# TEESTA-VI HE PROJECT (500 MW) SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS

#### PROGRESS FOR THE PERIOD: ENDING MARCH' 2025

1.	Name of the Project	Teesta-VI Hydro-Electric Project (500 MW)				
2.	Type of the Project	Hydro-Electric Project (Run-of-the-river scheme)				
3.	Clearance Letter(s) OM No. & Date					
	<ul><li>a) Environment Clearance</li><li>b) Forest Clearance</li></ul>	a) No. J-12011/55/2006-IA.I Dated 21.09.2006 and No. J-12011/55/2006-IA.I (R) Dated 14.08.2020.  Subsequent to amalgamation of Lanco Teesta Hydro Power limited-LTHPL (A wholly owned subsidiary of NHPC Limited) with NHPC Limited w.e.f. 27.01.2025, fresh proposal for transfer of Environment Clearance shall be applied shortly in Parivesh Portal 2.0.				
	b) I diest clearance	b) Letter Nos. Date Forest				
		F. No. 8- 23.05.2008 & 89.4266 140/2006-FC 12.03.2021				
		No. 5-WBB009 / 11.09.2007 0.6935 2007-BHU				
		No. 3-SK B 062/ 27.10.2008 0.096 2008-SHI/2274- 75				
		Total Forest Land (ha) 90.2161				
4.	Locations a) District(s) b) State(s) c) Latitude d) Longitude	Gangtok and Namchi Sikkim 27°14'29.98" N (Barrage); 27°10'42" N (Power House) 88°28'35.39" E (Barrage); 88°30'40" E (Power				
5.	Address for Correspondence  a) Address of concerned Project Head (with pin code, telephone/fax nos.)	Executive Director Teesta-VI HE Project NHPC Limited, Balutar, P. O. Singtam, District Gangtok- 737134 Phone: 03592 - 247221 (O)				
	b) Address of concerned HOD in Corporate Office (with pin code & telephone/fax no.)	Executive Director Environment & Diversity Management Division NHPC Limited, NHPC Office Complex, Sector - 33, Faridabad, Haryana- 121 003 Phone: 0129-2250111				

6.	Details of environmental Management Plans	As per <b>Annexure-I</b>			
7.	Break-up of the Project area (land details)				
	a) Submergence area Forest Non-forest b) Others	<ul> <li>36.00 ha forest land</li> <li>0.448 ha non-forest land</li> <li>Total: 36.448 ha</li> <li>1. 54.2161 ha forest land including 21.9971 ha of underground forest land.</li> <li>2. Private Land (about 34 ha) acquired by Sikkim Power Development Corporation (SPDC) and further leased to LTHPL for 35 years' lease period from Commercial Operate Date (COD) for Permanent Works, Muck Dumping, Road, Construction Facility, and</li> <li>3. Private Land (about 11.3657 ha) taken on short term lease with periods of 3.5/4/4.5/5/6/7 years directly by LTHPL.</li> </ul>			
8.	Break-up of the Project affected population with enumeration of those losing houses/dwelling units only, agricultural land only, both dwelling units and agricultural land and landless labourers/artisans.  (a) SC/ST/Adivasis	population density. Population of about 400 to 500 belonging to 111 families has been affected due to acquisition of some portion of land. As			
	(b) Others	Caste Category	Number		
	(b) Others	(a) Scheduled Tribes (STs)	41		
		(b) Scheduled Castes (SCs)	6		
		(c) Most Backward Classes (MBCs)	8		
		(d) Other Backward Classes (OBCs)	55		
		(e) Others	1		
		Total	111		
		<ul> <li>Only part of their private land has come u acquisition, no family has become land No structure is involved in the land acquis hence no Rehabilitation and resettlement has been proposed.</li> </ul>			
9.	Financial details  a) Project cost as originally planned and subsequent revised estimates and the years of price reference.  b) Actual expenditure incurred on the Project so far.	FC of ₹ 977.09 crore and the bid amount of ₹ 907 crores (As per Investment Approval).			
	c) Allocations made for the Environmental Management Plan (₹ Lakhs)				

d) Actual expenditure incurred on the Environmental Management so far. revision) 10. **Forest Land requirements** Status of approval for diversion of forest

₹ 3,547.44 lakh (As per EMP & subsequent

₹ 3,079.23 lakh (Annexure-I for details)

land for non-forestry use.

