



Tanahu Hydropower Limited

(A subsidiary company of Nepal Electricity Authority)

Trade Tower Building, 4th Floor, Thapathali, Kathmandu, Website: <http://www.thl.com.np>

NEWS LETTER - 074/075- 18

February, 2018

Inside this issue

• Present Status

• Future Course of Action

PRESENT STATUS

Bidding Process:

- THL Board approved the Technical Bid Evaluation Report (TBER) of package 1 on 01 Feb 2018. Accordingly, THL issued a letter on 02 Feb 2018 inviting two substantially responsive Bidders to attend the opening of their Price Bids. Price Bids were opened on 09 Feb 2018, and the evaluation of the Price Bids is being carried out jointly by THL and PSC.
- JICA issued the concurrence letter to the PBER of Package 2 on 15 January 2018 and THL Board approved PBER on 01 Feb 2018. THL initiated the Pre-award discussion with Lowest Evaluated Bidder.
- THL is still waiting from the ADB for their concurrence on the Bidding Documents along with cost estimates of Package 3- Transmission Line. Upon receiving no objection from the ADB, the notice for Invitation for Bids (IFB) will be published for the Package 3.

Safeguard activities:

Environmental Safeguard:

The Semiannual Environmental Monitoring Report covering the period from July to December 2017 and Updated EMP have been submitted to the ADB. Air and noise quality data from four locations (Damsite/Betini, Powerhouse, Jhaputar and Patan) of the project were collected during 26 to 28 February, 2018.



Air quality sampling at Jhaputar



Measuring wind velocity at Power house site

Fish Biodiversity:

An Awareness workshop was organized with fishers of Byas Municipality on conservation and sustainable utilization of aquatic biodiversity in Seti River within the project area of Tanahu Hydropower Project. Twenty two traditional fishers, from Vyas Municipality ward 5, Beni patan, Ghutukdi participated in the workshop. The main objective of the workshop is to educate the fishers about:

- Fish biodiversity in Seti River within Tanahu Hydropower Project area;
- Role of fish in food security, livelihood, human nutrition sport fishing/tourism industry;
- Role of fishes and other aquatic fauna and flora in balancing aquatic environment /aquatic ecosystem;
- Causes of fish population depletion in Seti river;
- Aquatic life protection Act and its regulation to conserve indigenous fish resources;
- Impact of Hydropower Dam on indigenous fish faunal diversity eventually on the livelihood of local fishers;
- Proposed mitigation measures such as establishment and operation of a fish hatchery, Fish catch and haul and fish habitat rehabilitation to mitigate the adverse effects of dam on fish and eventually on local fishers were discussed.



Awareness Workshop with Fishers

Monthly Sampling of Fish and measurement of biotic and abiotic parameters of Seti River at 9 stations were accomplished. Data on Socio-economic status of fisher's household of downstream of the powerhouse site was gathered (at Belbas, Sangye and Buduwafaat). Three different potential sites for proposed fish hatchery were identified in the adjacent area of the proposed reservoir.

Community Meeting

As recommended by the ADB Social Safeguards Mission (13-17 November 2017), community meetings with the stakeholders are being continued. Issues regarding social safeguard and environmental monitoring were discussed during these meetings.

Meeting of Local Consultative Forum (LCF)

As per provisions of Resettlement and Indigenous People Plan (RIPP)-2012, Local Consultative Forums (LCFs) have been established at project affected Rural Municipalities and Municipalities. The following meetings of all LCFs were conducted as per the approved working procedures:

- The consultation meeting has been held at the site office of Damauli on 15 Feb 2018 on the issues of acquiring/leasing the land of Betini area, project progress, grievances of APS in the presence Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Ward Chairperson, other members of LCF, THL and APS.
- The issues on compensation payment, project progress and use of land have been



Consultation Meeting at Site office

discussed on 17 Feb 2018 in the presence of THL ESMU team, APS 8, M-4, F-8 at Bhiman Municipality-5 Badrakuna.

Operation of Public Information Center (PIC)

The Public Information Center (PIC) has been established at Rising Rural Municipality. The PIC also facilitated the skill development training conducted by Tanahu Technical School, Bhimad.



Consultation Meeting at Bhimad Municipality-5, Badrakuna

Bridging Consultant

The Bridging Consultants comprising of Environmental, Fisheries and Social Safeguard Specialists have been engaged in the site to undertake all required preparatory measures as mentioned in Environment Management Plan (EMP) and to monitor pre-construction works as required until the Environment and Social Management Service Provider (ESMSP) is mobilized. During the reporting period baseline monitoring, compliance monitoring has been progressed on water quality sampling, forest and wildlife survey, downstream sensitivities survey.

Environment and Social Management Service Provider (ESMSP)

A notice for Expression of Interest (EOI) was published in national the newspaper "The Rising Nepal" as well as on website of ADB (<http://cms.adb.org>) for the recruitment of ESMSP. Evaluation of EOI Application is being carried out by the Evaluation Committee. It is expected that EOI evaluation report will be submitted to the ADB in first week of March 2018 for their review and approval.

Census Survey

The field surveys with questionnaires are being continued at the project affected areas. The surveys will identify the available work forces for the major construction works within the affected area, training need for severely affected family, ethnic/indigenous group, landless people, vulnerable group and economic status of affected households. A total of 445(3-NA) questionnaire forms have been filled so far. The data tabulations of surveyed questionnaires have been completed.

