

Source: My Republica, 26 June 2021

Upper Tamakoshi carrying out test production from Sunday

KATHMANDU, June 26: The Upper Tamakoshi Hydroelectric Project is carrying out a test production starting from Sunday.

Issuing a public notice on Saturday, Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has said the testing will be done from June 27 to July 3, which will include the management of the transmission line to connect the electricity produced by the project to the national grid. NEA in this regard has notified that the 132 KV Khimti-Lamosanghu corridor will remain closed during the period.

Project chief Bigyan Shrestha said they will be conducting testing of the first unit of the power plant from Sunday following the successful testing of an eight kilometer long tunnel. Likewise, testing of civil infrastructure such as reservoir, dam and descender and hydro mechanical equipment of the project has also been completed, according to Shrestha.

It is one of the six units that the hydroelectric project is bringing into testing from Sunday. The project consists of six units, having fitted with six underground turbines and six generators, each with a capacity of producing 76 MW of electricity. According to Shrestha, they are working to operate three units in this fiscal year and another three units the next fiscal year.

The 456 MW national pride project is being constructed with domestic investment. The mega project that started its construction a decade ago has crossed its first deadline by six years to start production. The total cost estimated till the completion of the project is around Rs 76 billion.

Source: The Rising Nepal, 27 June 2021

Power Supply In Mudi

Myagdi, June 27 : Power from the central grid has been supplied to Mudi in Dhaulagiri rural municipality-4 of Myagdi. The power supply reached Mudi on Saturday evening at the initiative of the Nepal Electricity Authority, Myagdi distribution centre.

As a result, 250 households in Mudi are now enjoying regular power supply. Earlier, the locals here were dependent on solar and traditional oil-fed lamps for lighting during the dark.

This has brought smiles to the people, with household work becoming easier and students having more time for studies, said local resident Ganesh Pun.

Along with Mudi, Faligaon, Muna, Dara and Mangala of the rural municipality will also see electrification taking place during the current fiscal year, said NEA Myagdi chief Prasant Jha.

Source: My Republica, 29 June 2021

NEA asks firms to clear dues for use of dedicated feeders, trunk lines by the end of this fiscal year

NEA in a fresh move sends letter to industrialists despite failing in number of similar attempts in the past

KATHMANDU, June 29: Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has written once again to the industrialists with the dues of dedicated feeders and trunk lines to clear the dues by the end of this fiscal year or face disconnection for defying the notice.

The helpless state-owned power utility had already sent letters a number of times to the industrialists in the past, but it has so far failed to accomplish its task. Hitendra Dev Shakya, managing director of NEA, said this time they have given a deadline of 15 days to clear their outstanding dues. “If they fail to abide by NEA guidance, we will step up to disconnect the power supply to them,” he said.

In June 2015, the NEA had set a premium tariff for factories using electricity through dedicated feeders and trunk lines from August that year. Citing power outage problems at that time, the NEA had decided to impose additional fees on industries that consume a high amount of energy.

The parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has sorted out Rs 14.08 billion dues of around 300 industrial units for the use of electricity through dedicated feeders and trunk lines. Last April, PAC directed the government to recover the amount from these industrial units.

In March 2020 too, NEA had sent letters to the industrialists to settle their dues. Even the courts in 20 cases out of 26 related to the issue, had given their verdicts asking industrialists to clear the dues.

Amid ongoing controversy, a cabinet meeting last year even waived the premium charge for eight and a half months of the total dues in order to minimize excess financial burden on the industrialists. With the decision, the industrialists were supposed to settle the dues of only 28 months and 11 days.

But the industrialists have been arguing that it was not appropriate for the NEA to levy additional fees even after the power utility announced the end of load-shedding in 2016.

Source: My Republica, 30 June 2021

Upper Tamakoshi in final stage of testing, target of 76 MW power generation from Monday

KATHMANDU, June 30: The final phase of testing to generate electricity from the first unit of the under-construction Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project in Bigu Rural Municipality of Dolakha is in full swing. The project is scheduled to start generating electricity from the first unit of the 456 MW project with 6 units each of 76 MW starting on Monday. After generating electricity from the first unit, electricity will be generated from the remaining units.

A team comprising managing director of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) who is also the chairman of the Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Limited, Hitendra Dev Shakya, Prime Minister's Development Expert Gajendra Thapaliya monitored the project construction site on Sunday and Monday and set the schedule of power generation from the first unit from Monday.

The team monitored the equipment being tested at the powerhouse, the dam site, the new Khimti substation under-construction at Khimti in Ramechhap and discussed with the officials involved in the construction. "We have brought the project, which has been facing various problems, to the point of generating electricity through continuous efforts. All the tests have reached the final stage. We will start power generation from the first unit by switching on Monday morning without any technical problems," said Hitendra Dev Shakya.

All types of tests on reservoirs and sand dredging ponds, dams, civil structures including intakes and all kinds of hydro mechanical equipment like gates, staples connected there have been successfully completed. The first unit is being tested at the powerhouse. The

electricity generated from the project will be connected to the national grid through the Gongar-Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 kV transmission line. For this, the construction of the transmission line has been completed and the line is being tested.

The 76 km Khimti-Dhalkebar transmission line is being tested. The new Khimti substation of 220 KV that is under-construction in Khimti is being tested. "As it will take a few days to test the substation, alternative arrangements will be made to connect the project's electricity to the New Khimti substation and connect it directly to the Dhalkebar substation," Shakya said. "We have made the necessary arrangements for this."

Source: My Republica, 1 July 2021

Writ petition filed at SC, demanding halting of Kali Gandaki-Tinau Diversion Multipurpose Project

KATHMANDU, July 1: A writ petition has been filed at the Supreme Court (SC) demanding that the proposed Kali Gandaki-Tinau Diversion Multipurpose Project be halted immediately.

Advocates Tulsiram Pokharel, Ram Bahadur Shahi and Santosh Bhandari lodged the writ petition on Thursday, citing it is against the spirit of federalism.

The petitioners have claimed that the project has been introduced as per India's 'design and interests'

"India's River Connection Project seeks to connect 14 rivers in all Himalayan regions, including those of Nepal, 18 rivers in the Deccan Plateau and 37 interstate rivers in India," the writ petition claims.

The project aims to irrigate 107,000 hectares of land in Lumbini Province and generate 125 MW of electricity by diverting 80 percent of the Kaligandaki River into the Tinau River. The project plans to divert the Kaligandaki River from Syangja's Galyang to Tinau in Rupandehi district, which is being strongly opposed by the residents of Gandaki Province and the river basin area.

The writ petitioners have demanded the Supreme Court issue an order to stop the project as the residents of the river catchment area (from Ramdi to Devghat) will be impacted hugely.

“The project is unconditional and goes against the spirit of the law at the first sight as it is sure to impact the river basin areas and dozens of settlements in Palpa, Syangja, Tanahu Devghat, Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Putta, Bulingtar, Dedhgaun and Tribeni.

“This is an assault on a holy river in the name of modern development.”