Source: The Rising Nepal, 16 May 2021

42 MW Of Mristi Khola Connected To The National Grid

Beni, May 16: The electricity generated from the private sector-invested Mristi Khola Hydropower Project in Annapurna Rural Municipality-4 of Myagdi has been connected to the national grid since Thursday.

The project has stated that the electricity generated from the project will be commercially produced after being tested for 15 days.

The 42-MW Mristi Khola hydropower project constructed by the Mountain Energy Nepal had linked its electricity to the national grid through the substation at Annapurna Rural Municipality-3 Dana.

According to Diwakar Khadka, a residential engineer at the Mristi Khola Hydropower Project, the electricity generated from all the three units of 14 MW each is connected to the central system.

Khadka said, "We have operated all the units of the project for testing." A technical team of Nepal Electricity Authority had come to test production and connect to the substation.

Mountain Energy has completed the project at a cost of Rs. 134.3 million per megawatt.

The company has claimed that it is
the largest hydropower project ever completed by the private sector with domestic investment.

Nepal Investment Bank, Hydro Electricity Investment and Development Company Nepal, Laxmi Bank, Siddhartha Bank and Ace Development Bank have invested in the project under the leadership of Nabil Bank.

Business houses, including Bhatbhateni Group, IME Group, Kia Motors and City Money Express have invested in the project.

Although the project, which started construction on June 13, 2016, should have been connected to the system earlier, it was affected due to the delay in construction of transmission line, natural calamity, COVID-19 and other reasons.

According to Nisha Rijal, Information Officer of the Department of Electricity Development, the license number 53 was obtained by Robert Energy on November 6, 2011 for the construction.

According to the promoter, the project is about to start power generation after

Robert Energy was later taken over by Mountain Energy.
The project has been delayed due to slow progress in construction of 220 kV Kaligandaki Corridor Transmission Line and Dana substation by Nepal Electricity Authority.
About 49 megawatt of electricity will be generated from Myagdi district after Mristi begins commercial production.
Earlier, electricity was being generated from 2 MW Tatopani Small Hydropower Project and 5 MW Ghalemdi Hydropower Project in Narchyang.
A four km transmission line of 132kV capacity connecting Beshigaun of Narchyang to the 220kV substation at Dana was successfully tested only a few days ago.

Source: My Republica, 18 May 2021

Govt enforces EPC system for construction of big projects, barring them from extending deadline

KATHMANDU, May 18: The government has barred the extending of timeline for the big projects to be constructed in the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) model.

Enforcing the Directive on Procurement through EPC-2021, the Public Procurement Monitoring Office (PPMO) has maintained that big projects cannot extend their deadlines except in case of natural disasters like earthquake, fire, flood and landslide, among others.

Under the EPC model, the project design, construction and operation are handled by the contractor company. The government has envisioned building big projects like construction of tunnels, bridges, strategic roads, hydropower and irrigation, among others, through the EPC model, citing ongoing problems of extending deadlines by the contractors showing various pretexts that lead to heavy increase in project costs.

As of now, Nepal Electricity Authority has been following the EPC model to construct its projects. Recently, the Nepal Army (NA) has also taken forward the construction of the Kathmandu-Tarai Fast Track by using this model. In the absence of the related laws for the EPC model, the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee had even raised concerns over the move taken by the NA.

According to the PPMO, with the directive in effect, the government authorities will now have to abide by the new law while forwarding both domestic and international bidding processes for the projects that require high and complex technical skills.

Source: The Rising Nepal, 20 May 2021

Tamakoshi Stops Testing Of Project

Charikot, May 20: Upper Tamakoshi Hydroelectricity Project has stopped the testing of the civil and hydro mechanical structures after a manhole in one of the penstock pipes started leaking.

A horizontal penstock pipe connecting the 373 metre lower vertical and 310 metre upper vertical shafts has started leaking through a manhole, said Dr. Ganesh Neupane, Spokesperson of the project.

The lid of the manhole was not fitted properly. Currently, technicians are adjusting the plates of the lid which were not properly attached to the bolts.

According to Neupane, such problems during the testing of a hydroelectricity project are common and it would be resolved by Friday. "Water would be sent through the tunnel from Saturday," he said.

The project at Bigu Rural Municipality of Dolakha district is completed after 10 years since the starting of the construction. It started the testing of the tunnel and equipment from April 29, and testing of MSOV to vertical shaft is completed.

The project was delayed as it faced challenge to make the tunnel and install penstock pipes in the 90 degree upper and lower tunnel.

About 1165 metre penstock pipe is installed at the project. However, there is no problem in both of the vertical shafts.

Following the maintenance of the manhole, the remaining 8-km long tunnel would also be filled with water.

Dr. Neupane said that the project would begin to start production of about 67 megawatt of electricity by the end of May.

The project has six units with 76 MW capacity each.