- i. MoEF&CC accorded diversion of 89.4266 ha of forest land (67.4295 ha surface land and 21.9971 ha underground land) on 23.05.2008. After acquisition of LTHPL by NHPC Ltd. w.e.f. 09.10.2019, the Forest Clearance was transferred in favour of LTHPL (A wholly owned subsidiary of NHPC Ltd.) vide MoEF&CC's letter dated 12.03.2021. Subsequent to amalgamation of LTHPL with NHPC Limited w.e.f. 27.01.2025, fresh proposal for transfer of Forest Clearance for 89.4266 ha forest land shall be applied shortly in Parivesh Portal 2.0.
- ii. MoEF&CC, Eastern Regional Office, Bhubaneswar vide letter dated 11.09.2007 approved diversion of 0.6935 ha of forest land for link road and bridge at Tarkhola. Proposal for Transfer of Forest Clearance for 0.6935 ha of Forest Land in favour of LTHPL (A wholly owned subsidiary of NHPC Ltd.) was submitted in PARIVESH Portal 2.0. Subsequent to amalgamation of LTHPL with NHPC Limited w.e.f. 27.01.2025, fresh proposal for transfer of Forest Clearance for 89.4266 ha forest land shall be applied shortly in Parivesh Portal 2.0.
- iii. MoEF&CC, RO, Shillong vide letter dated 27.10.2008 approved diversion of 0.096 ha of forest land for laying of water supply pipe line to the colony and other locations of Teesta-VI HE Project. Proposal for Transfer of Forest Clearance for 0.096 ha of Forest Land in favour of LTHPL (A wholly owned subsidiary of NHPC Ltd.) was submitted in PARIVESH Portal 2.0. Subsequent to amalgamation of LTHPL with NHPC Limited w.e.f. 27.01.2025, fresh proposal for transfer of Forest Clearance for 89.4266 ha forest land shall be applied shortly in Parivesh Portal 2.0.
- iv. Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Kolkata vide letter dated 03.09.2024 accorded Forest Clearance Stage-I for 30.1919 ha (26.42076 ha RF + 3.77116 ha Govt. Khasmal) of forest land

		for construction of 220 KV D/C Teesta-VI to Rangpo Transmission Line under Namchi District of Sikkim. Compensatory levies have been deposited.  v. Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Kolkata vide letter dated 27.09.2024 accorded Forest Clearance Stage-I for 1.8115 ha forest land for muck dumping at Thalthaley, Pamphok under Namchi District of Sikkim. Compensatory levies have been deposited.
11.	Status of construction  a) Date of commencement (Actual and / or planned)	a) March 2007 by Lanco Energy Pvt. Ltd. and Date of Re-start: 08.03.2019 by Lanco Teesta Hydro Power Ltd. (A wholly owned subsidiary of NHPC Ltd.) i.e. date of Investment Approval by Govt. of India.
	b) Date of completion (actual and / or planned)	b) Planned: Unit-I & II October 2027 Unit-III November 2027 Unit-IV December 2027
12.	Reasons for the delay, if the project is yet to be started	<ul> <li>Project was started by LTHPL in March 2007. However, the construction of the Project was stuck up since 2012 and subsequent to approval of Resolution Plan by Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), NHPC Ltd. has acquired the LTHPL as a going concern w.e.f. 09.10.2019 and balance construction works are going on.</li> </ul>
13.	Details of site visit  a) By Monitoring Committee b) By Regional Office	The re-constituted Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Committee visited the Project site on 27.02.2023 and first meeting of re- constituted Monitoring Committee was held at the Forest and Environment Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok on 04.03.2023.
14.	Brief Note on the Status of compliance of the conditions stipulated by MOEF&CC	Enclosed as <b>Annexure-II</b>

