

Source: My Republica; 8 Feb 2015

Mid-Trishuli Hydropower project to be constructed soon

The Mid-Trishuli Hydropower Project (55 megawatt) is going to be constructed soon. The project is expected to be completed within a span of four years, the contractor Perfect Energy Development Private Company said.

The project is to be constructed at a total cost of Rs 10.37 billion. The project will provide 10 per cent shares to the locals, said Gyalche Lama, Chairman at the project.

However, the locals have urged to review the construction site of the project saying that it could destroy the religious and cultural importance of Uttargaya. RSS

Source: My Republica; 9 Feb 2015

Rahughat employees unpaid for months

HARI KRISHNA GAUTAM

MYAGDI, Feb 9: IVRCL, the civil contractor of Rahughat Hydropower Project, has not paid its employees for months.

Nirmal Rokka, an employee at the project site, said he has not received salary for the past four months. "I don't have any money. I have no idea how I will to feed my family," he said.

Most of the 108 employees in the project say they have not received payment since months. The 32-megawatt project is being developed by Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) under soft loan of Rs 7 billion from Exim Bank of India.

Employees told Republica that the contractor has not paid heed to their repeated requests for payment. "Even officials of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) have turned a deaf ear to our requests," an employee complained.

Disgruntled employees have even lodged a complaint at the District Administration Office (DAO) Myagdi. But the local administration has done anything to address their woes.

"Several of our colleagues have not been paid for months," Bijay Kumar Mahato, an Indian national working at the project site, told Republica.

Mahato also said that they have served a 48-hour ultimatum to the contract by stopping all works. "We will launch stern protest if we are not paid by then," Mahato said, adding that they were suffering also because of ongoing dispute between NEA and the contractor.

Meanwhile, the contractor has its own story to share. A representative of IVRCL said they were facing problem after NEA started preparation to terminate their contract and appoint a new contractor. - See more at:

http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=91850#sthash.PJNDIA6q.dpuf

Source: The Kathmandu Post; 10 Feb 2015

Middle Trishuli Ganga Nadi hydro set to roll

- PRAKASH ADHIKARI

Perfect Energy Development is all set to develop the Middle Trishuli Ganga Nadi [Hydropower Project](#) on the Trishuli River.

The 55 MW power plant, for which the company acquired the permit from the Department of Electricity Development in 2011, is being bankrolled by Nepali and Indian investors.

According to Perfect Energy, the project is estimated to cost around \$103.7 million.

President of the project Gyalje Lama said the company aimed to conclude a power purchase agreement (PPA) with the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) within a year, and that the construction would be finished four and a half years after that.

The project plans to divert the water from the tailrace of the Trishuli III B hydro project by erecting a dam at Manakamana-3 and Lahare Pauwa-1, Rasuwa and lead it through a tunnel to the power house at Tupche-2.

On Saturday, the project discussed its environmental impact report prepared by Sanima Hydro and Engineering with locals.

Gyalje said that the Middle Trishuli Ganga Nadi project was planning to borrow money from Indian banks and that it was working to acquire credit from locals.

The project will build an 11-metre high and 80-metre long dam and a 1,580-metre long tunnel. The energy generated by the project will be evacuated through a 132 kVA transmission line situated in Tupche.

The project will affect three village development committees (VDCs) in Nuwakot (Tupchhe, Manakamana and Gerku) and one in Rasuwa (Lahare Pauwa). Around 56 households will have to be resettled before the project can commence.

The project stated that it would accord high priority to the people from the affected areas while hiring.

Likewise, it will implement activities like rural electrification, road building, education and health care for the people of the affected region.

During an interaction event with locals, representatives of the political parties had urged the project developer to work in a way that would benefit both the project and the local people.

