PRESENT STATUS

Main Construction Packages

Package 1 contract:
Following the Invitation for Re-bid of Package 1 (Headworks) on 25 April 2019, site visit was organized by THL as scheduled on 15 May 2019 and subsequently pre-bid meeting was conducted on 16 May 2019. THL with the supports of PSC will issue the clarifications to the queries raised by the Bidders soon.

Package 2 Contract:
The works for construction of site establishment area including contractor’s camp facilities, batching and crushing plant, labor camp etc. are being carried out by the Package 2 Contractor, M/S Sinohydro Cooperation Limited. The survey and design works of the access road tunnel to the tailrace outlet, powerhouse and surge tank have been submitted to the Engineer for review and approval.

The contractor has also 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 Package 3 Contractor M/S KEC International Ltd. About 22 km of the detail survey works have been completed and its plan and profiles have been prepared. The design criteria, sag tension calculation, tower design for DB and DC tower as well as technical data sheets (TDS) for materials and equipment has been submitted to the Engineer for review and approval.
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.

Grievance Registration and Redress

LCF Meeting at Rishing:
The Local Consultative Forum (LCF) meeting was held in the office of Bhimad Municipality on 30 May 2019. Discussions were held on the following issues:

- A motorable bridge across Wangtang Khola shall be constructed as the present access will be inundated by the reservoir. An understanding was reached to take a coordinated joint effort by Gandaki State Government, Bhimad municipality and THL for this purpose.

- It is likely that due to the inundation area, residential areas of Kumar Chok, canals and streams in the Athais Chok area including the residential areas may be affected. To mitigate this impact, THL will make a detailed study of the situation after the mobilization of ESMSP in the field.

LCF Meeting at Myagde:
The Local Consultative Forum (LCF) meeting was held in the office of the Myagde Rural Municipality on 29 May, 2019. Discussions were held on the following issues:

- On the basis of the recommendations made by the LCF meeting held on 2 March, 2019, the residents of the Myagde Rural Municipality 5, Phulbari, who were residing there since a long time without any land holding certificates, were provided with livelihood and income generation support. A resolution was passed to thank THL and Compensation Determination Committee for this support.

- The LCF also recommended to provide employment opportunity to the project affected local people on the basis of their skills and qualifications.
Environmental and Social Management Service Provider (ESMSP) Consultant

Following the no objection from the ADB and subsequent approval of the negotiated contract from the THL Board, the Contract for ESMSP was signed with the selected firm M/S ELC, (Italy) in association with GEOCE consultant Ltd., Nepal on 20 May 2019.

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 (mainly earthworks and stone masonry retaining walls) has been completed. The constructions of side drains are 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 by THL for making final payments.

Lower Seti (Tanahu) Hydropower Project
Following the signing of the Contract for detailed design and preparation of bidding documents of Lower Seti (Tanahu) Hydropower Project, the Contract was made effective from 8 May 2019. Subsequently, the Consultant M/S WAPCOS Limited (India), Nippon Koei Co, Ltd. (Japan) in association with TMS, (Nepal) and GEOCE Consultant, Nepal commenced the services from 15 May 2019 after making a site visit.

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 respond to the request for clarifications from the bidders.

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 the design work of different types of towers.

Safeguard Action

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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