DETAILS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS OF TEESTA-VI HE PROJECT (500 MW)

**ANNEXURE-I** 

S. No.	Plans	Cost of EMP <sup>#</sup> (₹ lakhs)	Expenditure Incurred (₹ lakhs)	Utilization Received (₹ lakhs)			
1.	Public Health and Solid Waste Management Plan	179.00	0.00	0.00			
2.	Catchment Area Treatment Plan (Revised)	2410.18*	2410.18	1371.27			
3.	Compensatory Afforestation Plan	114.65	114.65	114.65			
4.	Biodiversity Conservation	119.12*	119.12	95.34			
5.	Fish Management Plan	170.00*	170.00	0.00			
6.	Soil Conservation & Forest Protection Plan	183.53*	183.53	0.00			
7.	Free Fuel Provision	98.85	0.00	0.00			
8.	Restoration plan for spoil tips	81.61	0.00	0.00			
9.	Restoration Plan for Quarry Sites	35.97	0.00	0.00			
10.	Landscape Plan	48.91	0.00	0.00			
11.	Green Belt around the Project Area	13.58	0.00	0.00			
12.	Environmental Monitoring Programme	13.25	2.96	2.96			
13.	Crop Compensation	78.79	78.79	78.79			
	Total	3547.44	3079.23	1663.01			
The	The cost does not include NPV (₹ 568 lakhs) & cost of land taken on lease.						

#As per Environment Management Plan Report approved by MoEF&CC and subsequent revision by State Government.

<sup>\*</sup>Funds have been deposited by LTHPL in Sikkim CAMPA; Forest & Environment Deptt., Govt. of Sikkim; and Directorate of Fisheries, Govt. of Sikkim.

## Brief Note on the Status of Compliance of the Conditions stipulated by MoEF & CC

S. No.	PART - A: Specific Conditions	Compliance Status
i.	Biodiversity Conservation Plan as proposed in the EMP should be implemented in toto in the identified locations.	<ul> <li>Forest &amp; Environment Department, Govt. of Sikkim vide letter dated 22.03.2021 submitted the Utilization Certificate of ₹ 95.34 lakh towards Biodiversity Conservation Plan till 31.03.2020 out of total fund of ₹ 119.12 lakh.</li> <li>A check post at Thalthaley Village (Pamphok Block) has been installed by the Forest Department, Govt. of Sikkim to check trespassers. Demarcation and fencing of diverted forest land were done to avoid damage to nearby area. However, the Soil Conservation &amp; Forest Protection Plan has not yet incorporated in APO by State Forest Department.</li> </ul>
ii.	For propagation of migratory fishes, a fish farm/hatchery shall be developed as proposed vide letter dated 18 <sup>th</sup> August, 2006. As breeding of Mahseer fish is difficult in captivity, procedure to be adopted for propagation of Mahseer in hatchery should be submitted within six months from the date of issue of this letter.	<ul> <li>Construction work of Fish Farm-cum-Hatchery Unit at Chittrey Village, District Namchi, Sikkim is under progress.</li> <li>Directorate of Fisheries, Govt. of Sikkim was requested for an update on the physical and financial progress as of March, 2025 vide letter dated 23.04.2025 (Appendix 1). The reply is awaited.</li> </ul>
iii.	The Catchment Area Treatment Plan as has been proposed should be completed in four years. The plan is attached as <b>Annexure III</b> .	<ul> <li>Forest &amp; Environment Department, Govt. of Sikkim vide letter dated 22.03.2021 submitted the Utilization Certificate of fund utilized of ₹ 1,091.27 lakh in implementation of CAT Plan till 31.03.2020 out of ₹ 1,122.73 lakh deposited by erstwhile LTHPL.</li> <li>After acquisition of LTHPL by NHPC Limited, State Forest Department revised the cost of CAT Plan to ₹ 2,410.18 lakh and raised demand of balance ₹ 1,287.45 lakh vide letter dated 11.03.2022. Payment of ₹ 1,287.45 lakh of revised cost of CAT Plan was deposited by LTHPL (A wholly owned subsidiary of NHPC Limited) in Sikkim CAMPA on 26.04.2022.</li> <li>Forest &amp; Environment Department, Govt. of Sikkim vide letter dated 14.06.2024 submitted Utilization Certificate and Progress Report of fund utilized for revised CAT plan during the year 2023-24 wherein it has been certified that out of ₹ 1,287.45 lakhs of</li> </ul>

