

Source: My Republica, 17 July 2021

25 MW from Singati Khola Hydropower connected to national grid after more than a year of project completion

KATHMANDU, July 17: The 25 MW of electricity produced by the Singati Khola Hydropower Project has been added to the national grid since Friday.

The project, which is based at the confluence of the Tamakoshi River and Singati Khola, had completed its construction about one and a half years ago. However, in the absence of a transmission line, the project was unable to evacuate its production over the period, facing additional financial loss.

The construction cost of the project is Rs 4.90 billion. According to an official of the project, the apathy shown by the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has made the project face an additional cost of Rs 1 billion.

The project received the license in 2010. However, due to procedural delays in government offices following the 2015 earthquake, it started construction only on July 8, 2016, after six years of receiving the license.

It was supposed to produce electricity by November 2019 and connect its production to the 132 KV Singati Substation situated at a distance of 300 meters from the power house. The project suffered after the NEA delayed the construction of the transmission line connecting the project's power house to the Singati Substation. As per the agreement, the NEA needs to pay 45 percent of the annual income of the project in compensation after the power utility failed to construct the transmission line on time.

NEA has identified Singati Hydropower as one of the 'super six' hydroelectric projects, which can be constructed on a fast track. Of the group that consists of hydroelectricity projects in Kharekhola of Dolakha, Maya Khola of Sankhuwasabha, Mewa Khola of Taplegunj and Upper Solu of Solukhumbu, Singati Hydropower is the first to connect its product to the national grid.

According to Batu Lamichhane, chairman of the Singati Hydropower, they have targeted to sell electricity worth around Rs 750 million annually.

Source: Rising Nepal Daily, 18 July 2021

Flood And Landslide Damaged Eight Projects

Kathmandu, July 17: Eight various hydroelectricity projects have been damaged by the monsoon-induced disaster this year.

A study conducted by the Department of Electricity under the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation showed that these projects were damaged due to floods and landslides. The total capacity of the damaged projects is 208 megawatts.

The flood and landslide in the Dordi river in Lamjung on June 14 and 15 damaged the 12-megawatts capacity Dordi-1 Hydroelectricity Project. Similarly, another hydropower project of 27 megawatts capacity being developed by Himalayan Power Partner Ltd was also damaged.

The Department said the 25-megawatt Upper Dordi and the 54-megawatt Super Dordi 'Kha' have also been damaged.

The study shows that the total four projects being developed in the Dordi River corridor have suffered damage.

Likewise, the flood has damaged the 15.33-megawatt Kalanga Khola Hydropower Project. This project suffered damages due to floods and landslides on June 14 and 15.

Also damaged due to the flood and landslide are the 24-megawatt Madame Khola Project, the 7.27-megawatt Yamling Khola Project and the 44-megawatt Super Madi Project. The construction materials and equipment of the project have been

swept away by the flood. The floodwater entered the powerhouse of the project causing damage to it.

The Independent Power Producers Association of Nepal (IPAN) has called on the government to provide compensation to the projects that have suffered damage due to the flood and landslide.

Source: My Republica, 19 July 2021

322 MW of electricity connected to the national grid in the last fiscal year

KATHMANDU, July 19: A total of 322 MW of electricity has been connected to the national transmission line from the last fiscal year to July 18.

In the last fiscal year, 152 MW of electricity was connected to the national transmission line from two units of the much talked about Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project.

Similarly, power from more than a dozen hydropower projects developed by the private sector were connected to the national grid.

Spokesperson of the Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project Ganesh Prasad Neupane said that 152 MW of electricity of two units of the project was connected to the national transmission line in the last fiscal year.

"The first unit was connected to the 76-megawatt national transmission line on July 5," he said. "In the second week of July, 76 megawatts were added from the second unit."

He informed that the commercial test of Tamakoshi will be started only after 15 days of technical test.

The electricity generated from the 25 MW Singati Khola Hydropower Project has been connected to the national grid since July 16. The project, built in Dolakha district, was connected to the national grid 18 months after its completion. Even after the completion of the project, there was no electricity connection due to lack of transmission line.

The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has brought 132 KV Singati-Lamosanghu transmission line into operation since Thursday. Executive Director of the project Ganesh Karki said that more than Rs 1 billion was lost due to untimely construction of the transmission line.

"We built it with loans and money. We had to incur a loss of around Rs 1 billion due to untimely construction of the transmission line," he said. "It looks like we won't be getting any compensation for the loss due to COVID-19 pandemic." The cost for the project was Rs 5 billion. As the construction was delayed, the interest alone reached Rs 1 billion.

NEA spokesperson Madan Timalsina said that about 322 MW of electricity was connected to the national grid in the last fiscal year. He said, "This statement is inclusive of Singati in the national grid."

According to NEA, commercial production of 118 MW from the private sector and 130 MW from solar and biomass has started in the last fiscal year.

NEA Spokesperson Timalsina said that electricity could not be connected to the national transmission line as per the target in the last fiscal year. "Last fiscal year, we had set a target of connecting about 1,500 MW of electricity to the national transmission line. We could not meet the target due to COVID-19 and floods," he said. "Delay by the contractors and other factors also affected the target."

The NEA has stated that 130 MW of electricity has been generated commercially by solar and biomass from the private sector in the fiscal year 2020/21.

Source: My Republica, 20 July 2021

Dedicated and trunk line tariff dispute remains unresolved

KATHMANDU, July 20: Attempts by the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) to resolve the tariff dispute over the use of dedicated and trunk lines have failed this time as well. Although the NEA has announced an installment plan to pay the arrears to resolve the long-standing tariff dispute between some industrialists and NEA, only two industries have applied for that. The deadline to apply was mid-July.

