PRESENT STATUS

Main Construction Packages

Package 1 contract

Following the no objection from the ADB and subsequent approval of the revised cost estimate and bidding documents from THL Board, THL published the invitation of Bids for re-bidding of Package-1 (Headworks) on 25 April, 2019 stipulating the bid submission deadline to be 9 June 2019. A pre-bid meeting will be held at the office of the Employer in Kathmandu on 16 May 2019 at 1:00pm (NST) to explain the bidding procedures and the scope of works of the project. Prior to the pre-bid meeting, a site visit will be organized by the Employer on 15 May 2019.

Package 2 Contract

The works for construction of site establishment area as well as the survey and design works of the access road to the tailrace outlet and surge tank area under the “Package 2 Contract” are being carried out by the Package 2 Contractor, M/S Sinohydro Cooperation Limited.

The Contractor has submitted detail design methodology for Engineer’s review.

Package 3 Contract

Detail Survey along the transmission line route alignment and preparation of plan and profile are being carried out by the Contractor M/S KEC International Ltd. for Package-3. About 22 km of the detail survey has been completed and 10 km profile from AP-10 to AP-25 has been prepared The Sag tension Calculation as well as technical data sheet for OPGW and earthwire have been submitted to the Engineer for approval.
Environmental & Social Management Safeguard Activities

Preparation of RIPP for Transmission Line
The consulting firm has submitted the draft report of the “Social Survey and Stakeholder Consultation” for preparation of Resettlement and Indigenous People Plan (RIPP) of transmission line component to THL for review and comments, if any. Upon finalization of the report after incorporating the comments from THL, RIPP will be prepared.

Grievance Registration and Redress
The Local Consultative Forum (LCF) meeting was held in the office of Rishing Rural Municipality on 11 April, 2019. Discussions were held on the following issues.
- Compensation benefits to the rehabilitated people in the project area;
- To expedite the process of returning the capital gain tax money deducted from the compensation amount paid to the land owners;
- Provision of electricity in some villages where the poles have been erected and the electric wires have also been provided and
- Continuous maintenance work on the completed water supply project.

ESMSP Consultant
Following the no objection from the ADB and subsequent approval of the Price Proposal Evaluation Report from the THL Board, Contract Negotiation with the selected firm M/S ELC, Italy in association with GEOCE consultant Ltd., Nepal was successfully concluded on 12 April 2019. The submission-4 with Minutes of Contract Negotiation and draft Contract Agreement was submitted to ADB and THL has received the concurrence on 27 April 2019 for contract signing.

Consultation Meeting with Collective Right Protection Committee
A meeting was held with members of the “Collective Rights Protection Committee to Directly Drawn Affected People, Tanahu was held at Paltyang, Ward-8, in Rishing Rural Municipality on 2 April, 2019. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Takeshi Shiihara (Senior Portfolio Management Specialist) and Ms. Yoojung Jang (Social Safeguard Expert) from the ADB. On behalf of THL, following documents were made available to the committee which had been translated into Magar language:
  i) Summary of “Updated resettlement and Indigenous people’s plan-2018”;

Exchange of Minutes of Contract Negotiation

Consultation Meeting with APs of Reservoir area
ii) Entitlement matrix;
iii) “Tanahu Hydropower Project- A Brief Introduction”, including Frequently Asked Questions; and
iv) “12 Point Action Plan” agreed among Office of Special Project Facilitator of Accountable Mechanism of ADB, THL and “Direct Concern Reservoir Area Conservation committee”.

The committee put forward a new demand of ‘land for land’ compensation. After an elaborate discussion on this demand, Mr. Shihiara and the members of the THL team realized that this demand had never been put forward officially in written by the concerned committee. Since more than 90% of the land owners have already received the cash compensation, it was made clear to the committee members that ‘land for land’ compensation was not feasible. In addition, it was also made clear to the committee that compensation rate of the land could not be increased.

However, if the affected members from the committee collectively purchase land from the compensation and decide to create their own community village, THL can assist them in developing infrastructures such as road, electricity, drinking water, health post etc. within the framework of entitlement matrix and social measures provisioned in the RIPP.

Project Preparatory Works
Access Roads
Access Road from Chapaghat to Beni Patan Area has been completed. After resolving issues of the land acquisition in the Betini area, the construction of the remaining section of road to the dam site (mainly earthworks and stone masonry retaining walls) have been completed. The construction of side drains is in progress.

Camp Facilities
The construction of camp facilities has been completed. The Contractor has submitted the final bill to THL, which is under review for final payments.

Lower Seti (Tanahu) Hydropower Project
Following the receipt of no objection of the Submission 4 (incorporating the Minutes of Contract Negotiation and the draft Contract Agreement) from the ADB and subsequent approval from the THL board, the contract was signed on 12 April 2019. It is planned that the Consultant, JV WAPCOS Limited, India and Nippon Koei Co, Ltd. Japan in association with TMS, Nepal and GEOCE Consultant informed will commence the services from the second week of May, 2019.

FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION
Procurement & Construction
Package1 Contract: Following the issuance of IFB, Bid Document are being issued to the interested bidders. THL with the support from the PSC will response the Request for Clarifications from the Bidder after pre-bid meeting.

Contractor Mobilization: In addition to the site establishment works, the Package-2 Contractor
will start construction of the access road to the tailrace outlet and surge tank after approval of the respective designs from the Engineer. The Package 3 Contractor will mobilize the full team to conduct the cadastral survey and geological investigation along the transmission line route alignment and also start design of different types of towers.

**Safeguard Action**

**Engagement of Environmental and Social Management Support Program (ESMSP):** Contract Agreement with the selected ESMSP is expected to be concluded by the end of May 2019.

**Compensation Distribution:** Compensation distribution in Reservoir, Betini and Banchare area will be continued.

**Stakeholders Consultation:** THL is regularly engaged in consultation with Local Authorities like District Administrative Office, Land Revenue office, Survey Office, DFO and Local Level Government. Project information in the form of Booklet and Leaflet which includes salient features, FAQ and information on present status and safeguard activities of the project, are being distributed to all stakeholders. Local media are also being mobilized to disseminate project related information.

**Grievance Redress Mechanisms:** THL continues to receive written grievances from the project affected people (APs). THL has a system of grievance redress mechanism that involves scrutiny of the grievances by THL/ESMU internally in addition to soliciting advice on the issues from the concerned LCF members. Only after a thorough scrutiny by the concerned parties, an action to the effect is recommended to the THL higher authorities by ESMU. To date, much of the grievances have been resolved to the satisfaction of the concerned individual/groups. Some of the unresolved grievances will be regularly processed in the future.

**LCF meeting:** The LCF meetings will be carried out, once every two months, as per the RIPP guidelines. These LCF meetings have been given utmost priority under scoring the fact that regular updating and information sharing about the progress of the project is extremely important to avoid any misunderstanding with the local communities during the construction phase of the project.

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