

Source: My Republica; 3 Nov 2016

ANDRITZ HYDRO to open office in Nepal

The ANDRITZ HYDRO, a global supplier of electromechanical systems and services for hydropower plants has celebrated its first 'Customer Day' with a view to expanding its office in Nepal.

With this connection, the company has organised a two-day program titled 'Hydropower Solution for Nepal'. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Krishna Bahadur Mahara inaugurated the program here today.

The Company plans to open its office here within the next two to three months. The Company with its headquarters in Austria has already spread its wings to around 60 countries.

The company has already worked for the Kulekhani Hydropower Project and has supported the construction of the projects of national pride including the Upper Tamakoshi and Mid Marsyangdi.

On the occasion, the DPM said the ANDRITZ decision to open its office in Nepal would help seek areas for hydro power investment with promoting the private sector. RSS

Source: The Kathmandu Post; 3 Nov 2016

NEA working to end power cuts in Valley

The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has initiated homework to end load-shedding in the Kathmandu Valley and three other cities in neighbouring Kavre district.

NEA Managing Director Kulman Ghising on Monday formed a high-level expert committee under the leadership of Deputy Managing Director Rajeev Sharma to study the possibility of providing uninterrupted electricity supply in these places.

The panel also includes the chiefs of the NEA's planning, distribution and transmission and power trading departments. It is planning to complete the study and submit a report by the end of next week. Sharma's team will also analyse demand and supply management before making a recommendation.

The NEA will implement the recommendations to eliminate load-shedding in the Valley, which has become a fact of life in the country. "Till date, no study has been done to identify the constraints that need to be resolved to ensure 24-hour electricity supply in the Valley," said Ghising. "The outcome of the study will be a guideline for the authority in the coming days." According to Sharma, they will first figure out the amount of electricity deficit the Valley is currently facing. "Then we will look for ways to optimize the substations and distribution network in the Valley," said Sharma. "We will begin the study on Thursday."

Committee member Prabal Adhikari, who is the chief of the power trading department at the NEA, said that power cuts in the Valley could be reduced significantly if the existing resources were put to optimum use.

"Some of our substations are overloaded while others are underloaded," said Adhikari. "An equitable distribution of the load can reduce power cuts significantly."

Likewise, upgradation of the existing distribution system including addition of new transformers will also contribute to slashing power cuts, he added.

The NEA was successful in arranging uninterrupted power supply in the Kathmandu Valley during the recent Tihar festival. "We put in a little effort and the Valley didn't witness load-shedding during the festive season," said Adhikari. "It has given us confidence."

Apart from managing the supply, the committee will also explore the possibility of generating additional power in the Valley. According to Adhikari, the NEA has received 15 proposals from the private sector to produce electricity from various sources like solar, thermal, diesel and geothermal plants.

"Using these means, electricity can be generated quickly," said Adhikari. "Therefore, we will consider some of the proposals that we have received."

Similarly, the committee will recommend using power imported from India to reduce load-shedding. Adhikari also clarified that uninterrupted power supply in the Valley will not increase load-shedding elsewhere in the country.

Source: The Himalayan Times; 4 Nov 2016

Damaged hydel project not repaired

Locals in the remote regions of Baidi and Kota VDCs of Tanahun have been deprived of electricity for the past three months after floods destroyed the Chheranga Hydro Project. Residents of Ward no 4 and 8 of Baidi and 4 and 5 of Kota VDCs have been awaiting repairs at the hydro-power plant.

As many as 223 households have been severely affected by the power disruption. They lament the lack of action from concerned authority. Besides domestic households, local factories have also been shut down.

Chairman Gom Bahadur Magar of the project said floods destroyed the turbine and generator, among other equipment worth Rs 15 lakh.

“Electricity service has been obstructed after major equipment were destroyed by floods,” he informed.

Secretary Rishi Ram Ranabhat of the project said the office could not carry out repairs lacking budget.

“We need at least Rs 5 lakh immediately to start work,” he said.

Meanwhile, a project source said that District Development Committee plans to offer Rs 60,000 to repair the damaged project.