Skill Development Training

The first phase of the skill development training has been completed on 24 February 2018 by Tanahu Technical School, Bhimad. A total sixty trainees from the project affected areas are participated in the training. The Bridging Consultant (Environmental Monitoring Specialist) provided safeguard classes to skill development trainees. The formal closing program along with certificate distribution will be held during the first week of March, 2018



Trainee practicing during Training class

Grievance Registration and Readdress

The project site office and newly established LCFs have been registering grievances raised by affected as well as local people. The registered grievances so far focus mainly on following issues:

Table 1. Summary of Grievance Registration

S.N.	Type of Grievance	Number
1.	Missing of tree counting	15
2.	Missing of item in property valuation	4
3.	Land remaining less than 1 ropani	6
4.	Low valuation of structure	4
5.	Compensation of trees planting in public land near their registered land	6
6.	Request to THL to provide Identity Card to all Affected Families	1
Total		36

The LCFs in coordination with the project site office work continuously for addressing the registered grievances. The identity cards for the affected families have been printed and will be distributed shortly

Project Preparatory Works:

Access Roads:

Access Road from Chapaghat to Dam Site Area (3,234)

The construction of access road from Chapaghat to the entry of the Dam Site has been completed with Double Bituminous Surface Treatment (DBST). Track opening in the remaining section of the road towards the dam site will be initiated soon after the acquisition of some plots of private land along the alignment. Preliminary notice for the acquisition of land will be published shortly.



Access Road towards Power House

Access Road from RCC Bridge to Powerhouse (3314m)

The construction of the access road from the RCC Bridge to the powerhouse has been completed with Double Bituminous Surface Treatment (DBST). The Contractor has to submit as-built drawing along with the final progress report.

Camp Facilities

All together 33 nos. of buildings (2 nos. of office buildings for employer and consultants, 2 nos. of residential building of type A, 12 nos. of residential building of type B, 10 nos. of residential building of type C, 2 Dormitories, 1 Guest house, 1 health post, 2 restaurants and 1 guard house) are to be constructed for camp facilities. Brickworks and plastering are being continued. As of January 2017, about 70% physical works and 60% of financial progress have been achieved in construction of camp facilities. It is expected that the Contractor will complete one office building and two other residential buildings by the end of April 2018.



Camp Facilities

Construction Power Sub-Station

Construction of power substation nearby the camp site has been completed.

Power Purchase Agreement

THL has engaged a local legal firm to review the draft PPA and prepare a notary translation of draft PPA into English. NEA and THL have been discussing in details on the certain clauses of the draft PPA.

Rock Mechanical Test and Core Drilling

After completion of all the scheduled Slotter Tests in all boreholes inside the test adit, PSC has submitted the Rock Mechanical Test report to THL.

Upgrading of Generation License from 127MW to 140MW

After approval of SEIA report of Tanahu Hydropower Project by the Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE) on 6 November 2017, THL submitted the application to DoED for the upgrading of generation license to 140MW with the required documents and the license fees. Ministry of Energy (MoEn) has approved the upgrading of generation license to 140 MW on 28 December 2017.

SIEE for Proposed New Route Alignment of Damauli-New Bharatpur Transmission Line

After approval of the SIEE report of Damauli-Bharatpur 220kV Transmission Line by the Ministry of Energy on 13 October 2017, THL has submitted the application to the DoED for construction license of the TL on 21 December 2017. Public notice has been issued from DOED for issuance for Transmission line construction license.

Licenses

- THL applied for the construction license of 220 kV Damauli-Bharatpur transmission line on 21 December 2017.
- THL has prepared a brief project report for 1.9 MW environmental flows generation plant and application will be submitted to DoED for the Survey License of Generation shortly.
- THL has received the survey license of generation of Lower Seti (Tanahu) Hydropower Project with the installed capacity to 104MW. After joint site visit of THL and JICA Data Collection Team, the JICA Data Collection Team is preparing the preliminary report of the project, on basis of which, the further study will be conducted.

FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION:

TECHNICAL ACTION

Expression of Interest for ESMSP: After the completion of evaluation of the EoIs for ESMSP, THL will issue Request for Proposals (RFP) to the shortlisted consulting firms by the mid of March 2018.

Award of Contracts for Main Packages: Pre-award discussion with lowest evaluated Bidder for package 2 will be continued in the second week of March, 2018. Upon conclusion of pre-award discussion, contract documents will be sent to JICA for their perusal.

Power Purchase Agreement: It is expected to conclude the PPA with NEA by the end of April 2018.

SAFEGUARD ACTION

Update of RIPP: Preparation of the draft updated RIPP is in the final stage with the support of PSC. It will be submitted to the ADB for their review.

Compensation Distribution: About 92% of total affected families have already received the compensation payments for land within the reservoir area. So far, about NRs. 999 Million has been distributed to the affected HHs. The compensation distribution activities will be continued as well as further land acquisition /lease for site establishment at Betini area will be initiated in March 2018.

Community Consultation: Community consultation is planned for once in a month at each LCF.

Preparation of Booklet and Leaflet: A leaflet of THL has been finalized and will be distributed to all stakeholders after printing. The texts of the leaflet mainly focus on introduction and salient features of the Project, FAQ part, progress status till date on pre-construction as well on safeguard works.

Local Media Mobilization for Information Dissemination: As scheduled, local media, both print and electronic, especially FM radios of Tanahu District are being mobilized to disseminate project related information

Contact Address:

Tahanu Hydropower Limited

Trade Tower Building, 4th Floor, Thapathali, Kathmandu

Phone No.: +977-1-5111117, 5111118, Fax: +977-1-5111121,

Email: info@thl.com.np, Website: <http://www.thl.com.np>