

Source: The Rising Nepal, August 14, 2021

Electricity Generated With Poultry Waste!

By Narayan Adhikari, Chitwan, Aug 15: One may wonder by hearing that a generator of 62 KVA is running smoothly with the biogas produced with poultry waste. Yes, it is materialized by an entrepreneur Arjun Aryal from east Chitwan.

The electricity generated from poultry waste is used in the poultry farm. He informed that electricity worth Rs 100,000 is generated every month. It is a unique way of earning, he added.

The owner of Annapurna Poultry Bidders Farm at Jyamire of Khairahani Municipality-1, Aryal said the electricity was generated by spending Rs 1.2 million.

After its effectiveness, an additional amount was invested to produce electricity in a modern way. Ultra-modern CSTR technology is adopted to produce electricity. For this, the World Bank provided the grant of Rs 5.2 million under the energy development company, Aryal added.

Source: The Rising Nepal, August 16, 2021

Construction Of Dams, Tunnel Way Of Gharkhola Hydropower Project Almost Completes

Myagdi, Aug 16 : Construction of dams and a tunnel way belonging to the Gharkhola hydropower project has reached its final stage.

Ninety five construction of the dams and tunnel way of the 14 megawatts project has been completed so far, said the project promoter, Myagdi Hydropower Limited.

Construction of infrastructures like powerhouse construction is underway. Construction work has been accelerated with the aim of completing the project in next one year, said Anil Tiwari, officer of the Myagdi hydropower. "Of the total 3,005 meters long tunnel way, 2,855 meters have been dug. We will get the construction completed before Dashain (almost two months away)," he said. Started in 2018, over 70 percent construction work of the project has been completed so far.

Civil contractor for the project is South Asian Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. and electrical contractor Simar Energy Pvt. Ltd. Hydro mechanical contractor is CE Hydro Mechanical Works Pvt. Ltd.

Under civil contractor, around 150 workers daily are at work. Construction continues despite geographical difficulties, COVID-19, the prohibition order and landslides, said engineer Josheb Bajracharya.

The total cost for the project is expected to be over Rs 2.4 billion.

Source: My Republica, August 17, 2021

Construction Of First Section Of Koshi Corridor Transmission Line Completes

Kathmandu, Aug. 17 : The construction of the first section of Koshi Corridor 220 KV Transmission Line Project has been completed.

The construction of 106 km long 220 KV double circuit transmission line from Inaruwa of Sunsari to Tumlingtar of Sankhuwasabha has been completed.

A total of 326 towers have been constructed for the transmission line. Managing Director of Nepal Electricity Authority Kulman Ghising informed that the infrastructure has been prepared for the supply of electricity from the 2,000 MW hydropower projects constructed in the Arun and Tamor river basins after the completion of the transmission line.

The line will be operated (charged) at 33 KV from Tuesday. "Until the construction of 220 KV substation in Inaruwa is completed, the line will be temporarily charged at 33 KV and electricity generated from private sector projects will be supplied to Bhojpur, Sankhuwasabha and Tehrathum," said Ghising.

"It has solved the problem of the transmission line that the projects of the area have been facing during the rainy season."

The existing 33 KV line in Tirtire of Sankhuwasabha will be connected to the Koshi Corridor transmission line and the Chatara-Dharan 33 KV line at Dharan Sub-metropolis-17 of Sunsari.

The projects in Bhojpur, Sankhuwasabha and Tehrathum were not able to run at full capacity during the rainy season as the capacity of Tirtire-Basantapur-Dhankuta-Dharan 33 KV transmission line was not enough.

The installed capacity of the projects is about 33 MW.

Project Chief Rajan Dhakal said that three substations have been constructed in Tumlingtar of Sankhuwasabha and Baneshwor and Basantapur of Tehrathum.

"With continuous efforts to overcome various obstacles in the construction phase, we have been able to complete the work with the help and cooperation of all," he said.

The Koshi Corridor has been constructed to connect hydropower projects of Province 1 to be constructed in Bhojpur, Sankhuwasabha, Terhathum and Taplejung to the national grid with the concessional loan of the government, NEA and Exim Bank of India.