According to NEA, there is an arrear of more than Rs 10 billion. Although the NEA invited the industrialists to submit applications over the non-payment of arrears, most of them did not apply.

Only Surya Nepal Pvt Ltd and Arihant Polypax have submitted applications to pay the tariff in installments. NEA Spokesperson Madan Timalina said that only two companies have applied for the scheme to pay that arrears in installments. NEA is preparing to cut the electricity supply of non-paying industries. "Applications from only Arihant and Surya Nepal have been received," said Timalina. "The electricity supply of those who do not apply and those who do not pay the tariff will be cut."

The Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) and other private sector umbrella organizations have been trying to find a solution to the electricity tariff dispute. CNI President Satish Kumar More said that it would not be fair to send bills to industries that have not applied for electricity and have not

signed an agreement. "Industries that have signed an agreement to apply for electricity should pay the tariff," he said. "How can an industry that has not reached an agreement and does not get electricity pay the tariff?"

The industrialists have also urged Finance Minister Janardan Sharma to resolve the dispute over dedicated and trunk line tariff dues. "We have informed the finance minister about this," he said. "He has said that industries that have not consumed electricity and have not entered into an agreement will not have to pay."

The task force formed to study the electricity tariff dispute has recommended collecting the dues of trunk and dedicated lines but the industrialists have been saying that they cannot pay the amount.

The industrialists have been saying that they could not pay the amount even though the NEA had asked them to do so. The industrialists have been arguing that they could not pay the tariff as the tariff was fixed by the then Electricity Tariff Fixation Commission without their approval.

Industrialists claim that the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) has removed the old system of charging extra for controversial trunks and dedicated lines and is not relevant now. They have been saying that they cannot pay the tariff as it was fixed without the permission of the ERC.

Although some industrialists went to court, the court had ordered them to pay the tariff as per the bill sent by NEA. The government had formed a task force after the industrialists met the prime minister and the energy minister and told them that they could not pay the tariff dues.

NEA has been claiming that an additional fee has to be paid by entrepreneurs for receiving electricity through the trunk line for 20 hours even during load-shedding.

Source: Rising Nepal Daily, 20 July 2021

New Electric Car Launched In Nepal

Kathmandu, July 20: Cimex Inc. has launched new BYD e6, a second generation electric car, in Nepali market. Equipped with 71.7kwh blade battery pack, e6 gives a range of 522km in a single charge making it the longest range electric vehicle in Nepal, said the company. BYD had set a new industry benchmark with blade battery, one of the unique innovations of automotive industry. According to the company, it is a new generation lithium iron phosphate battery that sets new benchmarks in safety, reliability, performance and power density. Likewise, 70 kW electric motor offers a torque of 180 Nm with smooth linear throttle response.

"New e6 is designed for a smooth and comfortable ride and has plenty of space in each compartment which is capped off with a 580 liters boot space," the company said.

According to Cimex, the vehicle supports both AC and DC fast charging, with charging time in AC Fast Charger of 2 hours and 1 hour 10 minutes in DC Boost Charger. With the 6.6 kW home charger the All-New e6 can be fully powered up in 10 hours.

The company claimed that it is the world's first EV to be equipped with Bosch's latest IPB Intelligent Integrated Brake Control System with extremely fast response time and smooth linear braking feel. Customers get the warranty of eight years or 500,000 km, which comes first, in battery, eight years or 150,000 km in motor, five years or 150,000 km each in in Electronic Control System, and transmission assembly. It is available in four colour options: black/blue, green/white, doctor black and crystal white. It comes at the price of Rs. 5.75 million.

Source: The Kathmandu Post, 23 July 2021

Urja Nepal catalyses EV rollout in Nepal

The workshop welcomed participation of 35 public and private agencies from Nepal, as well as regional and international experts.

As Nepal plans to shift from light vehicles that run on petroleum products to electric ones by 2031, stakeholders have emphasised the importance of identifying a business model that catalyses investment at the local, regional, national, and supranational levels in this rapidly emerging segment.

Several participants of the Electric Vehicles Workshop hosted by USAID's Urja Nepal and its companion project, USAID's South Asia Regional Energy Hub (SAREH), showcased multiple business models in use around the world.

The workshop welcomed participation of 35 public and private agencies from Nepal, as well as regional and international experts.

Urja Nepal and SAREH organised the workshop to accelerate the government's rollout of electric vehicles (EVs) by improving the knowledge of Nepali stakeholders on global practices and policies, analysing costs and benefits, understanding multiple business model options for the deployment of EVs, standards for charging infrastructure, and raising the awareness of leading practices related to the siting of public charging stations.

Nepal aims to replace fossil fuel vehicles with EVs by 2031 as part of its commitment to reduce emissions to address climate change.

"This workshop could not have come at a better time," said Shanker Khagi, Environment and Energy Specialist at USAID. "This will complement the government's efforts to roll out an environmentally friendly transportation system in the country that will contribute to addressing climate change, a top priority for US Government assistance in Nepal."

USAID is advancing the US government's priorities to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions in the coming decade and help Nepal increase its resilience to global climate change.

"As we have moved forward with EVs, it is important to explore and understand the utility of EVs and all other aspects associated with them," said Sagar Mani Gyawali, Project Manager of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Development Project at Nepal Electricity Authority, the state-owned power utility. "This workshop was a perfect platform for that."