iv.	Considering the landslide prone areas, the tunnelling should be done, with great care under close supervision.	•	fund deposited, a sum of ₹ 280.00 lakhs has been utilized.  Thus, a total of ₹ 1,371.27 lakh out of ₹ 2410.18 lakh has been utilized.  Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest & Environment Department, Govt. of Sikkim vide letter dated 23.04.2025 was requested for providing update on the physical and financial progress as of March 2025 (Appendix 2). The reply is awaited.  For landslide prone area, tunnelling is being carried out with proper controlled blasting or by mechanical means and by providing adequate support system.
v.	A monitoring committee should be constituted which must include representatives of project affected persons from SC/ST Category and a women beneficiary.  All the assurances/ commitments	•	support system.  MoEF&CC vide letter dated 25.05.2022 reconstituted the Multidisciplinary Monitoring Committee.  The re-constituted Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Committee visited the Project site on 27.02.2023 and first meeting of re-constituted Monitoring Committee was held at the Forest and Environment Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok on 04.03.2023.  The same is being complied.
VI.	given by the project authority in the public hearing must be honoured in letter and spirit.	•	The same is being complied.
vii.	Forest Clearance should be obtained for acquiring 67.43 Hectare forest land & submitted.	•	Forest Clearance (Stage-II) was accorded by MoEF&CC in favour of Lanco Energy Private Limited vide letter dated 23.05.2008 for 89.4266 ha forest land (67.4295 ha surface land and 21.9971 ha underground land).  After that the change of name of User Agency in favour of LTHPL (A wholly owned subsidiary of NHPC Limited) was accepted by MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide letter dated 12.03.2021.  Now, LTHPL (A wholly owned subsidiary of NHPC Limited) has been amalgamated with NHPC Limited on 27.01.2025 vide order No. 24/6/2022-CL-III dated 02.01.2025 by Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India under the Companies Act, 2013 (Appendix 3). The application for change of name of User Agency shall be applied in Parivesh Portal 2.0 shortly.
viii.	During the lean season 10% of available water (82.5 cumecs) should be released downstream of the dam for sustenance of aquatic life.	•	State Pollution Control Board, Sikkim vide letter dated 01.10.2022 finalized the quantity of 15 % minimum environmental flow (e-flow) of 16.60 cumecs during lean season (December-March) for Teesta-VI HEP. Suitable provision has been installed

ix.	Any other clearance from any other organization if required should be obtained.  PART - B: General Conditions  Adequate free fuel arrangement	<ul> <li>in Barrage so that minimum e-flow of 16.60 cumecs could be released downstream of Barrage after commissioning of the project for sustenance of aquatic life.</li> <li>All required clearances are obtained as per requirement.</li> </ul> Presently, mess facility is being provided by the
	should be made for the labour force engaged in the construction work at project cost so that indiscriminate felling of tress is prevented.	Contractors to the engaged manpower.
ii.	Fuel depot may be opened at the site to provide the fuel (kerosene/wood). Medical facilities as well as recreational facilities should also be provided to the labourers.	<ul> <li>Fuel (LPG &amp; Kerosene) is being procured by the Contractors from the local market as and when required.</li> <li>Contractors' camps are equipped with recreation facilities.</li> <li>Medical facilities are provided by the Contractors to the labourers.</li> </ul>
iii.	All the labourers to be engaged for construction works should be thoroughly examined by health personnel and adequately treated before issuing them work permit.	Health screening and check-ups of labourers are carried out before engaging them in works.
iv.	Restoration of construction area including dumping site of excavated materials should be ensured by levelling, filling up of burrow pits, landscaping etc. The area should be properly treated with suitable plantation.	<ul> <li>Environment friendly measures are being undertaken for dumping of Muck at designated dump yards.</li> <li>Dumping areas are being provided with adequate retaining structures such as crate walls, RRM walls, etc. as per requirement.</li> <li>After dumping the areas are being levelled.</li> <li>The nallahs and river sections as per site requirement are being provided with adequate protection measures such as crate wall and concrete plugs.</li> <li>All precautionary measures are being taken as per the statutory requirements with progress of works.</li> </ul>
V.	Financial provision should be made in the total budget of the project for implementation of the above suggested safeguard measures.	All suggestive safeguards measures are being taken care of their construction sites by contractors.
vi.	A Multidisciplinary committee should be constituted with representatives from various disciplines of forestry, ecology, wildlife, soil conversation, NGO etc. to oversee the effective	<ul> <li>MoEF&amp;CC vide letter dated 25.05.2022 has reconstituted the Multidisciplinary Monitoring Committee.</li> <li>The re-constituted Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Committee visited the Project site on 27.02.2023 and first meeting of re-constituted Monitoring</li> </ul>

