PRESENT STATUS

Main Construction Packages

Package 1 Contract:
Following the pre-bid meeting of Package 1 (Headworks) Re-bid, THL issued the Addendum No.1 to the bidding documents on 05 June 2019 thereby extending the deadline of bid submission to 12 Noon of 07 July 2019 in due consideration of the requests from the bidders. In accordance with the ITB Clause 7.1 of the Bidding Documents, THL further issued the Clarification No. 1 on 16 June 2019 as response to the queries received from the bidders.

Package 2 Contract:
The Package 2 Contractor Sinohydro Corporation Limited, China submitted the draft Contractor's All Risks (CAR) insurance policy as received from Himalayan General Insurance with PICC, Hongkong as the re-insurer for review and comments, if any. Following further discussions and amendments in the draft policy, THL approved the CAR policy on 12 June 2019.

The Contractor has started the operation of their Camp facilities after completion of some buildings, whereas finishing works of remaining building are ongoing. The other site establishment works at Banchare are being continued. The Contractor has also started the excavation of access road to surge tank.

Package 3 Contract:
PSC has approved the Plan and Profile of 22 km route alignment of Transmission Line. The Package 3 Contractor has also mobilized the local firm to carry out geotechnical investigation of tower foundation sites. Geotechnical investigation of eight out of a total of 41 such locations have been completed so far.
Environmental & Social Management Safeguard Activities

Preparation of RIPP for Transmission Line

The consulting firm has submitted the final report of the “Social Survey and Stakeholder Consultation” for preparation of Resettlement and Indigenous People Plan (RIPP) of transmission line component. After finalization of the TOR, THL will request the consulting firm to submit the technical and price proposal for preparation of RIPP of transmission line.

Coordination Meeting at Bhimad

Coordination meeting regarding the construction of a motorable bridge at Wangtang Khola was held in the office of Bhimad Municipality on 20 June 2019. Following issues were discussed during the meeting:

- As the motorable access to the Wangtang area will be inundated due to the full supply level of Tanahu dam, a motorable bridge needs to be built. It was agreed to make a coordinated effort jointly by Gandaki State Government, Bhimad municipality and THL.
- The Bhimad Municipality will act as a coordinating agency for the initial planning. State Department of Road will be responsible for all the technical design, estimate and implementation of the project.

Environmental and Social Management Service Provider (ESMSP) Consultant

Following the signing of contract with the selected firm M/S Electro-Consult (Italy) in association with GEOCE consultant Ltd., THL has issued the letter on 07 June 2019 thereby confirming the effectiveness of the Contract. The Consultant committed to commence the services from the 01 July, 2019.

EIB MISSION

The EIB conducted a mission from 04- 14 June 2019 to review the progress of different power sector projects in Nepal. The mission discussed with THL officials regarding THP progress, status of re-bid process for package-1 and progress on social and environmental issues including compensation payment to the APs. The mission conducted a site visit to the project area on 06 June 2019.
Engagement of External Monitors
Following the approval of the ToR from the ADB, THL has published the notice for the engagement of environmental and social safeguard external monitors in the ADB CMC system. It is expected that the external monitors will be engaged by August after evaluation of the CVs of the prospective candidates.

Community Development Works
THL concluded a contract agreement with the Janjyoti Campus, Bhimad on 12 May 2019 for assisting the finishing works of the campus building, which is under construction. As per the contract agreement, THL will provide an assistance of NRs. 2 million for finishing works of the building.

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 works of the remaining section of road to the dam area (mainly earthworks and stone masonry retaining walls) are almost completed. The constructions of side drains are in progress.

Lower Seti (Tanahu) Hydropower Project
Following the commencement of the services on 15 May 2019, the Consultant JV of WAPCOS, India and Nippon Koei, Japan mobilized the team of international experts. The office was established in Kathmandu and the team along with the local experts visited the site in connection with the preparation of Inception Report. It is planned to commence the hydrological investigation including both sediment and discharge measurements at the dam site from 15 July 2019. The Consultant committed to submit the Inception Report by 15 July 2019.

FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION
Procurement & Construction
Package 1 Contract: After opening of the technical bids received for the Package 1 Re-bid, THL with the assistance of the PSC will start the technical bids with the immediate effect. It has been planned to submit the TBER to the ADB by 15 August 2019.

Package 2 Contract: 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.

Package 3 Contract: The package 3 Contractor will continue the check survey and the geotechnical investigation of the tower locations. The Contractor shall also start the design work of different types of towers.

Environmental & Social Safeguard
Compensation Distribution: Compensation distribution to remaining APs 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 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 authority 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 conducted once in every two months, as per the RIPP guidelines. These LCF meetings have been given utmost priority underscoring 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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