NEA has already signed Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to connect 516 MW of electricity of 28 private sector projects to this transmission line. These projects are in various stages of construction, NEA said.

In the first package of the corridor, Inaruwa-Basantapur-Baneshwor-Tumlingtar 220 KV double circuit transmission line has been constructed. The estimated cost is USD 37.5 million.

In the second package, 220 KV substations have been constructed in Inaruwa, Basantapur, Baneshwar and Tumlingtar. The estimated cost of the package is USD 25.3 million.

In the third package, work is underway for the construction of Basantapur-Dhungesanghu (Taplejung) 35 km transmission line. The construction of 132 towers is targeted to be completed by next January.

Source: The Rising Nepal, August 17, 2021

Hitendra Dev Shakya Seeks To Stay In NEA, Files Writ Petition At SC Against Appointment Of Kulman Ghishing

By TRN Online, Kathmandu, Aug. 16: Former managing director of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) Hitendra Dev Shakya has filed a writ petition at the Supreme Court demanding invalidation of the appointment of Kulman Ghishing as the managing director.

Shakya has, in the petition registered at the SC, sought an interim order for his own reinstatement to the post by canceling the appointment of Ghishing to the post, according to Babu Ram Dahal, spokesperson of the SC.

A hearing on Shakya's petition has been scheduled for Wednesday, said Dahal.

Shakya was appointed at the energy commission for four years by providing him perks and privileges at par with a government secretary as per understanding made between him and the concerned ministry.

Source: My Republica, August 17, 2021

NEA's net profit declined 70 pc to Rs 3.51 billion last fiscal year

KATHMANDU, August 17: Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA)'s net profit in fiscal year 2020/21 stood at Rs 3.51 billion, a straight fall from Rs 11.68 billion in the previous year.

Presenting NEA's financial report at a function organized to mark the 36th anniversary of the state-owned power utility on Tuesday, NEA Managing Director Kulman Ghising said the authority spent Rs 41.46 billion to purchase electricity last year. The amount was 18.05 percent more than the spending on the heading in 2019/20. According to Ghising, the rise in this expenditure was due to an increased import of electricity from India.

NEA's financial report shows that the authority earned an operating profit of Rs 11.71 billion in the last fiscal year, which was 50.67 percent less than that of Rs 23.74 billion earned in the previous fiscal year.

In August 2020, the KP Oli-led government refused to extend the tenure of the then NEA chief Ghising, who was popular for taking NEA to a massive reform and completely ending over a decade-long loadshedding in the country. Ghising had been attributed for taking the organisation that had been reeling under heavy financial loss to earnings of over Rs 11 billion in profit just in a span of a few years.

The government had cleared NEA's loss amounting to Rs 27 billion as of the fiscal year 2010/11. The authority's loss in 2015/16 stood at Rs 8.89 billion.

Showing the cause of heavy decline in NEA's profit, the Sher Bahadur Deuba-led government last week removed NEA's chief Hitendra Dev Shakya from his position and reappointed Ghising to the position. In response, Shakya on Monday filed a writ petition at the Supreme Court demanding his reinstatement as the Managing Director of the state-owned power utility.

Source: The Rising Nepal, August 18, 2021

Surkhet-Kohalpur Transmission Line Construction Begins, To Be Complete In Two Years

By Lalit Basel, Surkhet, Aug. 18: The construction work of Surkhet- Kohalpur 132 kV electricity transmission line has been begun.

The foundation stone for the tower has been laid in Kohalpur, Banke on 17 August.

The project has informed that a survey for the project had been begun a year earlier.

Project head Ravi Kumar Chaudhary informed that the construction work of the foundation has been started.

He claimed that the 132 kV transmission line will be completed within two years.

According to him, the survey for compensation, cutting trees, has been completed and sent to the ministry for approval.

Further development will take place once approved by the cabinet.

He said that process of providing compensation will be continued as 90 percent of the area is covered by forest and 10 per cent of individual land.

He said that a sub-committee has been formed for this purpose.

