

According to the founder and executive chairman of Shivashree, Umesh Kasaju, the construction of the project had completed at Rs. 230 million. "As the time frame for construction increased, our capital also increased," said Kasaju.

The foundation for the construction of the project was laid on 2069 BS. Citizens Bank and other various banks and financial institutions have invested in the project. The project has issued 20 per cent share to the locals and public.

Source: The Rising Nepal, 17 February 2021

Upper Tamakoshi Hydel In Final Stage

Charikot, Dolakha, Feb. 17: A national pride project, the Upper Tamakoshi at the Himalayan district of Dolakha, has reached its final stage. Located at Bigu Rural Municipality-1, the 456- megawatt project is said to start its first unit of production from the coming Nepali month of Chaitra.

Tamakoshi Jalvidyut Company had also initiated the development of a cascade plant downstream the Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project, called Tamakoshi V, which will use the water from the tailrace of the 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project to turn its turbines to generate 99.8 MW of hydroelectricity. Development and construction of the cascade project at Ward No. 3 has also been gaining pace, of late.

Shreengeshwore Prera Joint Ventures obtained the tender for the project on Mangsir 4, 2077 at Rs. 259,182,635 and began construction on Poush 4. As per the contract, 14 buildings including the project camp building will be completed within next 18 months.

As Tamakoshi V will be built downstream Upper Tamakoshi and make use of the water discharged by it, a separate dam will not be required, which means the project can be built at little cost. Likewise, according to Project Engineer Navin Neupane, no headwork transmission line, or main roads are required for the project, as a result of which the project will be completed within a short period.

"The Upper Tamakoshi Project itself is a peaking run-of-the-river project, which makes its cascade project, Tamakoshi V Hydropower Project, also a peaking run-of-the-river," said Project Engineer Neupane.

The base cost of the project is estimated to be Rs. 12,160,000,000 (Rs 12.16 billion).

With the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) already completed, Engineer Neupane claims the project would be finished within next four years.