vii.	implementation of the suggested safeguard measures.  Six monthly monitoring reports should be submitted to the Ministry and its Regional Office, Shillong for review.	Committee was held at the Forest and Environment Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok on 04.03.2023.  Six-monthly monitoring reports are periodically submitted to Integrated Regional Offices of MoEF&CC along with MoEF&CC, New Delhi. Previous progress report was submitted to Integrated Regional Office of MoEF&CC, Kolkata vide letter dated 25.10.2024.
viii.	Officials from Regional Office MOEF, Shillong/Kolkata who would be monitoring the implementation of environmental safeguard should be given full facilities and documents / data by the project proponents during their inspection.	<ul> <li>Noted and Complied by LTHPL (A wholly owned subsidiary of NHPC Ltd.).</li> </ul>
ix.	The responsibility of implementation of environmental safeguard rests fully with the M/s Lanco Energy Private Limited/Lanco Teesta Hydro Power Ltd. & Government of Sikkim.	<ul> <li>Noted. LTHPL (A wholly owned subsidiary of NHPC Ltd.) will bear the responsibility of implementation of environmental safeguard.</li> </ul>

### **ANNEXURE-III**

## **DETAILS OF CATCHMENT AREA TREATMENT PLAN**

	Five Year Catchment Area T	reatmer	nt Actio					ct
S.	Items Of Works	Unit	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	Total
No.			Yr	Yr	Yr	Yr	Yr	
ı	Forest Land							
Α	Biological Measures							
1	Aided Natural Regeneration	На	20	30	30			80
2	Aided Natural Regeneration	Ha	150	350	350	350		1200
3	Medicinal Plantation	На	50	50				100
4	Medicinal Plantation	На	50	50				100
5	Sowing and dribbing in land Slide areas	На				10	10	20
6	Artificial regeneration	На		300	400	400	400	1500
7	Silviculture Development	На		30	30	40		100
8	Bamboo (Pareng Plantation)	На		30	30	40		100
9	Barbed wire fencing	km	5	5				10
10	Maintenance of aided natural regeneration and other plantations	На	270	810	810	800	410	3100
11	Vegetative fencing with Jatropha in rows	km	15	10				25
В	ENGINEERING WORKS							
1	Jhora Training with sausage wall with drops	m <sup>3</sup>	1000	700	300			2000
2	Dry Stone Wall	m³	1200	600	200			2000
3	Catch Water Drains	m	1400	400	200			2000
4	Bally fencing	На	40	10				50
Ш	Agriculture Land							
Α	Biological Measures							
1	Fodder Development	На			200	400	400	1000
2	Agroforestry (200 plants per ha)	На			200	400	400	1000
3	Jatropha Plantation (Uncultivable lower area)	На	100					100
В	ENGINEERING WORKS							
1	Jhora Training with sausage wall with drops	m <sup>3</sup>	1400	400	200			2000
2	Dry Stone Wall	m³	1400	400	200			2000
3	Catch Water Drains	m	1400	400	200			2000
4	Bally fencing	На	40	10				50