There will be 161 towers from Surkhet to Kohalpur.

The budget of Rs. 700 million is allocated for the project.

There is a transmission line of 33 kV in Surkhet at present.

Source: My Republica, August 18, 2021

CDO 'obstructs' foreign contractor who built Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower from returning home

DOLKHA, August 19: The administration and the chief district officer (CDO) along with various groups have obstructed the foreign contractor company, which spent 11 years in Nepal to build the Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project (UTHP), from returning home.

While trying to return home after completing all legal processes regarding their vehicles, equipment, machines and tools used in the construction of the project, they were obstructed in the name of various groups along with the Dolakha administration on the order of the CDO. Thus, SinoHydro Corporation, a Chinese civil contractor, has lodged a complaint at the Ministry of Home Affairs against the alleged groups and the CDO.

The UTHP had written a letter to the District Administration Office on July 26, demanding security from the alleged groups and administration. In the letter, the contractor requested the government to allow it to leave the project site along with the equipment, vehicles and other belongings without any hindrance.

However, a high-ranking official of the project said that the transportation of the contractor's material from the project site has been stopped for the past two months due to 'orders from above.' "Over the past two months, the Chinese company has been urging the government to create an environment for the relocation of its vehicles, equipment and machinery," the official said. "Despite the contractor's insistence that the company's goods worth tens of millions of rupees should be taken away, various groups

are creating troubles and bargaining with the contractor. We are surprised that the contractor's belongings are stuck at the site due to the order from the CDO.”

“We tried to certify and send the goods after repeated requests from the Chinese company to the project site in Tanahun and Nuwakot. The materials included 29 types of goods such as batching plants, machines, dozers, tipper trucks, loaders and trucks,” the officer said. “But for some selfish reasons, the police have been stopping them on the orders of the chief district officer,” he said.

In the letter written by the hydropower project to the administration, they have demanded security from obstruction that took place from Lamabagar to Singti and Charikot by various groups. A representative of SinoHydro said that the obstructing groups demanded transportation of the rest of the contractor's goods and demanded a high price for the wastes coming from the project site.

The project has stated that the contractor company can sell its goods and equipment by auction after completing the legal process. However, according to the source, the people in power including the administration are bargaining for the same goods that are worth tens of millions of rupees.

“Though the administration was requested to make a peaceful arrangement for the contractor to return home, they did the opposite,” said the project official. Due to this, the contractor filed a complaint at the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Energy.

The project had earlier sent information to the district administration that 20 trucks, 10 grouting machines, 2 large batching plants and other large equipment of the main contractor SinoHydro were at the project site. They were preparing to transport those

equipment from the Upper Tamakoshi site to the Tanahu Hydropower Project, Upper Trishuli A and Sanjen Khola projects.

“We are clear about contractor’s equipment and project’s site waste”

Chief Executive Officer of the Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project, Bigyan Prasad Shrestha, claimed that the project was clear about the private property of the contractor as well as about the wastes from the project. “The ownership of the project is separate, the process includes auction through a tender,” he said.

“The contractor has claimed that he should be allowed to take his goods back. At first, the construction equipment as well as the machines will be checked by the consultant and the project will allow him to recertify on his recommendation,” said Zikir Shrestha. He added that the project is working to complete all the procedures for that.

“We have not obstructed”

Meanwhile, CDO Basudev Ghimire claimed that he had not obstructed the contractor company of the Upper Tamakoshi project from returning from the project site. "No vehicles have been stopped in any way. How can I stop it?" he asked. “We will provide security if the contractor company is in trouble or if there is any problem while transporting the goods, but the goods have not stopped moving”

Bhesraj Rijal, chief of the District Police Office also claimed that the police have not obstructed the movement of the contractor's goods from the site. “They can always communicate with us if they need any type of security,” he said. “We cannot just stop them.” He clarified that the police had only checked the documents of the trucks to make sure that they had moved with the permission of the UTHP.