Source: The Himalayan Times; 11 Feb 2014

Govt to build Lower Arun hydropower

Himalayan News Service Kathmandu, February 10 The government is gearing up to build 400-megawatt Lower Arun hydropower project on its own as per the instruction issued by the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA). Earlier in September, the corruption watchdog had instructed the Ministry of Energy (MoE) to terminate the power generation licence extended to the power developer and initiate the process of building the project on its own. The CIAA issued the instruction after the project developer continued to miss deadlines of power generation 'despite possibility of building it at a very low cost'. "Based on this instruction, we have decided to build the project on our own," a high-ranking MoE official told The Himalayan Times on condition of anonymity. "However, we have not decided on how to build it." One of the ways to build the hydro project is through establishment of a development committee as in the case of Budhi Gandaki hydroelectric project, which is being implemented by Budhi Gandaki Hydroelectric Project Development Committee. "We can also hand over task to the Department of Electricity Development as in the case of 22MW Budhi Ganga hydro project," the official said, adding, "We are still looking at the options that are available to us." Lower Arun hydro project is spread in Nepal Danda, Kulung, Mulpani, Keureni Paani, Pafu and Mantewa Diding VDCs of Sankhu-wasabha and Bhojpur districts. It is considered a 'low-cost' project because the developer can share infrastructure like access road and transmission lines which will soon be built by the developer of 900MW Arun-III hydroelectric project. It is also said that the developer of Lower Arun project does not have to build a dam, as it can produce power by channelling water that the plant of Arun-III has ejected from its tailrace after electricity generation. The government, around 14 years ago, had extended the survey licence for development of the project to Lower Arun Hydroelectric Pvt Ltd. As per the Electricity Act, companies should complete works like environmental and feasibility studies, and design drawing, among others, within five years of obtaining the survey licence. But the company took around 11 years to complete these works. The company was then given power generation licence on November 16, 2012. As per the agreement, the company had to prepare detailed engineering design, complete environmental impact assessment, seal power purchase agreement and conclude financial closure within 18 months of obtaining the power generation licence. But after the company could not complete these tasks within the deadline, it asked the government to give it additional period of 18 months to complete these tasks on the pretext that the project's capacity could be raised to 650 MW. Earlier, the CIAA had called the developer's proposal to increase power generation capacity 'an attempt to hoodwink the government' and instructed the MoE to take over the project because 'it could be built at a very low cost'.

Source: The Kathmandu Post; 13 Feb 2015

Project makes largest ever share offering

Upper Tamakoshi Hydro

The Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project on Thursday made the largest share offering in the country's history by floating 36,006,000 shares worth Rs 3.6 billion.

The shares have been allocated to locals of Dolkha district, depositors at the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and employees of the organizations that are developing and financing the project.

The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) is the key developer of the project while the financiers are the EPF, Nepal Telecom (NT), Citizens Investment Trust (CIT) and Rastriya Beema Sansthan (RBS).

The shares in the national pride project have a base value of Rs 100 apiece. The Securities Board of Nepal (Sebon) gave the go-ahead to issue them in the first week of January. Applications to buy shares can be filed from February 23 to March 9.

Bigyan Shrestha, chief of Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Limited (UTHL), said that tremendous anticipation had been building up for the allocation of shares, and that the response to the issue was likely to be overwhelming. "We are expecting a huge turnout," Shrestha said. According to a notice published by the project, 10,590,000 shares worth Rs 1.05 billion have been set aside for the local people of Dolkha. Depositors having accounts at the EPF as of July 30, 2010 will get 18,299,520 shares.

Similarly, 1,524,960 shares have been earmarked for EPF employees, 304,992 shares for CIT employees, 914,976 shares for NT staff, 304,992 shares for RBS employees, 3,049,920 shares for UTHL employees and 4,066,560 shares for NEA employees. The ordinary shares cannot be traded for a period of three years.

The NEA will have a 41 percent stake in the company, NT 6 percent and CIT and RBS 2 percent each. Dolkha locals will get 10 percent of the shares.

UTHL has stated that the locals of Lamabagar and Gauri Shankar VDCs—the project affected areas, will be able to buy up to 300 shares, while people in other VDCs and municipalities in the district will get 70 shares.

According to Shrestha, 15 percent of the total shares will be offered to the general public in an initial public offering. "It may take around six months since we need to conclude this ongoing process, hold the annual general meeting and complete the task of credit rating," Shrestha said.

Source: The Kathmandu Post; 13 Feb 2015

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