Source: My Republica, August 19 2021

Construction of 216 MW Upper Trishuli-1 Hydropower Project starts

KATHMANDU, August 19: The construction of the 216 MW Upper Trishuli-1 Hydropower Project has started. The project is being constructed in Rasuwa with foreign direct investment. The construction of the project started as soon as the work of the 'ventilation tunnel' used to go to the underground power house started on Tuesday. The first blast was made on Tuesday for the construction of a 246-meter ventilation tunnel.

The construction of the main entrance tunnel, cable tunnel, main tunnel and other structures will start as soon as the monsoon ends. The establishment of a crusher plant and a batching plant at the project site, testing of construction materials, construction of a Bailey bridge on the Trishuli River for access road, felling of trees for construction of the dam and other structures, construction of access road towards search tank are taking place in full swing. Currently, there are 200 workers working for the project.

Doosan, a Korean company, has won the contract for engineering, procurement and construction model for the construction of the project. Upper Trishuli-1 is the largest hydropower project to be constructed with foreign direct investment for domestic consumption.

The total estimated cost of the project is US dollar 647.3 million (including construction period interest). Nine international financial institutions have agreed to invest US 453.2 million. The remaining amount has been raised from equity.

The project will generate 1.53 billion units of energy annually. Out of the total annual energy generated by the project, 38.75 percent will be generated in winter and 61.25 percent in monsoon. The generated energy will flow to the national transmission system by connecting it to the Trishuli-3B hub substation which is being constructed by the Nepal Electricity Authority.

The project is considered to be very attractive for the power system of the country as it is close to the Kathmandu Load Center and will get 104 MW of electricity even in winter when there is high demand for electricity. The project will generate 104 MW of electricity throughout the year. The construction of the project is targeted to be completed by December, 2026.

Source: My Republica, August 19 2021

ERC warns developers against giving wrong information to influence stock prices of hydropower companies

KATHMANDU, August 19: The Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) has warned the producers and developers of hydroelectricity projects not to disseminate manipulated information targeted at influencing the share prices of their companies.

Showing concern over the exorbitant rise in share prices of a number of hydropower companies recently, the government body recently issued a caution notice for the developers. “Anyone found misleading investors through fake information will face legal action,” reads a press statement issued by the ERC.

The regulatory body has urged the companies concerned to make public fact-based information of the companies’ financial status including net worth, returns per share, current assets and current liabilities, liquidity ratio and debt to equity ratio, among others. The investors should also assess the related risks along with the possible returns while injecting their money in the stocks of the hydropower companies, the ERC said.

As of now, 40 hydropower companies are listed at Nepal Stock Exchange. Companies like Upper Tamakoshi Hydroelectric Project, Rasuwagadhi, Sanjen, Chilime and Butwal Power Company hold the largest number of shares in the segment.

Source: My Republica, August 20 2021

All units of Upper Tamakoshi connected to national grid

KATHMANDU, August 20: The Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project has connected 456 MW of electricity generated from all its six units to the national transmission line from August 17. Chief Executive Officer of Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Company Limited, Bigyan Raj Shrestha, said that the electricity generated from all the six units of the project has been connected to the national grid. "So far, commercial production has been started from four of the six units," he said. "The remaining two units will start commercial production within the next 15 days."

According to the company, 304-MW of electricity is being generated commercially from four units so far. Commercial production started from the fourth unit on Wednesday. Former Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli had inaugurated the first unit of the project from Baluwatar last year by connecting it to the national grid. He inaugurated the remaining five units without connecting them to the national transmission line.

Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) Managing Director Kulman Ghising said that the 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project is being tested at full capacity. "We have succeeded in bringing the Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project into operation at full capacity with a lot of hard work," he said. "The pre-qualification selection for the construction of 22 MW Rolwaling River Hydropower Project from this company has been completed and the work of inviting proposals from the selected bidders has been taken forward."

The project has 41 percent share structure of NEA, 6 percent of Nepal Telecom, 2 percent of Citizen Investment Trust, 2 percent of Rastriya Beema Sansthan, 15 percent

of general public, 10 percent of Dolakha district residents, 24 percent of Employees' Provident Fund, NEA employees and others.